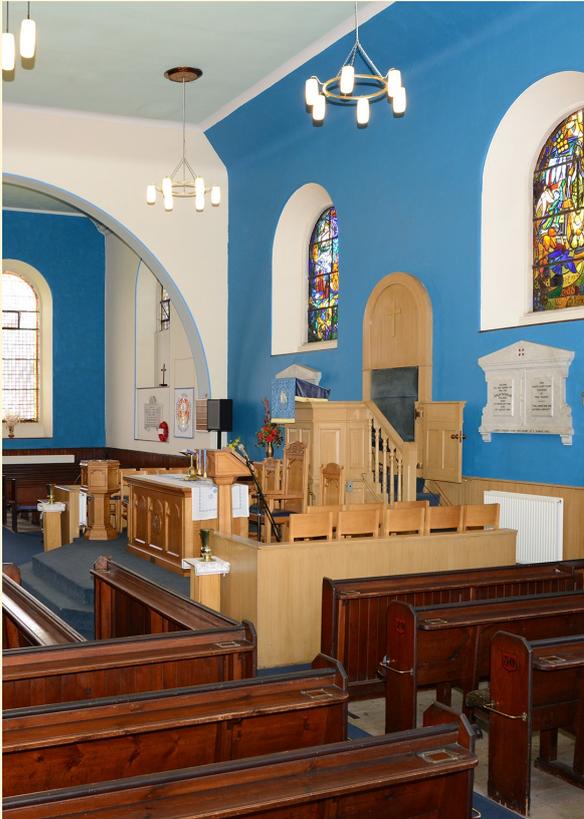


# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## Parish Profile



# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## Covid Statement

Please note that any references that are made about services and activities are from our pre-Covid circumstances and that we fully intend to return to these post-Covid.

It is undeniable that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on everyone, and that religious services were particularly affected by lockdown. However, during the periods of closure in 2020 and 2021, our congregation and ministry team demonstrated a resilience which meant that no Sunday was unmarked by an act of worship.

While the Churches were closed, members were able to watch pre-recorded services on the Zoom platform, which were then uploaded to our YouTube channel enabling them to be viewed by anyone at any time.

With the Churches open again, albeit with limited attendance, the service in Markinch Church continues to be broadcast live over Zoom and uploaded to YouTube.

The live streaming has allowed members whose circumstances prevent them from attending in person to join in worship with their fellow-parishioners.

The Kirk Session is actively considering continuing the streaming of services even when the pandemic is over.



# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## The Call

This is an unrestricted call. The Union between Markinch and Thornton Parish Churches was formed in June 2014. It is appropriate that these two adjoining parishes have united, as the church in Thornton was originally built in 1834-5 as a chapel of ease for Markinch Parish Church.

The Parish is within the newly-formed Presbytery of Fife, and is a member of the Glenrothes Area Covenanted Partnership, which is made up of Christ's Kirk, St. Columba's, St. Margaret's, St. Ninian's (all Glenrothes), Leslie Trinity (currently in Guardianship), and ourselves. The Partnership has a good working relationship with other denominations in the area, including Roman Catholic, Scottish Episcopal, and Baptist.

## Our Minister

We are looking for an approachable and energetic minister who will;

- Lead, inspire and encourage all, both in faith and in everyday life. He or she should be actively engaged in the expanding local community.
- Add to and strengthen the bond between our congregation and the wider community.
- Relate to all ages through effective communication.
- Give pastoral care with warmth, sympathy, compassion and spiritual understanding.
- Contribute up to 30% of their time to working as a member of the Glenrothes Area Covenanted Partnership, as detailed above.
- Be flexible, creative, dynamic and forward looking.

The Kirk Session has chosen to depart from the Church of Scotland Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act (Act 2015), and so we will consider applications from, amongst others, individuals who are in a civil partnership or a same sex marriage.

## Information

Markinch Church  
Kirk Street  
Markinch  
KY7 6DT

Thornton Church  
Main Street  
Thornton  
KY1 4AF

Interim Moderator

Rev Allan Morton  
Tel: 01333 350240  
Email: [AMorton@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AMorton@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk

Bryan Gould  
Tel: 07563 516656  
Email: [sessionclerk@markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk)

Nominating Committee Clerk

Marianne Sankey  
21 Beechwood Avenue, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 6GD  
Tel: 07801 279899  
Email: [maz7731@outlook.com](mailto:maz7731@outlook.com)

Church Website

[www.markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk](http://www.markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk)

Church Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/MarkinchChurch](http://www.facebook.com/MarkinchChurch)

Scottish Charity Number

SC003417

# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## The Church Properties

### Markinch Church

A category A-listed building in Markinch, the church occupies a prominent hilltop location within the older part of the town. The Norman-style bell tower, built in the early 1100s, is closely associated with the Earls of Fife and the Priory of St Andrews. The church itself was progressively enlarged between the 17th and the 19th centuries but contains much original stonework, including a monumental western arch. Both the church and the bell-tower are in a good state of repair.

The church and its surrounding graveyard are the subject of on-going architectural and archaeological investigations in conjunction with Markinch Heritage Group, with a view to additional possible restoration work following that which has been carried out already.

The Sanctuary, with traditional pews, is entered from two doors leading from the vestibule. The pulpit, which faces the entrance and balcony, is situated on the longer wall. Seating capacity is 250 in the balcony and 450 downstairs. The 1914 Abbott and Smith two-manual pipe organ is played regularly. There is a wireless audio system and an induction loop for speech reinforcement. Heating is by a gas-fired boiler.



Access to the church and church grounds is via external stairs. Wheelchair users are at present assisted. A longer-term solution to access for all is being sought with Historic Scotland.

The church itself is accessible throughout all of the downstairs areas.

Markinch Church features on the Fife Pilgrim Way and is very popular with those undertaking the walk, as well as visitors to the area. Guided tours of the building are conducted by volunteers.

### Session House (Markinch)

The B-listed Session House, designed by Sir R. Rowand Anderson in 1875 and built in 1879, incorporates a study for the minister, a small meeting room, and toilet facilities.



### Church Hall (Markinch)

The 1930's C-listed Hall, which stands opposite the Church, has been refurbished in recent years. It comprises a large hall with a stage, back stage area and balcony; a fully equipped kitchen and accessible toilet with baby changing facilities. It is in a good state of decoration and has benefited from secondary glazing and new curtains.



# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## Manse (Markinch)

The Manse, built in 1966, is approximately a 10 minute walk from the church and 5 minute walk from Markinch railway station and the primary school. Local amenities include shops, a café, restaurant and easy access to shopping and sporting facilities in nearby Glenrothes. The detached bungalow is set in its own low maintenance garden (grass and gravel) with a separate fenced area, garage and off road parking. The house includes living/dining room, reception room, 4 double bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, modern fitted kitchen with gas range cooker, utility, bathroom and additional toilet. It has gas central heating and is double-glazed. Before a new minister is appointed the building will be redecorated. Routine maintenance is done in consultation with the minister.



## Thornton Church

The traditional stone building is situated in the main street of Thornton. It dates back to 1835. The sanctuary is in the shape of a cross with two aisles leading from the front door. There is a balcony which seats around 75, and the main worship area seats 250, with an adjacent quiet room for an additional 40 people. Seating is in the form of traditional pews. It is in a good state of repair, and the outer glass of all the church windows has been replaced.

The church has a Technics organ. There is an audio system and an induction loop. There is not an organist currently so music is provided by a digital hymnal. Both front and back doors are accessible to all, as are the toilets.



## Church Hall

The hall, with a stage and a kitchen, is used for all activities. It is directly connected to the church.



# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## The Parish

Both Markinch and Thornton are busy small towns. They have both benefited from extensive development in recent years, and extensive house building continues within the Parish.

Thornton has a post office, library, health centre, shops and a number of eateries and is on the Fife Circular train line with its own station. It is also on a bus route.

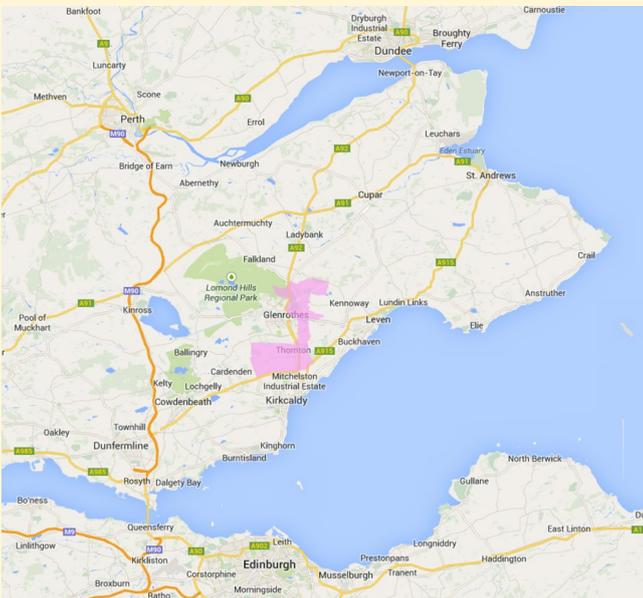
Markinch has a number of shops, a modern medical centre, and a variety of eateries including the four star Balbirnie House Hotel, where in the past, our minister has been willing to perform marriage ceremonies on request. There is also a Private Nursery in Markinch and an afterschool club for additional child care provision. The railway station is on the Edinburgh-Aberdeen/Inverness lines, with frequent stops in both directions.

Our neighbouring town, Glenrothes, possesses a shopping mall and a wide range of supermarkets.

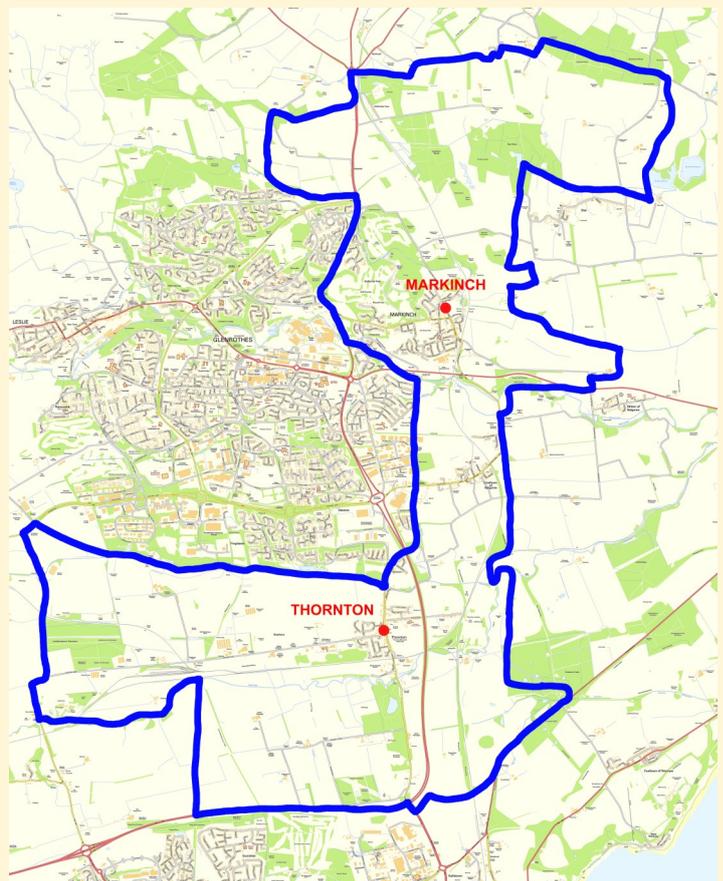
The Parish includes the village of Coaltown of Balgonie, which also has a Primary School, a shop, post office, bowling club and public house. There is a small United Reformed Church congregation and the new minister may wish to develop a link with them.

Secondary education provision for the parish is at Auchmuty High School in Glenrothes.

Young people are well catered for in Markinch through Rainbows, Brownies and Guides as well as Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and extensive sporting and theatrical facilities locally.



## Location and Parish Boundaries



# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## Worship

Services take place in both Markinch and Thornton churches every Sunday, with the Thornton service at 9.45 a.m. and the Markinch service at 11.15 a.m. at present. In worship, the Revised Common Lectionary is usually followed, the main hymn book is CH4, and patterns of prayer derive from Common Order and other contemporary sources. That said, the congregation have proved themselves ready to explore other experiences of worship and song. Holy communion is celebrated 4 times per year in both churches.

Baptisms currently take place during Sunday Service at both churches when requested, and classes for new communicants are organised when required. Weddings are by arrangement with the minister.

At Markinch there is a small but enthusiastic choir which is being developed by our organist and choir mistress.

## Worship outwith Sunday Services

Between the churches we have special services throughout the year for Maundy Thursday, Harvest Thanksgiving, Christingle, Christmas Eve Family Service, Watch Night Service and Christmas Day Service.

Both churches hold their own Remembrance Day services at their respective War Memorials. Last year's Acts of Remembrance can be viewed as a video by visiting this YouTube link:-

[www.youtu.be/GFbqmWBoELQ](http://www.youtu.be/GFbqmWBoELQ)

At present there are links to Markinch and Thornton Primary Schools, with Markinch Primary holding their annual Harvest Thanksgiving in Markinch Church. We would hope that our new minister would look to build on these links, and develop further links with Auchmuty High School and Coaltown of Balgonie Primary.



## Sunday School

There is a small but active Sunday School which joins the weekly service at Markinch during term time. After the minister has spoken with them, they leave to continue their learning in the Church Hall with the Sunday School teachers.

## Groups and Organisations

There is an active youth club which meets in Markinch Church hall during school terms, catering for both primary and secondary youngsters. The group has two volunteer workers and two paid workers and is also supported by Youth 1<sup>st</sup>.

A Prayer Group meets weekly in Thornton Church.

Both Churches have weekly coffee mornings, organised and staffed by volunteers from our church community.

Markinch Church Hall has a regular booking for rehearsals by the Markinch and District Community Choir.

Both Church Halls are available for hire to outside organisations.



# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## Management

In 2013, the Markinch Church Session agreed to adopt a Unitary Constitution with all Elders and members of the original Congregational Board acting as Trustees. At the first Session/Trustee meeting after the union of Markinch and Thornton churches it was agreed that the new united church would continue with this model. A number of committees were formed to facilitate the smooth running of the church with a convenor calling meetings and issuing reports to the Trustees as required.

There are currently 33 Trustees (17 male and 16 female) of whom 26 are Elders (16 male, 10 female). We schedule four meetings a year and call additional meetings should the need arise. The meetings are held in Markinch in the summer months and Thornton in the winter months.

A safeguarding panel ensures that PVG checks and training meet the Church of Scotland guidelines.

## Membership

At present the church roll stands at 397.

## Finance

We are currently meeting our financial commitments. Further information can be provided by our treasurer on request.

## Fundraising

There is a very active project team who work year round to ensure that our fundraising effort continues. They do this in a variety of ways, including through all of our social activities. We also have a number of ongoing initiatives such as our:-

- Communion Coin Boxes – Individual collection boxes for members to take home or to work and fill between Communion services.
- Rag Bag – Donation of any clothes, towels, bed linen, shoes, curtains, bags or textiles.
- Jigsaw Lending Library – An extensive collection of jigsaws that can be borrowed or delivered to people who cannot get out.
- Sales Table – Handcraft, baking, plants, jams and chutneys available for sale all year round.
- 'Cross in my Pocket' – These keepsakes are available in the vestibule of each building.
- Sponsored walk annually.
- Winter Fayre with assorted sales tables and teas
- Spring Teas in both church Halls.
- Christmas Teas in Thornton Church Hall.

Due to the geographical nature of our parish, and the demographic of our congregation, we offer transportation assistance to all of our social and fundraising events.



# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## Social / Friendship / Fellowship

It is our usual practice to have several community meals throughout the year. Easter lunch and Harvest lunch are usually held in the hall at Markinch, along with a supper on Maundy Thursday. A Christmas dinner is usually organised at a local hotel or restaurant.

Every Sunday, after the service, refreshments are available in the hall at Markinch. The first Sunday of every month is a 'Souper Sunday' with soup being on offer in the winter months and often a bacon roll in the summer months. There is a weekly coffee morning held in each Church Hall, usually with a small raffle.

Concerts and Choirs have proved very popular and we try to have at least one of these each year, featuring local performers where possible.



We enjoy community walks, often tied in with fundraising, and some of our members have already completed the Fife Pilgrim Way, on which Markinch Church is a featured Hub.

We participate in 'Doors Open Days' and actively work with Markinch Heritage Group to open the church in Markinch for historical visits and guided tours.

As a wider community, there is the 'Churches Together' initiative in which we participate, either individually or as a group. We hold an Annual Garden Party to bring our congregation together in a relaxed setting.



## Wider Church and Mission

A small committee encourages the community to become involved with planned events during Christian Aid Week, as well as contributing to Christian Aid via sales from our well stocked book stall in Markinch Church hall.



Members support Foodbank and donations are made and delivered on a weekly basis.

The Sunday School organises sponsorship of an Ethiopian child through Compassion UK.

The Church community supports regular collections for Women's Aid throughout the year, with a large focus on their Christmas and Easter Egg Appeals.

Regular donations of knitted items are sent to Christian Hope International.

# Markinch and Thornton Parish Church of Scotland

## Media and Communications

### Combined Sunday Bulletin

Our weekly bulletin provides the order of service for the two services and intimations for the week, which can include Parish News, upcoming events and important dates and times which may be needed by the wider community.



### Quarterly Newsletter 'News from the Pews'

Our quarterly newsletter consists of between 15 and 20 pages of information, articles, and advertisements for local business and service providers. It regularly has contributions from members of our community, book reviews, and interest pieces from local community groups such as Markinch Heritage Group.

Recent editions of "News from the Pews" can be viewed on our website.

### New Styles of Worship

In recent times, we have greatly increased our online presence. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown, we began streaming our services online. In addition to our weekly service, we have also been posting a weekly reflection from our locum minister, the Reverend Alistair McLeod, or from the Reverend Douglas Galbraith, who is a member of our congregation, and of our ministry team. Recent minister's reflections can likewise be found on our website.

**Website** - [www.markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk](http://www.markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk)

**Facebook** - [www.facebook.com/MarkinchChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MarkinchChurch)

We have also been uploading all of our services onto our YouTube Channel which can be found at:- [www.youtube.com/channel/UC9cnAncPnzzGXmG-9g-xAg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9cnAncPnzzGXmG-9g-xAg)

All of our services are currently streamed online. We hope to continue this, even after the pandemic is over.

