

News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch Parish Church

Vol 94 May 2012



**LIVE BELOW
THE LINE**



Christian Aid Week 13th - 19th May



help people in poverty out of poverty

MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH



Minister:

Rev. Alex R Forsyth TD BA MTh



A warm welcome is extended to all visitors and newcomers to the community to share in the worship, work and witness of the congregation.

Church Service

Sunday 11am

www.markinchchurch.org.uk

Communion Sunday

The Minister and Kirk Session invite you to share in the celebration of

Holy Communion

on Sunday 20th May 2012 at 11.00 am.



From The Minister - The First Word

Reuben Job in his book, 'Three Simple Questions,' maintains that, *"Our identity is found and formed by the God we worship and serve. Our life together as Christians is discovered, held together, and lived out based on our understanding of the God we have come to know and see to follow."*

In 1952 J.B. Phillips' in his book 'Your God is Too Small' was concerned that we are formed and shaped by the God we worship and if our conception of God is too small or too limited, then it limits us and distorts the true nature of our faith.

Also many of the divisions, prejudices and hatred we see promoted and encouraged in the world in the name of religion, is the result of an inadequate understanding of who God is and, who we are.

In similar vein Mark Buchanan in his book 'Your God is Too Safe', explores why Christians get complacent and suffer from dryness and tedium. According to Buchanan the majority of Christians begin their spiritual journey with excitement and enthusiasm -- only to get bogged down in a "borderland" - an in-between space beyond the "old life" but short of the 'life in all its fullness' promised by Jesus.

Using the Book of Jonah, Buchanan examines the problem of "borderland living" - where doubt, disappointment, guilt, and lack of awe and wonder keep people in a quagmire of mediocrity. He goes on to offer solutions.

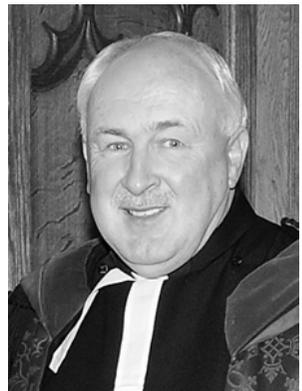
We all need to answer Reuben Job's three simple questions:

- Who Is God?
- Who Are We?
- Who Are We Together?

The answers to these three questions have profound consequences on how we live our lives and shape the world.

See you in church

Alex



From the Parish Register

Baptisms

04.03.12 James Alexander Jack
18.03.12 Payton Grace Kelly
15.04.12 Sophia Marie Ferguson
29.04.12 Millie Sandell Penman
06.05.12 Noah Thomas Graham Barratt
06.05.12 Olivia Murray Drysdale

Weddings

23.03.12 Matthew Watson & Robyn Wither
24.03.12 Neil Armstrong & Michelle Mathie
31.03.12 Scott Andrew Daly & Lauren Katy Paterson Ford
07.04.12 John Stephen Moore & Helen Jennifer Lewis

Funerals

10.02.12 Marion Wilson
18.02.12 Alan Brown
28.02.12 David Birse
08.03.12 Anne Birrell
08.03.12 Jack Hamilton
13.03.12 Christian Murdoch
14.03.12 Elizabeth Rynkowska
18.03.12 Gertrude Wighton
18.03.12 John Paton
28.03.12 William Taylor
30.03.12 Frances Murray
01.04.12 Robert Jack
08.04.12 Violet McIlravie
10.04.12 James Simpson
12.04.12 Mary Robertson
16.04.12 Lottie Wilson
21.04.12 Ann Henderson
27.04.12 Selina Radley





QUIZ NIGHT



on
Friday 18th May

at
7.00pm
in

Markinch Parish Church Hall

Teams of Four

Only £2 per person

Tickets from Tracy Thomson
tthomson01592@hotmail.com

Everyone Is Very Welcome

Sunday School

The latest letter from our sponsored child, Surafel, thanks us for his Christmas gifts. We sent £15 and the project worker bought him clothes, socks and shoes, underwear, wheat, cooking oil and medicines. Not quite what the average 11 year old gets in this country!

He tells us he was at Church at Christmas with his family and friends and asks us to pray for his and his family's health. The letter can be seen in full on the notice board in the hall.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support. Please add your name to the calendar and leave the money in the envelope if you wish to donate to his welfare.

Church Website - www.markinchchurch.org.uk

The church website continues to receive good feedback on the design and content of the site from its visitors. In the last year we have had over 85,000 unique visits to our website.

The Sunday Bulletin, which includes the weekly intimation sheet, is available for download from the website every week so even if you are unable to attend church you can still be kept informed of what is happening in your church.

A Message From Our Session Clerk

Urgent Appeal

It's a simple fact, financially our church runs like any other business and we have to ensure that our financial matters are carefully monitored. Our income has been affected by the steady decrease of church members over the years and the government's reduction of gift aid rates, whilst the costs of managing the fabric of the church, such as heating, lighting and property repairs have spiralled.

This has resulted in our income falling and expenditure rising to the point where our expenditure exceeds our income, and measures to 'cut back' have only gone a small way to reduce the deficit. As you can see from the financial statement, we are in a position which needs urgent attention. We are relying upon funds earmarked for essential planned property repair/improvement to meet our day-to-day bills.

This is an appeal to everyone concerned with the future of Markinch Parish Church. We need help!

There are a number of ways you can help

1. If you normally use offering envelopes when you attend the church, have you thought about setting up a Standing Order to pay a set amount each month? It's easy to set up – just ask Nancy Munro, our treasurer, for a form and take it to your bank.
2. If you already have a Standing Order, when was the last time you reviewed it? An extra £5pm from everyone with a Standing Order will certainly help!
3. Our fund-raising events are poorly attended. We really have a good time at these events and would like more people to come along to join in the fun! Our events are well advertised, therefore please look out for future events and show your support.

We don't want to become a 'failing' church! Remember, it is our church and we must work together as a congregation and community to ensure we can come through this difficult period.

God bless.

John Wood

**MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH - GENERAL FUND
INCOME & EXPENDITURE COMPARISON JANUARY TO APRIL**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Income</u>		
W.F.O.	6297.50	7630.95
Open Plate	2419.56	2299.02
Standing Orders	6123.40	5426.90
Gift Day	3249.90	3765.20
Donations/G.A.Y.E.	260.00	485.00
Tax Rebate	2816.73	3820.28
Weddings & Funerals	813.00	500.00
Bequests	79.80	85.12
Annie Jamieson		283.67
Bank Interest	0.88	2.32
	<u>22060.77</u>	<u>24298.46</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
Ministry Allocation	15380.46	14666.40
Minister's Travel	1261.50	1150.40
Salaries	2933.62	2645.00
Ins. & Council Tax	2229.26	2227.22
Gas & Electricity	2108.19	1958.76
Printing & Stationery	775.24	797.18
Phone & ISP	134.76	96.11
Computer Expenses	52.55	792.23
Piano/Organ Repairs	329.00	1202.40
Advertising	37.00	
Copyright Licence	437.87	
Pulpit Supply	55.00	50.00
Communion Expenses	0.00	76.20
Sunday School	0.00	120.48
African Palms	24.45	
Miscellaneous	13.24	36.43
	<u>25772.14</u>	<u>25818.81</u>
 Excess Income/Expenditure	 -3711.37	 -1520.35

LET'S GIVE THE TOOLS TO HELP PEOPLE IN POVERTY OUT OF POVERTY



Christian Aid Week: 13-19 May 2012



'We organise a one-off event each year, which involves the whole community; seeing everyone of all faiths and no faiths working together for one cause is very uplifting and raises a large amount of money at the end.'

Christian Aid Week volunteer

Thousands of churches, like Markinch Parish Church, will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people - an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice.

This year, Christian Aid Week tells the story of remarkable change taking place in a community in rural Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the world. But helped by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), some people there have found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for the changes they want to see.

Christian Aid currently works with 507 partner organisations in 47 countries around the world.

From Sierra Leone to Tajikistan, from Kenya to Bolivia, we are helping communities to make their voices heard and look towards a brighter future.

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that it can be ended. Look out for local events and discover how you can get involved by contacting your Christian Aid Week representative, or by visiting www.caweek.org



COFFEE MORNING on Thursday 17th May
From 10am till 11.15am
In Markinch Parish Church Hall
Home Baking & Lucky Tickets
Everyone Very Welcome

Markinch : Its Church and Parish

By Ian Gourlay and Ken Wilkie

Contributors include: Dr Jean and Robert Balfour, Shane Fenton, Bruce Manson and Stuart Morris

Copies can be obtained from the church and also from Mary McArthur, Gents Hairdresser, 2 Croft Road, Markinch or from Ken Wilkie on 01592 760042 or book@markinchchurch.org.uk

The paperback is priced at £12.50 (£10 for church members)
Hardbacks now also in stock priced at £18 (£15 for members)



HELP RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CHURCH BY RECYCLING

Thank you, to everyone who has been donating items to our indoor recycling banks.

The textiles that we recycle through Rag Bag are sorted and graded at the UK's largest textile recycling facility – Nathans Wastesavers Ltd.

Over 200 trained people are employed to sort and grade over 600 tonnes of material every week prior to export around the world.

How it works –

- Collect your unwanted clothing at home and put them into our indoor recycling bank within the Church hall.
- Drivers will collect all the Rag Bag bags and bring the bags back to the processing factory in Denny.
- At the factory, a team of experienced workers sort and grade all the material into various product types. The material is baled and sent for shipment.
- Low grade textiles are made into industrial wiping cloths.
- Good quality clothing is transported to Africa and other developing nations where your old clothes are re-used.



By recycling your clothing you can help other people and add to our Church funds.



children
under 16
go free

Big Tent

Scotland's Environmental Festival

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 July 2012 - Falkland, Fife

THE PROCLAIMERS Salsa Celtica

advance
tickets on
sale now

HOPPER
BUSES FROM
MARKINCH

Karine Polwart, The Treacherous Orchestra, Breabach

The Paul McKenna Band, Jeana Leslie and Siobhan Miller, Mairearad Green and Anna Massie, The Coaltown Daisies, Das Contras, The Chipolatas, Havana Swing, Homecoming String Band, Federation of the Disco Pimp, Ilhan Barutçu with the Ask-I Trio, Alan Reid (ex-Battlefield Band), Woodenbox, Edinburgh Samba Band, The Whisky River Boat Band, Man's Ruin, Flutacious, Kolonel Schnapps/Bierfest Oompah Band, Mike Kearney Ka-tet, Horndog Brass Band, John Goldie, Lion Spirit, Cairngorms Ceilidh Trail, Finn Anderson, The Stag Sessions...

the best of Scottish folk music • ceilidhs • local food and drink • storytelling • puppets • circus • film • dance • theatre • writers • artists • thinkers • crafts
camping • weekend • day tickets

www.bigtentfestival.co.uk



changing times, changing places, changing ourselves

"The Big Tent has firmly established itself as not only one of the most informative and entertaining green festivals around but also one of the friendliest and relaxed folk festivals in the UK. Surely this is the way all festivals should be"

Folk Radio UK

Voted
Britain's Best
10 Family
Days out
Times online

"The Big Tent is what all music festivals should be. Friendly and on a human scale. A good range of performers and a superb location"

Friends of the Earth

Greener
Festival
Award
Outstanding
2009 & 2010

"A hub for environmental debate as well as music, crafts, delicious local food, quirky activities and unadulterated fun"

***** The Scotsman

Ways to buy tickets in advance

online at www.bigtentfestival.co.uk

by post from the Centre for
Stewardship

Voted in
Top 10 UK
folk festivals
The Guardian
online

local outlets are also selling day/weekend and car parking tickets:

- Fayre Earth, High Street, Falkland
- Palace Pantry, High Street, Falkland
- Pillars of Hercules, Falkland
- Coda Records, The Mound, Edinburgh
- The Doghouse, 15 Ward Road, Dundee
- Bandwagon Musical Supplies, 8/9 St Paul's Square, Perth
- Myres Newlands, 6 Lady Wynd, Cupar

A limited number of tickets will be available on the day but organisers cannot guarantee this.



CENTRE FOR
STEWARDSHIP

Big Tent is organised by
The Centre for Stewardship,
Falkland Estate, Falkland,
Fife, KY15 7AF
T. 01337 858838

bigtent@centreforstewardship.org.uk
Scottish Registered Charity SC022481

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Tea
Mochaicino
Espresso
Americano
Espresso
Café Latte
Hot Chocolate

Tea

Hot

Mochaicino

Espresso

Café

Espresso

Espresso

Americano

Mochaicino

Cappuccino



Lynn Cunningham

Chartered Accountant

Markinch & Cupar



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
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Helping you keep your balance

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01592 612001 or 01334 657766
info@lynncunninghamca.com

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Prayer



A prayer giving thanks for the reign of the Queen has been released by the Church of England to mark her 60 years on the throne. The Diamond Jubilee Prayer, written at the Queen's direction by the chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, will be used at the Jubilee Thanksgiving Service on June 5th in St Paul's as well as at other events throughout the year.



The Diamond Jubilee Prayer reads:

"God of time and eternity, whose son reigns as servant, not master; we give you thanks and praise, that you have blessed this nation, the realms and territories with Elizabeth, our beloved and glorious Queen.

"In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace, as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God, and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Raise funds for

Markinch Parish Church

***"What an easy way to raise funds!
We've raised over £900 so far!"***

Karen Ford, Friends of the Cavendish School



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<http://markinchpc.easysearch.org.uk/>

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& DVDs

Jewellery &
Gifts

Clothing &
Fashion

Flights &
Holidays

Business
& Office

Home,
Garden
& DIY

Health &
Beauty

Video Games
& Consoles

Insurance

Book Review by Rev Alex Forsyth

The Death of Mao: The Tangshan Earthquake and the Birth of the New China by James Palmer

Chairman Mao was a heartless monster. Around 40 million people died during the famine caused by the Great Leap Forward, his agricultural revolution of the Fifties.

During the Cultural Revolution of the late Sixties and early Seventies, Mao encouraged young fanatics to see enemies everywhere and show them no mercy. This resulted the deaths of several million.

On July 28th 1976 the city of Tangshan was devastated by an earthquake that killed more than half a million people.

The quake lasted just 23 seconds. 'Probably the most concentrated instant of destruction humanity has ever known, ...a blast equivalent of 400 Hiroshimas,' says Palmer. Yet how many of us have heard of it?

In China, attention was distracted by the deteriorating condition of Chairman Mao, whose deputies were too busy jockeying for position to fret unduly over yet more dead.

Although it was a natural disaster, Mao's contagious insanity made it worse. In the countryside around Tangshan, many died because their houses had been fatally weakened by the Great Leap Forward, when starving villagers tore out wall bricks to sell or, in some cases, eat.

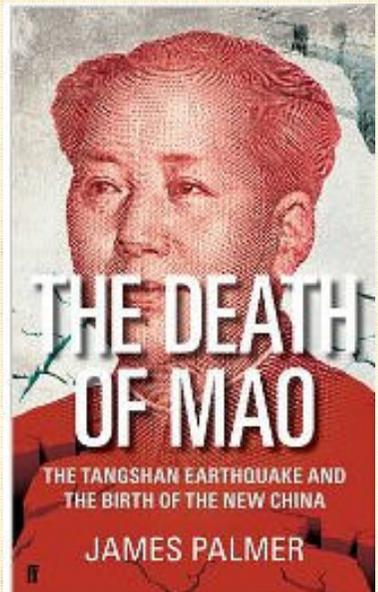
During the Cultural Revolution ten years later, Red Guards rampaged through villages looking for signs of hoarded grain or counter-revolutionary sentiment, tearing down walls to punish political deviants. The ramshackle structures that remained offered no protection whatsoever against the earthquake.

Even after the 23 seconds of devastation, political correctness came before saving lives. The nation's ruling clique refused offers of aid from the United States, Europe and Japan because they were 'foreign devils.'

Within a month of Mao's death, China embarked on its new course: away from chaos towards a market economy that abandoned Mao's ideology while maintaining the rhetoric and repression.

Anyone wishing to understand how the world's latest superpower turned out like it is should read this book.

Rev Alex Forsyth



Book Review by Nan McRoberts

The Book of the Alchemist by Adam Williams

The setting for Adam Williams's book is Andalucía in 1938 during the dying days of the Spanish Civil War. The story begins when communist soldiers abduct an ex government minister, Professor Enrique Pinzon and his grandson Tomas. Forced to march to Ciudadela del Santo they and the townsfolk are held captive in the Cathedral. Franco's Fascists are in pursuit and Communists hope to use the hostages as bargaining power.

Meanwhile the prisoners discover that beneath the Cathedral lies a large cave containing the ruins of an ancient mosque and from the base of a pillar they unearth a very old book. This is the Book of the Alchemist.

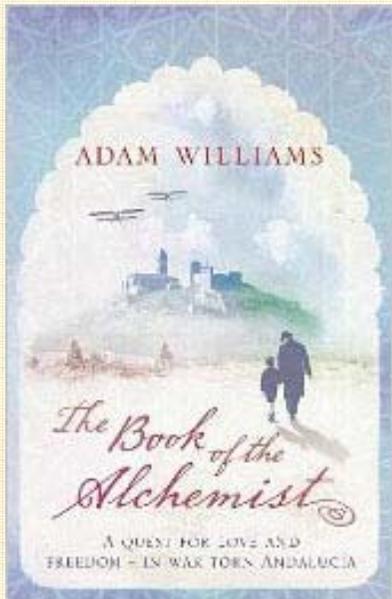
When Pinzon a Professor of Medieval History and Arabic scholar reads aloud from the book in an effort to entertain his

grandson we learn that the Alchemist of the title is a Jew named Samuel and the book contains his memoirs. Through them we're transported back to 11th Century Andalucía where Samuel lived and studied alongside his friends Prince Aziz, a Muslim and Paladon, a Christian. Sadly this tolerant society changes when the immigration of Fundamentalist Muslims coincides with the arrival of zealous Christian Crusaders hell bent on taking Andalucía back from the Moors. In the 11th Century as in the 20th, Spain becomes a war zone.

As Samuel's story unfolds Professor Pinzon realises that hidden in the text there may be clues as to the existence of an escape route for the hostages. Whether this exists or not and whether any or all escape you'll have to read the book to find out.

I enjoyed reading this book very much and learned a bit about Spanish history, ancient and more modern but there's much more to it than that. Adam Williams tells a brilliant story of love, war and morality and dips a toe or two into Dan Brown's territory of Archaeological and religious mystery. The parallels between past and present in the book and with today's world seem to prove the old adage that the only thing we seem to learn from history is that we never seem to learn from history.

Nan McRoberts



Youth 1st are organising a Young Leaders Award for young people aged between 10 and 14 years old.

The Young Leader Award is a programme of leadership training for young people between the ages of 10 and 14 that supports them working with younger children, teaching leadership skills through a whole range of games and activities.

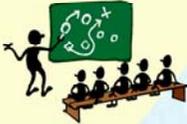
Benefits of the Young Leader Award:

- Encourages young people to take responsibility and develop leadership skills
- Develops skills such as organisation, communication, confidence and self-esteem alongside planning and self-review
- Supports the work of adults within the organisation
- Provides the opportunity for older children to work with younger children thus promoting integration and social inclusion
- Reduces problems associated with bullying and inappropriate behaviour
- Encourages co-operation and helps develop moral and social skills.



On completion participants will receive a Young Leader Award awarded by Sports Leaders UK.

This course is FREE OF CHARGE



Young Leaders Award

26th May 2012

Markinch Parish Church Hall, Markinch

10am to 4pm
Registration at 9.45am



Wear comfy clothing and trainers as you will be getting ACTIVE!

You must bring a packed lunch.
Water/Juice and fruit will be provided

Sign up now by completing a consent form and handing back to your youth worker.

This course is funded by Cashback for Communities



Youth 1st, Bilsland Road, Glenrothes, Fife, KY6 2DZ Tel: 01592 611319
admin@youth1st.co.uk www.youth1st.co.uk

For more information or to book a place please contact Tracy Thomson on 01592 775752 or email her at tthomson01592@hotmail.com

Summary of the main items of business arising at the A.G.M.

Monday, the 19th March 2012

Finance Report – Nancy Munro gave a resume of the main items of income and expenditure affecting the 2011 Statement of Accounts. She explained the income received was almost £5000 less than for the corresponding time in 2010, whilst the overall expenditure had increased by almost £18,000. She said the main increases in expenditure had been due to the well publicised increases in gas/electricity in addition to the bill for repairing the organ. As far as the Fabric Fund was concerned, the biggest increase in income was a direct result of hiring out the hall to organisations outwith the church. She ended her report by intimating she had, unfortunately, found it necessary to balance the books by transferring £7,500 to the General Fund.

Statistical Return – Ian Sankey provided the following statistics for the year ending December 2011

Membership at 1/1/2011	555
Joined by Profession of Faith	2
By Certificate	4
By Resolution of the Kirk Session	2
Removed by Death	6
Membership at 31/12/2011	547

Unity Constitution – John Wood explained the proposal to merge the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board into one to oversee the future management of the church had been approved by the 2 bodies concerned. He continued by saying many churches were, at the present time, undergoing a similar process since a unity constitution had a number of advantages over the one currently employed.

Further to this, the meeting unanimously supported the proposal for change and it was agreed to discuss the consequences in greater detail at the next joint meeting.

Resignation of the Clerk to the Congregational Board – The meeting closed with the Rev Alex Forsyth thanking all the office-bearers for their work over the past year and especially Doug Jolly for his particular contribution during the 13 years he had acted as clerk. As a mark of his work, Alex presented Doug with an ESV Study Bible with the hope he would find it both interesting and useful.

Summary of the main business conducted at the final meeting of the Congregational Board following the A.G.M. on Monday 19th March 2012

Finance report – Nancy Munro intimated she had been disappointed to find that the income from the WFO, Open Plate and Gift Day were all less than for the corresponding period in 2011. However, on a more positive note, she said she hoped the General Account would shortly benefit from a VAT refund relating to several items of work which had recently been undertaken. She ended her report by announcing the following up-to-date balances in the 2 main accounts –General Fund - £4,119 as against £5,034 and in the Fabric Fund - £3,876 as against £5,373.

Property – Robert Balfour said that, he and the clerk, had recently met several Trustees from the Church of Scotland regarding the Markinch Heritages Group's application to examine the old entrance to the church at the bottom of the tower. He indicated the meeting had also provided him with an opportunity to advise the Trustees of the congregation's plans to repair/ replace the windows in the hall.

Fund Raising / Social Events – Tracy Thomson emphasised the need for the congregation to give their support to the following events which had been proposed at a meeting earlier in the evening. These included – Wine tasting on the 16th April : Coffee Event/ Sale of Work on the 29th September : Quiz Night on the 26th October : Ceilidh on the 30th November and the Christmas Meal on the 14th December.

Presbytery News

Our March meeting of Presbytery had service as its theme. In her opening worship the Moderator, Rev Wilma Cairns, reminded us that service is central to our Christian belief and serving others is the way of the church.

A variety of business was discussed including:-

Retirements - Members of the congregations of Innerleven East and Dysart were present to hear tribute paid to their ministers Rev Jamie Templeton and Rev Tilly Wilson who are both retiring in the next few weeks.

The session clerks of both these churches spoke very warmly and highly of their retiring ministers and wished them well for the future.

Hospital Chaplaincy – Rev Elisabeth Cranfield, Rev Ian Gordon, Rev Jamie Templeton and their predecessors were thanked and commended for the valued work they have undertaken as sessional chaplains at Randolph Wemyss, Glenrothes and Cameron Hospitals. They will be 'replaced' by a new Community Chaplain to be based in Cameron Hospital. An appointment has just been made. A new chaplain has also been appointed for the Victoria Hospital.

Annual Inspection of Records - The annual inspection of records will take place in Kirkcaldy: St. Bryce on Wednesday 18th April from 9.30am onwards. Session Clerks have been sent information.

Property Registers – New Property Registers now available for download from the General Trustees section of the Church of Scotland website.

Moderator's Visit – The Moderator designate of the General Assembly, Rev. Albert Bogle, will be visiting the new Victoria Hospital on Wednesday 5th September. This follows on from a visit made by Very Rev David Lunan when he spent a week in Kirkcaldy Presbytery during his Moderatorial year.

St Mark's Coptic Church – Rev Bryan Tomlinson took the greetings of Presbytery to their 20th Anniversary Service. The prayer and support of Presbytery is much appreciated.

The next Presbytery meeting is in May 1st and as a result of my spell of ill health earlier in the year I have decided to resign from being Presbytery Elder at the summer recess and the June meeting will be the last one I attend. I am delighted to inform you that Bryan Gould will be taking over this position in September after the summer break and I am sure he will keep you up to date with the Presbytery news.

Alison Taylor, Presbytery Elder

Looking for something to do on a Thursday morning ?

Come along to Markinch Parish Church hall and join us for a coffee and a chat any Thursday morning between 10.00am and 11.15am.

Tea or Coffee is £1, Lucky tickets and home baking on sale.



The Auld Folk

I gave you a little taster of my life as the Elder who visits those Markinch Church Members who reside in the Care Homes in Glenrothes and surrounding villages and Towns, in November's magazine. Now we are at the other end of the winter and here is another snippet for you.

I was visiting an old lady who is in her 102nd year and both deaf and blind, and with whom it is difficult to make a connection. As I sat in a chair beside her and held her hand I began to sing a church song. (Just as well she is deaf as I cannot sing in tune and I tend to forget the words!) After a bit I realised that when I stopped she spoke a few words. I sang again and stopped. Again she uttered a few words. Next time I stopped she said 'lah lah lah'. Had she become aware of my singing? Was she answering? Something for me to follow up on my next visit – definitely a communication link!

It is little things like this that make my visits so worthwhile.

Each member has been visited 4 times so far this year and each has received 'A cross in my Pocket' as an Easter gift. This little hand stitched cross and holder makes a personal reminder of our individual relationship with Our Lord. You can purchase these for £1.00 each, in the vestibule of Markinch Parish Church or contact myself, Meg Sankey on 01592 749633.

A Fife man walks into an Edinburgh bank and asks for a loan. He tells the bank officer he is going to Australia on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5000.

The bank officer tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the Fifer hands over the keys and documents of new Ferrari parked on the street in front of the bank. He produces the Log Book and everything checks out.

The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank manager then instructs an employee of the bank to drive the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage, where he parks it. The bank manager and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the rough-looking Fifer for using a £120,000 Ferrari as collateral against a £5000 loan.

Two weeks later, the man returns, repays the £5000 and the interest of £15.41. The bank officer says to the Fifer, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled ... while you were away, we checked you out further and found that you are a multimillionaire.

What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow £5000"? The Fifer replies: "Where else in Edinburgh can I park my car for two weeks for only £15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

Ah, the mind of a true Fifer! It does indeed 'tak a lang spin (spoon) to sup wi' a Fifer!'

Doors Open Day

The people of Markinch are justifiably proud of their ancient church. The tower of the present building has stood for around nine hundred years, and we have documentary proof of another building well before the first stone of the Romanesque tower was laid.

Doors Open Day on 21st September of this year will give us a chance to share our enthusiasm with the wider world. Markinch Heritage Group will team up with Markinch Parish Church members to organise an exhibition and guided tour of the building. The church has opened its doors to the public before but this time there will be a small exhibition showing the research progress that has been made recently into the history of the building.

The recent publication of "Markinch Church and Parish" has reminded us that we have a unique building representing several important aspects of Scotland's history from the Culdees and the celtic earls of Fife to Cardinal Beaton, the Reformation and more.

The past year has seen several prominent academics visiting the building, and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments for Scotland is seeking permission to carry out a full survey using advanced laser equipment. The Heritage Group has an archaeological sub-committee researching questions such as how old the tower is, who built it and does it have any hidden secrets to reveal. Was the original Norman building copied from St Rules or was it the other way around?

Some beautiful plans and drawings have recently been unearthed that give us further clues to the building's 18th century history. The exhibition in the church hall will set out recent research and presentations in the church will aim to describe how the building might have looked in former times.

Bruce Manson, Markinch Heritage Group

Remember - This is YOUR newsletter !

If you have any interesting news, stories, poems etc, please hand them to Ken Wilkie or email ken.wilkie@lineone.net or call 01592 760042

The deadline for the next issue is 31st July 2012

Knitting Pattern For A Tea Cosy

Following the success of the 'knitted chicks' we have added another knitting pattern for you try. If you can knit a tea cosy, please hand it to Tracy Thomson,



MATERIALS (COSY)

3 oz. Light, 2 oz. Dark, PATONS DOUBLE KNITTING, or PATONS MOORLAND Double Knitting.
Two No. 7 BEEHIVE or QUEEN BEE needles.

MEASUREMENTS

To fit medium size Tea Pot.

TENSION as Nest.

See page 2 for how to check your Tension, and Abbreviations.

NOTE: The pleats are formed by each colour being drawn across the back of the colour just used and keeping all the strands to the wrong side of the work throughout.

Using Light, cast on 98 sts.

K. 6 rows.

Proceed as follows:—

1st row—K.1L., join in Dark, 6D., * 7L., 7D., rep. from * to last 7 sts., 6L., 1 D.

2nd row—K.1D., 6L., * 7D., 7L., rep. from * to last 7 sts., 6D., 1L.

3rd row—K.1L., 6 D., * 7L., 7D., rep. from * to last 7 sts., 6L., 1D.

4th to 6th row—Rep. 2nd and 3rd rows once, then 2nd row once.

7th row—K.1D., 6L., * 7D., 7L., rep. from * to last 7 sts., 6D., 1L.

8th row—K.1L., 6D., * 7L., 7D., rep. from * to last 7 sts., 6L., 1D.

9th to 12th row—Rep. 7th and 8th rows twice.

13th row—K.1L., 6D., * 7L., 7D., rep. from * to last 7 sts., 6L., 1D.

14th row—K.1D., 6L., * 7D., 7L., rep. from * to last 7 sts., 6D., 1L.

Rep. 13th and 14th rows until work measures 6½ ins. from beg., finishing with a 14th row.

Proceed as follows:—

1st row—K.2 tog.L., K.3D., K.2 tog.D., * K.2 tog.L., K.3L., K.2 tog.L., K.2 tog.D., K.3D., K.2 tog.D., rep. from * to last 7 sts., K.2 tog.L., K.3L., K.2 tog.D.

2nd row—K.1D., 4L., * 5D., 5L., rep. from * to last 5 sts., 4D., 1L.

3rd row—K.2 tog.L., K.1D., K.2 tog.D., * K.2 tog.L., K.1L., K.2 tog.L., K.2 tog.D., K.1D., K.2 tog.D., rep. from * to last 5 sts., K.2 tog.L., K.1L., K.2 tog.D.

4th row—K.1D., 2L., * 3D., 3L., rep. from * to last 3 sts., 2D., 1L.

5th row—K.2 tog.L., K.1D., * K.2 tog.L., K.1L., K.2 tog.D., K.1D., rep. from * to last 3 sts., K.2 tog.L., K.1D.

6th row—K.1D., 1L., * 2D., 2L., rep. from * to last 2 sts., 1D., 1L.

7th row—(K.2 tog.L.) twice, * K.2 tog.D., K.2 tog.L., rep. from * to last 4 sts., (K.2 tog.D.) twice.

Break off wool, run end through remaining sts., draw up and fasten off securely.

Work another piece in same manner.

TO MAKE UP

Using a flat seam, join side seams leaving each seam open 3¼ inches and commencing opening 2 inches from lower edge.

Run a thread round the top of Cosy, draw up and fasten off securely.

Using 6 strands of Light, 40 inches long make a twisted cord.

Make two tassels and attach to each end of cord.

Sew cord to top of Cosy and tie in a bow.

LESSON FROM AMERICA

ONE DAY a man saw an old lady, stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His old Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her.

Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry.

He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you. He said, 'I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson.'

Well, all she had was a flat tyre, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tyre. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt.

As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed her boot. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped.

Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty, who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way.

He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, 'And think of me'.

He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small cafe. She went in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home.

It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase.

The lady noticed that the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred dollar bill. The waitress quickly went to get change for her hundred dollar bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back.

The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: 'You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you'.

Under the napkin were four more \$100 bills. Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard ...

She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, 'Everything's going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson'.

There is an old saying 'What goes around comes around.' Today you read this story, and I'm asking you to pass it on. Let this light shine. God works in mysterious ways and sometimes puts people in our lives for a reason. Don't ignore it ... Simply, pass this on to a friend.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert

A Diamond Jubilee Concert will take place in Markinch Town Hall on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th May at 7.30pm

The following organisations will all be taking part in the concert.

- MARKINCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
- MARKINCH AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
- MARKINCH COMMUNITY & DISTRICT CHOIR
- MARKINCH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS
- THE TULLIS RUSSELL MILLS BAND

Tickets are priced at £5 and are available from members of any of the groups or from:-

Valerie Thomson
16 Betson Street
Markinch

Telephone 01592 754537



ALL PROFITS WILL BE GOING TO LOCAL CHARITIES

Titanic Exhibition

The gift of a cache of centuries-old papers given to Glenrothes & Area Heritage Trust has led to the formation of a union of GAHC and Leslie Charitable Trust. The result of which will be the establishment of the first-ever permanent Heritage site for viewing of the dynastic Rothes family artefacts in Scotland from the 11th century to the present.

A first-stage exhibition is open to the public until 2nd June within the Kingdom Shopping Mall in Glenrothes. This exhibition is based on the life of the English-born Countess of Rothes who became a heroine in her own right for the part she played in the Titanic disaster on 14th April 1912.

Lucy Noelle Martha Dyer-Edwardes was born in London on 25th December 1878. The only child of multimillionaire Thomas Dyer-Edwardes and his wife Lady Clementina Villiers, a descendant of the Dukes of Perth & Melfort, Noelle was brought up to realise not only the privileges great wealth brought - but also the responsibilities to care for the less fortunate.

In 1900 Noelle married Norman-Evelyn Leslie the 19th Earl of Rothes and came to live with him in his ancestral family home in Leslie, Fife where his predecessors had lived from the 12th century. In 1902 she gave birth to the heir Lord Malcolm George Leslie and in 1909 The Hon. John Wayland Leslie.

Noelle, her cousin Gladys Cherry together with her maid Roberta 'Cissy' Maioni were on their way to meet with the Earl in New York in time to celebrate their 12th wedding anniversary when their ship Titanic hit an ice-berg at 11.45pm. At the same time in Scotland, her youngest son John awoke suddenly in great distress saying he felt his mother was in great danger. Alistair Leslie, son of the Hon. John Wayland Leslie and grandson of the Countess, recounts how his father told him of his terrible fears and how it had taken several hours to settle him. Coincidentally at the same time as his mother had been rescued from Lifeboat No.8 by the crew of the Carpathia.

The Countess wrote a very moving letter to her parents from the Carpathia whilst en-route to New York. Her letter, on display in the exhibition, gives a moving and graphic account of the dreadful fate of those left on-board the ship. How her auburn hair turned white overnight by the stress she and others endured battling the elements on the ice-cold North Atlantic ocean with mountain-sized icebergs looming over the tiny life-boats.

Also on display is the silver engraved watch presented to Able-Seaman Thomas Jones by the Countess. The inscribed plaque made by Jones on which he fixed the brass No.8 from the lifeboat. The century old correspondence between Jones, the Countess and Gladys Cherry together with a verbatim transcription of the Countess's memoirs.

Linda Ballingall

Founder & Chairwoman, Glenrothes & Area Heritage Trust