News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch and Thornton Parish Church February 2015



Markinch and Thornton Parish Church



Locum Minister:

Rev. Alistair McLeod

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 Services

Thornton Church - Sunday 9.45am Markinch Church - Sunday 11.15am

www.markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk

Communion Sunday

You are invited to share in the celebration of

Holy Communion

in Thornton Church at 9.45 am and Markinch Church at 11.15 am on

Sunday 22nd February 2015

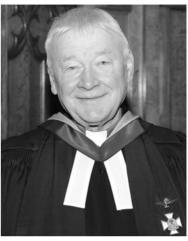
A message from Rev Alistair McLeod Our Locum Minister

Dear Friends.

I have been at Markinch now for just over a year, and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the very warm welcome I have received from the congregations both at Thornton and Markinch

I am aware that my time here is going to be limited by however much time it takes to find a permanent minister, and I hope for the sake of continuity it might not be too much longer.

2014 has been a year of anniversaries; first there was the 100th Anniversary of the Great War and only last week we were remembering the atrocities carried out at Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland.



We listened to one of the survivors who had been there as a child and he was remembering the terrible horror that had happened there. But what struck me, was something he said, and it is something that should resonate with every Christian, he said, "Among the horror there were some people who were kind, and it was like a spark, a spark which I will always remember".

We are living in troubled times, and it is at these times that folk should return again to God, because we live in times when it is only God who can make all things right. Politicians try but fail. I know that it is difficult always to turn the other cheek, and certainly the current Pope must think that too. But strife only creates more strife and so I urge you to pray every day for a world that will turn away from anger and war, and seek to live together in peace.

With every blessing,

Alistair

There have been some changes to the Elder's districts and your Elder may have changed.

Session Clerk's Report

Our nominating committee has been meeting regularly, still trying to attract interest from ministers. It's a difficult task as there's quite a few vacant charges. Let's hope we can find a minister over the coming months.

Our session recently saw changes, as Susan Thomson resigned, and Alison Burns was ordained as a Ruling Elder. On behalf of the session, I thank Susan for her years of dedicated service. I also hope Alison enjoys her new role.

John G Wood, Session Clerk

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church - Pastoral Committee

A meeting will be held for this committee and anyone else interested in helping, on Monday 2nd March at 7pm at:-

25 Beechwood Park.

Glenrothes

KY7 6GG

We will discuss the role of the Pastoral visitor, share pointers for useful visiting and divide up the tasks.

I look forward to welcoming anyone interested in this work.

Refreshments will be served.

Meg Sankey

Markinch Church Hall Youth Club

This busy youth club meets on a Thursday evening between 6.30pm and 8pm. Youngsters are aged between 9 and 16 years old and enjoy a variety of games, sports, arts and crafts as well as the favourite 'tuck shop'

Many of the youngsters, volunteers and church members had a great night at The Carnegie Hall in December when they saw Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Comments have included: - 'It was brilliant' 'the best pantomime I have seen in years' and 'can we go again'

It was a pleasure to take the youngsters along as they were so well behaved and represented the youth in our community so well.

Future events which the youngsters have suggested and the volunteers are organising include a Talent Show and an outing to a show at the Rothes Halls.

The youngsters are also supporting Christian Aid this year again and are holding a Haggis Drive on Thursday 14th May in Markinch Church Hall, more detail will follow, but please put the date in your diary now.

For more information about the youth club please contact Michelle on 07846 465522

Treasurer's Report

Our total income for 2014 was £95181.00. This was made up mainly from WFO envelopes £29086.00, Standing Orders £21549.00, Open Plate £9615.00, Gift Day £4139.00 and Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid £12808.00.

Total expenditure £92926.00 Main items of expenditure were Ministry and Mission £37386.00, Locum Ministers £12610.00, Salaries £11832.00 and Heat and Light £7337.00.

Ministry and Mission due for 2015 is £47189.00 and Insurance £6438.00.

I would appeal again for more people to pay by standing order and all those who are Tax Payers to complete a Gift Aid Declaration.

Both forms can be had by contacting me.

Nancy Munro.

Treasurer

Rotary Shoeboxes

The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness to the people of Eastern Europe who live in a world of poverty. If you would like to take part for an Easter delivery empty boxes can be collected from both Thornton and Markinch Churches. Filled boxes need to be returned by the beginning of March.

Household goods such as hand soap, toothpaste and brushes, envelopes, letter paper, biro pens, etc. are also good for older folk, especially if a warm scarf or a pair of gloves is included.

Toys are especially appreciated, since these boxes can be used for birthday gifts. Toys such as 'Matchbox' type toy cars, small bouncy balls, jigsaws, fluffy toys, dolls, colouring books, felt tip pens, Lego, yoyo's, bubble blow, etc.

Please remember boxes for teenage boys and girls up to the age of 18 including items such as: make-up, toiletries, sportswear, scarf, gloves, hat, deodorants, writing materials, comb, mirror, football memorabilia, etc.

The contents should be of good quality, remembering that the recipient will be opening the box in eager anticipation.

The Rotary Club of Glenrothes would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support with this appeal. For information contact Tracy Thomson 07786 675507

Printed or Digital?

A significant number of our members and friends now receive *News From The Pews* in an electronic format, rather than a printed copy. The electronic version of the magazine is sent as an Adobe PDF file using email.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list and receive the electronic copy instead of the printed copy delivered by your elder please contact Ken Wilkie confirming the email address(es) you wish the newsletter to be sent to. Call 01592 760042 or email *ken.wilkie@lineone.net*

From the Parish Register

Deaths

14-11-14 Lynn Walker

05-01-15 Isabella Henderson 11-01-15 Margaret (Pearl) Laing



Diary Dates

Every Monday Coffee morning at Thornton, 10.00am-12noon

Every Monday Prayer meeting at Thornton, 10.15am

Every Thursday Coffee morning at Markinch, 10.00am-11.30am

16th February Fundraising Team Meeting

22nd February Communion Sunday Thornton, 9.45am

Markinch, 11,15am

2nd March Pastoral Committee Meeting

23rd March Session Meeting, Thornton Church Hall, 7.15pm

28th March Spring Teas, Thornton Church Hall

6th April Easter Meal at Balbirnie Golf Club, 7.00 for 7.30pm 24th April Rosyth Concert Band, Markinch Church Hall, 7.30pm

10th-16th May Christian Aid Week

14th May 'Haggis Drive', Markinch Church Hall

18th May Session Meeting, Markinch Church Hall, 7.15pm 24th May Communion Sunday, Thornton and Markinch

Church Hall Bookings

Anyone enquiring about booking the Markinch church hall should contact Karen Wood on 01592 750327 or email *hall@markinchchurch.org.uk* You can also collect a booking form from the notice board in the church hall.

To book Thornton church hall please contact Margaret Colville on 01592 774295

Social Networking with Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

We now have a Facebook page and many of us share church events and world news via the Facebook account. You can join us to find out what we have planned, view photos of events and make comments on a variety of topics.

Go to www.facebook.com and search for Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

Congratulations

Miss Isa Wallace, a resident of Preston House, Glenrothes celebrated her 102nd birthday in January. The congregation wish to send her our love and best wishes.

Easter Fellowship Meal

We are having an Easter fellowship meal on Monday 6th April, 7 for 7.30pm at Balbirnie Park Golf Club to which all members of the congregation are invited. This will consist of a two course carvery meal but if you are vegetarian please let me know in advance. The cost of the meal is £15. If you are interested please contact Karen Wood either after church any Sunday or on 07717 023906 by Sunday 29th March 2015.

Photocopying and Printing Services

The church has a high specification photocopier in the Markinch Session House which we use to produce this quarterly newsletter and the weekly bulletins.

We are able to do colour or black and white printing up to A3 size at fairly competitive prices and we also have A4 folding and binding facilities. If you or your club, organisation or business require leaflets, posters or programmes printed please give us a chance to quote. Any profits we make will go to offset the rental costs of the photocopier. Contact Ken Wilkie on 01592 760042 or email ken.wilkie@lineone.net

Thornton Prayer Meetings

Our prayer group meets at 10.15am on a Monday morning. If you would like us to pray for you or any of your friends or relatives, we have prayer slips available with a box to put them in. These are available in the quiet room which is just before you enter the worship room.

We have had people from other churches join us at our Monday morning prayer time. Once again, we would like to invite people from Markinch to join us in our prayer meetings. All will be made very welcome.

Jean Kane, Prayer Promoter

Rosyth Concert Band 24th April 2015 Markinch Church Hall at 7.30pm £5 per ticket

Due to the popularity of this event, we have invited the band, which includes the Markinch organist Alison Burns, back to Markinch again this year. They play a wide range of popular music that gets your feet tapping and your hands clapping.

We hope that this event will be well supported again and invite you to bring your own drinks. There will be light snacks, tea and coffee available after the concert.

Tickets available from Marianne Sankey, Karen Wood or Betty Gray.

Sunday School

Spout, handle, lid of metal - we went to see the SINGING KETTLE.

The Sunday School children were able to say this as we paid a visit to the Rothes Halls in December for our Christmas treat. This was the last visit of the group under the 'Singing Kettle' name so all the old favourite songs were sung with gusto!

At the beginning of the year we started work on the story of David and Goliath. We are also learning a song about David which we hope to sing in Church one Sunday. As always pictures and worksheets are on the board at the back of the hall and a 'slain Goliath' is on the cupboard door.

Surafel

Thanks to all donations over the past 10 years we have been able to sponsor Surafel for 5 years and Zerihun for the previous 5 years.

The money donated goes towards paying for Surafel's education and his medication, with some used for Christmas and birthday treats.

Surafel will be 10 in April and a card will be sent to him via the support worker.

A new calendar is in the hall so why not see if your birthday is free and sponsor him for £1 a day? Just add you name to the calendar and fill in one of the slips with the amount left, or see Helen, Moira or Suzi on a Sunday. Thank you.

Helen Paterson

Every single evening as I'm lying here in bed, this tiny little prayer keeps running through my head; God bless all my family wherever they may be, keep them warm and safe from harm for they're so close to me. And God, there's just one more thing I wish that you could do; if you don't mind me asking, bless my computer too.

Now I know that it's unusual to Bless a motherboard, but listen just a second while I explain it to you, Lord.

You see, that little metal box holds more than odds and ends; inside those small compartments rest so many of my friends.

I know so much about them by the kindness that they give, and this little scrap of metal takes me into where they live.

By faith is how I know them much the same as you; we share in what life brings us and from that our friendships grew.

Please take an extra minute from your duties up above,

To bless those in my address book that's filled with so much love.

Wherever else this prayer may reach to each and every friend, bless each e-mail Inbox and each person who hits 'send'.

When you update your Heavenly list on your own Great CD-ROM, bless everyone who says this prayer sent up to GOD.com

Author unknown



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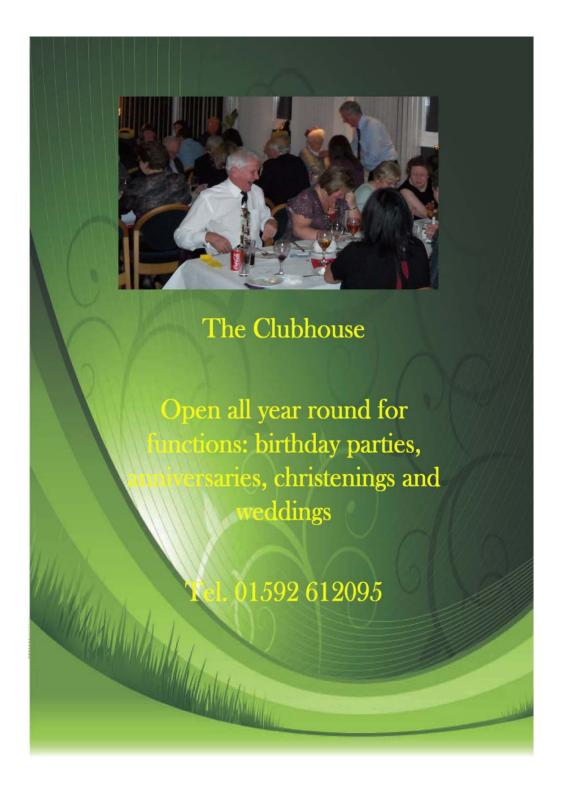
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Ordination of a New Elder

At the morning service in Markinch on 25th January, our locum minister Rev Alistair McLeod ordained Alison Burns as an Elder of Markinch and Thornton Parish Church.

Alison's father, John Burns (left), and our Session Clerk, John Wood (right) represented the Kirk Session and welcomed Alison as an Elder.



Church Flowers

To arrange for flowers to be put into Markinch Church contact Teresa Henderson on 01592 754892.

To arrange for flowers to be put into Thornton Church contact Margaret Colville on 01592 774295.

We would also ask for names from anyone in the congregation of the elderly, sick, bereaved or anyone who they think might like a visit so that we can brighten up their Sundays with a lovely bouquet of flowers.



A Message From Our Interim Moderator

Dear friends, I have just returned from the most amazing trip to Trinidad.

My Church, Methilhill and Denbeath, is twinned with the Church of Scotland in Trinidad which comprises three Churches across the island. We have been twinned for 7 years and exchange visits every two years. Many things in our Churches are similar but the culture is so different.

In Trinidad people talk openly about their love of God, the Holy Spirit and their faith and they pray openly and devotedly without inhibition. If they buy a new car or move to a new house or receive a gift they ask for a blessing. My Minister, Elisabeth Cranfield was walking along the shore with some of the Church members when they came across a fisherman with his boat. The boat had just undergone some extensive repairs and was now seaworthy again. When he discovered Elisabeth was a Minister from Scotland the fisherman asked if she would bless his boat before he put out to sea. Such faith, such humility is a joy to encounter and I find it so humbling as we are so reticent in being open about our beliefs.

The 12 days spent in Trinidad are something I will never forget. I went in faith, was welcomed with love and returned with hope, the hope that I might one day have the relationship with God that lights up the faces of the Trinidadians at the mention of His name.

Love and Blessings to you all

May Russell

Spring Teas Thornton Church Hall Saturday 28th March from 10am to 12noon

We would appreciate donations of baking etc for the teas. Could we also ask for helpers, especially for serving teas and manning the kitchen. Tea tickets, costing £2 can be obtained from Betty Gray (or you can pay at the door).

CENTENARY COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919

In August 2014, I attended the Drumhead Ceremony, to commemorate the Centenary of the Outbreak of the Great War, in Edinburgh Castle. The event was spectacular, but unfortunately, due to torrential rain, the subsequent events that Sunday in Holyrood Park had to be curtailed. Given that the Event commemorated the Great War, the weather could have been said to have created a realistic environment, as the streets around Holyrood Park flooded, and the water pouring down the Royal Mile created a new river in Edinburgh, the River Canongate. Thousands of people, however, turned out from all over Scotland, for the Event.

Daily, thousands of people also visited the Poppy Tribute at the Tower of London, to commemorate the Great War. There were queues of people every day to witness the unique display, and many people bought the Poppies from the display when it ended.

On a smaller scale, locally, many people from this area visited the Exhibition about The First World War in the Glenrothes Heritage Centre before Christmas. There, people could read about some of the local participants, see photographs from the time, and gain an insight into what life was like for the people of this area. 1914-1919.

People have become now much more aware of their ancestors' involvement in The Great War, or want to find out about that involvement. This was shown at an event in Dundee last autumn which involved the Dundee Great War Committee and the BBC. This year will see Dundee again become a centre for Commemoration Events, with the Centenary of the Battle of Loos, in September.

In Belgium, and France, the story is similar. More people are visiting the Great War areas there to visit Graves, or Museums, or Cemeteries, or Monuments, and pay tribute. Last year, after attending the Dedication of the Black Watch Memorial, we visited a new Belgian War Museum at Diksmuide, where a lift takes you up some thirty floors, and you walk down, while examining the Museum. While we were there, an MG Car Rally visited the Exhibition, as the Rally had three days to follow the War and the Front-Line, from Nieuport to Ypres, some 60 miles for about 50 vehicles and a breakdown truck. Two months later, the Tour de France cycle race paid tribute to the Great War by having a Stage finish in the Ypres area and start in the Ypres Main Square, bringing thousands of tourists to the area.

For all of these people, there are new Visitor Centres in many of the Cemetries, such as Ljissenthoek, Fromelles, Tyne Cot and Langemark. In Messines there is a Visitor Centre to relate the story of Adolf Hitler in the Great War, and his encounter with Scottish Regiments, in that area. The Museums in Ypres and Passchendaele have been modernised, so that 21st Century techniques can be used in some areas to tell the story. The French have also opened a new Museum at Meaux, near Eurodisney, as well as having an excellent Museum at Peronne. Then, there are the Canadian Visitor Centres at Vimy Ridge and Newfoundland Park, and the British Centre at Thiepval, to add to the list. In the same way that there is a Scottish Monument at Zonnebeke, and a Black Watch

Monument at Black Watch Corner, there is now, since 2014, a Welsh Monument at Pilkem.

In November, when we went for the Armistice Day Ceremonies to Ypres, we discovered that, just like at the Tower of London for the Poppy Tribute, people are now turning up in greater numbers to commemorate the Great War. Anyone wishing to be directly at the Menin Gate for the Last Post at 20.00 should now be there by 19.15 most evenings, otherwise they may well be outside the Gate, such is the number of people now attending in the evening. On Armistice Morning we parked the car outside the Main Square and made our way in to town. accompanying a Parade which was going to join the Main Parade that morning. We then watched the Main Parade form up, and proceeded with it to the Main Square, where we remained and watched the Morning events on the Big Screen. Thousands of others had made the same choice as us, as the crowds were so large that access to the Menin Gate was almost impossible, unless you had a ticket as a dignitary. I said almost impossible, as the school which were staying beside us had their own solution. They were in the Official Poppy Parade, with hundreds of others, so they could get access, and we watched them in the Parade. Their teachers had worked out that this was their best (only) chance to get near, and had even done a deal with B.B.C. Television and Radio. South England, to appear in the Media, and do interviews, about their participation, and about their other visits in the area.

We had tickets for the Armistice Afternoon Concert in Ypres Cathedral. It sold out in August, and as tickets for the non-dignitaries are not numbered, in other words survival of the fittest, we had to queue for an hour to get good seats together, that is seats with a good view, as the seats are like old-fashioned school seats. The Concert was superb and lasted two hours.

The evenings of November 11 and 12 were almost as busy at the Menin Gate for the Last Post, and we were there by 19.15 to be in prime position to see the Last Post Ceremony on these evenings. On November 12, most of the Tourist facilities in the Ypres cafes and restaurants are dismantled, to comply with local bylaws, also known as Belgian Health and Safety.

If 2014 is anything to go by, then by 2018 I would think that admission to Ypres City Centre, if not to Ypres itself, will be by ticket only. Travel companies are running innumerable coach tours for Armistice to Ypres. The school staying beside us could not get into Tyne Cot Cemetery in the afternoon because there were twelve coaches there already. I have friends who go to the Somme every year for July 1, and they already know that they cannot use their normal Hotel in 2016, as it is fully booked for the Centenary of the outbreak of the Battle of the Somme. More football and rugby clubs are also becoming involved in Remembrance, as individual stories are uncovered.

From this, it would seem that the numbers of people involved in the Commemoration of the Centenary of the Great War is set to continue to increase. Luckily, we already have our accommodation reserved, for July 1 at the Somme, and November 11 in Ypres. All that remains is to get there.

Harry Gould

Fundraising

Fundraising Going Forward

Many thanks to everyone who has taken part in fundraising events over the last year, whether helping to organise them, work on the day, give us ideas or donations, or attend the activities. We cannot continue to do the work that we do without you. Fundraising is something that everyone can contribute to, whether you are good with ideas, planning, project managing or making the tea and coffee, all help and support is gratefully received. Please contact either Betty Gray (07531 765748) or Marianne Sankey (07801 279899), with any suggestions or activities that you would like to run. Even small events add up financially over the year.

Fundraising Meeting

The next fundraising meeting, and the first for the new combined Markinch and Thornton Parish Church will be held on Monday 16th February at 10 Loch Venachar Gardens, Glenrothes. This meeting is for all members of the Fundraising Committee and anyone who feels that they can contribute to the fundraising effort in any way. Please feel free to attend the meeting to find out what is going on, if you have ideas but don't want to run an event yourself or if you are willing to donate your time to assist at any of the events. If you are not able to attend the meeting, but are willing to help or have an idea, please let either Betty Gray (07531 765748) or Marianne Sankey (07801 279899) know.

We look forward to seeing you there and finding out what new ideas people can bring from other organisations or events that they have attended.

On-going Events and Items for Sale

Rag Bag – You can donate any clothes, towels, bed linens, shoes, curtains, bags or textiles. If you need transport for your donation, please contact Marianne on 07801 279899 to arrange an uplift.

Jigsaw Lending Library – Available in Markinch church hall following Sunday Service at a cost of £1 per jigsaw. If you require any information about this activity please contact Meg Sankey on 07834 729420.

Markinch Church Figurines – available to purchase following Sunday Service at a cost of £19.99 each. These are an ideal gift for friends or as a keepsake for anyone who is getting married in the church.

Sales Table – There are handcraft items for sale in the Markinch church hall. Please feel free to make a donation to church funds in the dish provided for any of these items. If you would like to donate handcrafts, baking, plants, jams, chutney's etc, please place them on the sales table before any church service.

'Made in Markinch' Cookbook. On sale at a cost of £5. Limited availability left. Markinch: Its Church and Parish by Ian Gourlay and Ken Wilkie. Copies can

be obtained from Ken Wilkie by email at book@markinchchurch.org.uk or on 01592 760042. Hardback copies £15 (The paperback is currently not available).

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

Quiz sheets will shortly be on sale at both Markinch and Thornton Churches in aid of Christian Aid. The quiz is titles 'Scottish Songs' and the cost is only £1. The closing date for completed quiz sheets to be posted is the end of May 2015. Please take a few and sell them to your friends and family.

Afraid, alone, in pain

Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week.

X W # X W



Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family. This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community.

Find out how you can play your part at caweek.org





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Markinch Amateur Operatic Society, which is a Registered Scottish Charity SC025712

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There is never a right time to lose someone we love, never a right time to have to make arrangements for their funeral, to say goodbye in a way most suitable to them and those left behind

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Professional

Crosbie Matthew's professional team of funeral directors are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to personally answer your calls and guide you sensitively at your time of loss.

Support

Practical advice and support can be given on paperwork required for registration, and covers everything from press notices, floral tributes and catering to order of service sheets and attendance cards.

Personalised

We can help you with the type of service you require, your choice of officiant who may be a minister, civil celebrant,

family member or friend; your options for music, poems, hymns; personalised order of service sheets with photographs if you wish. We are here to discuss any other ideas you may have to make the funeral a more personal tribute.

We pride ourselves in listening to you and helping you to arrange a funeral best suited to your and your loved ones wishes.

Memorials

We have a comprehensive range of granite stones, vases and markers which can be tailored to your own design. We can also help with renovating, cleaning and adding inscriptions to existing stones. We also have a variety of traditional and more modern urns, jewellery and ornaments for cremated remains.

Pre-paid Funeral Plans

Golden Charter pre-paid plans are available. More people are finding that a pre-paid funeral plan eases the financial and emotional burden on their families. It means they are paying for a funeral at today's prices and leaving written details available for that time of need.

Payment Options

We request a deposit for the disbursements (payment made by us to third parties on your behalf). Payments can be made in full by card, cash or cheque. With flexible payment options available we offer you a first step to peace of mind.

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