

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2022

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

SUNDAY 20TH
FEBRUARY
2022

7TH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

*Sunday morning services
will take place in Thornton
at 9:45am and in Markinch
at 11.15am*

*Our growing young people's
Sunday School is from
11am to 12.15pm in
Markinch Church Hall. For
more information get in
touch.*

*Teas and coffees have
resumed in Markinch after
the service so please join us
for that time of fellowship.*

"BE
MERCIFUL,
JUST AS YOUR
FATHER IS
MERCIFUL"
LUKE 6:36

A DIFFERENT WAY

As we work our way through the Gospel of Luke in the run up to Easter, a date that is, believe it or not, only eight Sundays away, I am finding myself challenged every week to think afresh about how I live my life. I find myself wondering what ways I can embrace the change that Jesus is calling for week after week, Bible reading after Bible reading. And then we arrive at this week's, and it is no less challenging.

In a nutshell we are told to love everyone, no matter who, what, or where they are. No qualifications, no exemptions.

On the surface this seems fairly straightforward. We might think, 'it is just the message of Christianity.' 'It is nothing new or innovative.' 'We have heard it all before.' We may have heard it so often, in fact, that we may not even take time to consider it. To think about it. To wrestle with the fact that it is an incredibly difficult, radical message that has real implications for how we live.

If we do take the time though, we will see that this is not a simple message, neither is it a straightforward one. It is a message that challenges each and every one of us, and the society and world around us. Because this is not how our world works.

Honestly, what would you do if someone slapped you on the cheek? Run away? Slap them back? Cry? Shout? All of these and more? Maybe. But who can honestly say they would simply turn their face and offer the other cheek to be slapped too? What would you do if someone picked your coat up and walked away with it? Run after them? Shout? Get angry? Maybe. But who could honestly say, 'not only would I let them have it, but I would also take off my shirt and give that to them too?'

In a sense then, the message, if not the content, of this week's story is not wildly different from last week's. Jesus enters into our world and turns it upside down. He recognises our human nature, understands it. But he also wants us to change. To think radically about how we live in this world, and how we use what we know of God, of Jesus, of the Holy Spirit to make it a better place.

So, this week my prayer is that we will each find the time to look for opportunities to act differently, radically, and find Jesus speaking into our lives for good and for change.

With every blessing,
Conor



SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church
Sunday School



The Markinch and Thornton Sunday School is growing and thriving, and that means we need more volunteers to help out on a Sunday morning.

If you can get involved with this really important part of the Church, please get in touch. This is also a great opportunity for anyone who is looking for volunteer experience of working with young people.

FLOWERS

If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a bunch of flowers please let either Margaret Colville (Thornton) or Teresa Henderson (Markinch), or the Minister know.

If you would like to contribute towards providing flowers, and perhaps have them dedicated to the memory of a friend or family member on a specific date, please also get in touch with Margaret or Teresa.

COVENANTED PARTNERSHIP

The hub in the Kingdom Centre will now be called The Haven, please get in touch to volunteer.

The next shared service will be February 27th at 6.30pm in St Margaret's Church, Glenrothes.

PANCAKE DAY

There will be a Pancake Tuesday Party in the Markinch Church Hall on 1 March between 4 and 5pm for anyone who would like to come along and have some crepes or pancakes. All welcome.

PASTORAL CARE

If you know of anyone who is ill, or bereaved, or who needs a phone call or visit please get in touch with the Minister or your Elder. This is the only way that we can know who needs support.

THURSDAY COFFEE

The Thursday Coffee Mornings in Markinch will resume this coming Thursday from 10-11.30am in Markinch Church Hall



Poetry Corner

Touched by an Angel

by Maya Angelou

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.
Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.
We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave
And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet it is only love
which sets us free.



THIS SUNDAY INTIMATIONS

The Readings this week are:

Old Testament: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

New Testament: Luke 6:27-38

The theme of this week's all age message is 'Mitchell and Magnus' and the sermon topic is 'Be Merciful.'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you have any news, stories, or ideas that you would like added to the newsletter, please get in touch or send it to the minister on or before Wednesday each week.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Kirk Session has agreed to set the date of the next in person Holy Communion as 27th February at 9.45am in Thornton and 11.15am in Markinch.

PICK A HYMN

Do you have a favourite hymn? Starting in March one hymn per week can be suggested by you. If you have one (or more) you would like to hear please get in touch with the minister.

Worship Committee Meeting

A meeting of the new Worship Committee will take place on Zoom and the Markinch Session House (depending on numbers) at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2 March.

Thornton Food Bank and Glenrothes Area Food Bank:

We continue to collect donations in both churches and all will be gratefully received.

The Sunday School appreciates the ongoing support of their sponsored child Surafel. There is a collection box in Markinch Church for any donations.

Covenanted Partnership Hub:

Volunteers are needed for an exciting new venture in the Kingdom Shopping Centre during Lent. The Covenanted Partnership is going to run a drop-in centre. This is a new project and it needs volunteers to make it a success, so please get in touch with the Session Clerk if you want further information or can give some time to it:
sessionclerk@markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk



Next Sunday is Communion Sunday

The theme for Sunday 27 February 2022 will be 'Jesus With Us'

Readings:

Exodus 34:29-35

Luke 9:28-36

Contact

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

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Scottish Charity Number: SC003417

PANCAKE DAY PARTY

1 MARCH, 2022

Markinch Church Hall

Just come along

between

4-5pm

for

pancakes and

crepes

Everyone Welcome

For more info. contact Marianne:

07801279899

or Conor:

cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC003417

