

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2022

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

SUNDAY 6TH  
FEBRUARY  
2022

5TH 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 12.15am 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.*

"DO NOT BE  
AFRAID"

LUKE 5:10

## ANSWERING THE CALL

January is finally over. A friend recently sent me an updated version of the old rhyme to remember the length of months it is: "30 days hath September, April, June, and November. All the rest have 31... Except January which has about 973." This resonated with me this year.

January 2022 has felt simultaneously like the longest and shortest month I have lived through. But as February starts and the rest of the year lies ahead, I find myself in a reflective mood about what months like January mean. Months when we are so busy we barely have time to stop and think. Months when our lives change. Months when we have a to do list as long as our arm. Months where we feel like we need a holiday just to get through them.

So often our lives seem to pass us by. Our days seem to be filled up before we even get out of bed. Walking the dogs, taking the children to school, going to work, making dinner, cleaning, checking in with friends and family, a few minutes to read or watch TV and then the whole thing starts again. Before we know it, the week has gone by and then the month and year.

And there is a reason for this. Our lives are busy. Even more so as we (hopefully) begin to come out of the pandemic. The pressure to be everything, to do everything is felt by most of us, even when we know that we cannot be or do everything. It can be hard to find time to stop, to think, to reflect, maybe even to pray. It can be difficult to carve out space in a day to be a Christian, to talk to God, to do the things that Jesus asks us to.

Into this busyness enters the readings we have for this Sunday. Both of which have, at their heart, the idea of being called to follow Jesus, to do God's work in the world. Two readings that demand our attention. That don't seem to care that we have a to-do list as long as our arms, or that we have that early meeting to go to. They tell us that God's call, that Jesus' call is demanding, is disruptive, is going to change our lives. That tell us, if we make the time, we will hear God's individual call to each one of us.

And to answer that call, we must dedicate ourselves, in our everyday lives to embracing the transformation that he wants; to living out our faith in the world; to loving our neighbour; to caring for God's wondrous creation.

So as January becomes February, and all those new year's resolutions seem like a distant, ill-advised memory. I pray that each of us finds some time this week to sit quietly, not to talk, but to try and listen for God in our own lives. And when we hear God, that we will answer the call to follow, wherever that path might lead us.

With every blessing,  
Conor



## THIS SUNDAY NEW WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Readings this week are:

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8

New Testament: Luke 5:1-11

The theme of this week's all age message is 'Gone Fishin'" and the sermon theme is 'Following Him'

## 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.

We continue to look for anyone interested in being part of the new Worship Committee, so if you are interested, please speak to the minister or email:

[cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## INTIMATIONS

### Children and Young People Committee

#### Meeting:

A meeting of the Children and Young People Committee will take place in Markinch Church Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th February.

### 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](mailto:sessionclerk@markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk)



## Poetry Corner *Scotland*

by Alastair Reid

It was a day  
peculiar to this piece of the planet,  
when larks rose  
on long thin strings of singing  
and the air shifted  
with the shimmer of actual angels.  
Greenness entered the body. The grasses  
shivered with presences,  
and sunlight stayed  
like a halo on hair and heather and hills.  
Walking into town, I saw,  
in a radiant raincoat,  
the woman from the fish-shop.  
'What a day it is!'  
cried I, like a sunstruck madman.  
And what did she have to say for it?  
Her brow grew bleak,  
her ancestors raged in their graves  
as she spoke with their ancient misery:  
'We'll pay for it,  
we'll pay for it,  
we'll pay for it!'



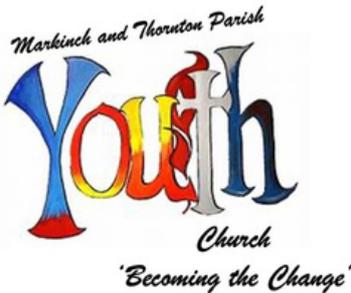
## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH CHURCH LOGOS

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church  
Sunday School



Our wonderful Sunday School set their minds to creating Logos that represented them and what they do.

They have made the two on the left which encapsulate their vision for the future for all of us in the church.



The future of Markinch and Thornton Parish Church is in safe, creative, dynamic, inclusive, and very talented hands.

## NEWS COVERAGE

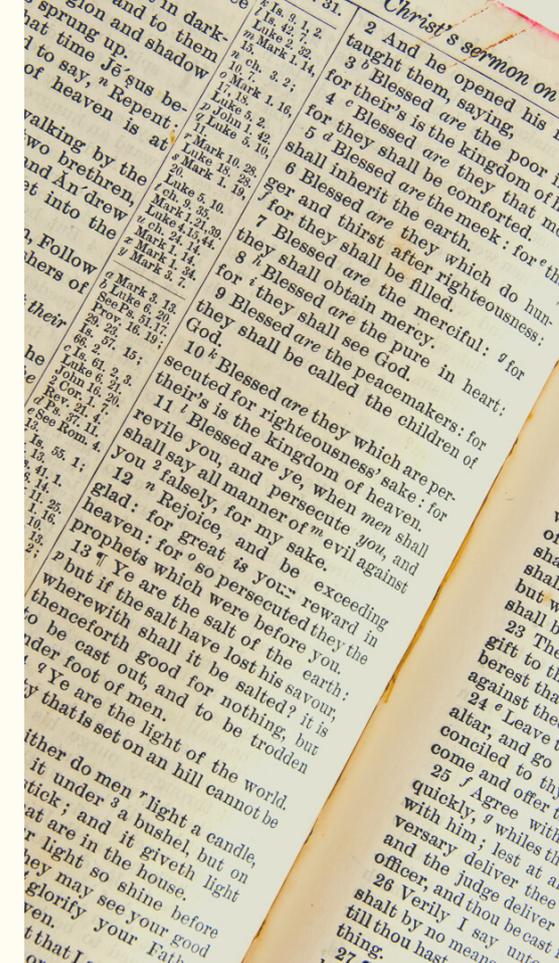
You may or may not have seen that the Church of Scotland and some local press did a nice write up about the church and calling a new minister. If you would like to read it, it can be found on the Church of Scotland website.

## COVENANTED PARTNERSHIP

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

A new Facebook Group has been set up, called 'Covenanted Partnership Glenrothes Area' so please join to keep up to date.

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



## Next Sunday

The theme for next Sunday 6 February 2022 will be 'The Other Beatitudes'

Readings:

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Luke 6:17-26

## Contact

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

Minister:

Rev. Dr Conor Fegan

Email:

cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Tel: 07912546992

# PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN

## A LETTER FROM FIFE PRESBYTERY

Presbytery of Fife  
SCO050563  
The Basement, 1 Howard Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9HL  
01334 461300      fife@churchofscotland.org.uk  
Presbytery Clerk: Rev Dr David Coulter  
Mission Director: Mr Neil Campbell  
Moderator: Rev Jane Barron

### **Letter to all Ministers and Congregations in Fife Presbytery**

Fife Presbytery Mission Plan Update – 31st January 2022

In the King James Version of the Bible, Proverbs 29:18 says: “Where there is no vision, the people perish....” In the RSV it is translated: “Where there is no prophecy...” while in the NIV it reads: “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint.” By the 31st December 2022 we as a Presbytery are mandated to deliver an approved Presbytery Mission Plan that will reduce our number of ministries by approx. 25% and determine the future of our buildings. To do so, we all need to seek God’s guidance and to pray for revelation, prophecy and vision.

For several months we have been in consultation and now, given the time constraints, we need to begin to forge a vision for the future. There is an ancient proverb that says: “Blessed is he who plants trees under whose shade he will never sit.” It is understandable that some ministers, ministry staff and congregations are apprehensive about the future and what will happen to their church and ministry. Many have continued to work hard to maintain the church for generations to come. Our people are devoted, committed, hardworking and faithful but now we are asking too much from too few. As a new Presbytery we have come together but we don’t really know one another and what we can become. We have yet to discover that we can be greater than the sum of our parts. In some places congregations are dwindling; ageing and fearful about where the Kirk is going.

Elsewhere there are new shoots beginning to appear and new ways of being and doing church beginning to emerge and evolve. Many of our ministers are weary and Kirk Sessions are working hard to support them, sustain the faithful, our buildings and our Presbyterian heritage. We all want the Church of Scotland to be living and active in our community and to endure; despite the fact that our resources are being stretched and our infrastructure may no longer be as fit for purpose as it once was. Deep down we know we need to change, to make decisions and plan to future proof our church, so that future generations will sit in the shade of the tree that we have had the courage and the conviction to plant.

Our people are valued and we need to retain the faithful. We as a Presbytery have come together to support one another, to help one another as followers of Jesus and to be a force for good and a catalyst for change across our communities. We need to deliver on our promise to unburden ministers, elders and congregations and to free them up for mission, vitality and growth. We need to be prayerful and open to God speaking as we listen to him and seek his will as we continue to evolve, change and deliver the plan. Our aim is to enable ministers and congregations to fulfil their calling and to realise mission that is sustainable.

Lastly, in thanking you for all that you have done and continue to do for our church, we would ask you to pray for us, as together we seek to discern God’s will for Fife Presbytery’s Mission Plan.

With all good wishes and every blessing,  
Jane, Neil and David

Rev Jane Barron – Moderator  
Mr Neil Campbell – Mission Director  
Rev Dr David Coulter – Clerk