

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

THE WEEK AHEAD

This coming week is going to be a busy one in Markinch and Thornton Parish Church.

Each day of Holy Week has a Covenanted Partnership Service, all are welcome to attend these services and support our partner churches.

Markinch Church will reopen on Monday (11 April) for the Fife Pilgrim Way, and each day this week will have a short prayer service in the afternoon.

There will be worship in Thornton Church on Tuesday at 7pm, and a light meal and Holy Communion in Markinch Church Hall on Thursday at 7pm.

I pray for a peaceful, faithful, and fulfilling Holy Week and Easter for all.

With every blessing,
Conor



Markinch and Thornton
Parish Church

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Palm Sunday **Sunday 10 April**

Morning Worship
9.45 am Thornton | 11.15am Markinch

Monday 11 **April**

Pilgrim Prayer Service | 12.30pm Markinch
Covenanted Partnership Service |
7pm St Margaret's Church

Tuesday 12 **April**

Pilgrim Prayer Service | 12.30pm Markinch
Covenanted Partnership Services | 7pm
Thornton Church | 7pm Christ's Kirk

Wednesday 13 **April**

Pilgrim Prayer Service | 12.30pm Markinch
Covenanted Partnership Service | 2pm Leslie
Trinity
Ecumenical Stations of the Cross | 7pm St Luke's

Maundy Thursday **14 April**

Pilgrim Prayer Service | 12.30pm Markinch
Agape Meal and Holy Communion | 7pm
Markinch Church Hall

Good Friday **15 April**

Walk of Witness | 10.30am from St Ninian's,
Christ's Kirk, and St Margaret's
Pilgrim Prayer Service | 2.30pm Markinch
Covenanted Partnership Service | 7pm
St Ninian's

Holy Saturday **16 April**

The Haven Easter Activities | 10am - 3pm
Quiet Prayer | 12.30pm Markinch

Easter Sunday **17 April**

Covenanted Partnership Early Services | 7am
Falkland Hill | 8am Balbirnie Park
Morning Worship
9.45am Thornton | 11.15am Markinch

PILGRIM WAY

WELCOMERS WANTED

We took a big step in July 2019 to keep the church open during the week. In the 17 weeks until we closed for the winter at the end of October, we had about 700 visitors. Some were walking the Fife Pilgrim Way, others visitors to the town, some looking for their forebears, plus local residents, many of whom hadn't been inside their church before. We lost count of the number who wrote in the visitors book how wonderful it was to find the church open in the week.



One called it a hidden gem, others remarked on the peacefulness of the interior, and many found it beautiful. One said: 'such a well-loved church, very welcoming, and so cleanly kept'.

We hope to re-open on Monday 11th April (Holy Week) and would like to give others a chance to join the splendid group of members and friends who as guides and welcomers blazed the trail, and found this an exciting and heart-warming way of serving their church. It's good to have an open church but even better if visitors find themselves personally welcomed. Some come each week, others less often. Whatever you can offer will be welcome. Contact Douglas at dgalbraith@hotmail.com, phone 01592 752403, who will be delighted to tell you more about what is involved, or speak to one of the elders or any of the existing Guides.

FAVOURITE HYMNS

Do you have a favourite hymn? Is there a hymn or maybe lots of hymns that you wish we were singing on Sundays?

Now one hymn per week can be suggested by you. If you have one (or more) you would like to see included, please get in touch with the Minister.

CHOIR

If you are interested in joining or would just like more information then please get in touch with Alison our Organist by email: alison.normand27@yahoo.co.uk

Rehearsals will take place weekly at 10.40am in Markinch Church before the Sunday service.



SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2022

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday morning services take place in Thornton at 9:45am and in Markinch, and on YouTube and Zoom, at 11.15am. It is available to watch online thereafter.

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.

'THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US'

PSALM 126:3



INTIMATIONS

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.

Markinch Church Gallery has partially reopened to welcome those who prefer to avoid any bottlenecks in the vestibule or are uncomfortable in the relatively large group which sits downstairs even though physical distancing remains in place in all areas of both churches. The view from the gallery is restricted.

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.

FLOWERS

If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a bunch of flowers or if you would like to contribute towards providing flowers, and perhaps have them dedicated to the memory of someone on a specific date, please let either Margaret Colville (Thornton) or Teresa Henderson (Markinch), or the Minister know.

MARKINCH COFFEE

The Coffee Mornings in Markinch have restarted and take place every Thursday from 10-11.30am in Markinch Church Hall.

THIS SUNDAY

The Readings this week are:

Psalms 118:1-2,19-29

Luke 19:28-40

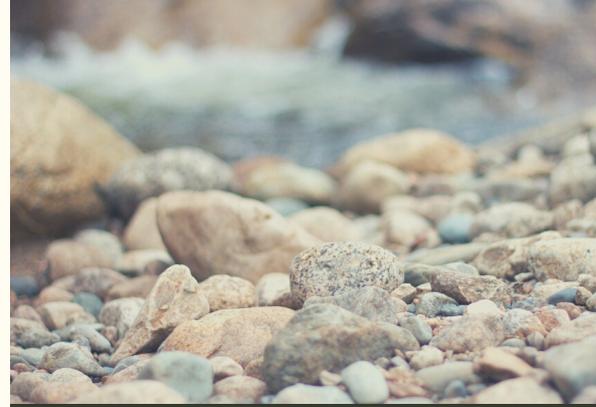
The theme of this week's all age message is 'The Donkey No One Could Ride' and the sermon topic is 'The Stones Cry Out.'

COVENANTED PARTNERSHIP

The Haven in the Kingdom Centre is now open, please call in if you are passing, or if you are available, we still need volunteers.

THORNTON COFFEE

The Thornton Coffee Morning has restarted and takes place every Monday in Thornton Church Hall from 10am-12pm.



A Christmas Hymn

By Richard Wilbur

A stable-lamp is lighted
Whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
And straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven,
A stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city
Shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
Though heavy, dull, and dumb,
And lie within the roadway
To pave his kingdom come.

Yet he shall be forsaken,
And yielded up to die;
The sky shall groan and darken,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry
For stony hearts of men:
God's blood upon the spearhead,
God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending,
The low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry
In praises of the child
By whose descent among us
The worlds are reconciled.



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.



We are delighted to announce that we will be starting our very own Messy Church on the last Friday of each month, between 4 and 6pm beginning May 27th. If you want more information or can volunteer please get in touch.

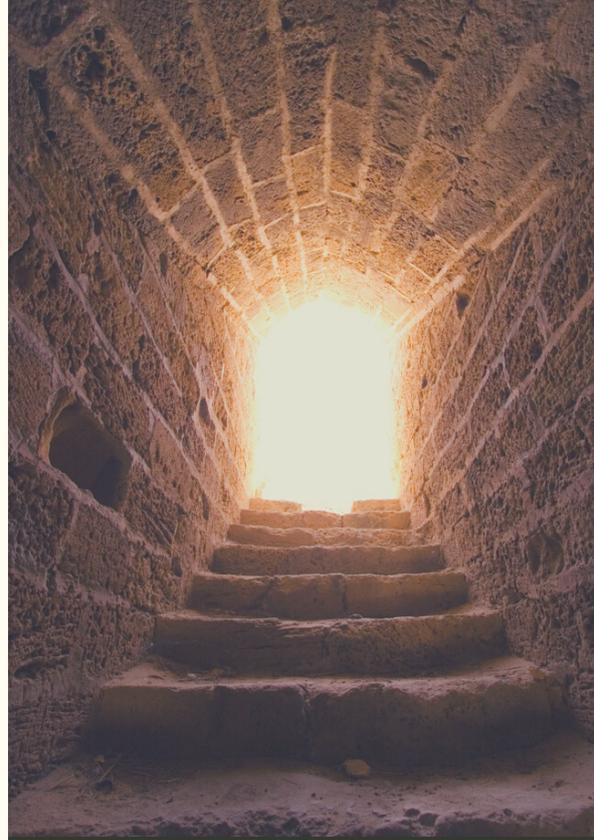
"Messy Church enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together through their local church. It is a way of being church which is particularly suited to families, but welcoming to all. It meets at a time and on a day that suits local families and is particularly aimed at people who have never belonged to a church before."

'Messy Church logo © Bible Reading Fellowship 2021. See messychurch.org.uk'

FOODBANK DONATIONS

This week Markinch and Thornton Parish Church donated **162.1 kg** of food and toiletries to the Glenrothes Area Foodbank. This was a terrific effort. Thanks to everyone who continues to donate regularly. In discussion with the staff they advised us that they particularly need:

- **Small bags of porridge oats,**
- **Super noodles or equivalent add water meals,**
- **Tinned tomatoes,**
- **Pasta sauce**
- **Both blue and green UHT milk.**



Next Sunday

*Sunday 17 April 2022 is
Easter Sunday*

Readings:

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18

Contact

*Markinch and Thornton
Parish Church*

Minister:

Rev. Dr Conor Fegan

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COVID-19

As you may know, the Scottish Government is in the process of removing the remaining legal requirements regarding Covid-19, and as such that has an impact on the Church. The following is intended to be a helpful guide from the Covid-19 Group to how we will safely move forward in Markinch and Thornton Parish Church. If you have any concerns or questions please get in touch with the Minister or Session Clerk.

Overall as the COVID-19 Pandemic has not gone away, we would ask if anyone is feeling unwell that they stay at home and join the fellowship through Zoom or YouTube.

Pandemic Planning & Response

The COVID-19 pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge to the Church of Scotland and the congregation, which it rose to admirably. Should the risk levels change or a similar pandemic situation arise in the future, a collaborative working group consisting of the minister, Session Clerk, Robert Balfour and Ian Watt will meet at an early opportunity.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Good hygiene measures are key to controlling the spread of viruses. These will continue as per times of COVID-19, for example:

- Sanitiser facilities at touchpoints and communal areas, including at entry and exit points.
- Suitable cleaning procedures implemented across the Church buildings, particularly in communal areas and for touchpoints such as hymn books, door handles, handrails, etc., following its use.
- Regular cleaning and sanitising of welfare areas, including pews, chairs and tables, toilet facilities and other touchpoints. Use of cleaning products that are active against bacteria and viruses.

Face Coverings and Physical Distancing

It is recognised that, for a variety of reasons, some of our parishioners may still feel worried about being in close contact with others. We encourage everyone to continue to treat each other with dignity and respect and to look out for anyone wearing a 'Distance Aware' lanyard.

Anyone who wishes to wear a face covering whilst attending Church is welcome to do so, even in common areas. They are also welcome to sit in the areas designated for physical distancing and mask wearing. In Markinch, this is upstairs in the gallery or the area behind the organist. In Thornton, these are the pews to the left and right hand side of the pulpit behind the reader and musical organ.

Offerings

These will continue to be collected prior to the service as you enter the Church and be dedicated during the service.

Teas and Coffees

At present everyone is still required to wear a mask as they enter the hall, until they are seated.

