

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

SUNDAY
3 APRIL
2022

FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

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

I'M FINE...

The Markinch and Thornton Parish Church Kirk Session met a couple of weeks ago. As with all such meetings it was a time for lively discussion, planning, and hope. It has left me thinking about our church community more generally. Especially as we are now five weeks into the season of Lent. This is a time for reflection and contemplation. A time when Christians all over the world consider their faith, their lives, and their relationship with God. It is a time when we are encouraged to grapple with the reality of faith and life. In all their joys and in all their difficulties.

When I moved to Scotland, what seems like decades ago now, but is only 15 years, I discovered the incredible flexibility of the simple, little word 'fine.' A word that, as the saying goes, covers a multitude of sins. A word that is used in such a way that only God could know what the person actually means. It could be the best day of one's life, a numbers coming up on the lottery kind of day, when everything is going well, going right, and the answer to the question 'how are you?' would be 'fine.' In the same way it could be the worst of days, alarm didn't go off, flat tyre, ran out of coffee (maybe that's just my worst day), and the answer to the question 'how are you?' would still be 'fine.' I find myself, after the years spent here, adopting this phrase. Rather than being honest and saying 'I'm wonderful,' or 'frankly I'm feeling terrible,' I say 'fine.'

For a long time, the Church has been 'fine' we have got along, we have managed, we have had good days and bad days, good years and bad years. But is 'fine' good enough? Is this all we want from our faith, from our cherished traditions, from our church? I suspect not, we all want growth, and life, and to share that sense of community and family that we feel in being part of something more than ourselves.

The Fife Presbytery Mission Plan is going to be released on Monday 4th April. It is going to contain both difficult and hopeful messages. We already know that, for our parish, there are difficult conversations ahead. Nevertheless, and while it is a draft plan, it is an attempt to steer our whole church, all across the Presbytery, away from the murky waters of 'fine' towards the lifegiving waters of 'hope.'

There are difficult days ahead, but hope remains. Hope because there is so much life in our church, and those around us. Hope because we have so much planned for the year and years ahead. Hope because we have each other. Hope because God is with us.

So, this week I pray that everyone in our Parish, our Covenanted Partnership, and our Presbytery, who is understandably anxious about the path ahead, everyone who is excited about the possibilities, and everyone who is 'fine' one way or the other, will find comfort in God's guidance, and the hope that we share in Jesus' love.

With every blessing,
Conor

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.



Poetry Corner

*'The Tide Rises,
The Tide Falls'*

by Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

*The tide rises, the tide falls,
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;
Along the sea-sands damp and brown
The traveller hastens toward the town,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.*

*Darkness settles on roofs and walls,
But the sea, the sea in the darkness
calls;
The little waves, with their soft, white
hands,
Efface the footprints in the sands,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.*

*The morning breaks; the steeds in
their stalls
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;
The day returns, but nevermore
Returns the traveller to the shore,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.*



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:

Psalm 126

John 12:1-8

The theme of this week's all age message is 'A New Friend?' and the sermon topic is 'Hope in Community.'

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 is restarting on Monday 4th April from 10am-12pm, we still need volunteers, if you think you could help please get in touch.



300 Goats

By Naomi Shihab Nye

In icy fields.
Is water flowing in the tank?
Will they huddle together, warm
bodies pressing?
(Is it the year of the goat or the
sheep?
Scholars debating Chinese zodiac,
follower or leader.)
O lead them to a warm corner,
little ones toward bulkier bodies.
Lead them to the brush, which cuts
the icy wind.
Another frigid night swooping
down —
Aren't you worried about them? I
ask my friend,
who lives by herself on the ranch
of goats,
far from here near the town of
Ozona.
She shrugs, "Not really,
they know what to do.
They're goats."



PROJECTS TEAM MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Project Team on Thursday 7th April at 21 Beechwood Avenue, Glenrothes, KY7 6GD at 7pm.

This is an open invitation to anyone who would like to support the many different projects that are undertaken within our church at this exciting time of new beginnings, and an opportunity if you would like to provide ideas for new projects.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to help in the future, please contact Marianne on 07801279899.



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'

SUNDAY SCHOOL

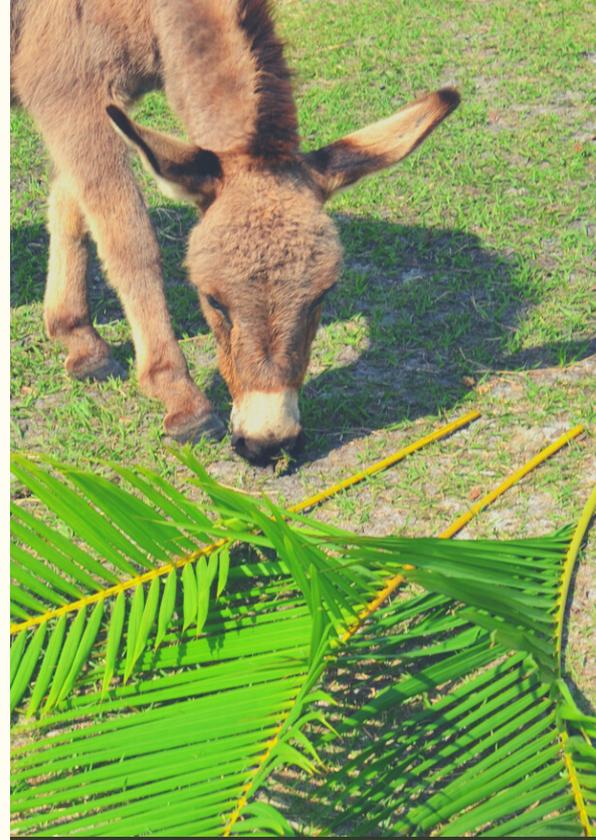
The Markinch and Thornton Sunday School is growing and thriving, and that means we need more volunteers to help out on a Sunday morning.

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.

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 10 April 2022 is
Palm Sunday*

*Readings:
Psalm 118:1-2,19-29
Luke 19:28-40*

Contact

*Markinch and Thornton
Parish Church*

Minister:
Rev. Dr Conor Fegan
Email:
cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk
Tel: 01592 751286
Mob: 07912546992

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

Youth Club



- ✓ Markinch Church Hall
- ✓ Thursday
- ✓ 6.30 – 8.00pm
- ✓ £2 weekly entry
- ✓ Available to P5,6 & 7
- ✓ Contact Marianne on 07801279899 or kids@markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk

As the church Youth Club is starting up again after Easter, we need some supplies. If you can help out with any of the items listed it would make a huge difference to this really important part of our church.

Any donations will be gratefully received. Please contact Marianne Sankey: 0780 1279899

- Board games
- Craft items
- Art supplies
- Kids' books
- Lego
- Duplo
- Meccano
- K'nex
- Kids' magazines & comics
- Ink stampers
- Stickers
- Coloured paper, white paper, card
- Writing pencils and pens, crayons
- Oil pastels, water-colour paint

Markinch and Thornton



Friday
27 May
4-6pm

Crafts

Singing

Worship

All Ages

Games

Markinch
Church Hall

Fun

Food

Stories

Everyone is welcome for this time of fun intergenerational worship for more information contact Marianne: 07801 279899,

or Conor: cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Scottish Charly Number: SC003417

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

THORNTON CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Mondays
10am-12pm

Thornton
Church
Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME



Scottish Charity Number
SC003417

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
17 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

Scottish Charity
Number: SC003417