

News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch and Thornton Parish Church
May 2017

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017



Is it better to die in a refugee camp than to die in a war? To risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy. And to leave everything you know behind. When the alternative is terror, bombs and bullets, almost anything is better.

This is the terrible choice facing tens of millions of people world-wide, fleeing conflict and disaster, making dangerous journeys in search of safety.

Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support the work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War.

Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.



Please give generously.

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church



Ministry Team:

Rev. Carolann Erskine

Mr David Murdoch

Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith

Miss Dawn Laing

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

Scottish Charity Number: SC003417

Communion Sunday

You are invited to share in the celebration of

Holy Communion

in Markinch Church at 11.15 am

and Thornton Church **at 2.30pm**

on **Sunday 18th June 2017**

The service times will be reviewed before the September Communion.

If you are unable to attend these services and would like to receive

Holy Communion at home, please contact your Elder so that arrangements can be made.

Your Elder is _____

Contact Details _____

The Vestry, May 2017

As the seasons change, and the warmer weather approaches, young birds along with the fresh spring colours have arrived in our gardens and we can see the positive growth in plants and shrubs that will blossom come summer. Sometimes, despite our best intentions in our gardens, things don't grow the way we think that they should and disappointments come our way. This happens in life too and though we may not fully understand these situations at the time, we might surprise ourselves by the way in which we react or respond. Whether introvert or extrovert, our personality type one way or another continues to minister to others throughout parish life and we decidedly nod in agreement to the notion that the Church cares for people. We must however ask the question, 'Do people care for the church?'

The wonderful thing about God is that he is always accessible and willing to listen to our thoughts and prayers. If we take time to step away from any situation and ask God about it, I believe he can help us. From somewhere in the realms of prayer, we can feel comforted knowing that we have been heard. I have no doubt that many have been discouraged in their prayer life at times. Our eyes may have been weak from crying... our hearts tender and grieved. In times as these, our graveyard God works miracles, often resurrecting situations we thought were dead.

We know that people benefit from having God in their lives but some people don't know that yet. Others may have felt close to God before something terrible happened in their lives and now, feel quite distant. Many people know that they need God because they too were once in a position where they felt far from him. Whether far or near from God, we need courage and hope in our lives to know the unity of his unconditional love, forgiveness and mercy so that he can find ways to encourage us not to give up on our relationship with him and with each other. Certainly, among the challenges of life, we, in the strength and courage of God's Holy Spirit must continue to encourage people to come to church and to care about God's church.

I recall an article in the Ministers' Forum written by one of my previous Tutors at the School of Divinity, Edinburgh University where Doug Gay, (now Lecturer in Practical Theology and Principal of Trinity College, University of Glasgow) reminded me of the passion for ministry that we should have. Doug said of the church, "Sometimes moving slowly means we are making wise and well considered decisions. Other times it reflects fearfulness, confusion and a lack of vision." As church and society move on, as the General Assembly approaches in May, may we, in all that we are, in all that we shall be, and in all that we shall do as kingdom builders, be agents of God's grace to a world that that still needs to hear the good news of the gospels. May those who feel far from God discover the privilege of being loved by God who hears all prayers and distils all tears until, to our surprise we realise that we have grown through another of life's seasons maturing and adapting our prayer lives as we continue to care for God's church and his people.

Blessings, Carolann

Annual Stated Meeting – March 2017

Galatians 6:9 "Do not become weary in doing good for, at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Imagining the future of Markinch and Thornton Church is quite a venture as the territory is uncharted. Inheriting a church in decline with a troubled history and a difficult vacancy period has been challenging and not without its demands.

And yet, for me, and I sincerely hope for all of you, the church believes a vision forms part of a much wider movement across society which will revitalize and refresh the faithful and offer spiritual heritage to those seeking the Lord. Some will come to church because of that. Others will leave because of that.

That so many people sign agreements with the thought, 'what's in it for me', we are reminded that the good we do is in kingdom building and not for us as individuals to create an empire. As Disciples, we are a compassionate community church, one church, two locations where each has expressive identity, ideas, creativity and vision. In attempting to embrace this challenge this past year, we have been working hard to understand a united church under a unitary constitution, where working groups as Publicity and Communications, Projects, Worship, Finance, Pastoral Care, Education and Mission, Safeguarding and Property have been formed.

All of these formed in faith with good stewardship and good governance, where there is a place for every member to help to live out the gospel message of hope, belief and witness to our Lord Jesus Christ. There has been ministry to members and to people in the community. Through baptisms, weddings and funerals, there has also been pastoral ministry. Links have been made with youth work, Balbirnie Court where services of worship are about to begin, chaplaincy in three primary schools, links with Balbirnie House Hotel for marriage ceremonies, and excellent professional relationships with all local Funeral Directors. Some new aspects of worship have been introduced, some welcome, some not so welcome. Joining the Ministry Team, Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith who is a member here, offers occasional assistance and will work with me to develop a programme for the Pilgrim Way, Miss Dawn Laing, Candidate in training for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament is here on placement until around Pentecost, learning all aspects of congregational life and in recognition of the heavy workload, Mr David Murdoch assigned by Presbytery as temporary Parish Assistant, helping occasionally in services and with funerals. The team work exceptionally well together.

I believe that God is calling us to continue to nurture an inclusive community, but also to build new relationships from mutual respect, love, hope and faith becoming more relational, more Christian family orientated.

Now, every successful economy requires a degree of structure, regulation, limits and boundaries. But, if education in life long learning is to continue through the church, it must be delivered respectfully and with dignity. Social assets are a great strength through the church for building a better society, local and global where we provide aid and stand with and stand up for those who cannot do that themselves.

The shape of the Church of Scotland is changing, finding new expressions of spiritual heritage. How inviting and all inclusive will this church become as we accompany people who are churchied, unchurchied or dechurchied? These are

challenging times in which we help enable the mission of Christ in us and through us for the greater good of God's kingdom.

So, do not become weary in doing good for, at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Let's keep on proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, witness, nurture and service. Let's keep on encouraging and strengthening one another so that we can celebrate a lively, vibrant faith that engages locally and globally in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, an appreciation of thanks to all of you, the employees, the members and the office bearers for your continued support of God's church. Thanks to everyone for all that you do in the name of our Lord, after all we are not so much a volunteer organisation, more an organisation of servant hood where much of which goes unnoticed by human eye, but all is seen by God. Finally, thanks to Session Clerk, John Wood and Depute Clerk John Burns for their dedication, diligence and hard work throughout this past year.

From the Session Clerk

Church Officer

We wish to advise that Karen Wood has resigned from the role of Church Officer at Markinch for personal reasons. The Kirk Session thanked Karen for her work and organisation of the duties.

The Kirk Session are pleased to advise that Jack Harley and Suzi Hamilton are jointly taking on the duties of Church Officer at Markinch. We wish them well in this key role in our Church life.

Elder Retiral

Another of our long serving Elders has recently retired. Harry Wyse, who has served as an Elder for over 45 years has retired after serving the church faithfully for that time. Harry was dedicated to his duty as an Elder and his service to the church is much appreciated.

On behalf of the session, I would like to formally thank Harry for his dedication to the role of Ruling Elder and we wish Harry a peaceful retirement.

Contact Details

Minister	Rev Carolann Erskine Tel 01592 758264 Email CErskine@churchofscotland.org	
Session Clerk	John G Wood, 16 Loch Katrine Gardens, Glenrothes, KY6 2NW Tel 01592 750327 Email sessionclerk@markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk	
Treasurer	Nancy Munro Tel 01592 743822 Email amunro6687@aol.com	
Church Officers (Markinch)	Jack Harley Suzi Hamilton	Tel 01592 758356 Tel 01592 611933

Remember - This is YOUR newsletter !

If you have any interesting news, stories, poems etc, please hand them to
Ken Wilkie or email ken@kenwilkie.com or call 01592 760042
The deadline for the August-October issue is 24th July

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
20th May 2017	Christian Aid Coffee Morning (Thornton Hall, 10am-noon)
17th June 2017	Strawberry Teas (Thornton Hall)
18th June 2017	Communion Sunday
19th June 2017	Kirk Session Meeting (Markinch Hall 7.15pm)
9th July 2017	Fellowship Meal (Drummonds, Markinch)

Christian Aid Week, 14th-20th May 2017

Nejebar's Story - Nejebar fled Afghanistan with her family after the Taliban threatened to kill her husband, Noor, who was a teacher. It wasn't an idle threat - the Taliban first blinded, then murdered, another member of their family.

'The last days and weeks in Afghanistan were the hardest,' says Noor. 'When I went to work, my heart was beating harder. I didn't know if my family were going to be alive when I got back.' Nejebar's family are stuck in Greece

When the family arrived at the refugee camp in Greece, they thought they would only stay for 10 days. But they've been there six months now and there's no end in sight.

The only protection they have against the wind and rain is their tent. There's no school for their children. Five-year-old Sudai, their youngest, is ill, but Nejebar and Noor don't know what's wrong with him because they can't communicate with the camp's doctor, who is Greek.

Nejebar is the rock at the centre of her family, holding them together throughout all this uncertainty. She has even welcomed Faraidoon and Farzad into the family, two brothers who don't know where their parents are, or if they're even alive. 'We still have some hope for our children's future,' says Nejebar. 'We only want a peaceful life. We want our children to go to school. The most important thing is our children.'

Christian Aid Week Coffee Morning

Thornton Church Hall, Saturday 20th May from 10am to 12noon. The price is £3 which is payable at the door. Marmalade, cakes etc will be on sale.

There will also be activities for the children and a jar of sweets to be won. Please come along to support this worthwhile cause.

Strawberry Teas Thornton Church Hall Saturday 17th June 10.00am to 12noon

Stalls will include, cake & candy, books, bric-a-brac, etc.

Donations to stalls would be greatly appreciated
and helpers are also required on the day.

Tickets £2 or pay at the door

Treasurer's Report

<u>Income at 30-04-17</u>	£
Weekly Freewill Offering	9793
Open Plate	1693
Standing Orders	9270
Donations	40
Dividend Income	227
Legacy	5000
Gift Day	5682
Fundraising	1063
Tax Rebate	7898
Hall Rents	1356
Weddings & Funerals	580
Bank Interest	28
Misc. Income	180
	<u>42810</u>

<u>Expenditure at 30-04-17</u>	
Salaries	3416
Insurance/Council Tax	3000
Ministry Allocation	17436
Ministers Travel	645
Gas & Electricity	1990
Postages & Stationery	612
Telephone	186
Life & Work	491
Church Repairs/Hall repairs	2458
Manse Repairs	200
Clock Repairs	108
Copyright Licence	470
Pulpit Supply	533
Cleaning Materials/Kitchen Supplies	95
Adverts	52
Bank Charges	22
Miscellaneous	112
	<u>31826</u>

Excess Income/Expenditure	10984
General Fund Balance at 28/04/2017	10402
Fabric Fund Balance at 28/04/2017	16178

Thanks to everyone who contributed to Gift Day.

Ministry & Mission Allocation still due - £40685.00 Insurance still due - £3846.00

We are aware that some of our members did not receive Gift Day donation envelopes, in particular anyone who received the newsletter electronically. If you would still like to donate, please speak to your elder or the Treasurer,.

We would urge anyone who pays tax income and has not yet completed a Gift Aid Declaration to do so as it is a good source of income for the church.

The Treasurer has the necessary form if you are interested.

Nancy Munro, Treasurer

New - Pastoral Request Card

The Pastoral Care Committee have recently introduced a new card for anyone wishing to request home and hospital visits for family members or neighbours, or to inform the church of anyone who's day would be brightened by receiving some flowers.

The cards can be found on the pews in both churches, alternatively you could cut out the copy of the card, shown below, complete it and hand it to your elder or the minister.

<i>Pastoral Request</i>	
<i>Welcome to Markinch and Thornton Parish Church</i>	
where we grow in Christ together, aspiring to be a caring church in the community within a Spirit of Christian love.	
<i>If you would like to nominate anyone for the following, please feel free to tick one or more of the boxes and pass this card to the Rev Carolann Erskine or another member of the Ministry Team as you leave the church.</i>	
Pastoral home visit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Communion	<input type="checkbox"/>
A bouquet of flowers :-	
For illness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bereavement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help with transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pastoral hospital visit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospital Communion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thinking of you	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birthday or Anniversary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the person you are nominating	
Their address	
Requested by	
Scottish Charity Number: SC003417	

Church Flowers

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

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

Do you shop online at www.amazon.co.uk

If you shop online you can help our church raise extra funds by using the link on the church website to take you to the Amazon website. Commission will be paid to the church on every purchase you make. **www.markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk**

Parish News

Joined The Church

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

By Resolution

Bruce Manson
Christine Manson

Parish Deaths

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Dorothy McKain
Joyce Crombie
Helen Hyndman
Agnes Jack
Margaret Dewar
Emily Henderson
Frances Greig
Kate McCombie
Margery Poole

Left The Church By Certificate

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor 5:7

Nina House
Marion Simpson

Baptismal Family Elder

Alison Normand. This is a new appointment approved by our Kirk Session.

Long Service Certificate

Presented to David Clark on 23rd April 2017, for 30 years service.

Printed or Digital ?

A significant number of our members and friends now receive *News From The Pews* in an electronic format (PDF) by email, rather than a printed copy.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list and receive the electronic copy instead of having your elder deliver a printed copy please contact Ken Wilkie confirming the email address(es) you wish the newsletter to be sent to. Call 01592 760042 or email ken@kenwilkie.com

Coin Box Appeal

We would like to update everyone on the success of our ongoing money box appeal. This simple act of filling a coin box between communion services and handing it in at church when it is full helps us greatly with our ongoing fabric fund which pays for the upkeep and improvement of our buildings.



The boxes are available in the vestibules of both churches and also in the hall at Markinch.

If you would like a box but are unable to visit one of the churches to collect one or to have it emptied please give Marianne Sankey a ring on 07801 279899 to arrange to have one delivered. Please can we count on your ongoing support with this simple ongoing activity?

Jigsaw Lending Library

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church has an extensive library of jigsaws which are available to borrow at a cost of £1 per jigsaw.

These are available in the hall at Markinch every Thursday and Sunday at coffee time.

If you would like to make use of this service but cannot get to the hall please contact Meg Sankey to arrange delivery of your choice of jigsaws. Contact Meg Sankey on 07834 729420 for more information



Sunday School

Sunday School

This session we have covered a few topics including, how Jesus called his disciples to be "Fishers of Men", caring for each other, loving one another and, leading up to Easter, how Jesus was tempted in the desert.

On Mothers Day every lady received a daffodil and on Easter Sunday after singing in Church the children gave out Easter cards. This was followed by an egg hunt in the garden and after the service parents joined in the fun of egg rolling.



Surafel

We have received a letter from Surafel thanking us for Christmas card, letter and Christmas gift. There is also a photo of him wearing a new outfit, this may have been purchased with our Christmas money as the letter says the money was spent on clothes. He says he is well and thanks us for our support. The letter and photo are in Markinch hall. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Lynn Cunningham Chartered Accountant

Markinch & Cupar



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Getting To Know You

As I happily respond to the Editor's invitation to make my first contribution to your very good quarterly magazine 'News from the Pews', I can't help but think that these words from the popular musical 'The King and I' are both highly appropriate and indeed an accurate reflection of my feelings in the three months that I have spent with you as Parish Associate in Markinch & Thornton.

The opening three verses of a much loved song made popular by Bing Crosby puts it like this:

*'Getting to know you
Getting to know all about you
Getting to like you
Getting to hope you like me
Getting to know you
Putting it my way, but nicely
You are precisely
My cup of tea.*

*Getting to know you
Getting to feel free and easy
When I am with you
Getting to know what to say
Haven't you noticed ?
Suddenly I'm bright and breezy
Because of all the beautiful and new
Things I'm learning about you
Day by day'.*

When I was asked to join Carolann and the other members of the Ministry team here I was just recovering from several months of ill health following extreme exhaustion & 'burnout' after a stressful 39 month stint as both Interim Moderator and Locum at Falkland and Freuchie Parish Churches.

In my time there I was greatly supported by two wonderfully committed congregations of God's people who were utterly determined to work alongside me and to support me in many new initiatives based on my desire to bring them closer together both in worship and in fellowship.

By the grace of God these two linked, but not yet united congregations, are now delighted to be sharing new experiences as they journey forward in faith together in so many ways.

I just loved leading them in worship and as Interim Moderator, helping the two Kirk Sessions to prepare a forward plan which took account of the necessity to make much needed changes which were very necessary in our changing society and at a time when so many churches are in decline.

I was really sorry that my health at the time was such that I had to resign and leave these marvellously positive and caring congregations, and I look back on my time with them with both pride and great affection.

During these worrying and anxious months of ill health when I was ,for the first time in over 25 years, unable to cope with the workload that affects all who are in any way involved in ministry, I wondered if the time was right to 'hang up my preaching gown' particularly since my 70th birthday was approaching.

However God, as he so often does, had other plans for me and after an approach from your minister and lengthy meetings with her, I was delighted to agree to become part time Parish Associate from the first week of February.

In the short time that I have been with you I have encountered real warmth, friendship and kindness, both at services and at coffee mornings and other events. You have made me most welcome in your midst and, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for that.

Clearly you care passionately for your church and work very hard for its purposes and I have been impressed by your zeal, your commitment and your obvious love of the Kirk and its message.

As our Church faces the challenges which stretch before all churches in these changing days I pray that the God, who has richly blessed you in years past, will continue to guide you, guard you, keep you and inspire you as you work alongside your minister for the glory of God in this small corner of his Kingdom.

Meanwhile I look forward to 'getting to know' more and more of you by name as we journey on in faith and in hope and in love.

With every blessing.

David Murdoch, Parish Associate.

Getting To Know You

As wonderful as it is to experience God in our lives so that we transform and live more meaningful lives, we would like to invite you to tell your story of how you became a Christian. Please send your article to Ken Wilkie by email to ken@kenwilkie.com or call 01592 760042.

A Vicar was visiting stables with a view to purchase and was introduced by the owner to a horse. He was assured it was perfectly suited to him, having been reared in a Christian environment. With the deal completed, the owner said, "There are two things you must remember. To get him to walk on say 'Praise the Lord' and to get him to stop shout 'Whoa'.

The next day, the Vicar and his steed were speeding over the coastal downs when the Vicar realised they were heading for an unfenced cliff edge. "Stop. Stop" yelled the Vicar, but to no avail. Then he remembered the instructions, 'Whoa' he yelled and the horse stopped, inches from the cliff edge. "Phew" said the Vicar, wiping his brow. "Praise the Lord".

Photocopying and Printing Services

The church has a high specification photocopier in the Session House at Markinch which we use to produce the quarterly newsletter and 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@kenwilkie.com

The General Assembly 2017

The Church of Scotland will hold its annual General Assembly from 20-26 May 2017 at the General Assembly Hall on the Mound in Edinburgh. Our Minister was to be a Commissioner this year but due to a change in circumstances, she is unable to attend. Mr Bryan Gould will represent our congregation.

More than 730 commissioners from congregations across Scotland and beyond will come together to take part in the event, a unique mix of debate, tradition and worship.

Over the course of the week they will be joined by more than 150 people from associated partners and other organisations who work with the Church. The public gallery is open each day for any members of the public who are interested in observing the proceedings.

First held in 1560, the General Assembly is the Kirk's highest court, made up of commissioners who are generally ministers, elders and deacons, as well as youth representatives and around 40 international emissaries from partner churches around the globe. The General Assembly considers reports from each of the Church's councils, discusses issues of national and international importance, and makes decisions that help set the Church of Scotland's direction for the coming years.

Decisions made at the General Assembly can have an historic and long-standing impact on the future of the national Church. However, the Church of Scotland values thoughtful, well considered decision making, and seeks consensus whenever possible, so contentious issues are usually debated for several years before a final resolution is reached.

Each year HM The Queen appoints a Lord High Commissioner as her representative to the General Assembly, unless she attends in person. This year, Her Majesty has appointed HRH The Princess Royal, who previously performed the role in 1996. The Princess Royal will observe the proceedings and report back to Her Majesty what has been debated at the Assembly.

The Princess Royal's first official duty will be to take part in the Ceremony of the Keys, held at the Palace of Holyroodhouse the day before the General Assembly convenes -- which this year is Friday, 19 May. The colourful tradition marks the handing over of the keys of the City of Edinburgh by the Lord Provost to the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly.

The Princess Royal will also take part in the ceremonial procession at the Opening Session of the General Assembly and will attend the Heart and Soul festival in Princes St Gardens on Sunday, 21 May, as well as undertaking visits elsewhere in Scotland.

Programme

Saturday 20th May

The first day of the General Assembly is highly ceremonial with the Roll of Commissioners laid on the table, the consecration of the new Moderator, the address from the retiring Moderator and the reading of the HM the Queen's letter to name just a few. The First Minister may attend.

Sunday 21st May

The day begins with the 10 am General Assembly service at St Giles followed by a Gaelic service in Greyfriars Kirk at 12:30 am and the Heart and Soul Festival in Princes Street Gardens from 1-6pm.

Monday 22nd May

After Holy Communion at 9:30 am, the General Assembly will receive reports from the Business Committee, the World Mission Council, and a special report on Israel/Palestine prepared jointly by the World Mission and the Church and Society councils. CrossReach, the Church's social care council will also report on Monday.

Tuesday 23rd May

Today commissioners will consider reports from the Church and Society Council, the Church of Scotland Guild and the Iona Community.

Wednesday 24th May

The General Assembly will hear reports from the Ecumenical Relations Committee, the Safeguarding Committee and Ministries Council.

Thursday 25th May

The General Assembly will receive reports from the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's forces, as well as from the Mission and Discipleship Council, the National Youth Assembly and the Theological Forum.

Friday 26th May

On this final day of the General Assembly the morning will wrap up business from the General Trustees, the Housing and Loan fund and The Church of Scotland Pension trustees. In the afternoon the Moderator and the High Commissioner will speak to the Commissioners, and the General Assembly will be dissolved.

For those interested in watching from home, Sanctus media will again be webstreaming pictures provided by the General Assembly technical team.

You will also, for the first time, be able to catch up by watching videos of each day's full proceedings via the Church website. It is anticipated that each day's proceedings will be ready to watch the following day.

Rag Bag Collection

The Rag Bag Collection continues to provide us with a continuous income, but we continue to look for textiles, curtains, bed linens, towels, clothes, bags, belts and shoes. Please ensure that donations are placed in a tied plastic bag.

Please ask your neighbours, family, colleagues and friends to have a clear out and help this appeal by contributing as well.

Markinch Church have been collecting for some time but collections are now being made at Thornton Church as well. A large box has been placed in the choir room for your contributions. Speak to Betty Gray if you need more information.

If you cannot transport your collection or have a large donation that you need assistance to move, please do not hesitate to contact Marianne Sankey to arrange collection.
Tel. 07801 279899



Markinch and Thornton Parish Church Fundraising and Social Diary Dates for 2017

20th May 2017	Christian Aid Coffee Morning, Thornton Hall, 10am-noon
17th June 2017	Strawberry Teas (Thornton Hall)
9th July 2017	Fellowship Meal (Drummonds, Markinch)
1st October 2017	Fellowship Meal (Beijing Banquet, Glenrothes)
18th November 2017	Winter Fayre (Markinch Hall)

There are a number of other events in the planning, so please keep yourself updated on our Facebook page, Website or the weekly bulletin.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with the fundraising effort, if you can spare some time to help at any of the events above or have any other ideas for fundraising activities please get in touch.

Craft Stall – Handcraft items for sale in Markinch hall. Please feel free to make a donation to church funds in the dish provided. We welcome donations of handcrafts, baking, plants, jams, chutney's etc. Please note that the craft stall is now in what was previously the book cupboard near the hall door.

'Cross in my Pocket' – These keepsakes are available in the vestibule at a cost of £1 each.

A number of our members recently had Afternoon Tea in a private lodge at Loch Leven's Larder.



Markinch District Community Choir

It won't be long now until our annual Summer Concert and Musical Director Carol Ann Hedley has introduced several new items into our repertoire. We will even be singing in French and Latin so choir members are working hard on their pronunciation.

We look forward to having our concert again in the church hall. Choir members feel comfortable there as it's where we rehearse every Wednesday evening.

As usual we will have a number of guest artists to support us but we will keep their names a surprise until the night. We love to sing for you so come along and join us for an evening of music and song.

Please purchase your tickets from choir members beforehand or phone the number on the poster to avoid disappointment on the night.



The poster features a background image of a field with dandelions under a cloudy sky. At the top left, there is a small butterfly icon. The text is centered and reads: 'Markinch District Community Choir' in a serif font, followed by 'Summer Concert' in a large, stylized serif font. Below that is 'Saturday 20th May' and 'Markinch Church Hall' in bold sans-serif fonts. The time '7.15pm (doors open 6.45pm)' and ticket price 'Tickets £8 (£6 concession)' are listed, along with 'Including cold refreshments'. Ticket availability is noted as 'Tickets available from choir members or phone 01592 755672'. A small disclaimer at the bottom states: 'Please note there will be a very limited number of tickets available to purchase on the night and advance booking is recommended'. At the bottom, there are musical notes on a staff and a circular logo for the Markinch District Community Choir.

**Markinch District
Community Choir**

**Summer
Concert**

Saturday 20th May

Markinch Church Hall

7.15pm (doors open 6.45pm)

Tickets £8 (£6 concession)
Including cold refreshments

**Tickets available from choir members
or phone 01592 755672**

Please note there will be a very limited number of tickets available to
purchase on the night and advance booking is recommended

Six Little Stories

- 1 Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's FAITH.
- 2 When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That's TRUST.
- 3 Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up. That's HOPE.
- 4 We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's CONFIDENCE.
- 5 We see the world suffering, but we still get married and have children. That's LOVE.
- 6 On an old man's shirt was written a sentence I'm not 80 years old; I am sweet sixteen with 64 years of experience. That's ATTITUDE.

The Beatitudes of the Aged

Blessed are they who understand
my faltering step and shaking hand.
Blessed are they who know my ears today
must strain to catch things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away
when my tea spilled at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say
"You've told that story twice today"
Blessed are they who know the ways
to bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known
that I'm loved, respected and not alone.
Blessed are they who ease the days
on my journey Home, in loving ways.

*Variations of the above are attributed to Esther Mary Walker and quoted by Victor Hugo
Also known as 'Blessed in Aging' and 'Beatitudes for the Friends of the Aged'*

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 .

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**

Church Hall Bookings

Anyone enquiring about booking the Markinch church hall should contact Suzi Hamilton on 01592 611933 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

Youth Club

The Co-Op gives 1% of everything that their members spend on selected products back to local causes and our Youth Club was nominated to receive a share of that money to buy new equipment and resources.

We are delighted that the amount received by the Youth Club was **£4167.30** "to give our youngsters a safe, supportive, welcoming place to realise their full potential as responsible youngsters within our community... to challenge themselves, and have a wide range of experiences... which will involve the purchase of new equipment and resources as required."



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Taking care of the detail

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.

In the midst of grief the responsibility of making arrangements can seem overwhelming. Crosbie Matthew Funeral Directors can help you shoulder the burden. We are an independent family-run business with over 70 years experience of supporting bereaved families in Fife and beyond. Arrangements can be made at our purpose built premises in Nicol Street, Kirkcaldy which offers comfortable arrangement rooms and a dedicated service room with lift access. Alternatively we can visit you at a time suited to you in the comfort of your own home.

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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