

News from the Pews

The Newsletter of Markinch Parish Church Vol 101 February 2014



MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH



Locum Minister:
Rev. Alistair McLeod



A warm welcome is extended to all visitors and newcomers to the community to share in the worship, work and witness of the congregation.

Church Service
Sunday 11am

www.markinchchurch.org.uk

Communion Sunday

You are invited to share in the celebration of

Holy Communion

on

Sunday 23rd February 2014 at 11.00 am.

Remember - This is **YOUR** newsletter !

If you have any interesting news, stories, poems etc, please hand them to Ken Wilkie or email ken.wilkie@lineone.net or call 01592 760042

The deadline for the next issue is 30th April 2014

Session Clerk's Report

All change for 2014

Now that Alex has retired and gets used to changes, we too are about to go through changes at Markinch. Presbytery has advised that Markinch and Thornton are to form a union. Session did not agree to this lightly but we were faced with the fact that if we did not agree to the union it is unlikely that we would be allowed to call a minister on an un-restricted tenure. We would have ended up being one of the smaller parishes in Kirkcaldy Presbytery and may have been vulnerable to the same situation arising in the future.

We have already agreed a new name of 'Markinch and Thornton Parish Church' and have appointed a small steering group to meet with representatives of Thornton to agree the formal basis of union. It is likely this will take a few weeks, then once sanctioned by Presbytery (probably early April) we will be given authority to start the vacancy procedure.

The steering group have their work cut out, as there are a number of areas to discuss and agree upon, in order to formulate a basis of union, from property, finance, roll, management, and other responsibilities.

It's safe to say at this early stage though, that there will be two Sunday services, with one minister taking both services. In order to give a minister time between services, we will probably need to change the time of our services in future. Although I cannot advise what the actual decision will be at this early stage, I anticipate that we will change to 11:30am, with Thornton at 10am.

As Thornton do not have a manse, our manse will be used by the new minister.

The Electoral Register of this congregation will be prepared and all members will have the opportunity to inspect it after the service on Sunday, 16th February, with the Kirk Session making up the final Register on Monday, 17th February.

Our newly appointed Interim Moderator, May Russell, will be guiding us through the basis of union with Thornton then through vacancy matters. Although not known yet, the vacancy committee is likely to be made up of 13 people from Markinch and Thornton (maybe 9 and 4, or 10 and 3 respectively). It's also extremely likely that due to these numbers that names will be balloted at our end.

At a recent Session meeting it was agreed that Rev Alistair McLeod would be asked to be our Locum Minister and would work a Sunday plus two days per week. This would be until the union with Thornton, although Alistair has indicated that he would be interested in continuing as Locum Minister after the union is formalised.

John G Wood
Session Clerk

Introducing May Russell Our Interim Moderator

Hi everyone, I have been appointed by Presbytery to serve as your Interim Moderator. It will be my duty to work with your Office Bearers to proceed towards the Union with Thornton Church and then to embark on the task of finding a new Minister for the united charge.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is May Russell, I'm married to Jack and we have a son and a daughter and two granddaughters.

I have been Session Clerk at Methilhill and Denbeath Church for 28 years (goodness knows where these years went). I like to keep busy and I am very active with our Church Drama Group which I enjoy very much.

I have chaired my first meeting at Markinch and I have met some lovely people and I was made to feel very welcome. I know I will be working with some very capable people and I think we will make a good team.

It's a New Year and a new phase in the life of your Church. The past has many happy memories but the future is full of exciting new beginnings, so let's go forward together in faith.

Blessings and Best wishes to all,

May



Church Website - www.markinchchurch.org.uk

The Sunday Bulletin, which includes the weekly intimation sheet, is available for download from the website every week so even if you are unable to attend church you can still be kept informed of what is happening in your church.

Social Networking with Markinch Parish Church

We now have a Facebook page and many of us share church events and stories via our Facebook account. You can join us to find out what we have planned, view photos of events and make comments on a variety of topics.

Go to www.facebook.com and search for **Markinch Parish Church**

Church Hall Bookings

Anyone enquiring about booking the church hall should contact Karen Wood on 01592 750327 or email hall@markinchchurch.org.uk

You can also collect a booking form from the notice board in the church hall.

Introducing Alison Burns Our New Church Organist



I have always had a love of music and studied music with education at Aberdeen University and am a secondary school music teacher. As well as being a teacher and organist, I am an active musician and play bassoon in Rosyth Concert Band and sing in St Monans Community choir.

I was baptized in and brought up attending Markinch Church and from an early age went to Sunday school. I have vivid memories of growing up within the life and congregation of the church, including preparation for communion and the annual sale of work as my dad was Session Clerk at the time.

We sat up in the balcony and I can remember being able to look down and see Jim Dow, the organist at the time, playing. For me, Jim created a benchmark that when I became an organist I wanted to live up to.

From around age 9 I played the piano at Sunday school if the usual pianist wasn't there and I was awarded the George Scott prize at the annual prize giving. It's thanks to Markinch that I am a church organist as it is where I started playing on the rota at age 17.

From 2003 until now I have been organist at St Monans church and Glenrothes Christ's Kirk. I am very happy to be back at Markinch and I am looking forward to building up a choir and to working with the congregation and minister.

Visiting The Elderly In Local Care Homes

Visits are made to Markinch Church Members who reside in local Care Homes. Please could you make sure that we know about all members who are in Care Homes. Contact Meg Sankey: Home: 01592 749633 or Mobile: 07834729420

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

24.11.13 Craig Alexander Brunton

Weddings

01.12.13 Philip Carver & Sara Baldwin

08.12.13 Martin Collins & Janet Simpson

26.01.14 James Parker & Lesley Arnold

Funerals

22.11.13 Annie Griffiths

26.11.13 Alex Martin

02.12.13 Jessie Hutchison

14.12.13 Nan Wyse

23.12.13 Robert Ritchie

13.01.14 Mary Wiper

16.01.14 William Robertson

16.01.14 Helena Provan

28.01.14 Jimmy Massey



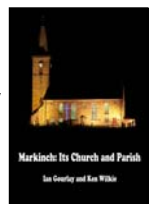
Markinch : Its Church and Parish

By Ian Gourlay and Ken Wilkie

Copies can be obtained from Ken Wilkie on 01592 760042 or by email at book@markinchchurch.org.uk

Paperback £10 Hardback £15

Only a few copies of the paperback left.



Treasurer's Report

Income for 2013

Weekly Freewill Offerings, Standing Orders and Open Plate - £49552.00
Donations - £18573.00
Gift Day - £4294.00
Gift Aid Tax Rebate - £14042.00
Other income - £6189.00
Total Income - £92650.00

Expenditure

Ministry & Mission - £59897.00
Pulpit Supply, Presbytery Dues and Ministers Travel - £6415.00
Salaries - £10125.00
Insurance and Council Tax - £6762.00
Gas and Electricity - £6355.00
Other Expenses - £7620.00
Total Expenditure - £97174.00

Our expenditure was £4524.00 more than our income therefore we need your support more than ever this year. Due to donations we were able to clear our Ministry and Mission dues. The figure required to be paid to Edinburgh for 2014 is £43237.00 but this will change when the union with Thornton is finalised.

If you pay by standing order perhaps you can review your giving if you have not increased this for a few years.

If you do not pay by standing order I would ask you to consider giving by this method as it makes budgeting easier. I have the necessary forms for setting up a standing order.

Gift Day 2014

This years Gift Day will coincide with Communion Sunday on 23rd February. We are likely to have additional expenses to bring the manse and church buildings up to the standard required by Presbytery prior to the union and us getting a new minister. We ask that you give generously to help us keep the church afloat during the vacancy.

Nancy Munro.
Treasurer.

Photocopying and Printing Services

The church has a high specification photocopier in the session house which we use to produce this quarterly newsletter and the weekly bulletins.

We are able to do colour or black and white printing at fairly competitive prices so if you or your club, organisation or business require leaflets, posters or programmes printed please give us a chance to quote. Any profits we make will go to offset the rental costs of the photocopier. Contact Ken Wilkie on 01592 760042 or email ken.wilkie@lineone.net

Sunday School

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but over the festive period the children listened to the Christmas Story and enjoyed making Christmas gifts for their parents. We also made decorations for the Christmas hampers which we had filled. Thanks to contributions from the children's parents, staff and members of the congregation we were able to fill two hampers.

Instead of a party we all visited the Rothes Halls to see 'The Singing Kettle'. Great fun was had waving our Santa hats, banging on our buckets and joining in with the songs!

On a Sunday morning we are learning about Jesus' disciples and trying to learn their names. If you have a spare minute look at the board at the back of the hall and see some of the work we have been doing.

Surafel - Our Sponsored Child

The latest letter from Surafel tells us their cow has had a calf and they are drinking milk. On his next school break he would like to visit his uncle. He ends by asking us to pray that his mother can "heal him".

The letter is on the board beside the new calendar in the hall, please write your name on any date(s) & give the money to Moira, Suzi or Helen or leave in the pocket below the calendar. Thanks to all who have contributed so far.

Christian Hope International - Stiches Of Hope

The Stitches of Hope project started life under the name of "Baby Aid" as, in the early days, nearly all of the knitted goods we sent out to Africa were for new-born babies.

The name change came about because we are no longer asking people to knit only babies clothes, but a wider range of knitted clothing for new-born babies and older children.

Thank you to everyone who has handed in items of knitting to be sent to Christian Hope International, Tracy Thomson continues to send parcels away every few weeks, however more double knitted wool is urgently needed to enable the 'knitters' in the parish to continue with their wonderful, colourful donated knitted items. If you require wool or knitted items to be collected please contact Tracy on 07786 675507.

Patterns and more information can be found online at:-
www.christianhope.org.uk/stiches/index.html



Youth Club

The Youth Club meets on a Thursday evening between 6.30pm and 8pm and is continuing to welcome youngsters from the ages of 9 to 18. The YC usually only operates during term time, however we were able to have the club open during the October holidays and this was well attended.

We continue to be a member of Youth 1st, who are on hand for support as well as providing training and games/art nights for the youngsters.

We have had to increase our fees to £2 for the first child from a family and £1 for every other child from the same family. Funds are beginning to build again following our recent coffee morning and a very generous donation.

We had a successful Christmas party with children and grandchildren from the Church family and Rotary also invited along. We have started a Rotakids club, which encourages the youngster to become more involved within their own communities as well as organising one international project within the year.

We plan to take the youngsters to the Rothes Halls to see the GAMA Youth production of 'Oliver' later this month.

The Tuck Shop is always popular on Thursday nights but recently we have been purchasing fruit as an alternative to the normal crisps and sweets etc. It has been amazingly popular. One of the kids had an apple, a banana and two cups of grapes - then his sibling told us that he didn't eat fruit at home!! We are pleased that the kids are making healthy choices for themselves.



Tracy Thomson with Lauren and Stefan who were taking their turn on the weekly rota to run the tuck shop.

Introducing Rev Alistair McLeod Our Locum Minister

Not that he really needs much of an introduction because Alistair is a well-kent face in Markinch and Glenrothes. At a recent Session meeting, it was formally agreed to ask Alistair to be our Locum Minister to work with us and our Interim Moderator on a Sunday and two days a week during our period of vacancy.

In his own words...

My journey to the ministry of the church was a somewhat convoluted one. I had 'felt the call' when I was nineteen years old and my parents were still laughing when later HMQ sent me an invitation to join the RAF. I served three years and had a 'whale' of a time. When I was demobbed I was asked to join the Intelligence service at the NATO HQ at RAF Pitreavie Castle. I had an exciting and sometimes frightening time there - it was like playing cowboys and Indians but for real.

I decided that I couldn't do that for ever and although I still thought about the Church, I had already married a Roman Catholic girl and felt that ministry wasn't the right thing to do.

I trained as a Probation Officer with an added qualification in Psychiatry which led me into all kinds of strange situations which I enjoyed.

However, to cut a very long story short, I was quickly promoted to management taking me away from patients and clients.

The ministry had always been at the forefront of my mind (God never gives up when He had made up His mind) so I left for St Andrews University and was licensed in 1987 coming to Markinch to work alongside Ian Gordon as his probationer. My first and only charge a year later was St Columba's in Glenrothes, retiring (a joke!) nine years ago.

So here I am back at Markinch and feel that in a way I am coming home!

And by the way, I am happy to be home.

Alistair



Lynn Cunningham Chartered Accountant

Markinch & Cupar



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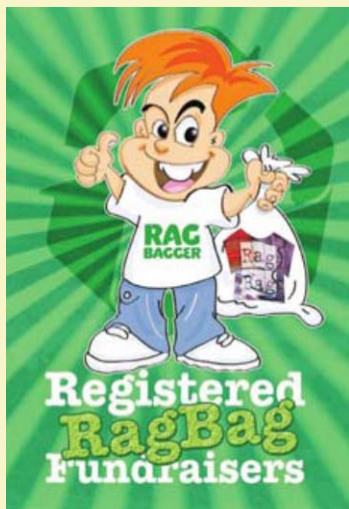
www.lynncunninghamca.com

Rag Bag Collection

The Rag Bag Collection continues to provide us with a small continuous income, but we continue to look for any textiles, curtains, bed linens, towels, clothes, bags, belts and shoes. Please ensure that all donations are placed in a tied plastic bag.

We are planning to have an extra uplift following the 23rd February and request that you ask your neighbours, family, colleagues and friends to have a clear out and help this appeal by contributing as well.

If you cannot transport your collection or have a large donation that you need assistance to move, please do not hesitate to contact Marianne Sankey to arrange collection. Tel. 07801 279899



Balbirnie Golf Club

All Classes of Membership Available

Adult Ladies and gents	£499	
With locker	£525	
Senior 5 Day	£409	
With locker	£434	
Senior 7 Day	£434	
With locker	£459	
Junior		
10-15 Years	£35	
16-17 Years	£65	
Intermediate 1	18-21 Years	£274
Intermediate 2	22-24 Years	£324
Intermediate 3	25-27 Years	£384
Intermediate 4	28-29 Years	£434
Country	£379	
House	£30	





The Clubhouse

Open all year round for
functions: birthday parties,
anniversaries, christenings and
weddings

Tel. 01592 612095

Markinch Amateur Operatic Society



Affiliated to the
National Operatic and
Dramatic Association



is pleased

to present:



ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

Music and Lyrics
by Irving Berlin

Book by Herbert
and Dorothy Fields
As revised by Peter Stone

at:

Markinch Town Hall
18 to 22 March 2014

curtain up at 7:15pm

Tickets £10
(Concessions £8)

(Senior Citizens: Tuesday/Wednesday; Children: Tuesday-Friday)

On sale from 17 February

Contact: Valerie Thomson, Secretary
16 Betson Street, Markinch

Call 01592 754537 or email secretary@maos.org.uk

This amateur production is presented by arrangement
with Josef Weinberger Ltd on behalf of R&H Theatricals of New York
Markinch Amateur Operatic Society is a Registered Scottish Charity SC025712

Markinch Amateur Operatic Society

MAOS is a group of keen amateur actors, singers and helpers, who produce a musical show in March of each year. This year's production is Irving Berlin's "**Annie Get Your Gun**" and we'll be presenting this in Markinch Town Hall from Tuesday 18th to Saturday 22nd March. Tickets go on sale on 17th February priced at £10 (£8 for concessions at selected shows). Contact Valerie Thomson on 01592 754537. More details can be found at www.maos.org.uk or 'like' us at www.facebook.com/MarkinchAOS

As usual, the show will feature a range of local people in a range of roles - acting, singing, dancing, playing, scene shifting etc. Some will be performing with MAOS for the first time. Some have been treading the boards of Markinch Town Hall for many years! But regardless of this, the whole company will be working together to bring an adaption of another classic show with the quality that has become associated with our group.

We'd love to see you at one of our performances. But more than that, we'd love to see you on a regular basis as part of the company. Contrary to popular belief you do not have to be a singer to join our group! Perhaps you would be interested in participating in acting, dancing, make-up, painting, stage crew work, lighting, costumes or one of the many other jobs which keep our show 'on the road'. Being involved in any capacity, producing a show to present to the public gives us a great deal of fun and satisfaction and is an excellent hobby. We start in September each year and perform every March. Some activities take place in the summer months as we plan for the next show, and we have a range of fundraising events throughout the year. The next fundraiser we are holding is a team Quiz Night in Markinch Town Hall on Friday 21st February. See the posters round the town, on our website and our Facebook page for full details. You would be made very welcome that night.

If you'd like to know more, email secretary@maos.org.uk or contact us via Facebook. Come and join our company and fulfil that hidden ambition!

Church Flowers

The flower team would like a few more people to join them, either to organise the flowers for a Sunday or to help distribute the flowers as not every flower lady has transport. Contact Teresa Henderson on 01592 754892.

We also ask for names from anyone in the congregation of the elderly, sick, bereaved or anyone who they think might like a visit so that we can brighten up their Sundays with a lovely bouquet of flowers.

As there are only 52 Sundays in the calendar year, flower donators who wish to choose certain dates may find themselves sharing. It is inevitable, on occasions, that more than one person will want the same date. The more flowers in our church on a Sunday the better, as more people will enjoy the gift of church flowers.



Thanks

From Jean & Alex

Being minister at Markinch these last eleven years has been a privilege and with the exception of some really sad times, a great pleasure. Looking back I have an incredible collection of precious memories.

One of my aims, as your minister, was to preach and teach in a relevant and informative way. My hope was that as we shared life's journey together we would be 'Partners In Learning.' And not just 'Partners in Learning,' but also 'Partners in Sharing and Serving.' I firmly believe that sharing God's love and serving His world in a generous, accepting, inclusive way is part of the raison d'être of the church.

On my last Sunday at Markinch, John Wood, our Session Clerk said some kind things about our learning, sharing and serving together. He also presented retirement gifts from the congregation.

I would therefore, through the pages of the newsletter, like to record my thanks and appreciation for his kind words and the gifts: the rather splendid garden bench, the Charlie Brown print, the flowers, plants, the cheque and the gift vouchers. I pray that all goes well as a new and interesting chapter in Markinch's long and distinguished history begins.

Blessings and Peace,

Alex

I would like to thank the choir for supporting me over these last eleven years. Thanks to all in the congregation for allowing me to play the organ. It has indeed been a privilege.

Thank you to those who helped me move into the manse eleven years ago and a special thanks to those who worked very hard to get our new house at Scaraben Crescent ready. I really appreciated all the time and effort they put in.

Most all, thank you for all the support, kindness and friendship in good times and bad. Love to you all.

Jean



Glenrothes Foodbank

The Glenrothes Foodbank officially opened on the 2nd of December 2013 and there has been much activity in several quarters. The building and contents have been transformed into practical workstations in the warehouse and welcoming accommodation in the reception, interview, and kitchen areas.

Volunteers are now in place to supply customer services both in reception and hospitality areas and in bagging food for the customer needs. The place is clean and tidy and it is a pleasurable environment for working and visiting.

Employees of Fife Council, NHS Fife and several of the Glenrothes and District churches, donated food in large quantities over the Christmas period. Service requirements were met by sorting, dating and shelving or storing the food in readiness for use. We viewed the results with satisfaction and awaited our first customers.

During the four-week period from the 19Th December, we have provided approximately one hundred and thirty three, (sounds like a snooker or dart score) needy customers with food, eighty-four being adults and forty-nine children.

From this number, benefit delays accounted for a large proportion, with benefit changes and homelessness being equal second. A more meaningful pattern of statistics will emerge when the data has a larger population and we have established its integrity.

Nonetheless, it is safe to say that many families and single people had a Christmas that most of us have only read about in a Dickensian novel. It is also true to say their plight would have been considerably worse without access to the Glenrothes Foodbank.

This service could not have been available without support from the community, local employees, and the volunteers, who worked unstintingly over the festive period and beyond. Especial thanks go to the Rotary Club, Fife Council and any other sponsors who have helped us to achieve a degree of success.

On a more sombre note, our food stocks have diminished alarmingly and as of 31st January 2014 we put out an emergency appeal for more donations.

The only items we do not need at this moment are beans and pasta.

We need to establish a means of generating regular income to enable us to source food that is needed most at a price that is economic. In the meantime, many thanks for your continued support.



THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE.

This phrase is found in many places. Most often, it is found above the lists of names of Casualties from the Great War. The phrase is found in the Cemeteries cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as well as on Memorials, and the phrase can also be found on one of the plaques inside the Church. Rudyard Kipling had been asked by the C.W.G.C. to find suitable texts for the inscription for Great War Memorials and Cemeteries. Kipling had lost a son in the First World War, and was inspired for his choice by Ecclesiasticus, Chapter 44, Verse 14.

The War we know as The First World War was expected, by almost everyone on both sides, to be over by Christmas 1914. The local War Memorials are evidence of how wrong these people were. By the time the fighting ended, on November 11, 1918, approximately ten million people had been killed, and millions more had been injured, or affected in some other way, by "The War to end all Wars". August 4, 2014, will be the Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1, and in recent weeks there have been various opinions expressed about the Commemoration of the First World War, and how that War is, or has been, depicted on television, in books, in films or in the theatre. Rather than enter that debate, this is merely a brief attempt to consider the effect it had on the lives of local people, and communities, all those years ago. As the War Memorials and Cemeteries say, "Their Name Liveth For Evermore".

The Markinch War Memorial has the names of 85 local men who lost their lives in the Great War, some 27 of them from the Royal Highlanders, (Black Watch). There are also two plaques there for World War 1. In the vestibule of the Church, there is the "1914-1919 European Roll of Honour". Here, there are recorded 318 names of men and women from Markinch who went to participate in the Great War, and at the foot of the Roll it reads, "Names of the men who have made the Supreme Sacrifice are underlined in Red". There are 35 names underlined. There are also in the Church, on the left-hand side, three plaques, and on the right-hand side, two plaques and a memorial stone, to commemorate some 73 local casualties from that War. It would seem reasonable to assume from these figures, therefore, that some 400 men and women from Markinch were directly involved in the military aspects of World War I. There are also two plaques, on the right-hand side in the Church, for Second World War casualties.

The Memorial in Coaltown of Balgonie states, "To the Glory of God, and in Memory of those who went forth from Balgonie Colliery and Estate and gave their lives for their Country 1914-1919", and then lists the names of the 24 men, from Balgonie, who never returned from the conflict. 14 of those 24 were in the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch), almost reinforcing the idea of 'Pals Battalions'.

The Memorial Plaque in the Star of Markinch is headed, "1914-1918 Pro Patria", then lists the names of the 8 local men lost, and concludes with a quote from Revelation, Chapter 12, Verse 11, "They overcame, and they loved not their lives unto the death".

Without having more information on the individuals, it is impossible to tell where all of these local Casualties have their final resting-place, as there were often a number of fatal casualties with the same name, and the same rank, usually Private, in the same Regiment. Often, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Records have no information on the person's home area, or family, in the reference, so it is difficult to trace everyone just from the information on the local Memorial. For example, there were 731 men with the surname Barrett who were killed, in the British forces, in the First World War. Most of the Markinch men, and many of the Coaltown ones, can be traced, but only a few from the Star, where the Memorial only gives the name, but not the Regiment, or branch of the Forces, can be traced easily.

Almost all of the local participants, and casualties, were in the Army, but there were also Medical Corps, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force. There was at least one bugler, and a cyclist, among the varied roles undertaken in the Army. Some of the men were in the Marines, or the Merchant, or Royal, Navy. Some were with the Irish, or Canadian, or Australian, or South African, Forces, and at least one was with the U.S.A., but most were with Scottish Regiments. The women were usually involved in Nursing units. From the lists of local casualties, men can be traced to action in a wide variety of places, with most, but not all, succumbing to their injuries at, or near, the scene of action. The majority of the men are buried in cemeteries in France or Belgium, but Germany, Greece and Iraq also feature, and there are two in St. Drostan's Cemetery. The headstones in these Military Cemeteries are identical, only the inscription varies, with some headstones recording, "A Soldier of the Great War, Known unto God". For many, who were never found, there is an inscription on a Memorial, probably in France or Belgium, for example at the Menin Gate, or Tyne-Cot, or Thiepval, or Loos. At least one name on the "Roll of Honour" in the Church is accompanied by the word "missing".

Every year, on 25 September, the beacon on The Law in Dundee is lit, to commemorate the men from Dundee, and the surrounding area, who took part in the Battle of Loos, which started on September 25, 1915. Most of these men were in the local Regiment, the Black Watch. On May 3, 2014, the Black Watch are dedicating a new War Memorial, at Black Watch Corner, near Ypres, to commemorate the role, and the casualties, of the Black Watch in The Great War. The dedication service will be taken by the Reverend Alex Forsyth. The Royal Highlanders, who were often mentioned on local Memorials, were synonymous with the Black Watch in World War 1. To illustrate this, most of the names of the fatalities found in the Church are repeated on the Markinch Memorial, but where the Church plaque says Black Watch, the War Memorial records Royal Highlanders, and the "Roll of Honour" also tends to use Royal Highlanders.

As the date of the Centenary approaches, there will be more media coverage of "The War to end all Wars". Most important, however, should be the need to remember the human cost which affected all participants, and to remember, for those who lost their lives, that ...

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

Fundraising Events

For 2014 we are concentrating on just a few fundraising events. We hope that you will all support these events if you can.

Our next fundraising meeting will be held in the church hall on Sunday 23rd February at 12.30pm, directly after communion. Please come along if you would like to help at any of this years events or have any great ideas for raising funds for your church.

ROSYTH CONCERT BAND

The band will be performing in the church hall on Saturday 15th March at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are £6/£5 conc., refreshments included. Tickets will be available from Karen Wood, Meg Sankey and Marianne Sankey from Sunday 9th February.

SPRING FAYRE / DAFFODIL TEA

This will be held in the church hall on Saturday 12th April from 2 - 4pm. The hall will be open from 1pm for cake and candy donations and setting up of stalls. Donations for Tombola, Bottle Tombola, Craft and Cake & Candy stalls should be given to Karen Wood, Meg Sankey or Marianne Sankey. Anyone wishing to help please see Karen, Meg or Marianne. If you would like to set up your own craft stall please contact Karen on 07717 023906. This will be our main fund-raiser for the first six months of 2014, so please give us your support.

ST. MONANS COMMUNITY CHOIR

will be performing in the church hall on Friday 25th April at 7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm. Tickets £6/£5 conc., refreshments are included. Tickets available from Karen Wood, Meg Sankey and Marianne Sankey from Sunday 16th March.

Wanted - Easter Chicks

Tracy Thomson would appreciate it if you could help out by knitting a few chicks for her, which she will fill with creme eggs and sell prior to Easter to raise funds for Markinch Parish Church. You will need:- Yellow Double Knitting Wool and Size 10 Needles 3.25 mm

1. Cast on 24 Stitches and knit 2 Rows. Increase 1 stitch at the beginning of every row until 36 stitches are on the needle.
2. Knit further two rows & Cast off 11 stitches at the beginning of the next two rows, making 14 stitches.
3. Knit 12 rows.
4. Knit 2 together across the row. Cut off wool about 12 inches long. Using a Darning needle draw through 7 Stitches. With the remainder of the wool sew the chick. Leave a space at the bottom of the chick to insert the cream egg.
5. Decorate the chick with two eyes and a beak.



On-going Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who has taken part in fundraising events over the last year, whether helping to organise them, work on the day, give us ideas or donations, or attend the activities. We cannot continue to do the work that we do without you. Fundraising is something that everyone can contribute to, whether you are good with ideas, planning or project managing, all help and support is gratefully received. Please contact Marianne Sankey on 07801 279899 with any suggestions or activities that you would like to run. Even small events add up financially over the year.

JIGSAW LENDING LIBRARY

Available in the church hall following Sunday Service at a cost of £1 per jigsaw. If you require any information about this activity please contact Meg Sankey on 07834 729420.

COMMUNION COIN COLLECTION

At each Communion Sunday Service there will be a coin collection in the vestibule. This is to work towards the total amount required for the installation of a lift at the church steps. We have individual collection boxes for you to take home or to work, and fill between Communion Services. These can be handed in at the start of the service and collected again on your way out.

Collection boxes can be emptied any Sunday or Thursday morning by seeing Marianne Sankey, Karen Wood or Meg Sankey. Additional boxes will be made available for anyone who wishes to take one to work, or give to their extended family or non-members who would like to help.

If you cannot collect a box but would like one, we can deliver and collect them by telephoning Marianne Sankey on 07801 279899.

CHURCH FIGURINES

Available to purchase following Sunday Service at a cost of £19.99 each.

SALES TABLE

There is a very prolific group of ladies who continue to produce craft items for sale for church funds. Please come along to the church hall any Sunday or Thursday between 10 - 11.30am to see what is available on the church craft stall. There are plenty of great gift ideas especially some beautiful babywear and baby accessories.

If you have any unwanted craft items, fabric, threads, wool, half-finished kits or projects that you would like to donate to the fundraising effort, please contact Marianne Sankey, Meg Sankey or Karen Wood.

If you would like to donate handcrafts, baking, plants, jams, chutney's etc, please place them on the sales table before any church service.

'MADE IN MARKINCH' - MARKINCH PARISH CHURCH COOKBOOK.

Volume 3 - Baking and Biscuits is now on sale at a cost of £5. There are still some copies of Volume 2 available and Volume 1 can be ordered.

The Rotary Shoebox Appeal Is Not Only For Christmas!

The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness to the people of Eastern Europe who live in a world of poverty. For many, it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares. There will be a delivery leaving from Markinch Parish Church at the beginning of March 2014 and if you would like to take part, we would love to hear from you.

The Rotary club of Glenrothes are able to provide boxes for you to fill - they can be collected from the Church Hall following a Sunday Service or at coffees on a Thursday between 10am and 11.30am.

If you are unable to fill a shoebox you can donate items which Markinch Parish Church Youth Club will sort out into the appropriate boxes at the end of February – again a donation box will be left in the Church Hall.

You can also support this project by donating £1 to help with the purchase and transportation of the boxes.

For more information please contact John Wood (Session Clerk) or Tracy Thomson - 01592 775752



Children at an Orphanage, receiving gifts at Christmas.

GLENROTHES AND DISTRICT CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE Big Book Sale

This will take place March 31st to April 5th daily from 11am to 3pm in St Columba's Church, Glenrothes

Help is required - Donating books, setting up the displays or serving on the book stall.

For further information or for book collection, please contact Ewan Oliver on 01592 773288

THE ROTARY CLUB OF GLENROTHES SPORTSMAN'S DINNER



SPEAKERS

**Willie Allan, Craig Brown
& Jimmy Stirling**

**Friday 21st
March 2014
7pm for
7.30pm**

**GILVENBANK
HOTEL
GLENROTHES**

**SUPPORTING OUR
NOMINATED
CHARITY FOR 2014**



**Tickets only £30
per person.
AUCTION & RAFFLE
on the night**

For more information or tickets contact Tracy Thomson 07786675507

Taking care of the detail

There is never a right time to lose someone we love, never a right time to have to make arrangements for their funeral, to say goodbye in a way most suitable to them and those left behind.

In the midst of grief the responsibility of making arrangements can seem overwhelming. Crosbie Matthew Funeral Directors can help you shoulder the burden. We are an independent family-run business with over 70 years experience of supporting bereaved families in Fife and beyond. Arrangements can be made at our purpose built premises in Nicol Street, Kirkcaldy which offers comfortable arrangement rooms and a dedicated service room with lift access. Alternatively we can visit you at a time suited to you in the comfort of your own home.

Professional

Crosbie Matthew's professional team of funeral directors are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to personally answer your calls and guide you sensitively at your time of loss.

Support

Practical advice and support can be given on paperwork required for registration, and covers everything from press notices, floral tributes and catering to order of service sheets and attendance cards.

Personalised

We can help you with the type of service you require, your choice of officiant who may be a minister, civil celebrant,

family member or friend; your options for music, poems, hymns; personalised order of service sheets with photographs if you wish. We are here to discuss any other ideas you may have to make the funeral a more personal tribute.

We pride ourselves in listening to you and helping you to arrange a funeral best suited to your and your loved ones wishes.

Memorials

We have a comprehensive range of granite stones, vases and markers which can be tailored to your own design. We can also help with renovating, cleaning and adding inscriptions to existing stones. We also have a variety of traditional and more modern urns, jewellery and ornaments for cremated remains.

Pre-paid Funeral Plans

Golden Charter pre-paid plans are available. More people are finding that a pre-paid funeral plan eases the financial and emotional burden on their families. It means they are paying for a funeral at today's prices and leaving written details available for that time of need.

Payment Options

We request a deposit for the disbursements (payment made by us to third parties on your behalf). Payments can be made in full by card, cash or cheque. With flexible payment options available we offer you a first step to peace of mind

Crosbie Matthew Funeral Directors

Family owned and run for over 70 years

Funerals designed to suit the needs of your family

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01592 640644

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Flexible payment options available



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