



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 7

Friday 8th May

Dear all

As many of you will know, Friday 8th May is the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, the end of the war in Europe. Some people compare the privations of the 1st and 2nd World Wars to our present day lockdown but that is not my feeling. We do not suffer the physical threats of bombing, the deprivations of food rationing nor, in particular, the threat that our husbands, sons- or daughters- may be killed on "some foreign field". The magnitude of death of so many of our own church members at a tender age was brought home to me when we investigated the personnel whose names appear on our four 1WW Memorials.

On a recent walk around the church garden I was delighted to see that our plant tribute (Menziesia Plum Drops) to a member of our church, Alan Menzies, was almost in bloom, as were the surrounding forget-me-nots. Alan was a gardener at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and died on service during the 1WW. He is one of the few people to have had a plant named after him. Our artist not-in-residence, Vivienne McGregor, has painted a display of stones with flowers which each country uses to commemorate it's dead.

So- please stop by the garden on one of your daily walks and reflect on the sacrifice that so many young men and women made in days gone by that we might live without fear- and then go on and live without that fear.

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS FOR VE DAY 75

I know that there were many commemorative events planned which have now had to be

cancelled. Lt Col (ret'd) Andy Middlemiss DL (who took part in our "Always with us" events at St Matthew's) had organised a concert in Kinross with 100 performers and focussing on local Kinross wartime hero- Sgt Thompson VC-RAF. To hear about SSAFA's role in WW2 you can visit www.ssafa.org.uk/veday75 which will also give you other ideas as to how to mark the 75th anniversary whilst in lockdown.

Andy Middlemiss has also suggested we look at www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-52488104 for online information and recommended 3 programmes on BBC 1 on Friday 8 May at 2.45pm, 8pm and 9.10pm.

We can start by joining in "The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2" and raising our glasses at 3pm on Friday.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

FMBruce6@googlemail.com

Communion

Sunday 10th May, at 11am.

I am pleased to extend the following invitation from Barbara for you to join in a service of Holy Communion. This will be conducted in a ZOOM meeting. See details of joining the service overleaf.

From Barbara,

"Marion's husband and son were on the vacancy committee that called me to my first charge near Ravenscraig Steel Mills in Motherwell. Marion became my Session Clerk and 40 years on we are still friends. Every Sunday she gets dressed for Church [in her sitting room] with her Bible, hymn book, a candle and some fresh flowers. Entering the presence of God with the Word, to praise God, to encounter the Light of the World and the Spirit giving life to Creation.

This Sunday you are invited to enter into the presence of God [wearing your favourite slippers] and join with good Christian folk to celebrate Holy Communion.

Please bring your own elements of bread and wine, or coffee/tea and biscuits or; as the ancient Scottish regiment did before entering battle; bannocks and whisky.

"For everyone born a place at the table"

ZOOM and Weekly Meditations

Weekly meditations have been taking place on Zoom on a Wednesday morning at 9am.

Jean Young is the administrator of these Zoom meetings and Jean sends out the joining instructions immediately before the start of these sessions.

What is required beforehand:

- 1) Download the ZOOM app onto your PC, Laptop, iPad, or iPhone.
- 2) Send an email to Jean at ly2@btinternet.com to let her know you wish to receive the joining instructions.



I have been delighted this week to have received contributions for the Newsletter from a variety of people and this poem is contributed by Ann McIntyre. We send her, and her son Euan who stays at Upper Springlands, our warmest greetings and keep them in our prayers.

Hope

Hope means to keep living
Amid desperation
And to keep humming in the darkness.
Hoping is knowing that there is love,
It is trust in tomorrow
It is falling asleep
And waking again
When the sun rises.
In the midst of a gale at sea,
It is to discover land.
In the eyes of another
It is to see that you are understood.

As long as there is still hope
There will also be prayer...
And you will be held in God's hands.

Henri Nouwen

The Devil and the Angel in conversation

The Devil said "Haha I've managed to close all the churches"

The Angel replies "Yes and I have managed to open a church in every home in the land".

That is what Zoom and Youtube is allowing us to do.

God is good.

Thy Kingdom Come: 21 - 31 May 2020 (Ascension to Pentecost Sunday)

I have received information from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland encouraging us to take part in the *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative in 2020. In the light of COVID-19, the *Thy Kingdom Come* website has been updated and adapted for our new situation:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

One of the Key themes for *Thy Kingdom Come 2020* is prayer and care. As we are praying for those we love to come to know the hope and love of Christ, we are also encouraging all to see how they can show God's love towards them, by caring for them. The website suggests practical ways this can be done:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/prayer-and-care>

Alongside this, there is a very helpful resource "*Thy Kingdom Come - five ways to get involved*" which is easily adapted for congregations in lockdown. See:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/5-ways-your-church-can-be-involved-years-thy-kingdom-come>.

It is to be hoped that we at St Matthew's can make use of this resource and join together with Christians across the country and around the world for *Thy Kingdom Come 2020*.

Please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com if you wish to find out more or take forward a particular idea.

Freda Stewart has sent me a poem by a friend of hers, Alison Petrie (McGrimmond), whose words were published in "Creations Harvest" in 1999. This is part of it:

WHAT GOD BRINGS

Have you smelled the perfume
Of heather in full bloom
And sweet rocket at night
By the stream- a delight.
The pine scent so strong
After the rain has gone.

Have you tasted wild cherries
And all kinds of berries
Then had a crazy notion
To taste salt by the ocean
If you've done all these things
Then you'll know what God brings.



THANKS to our **church gardeners** for keeping the church and manse gardens and church carpark neat and tidy during this time:

Isobel Sinclair

Sheila and Sandy Murray

Eric Duff

John and Helen Dewar

Notices

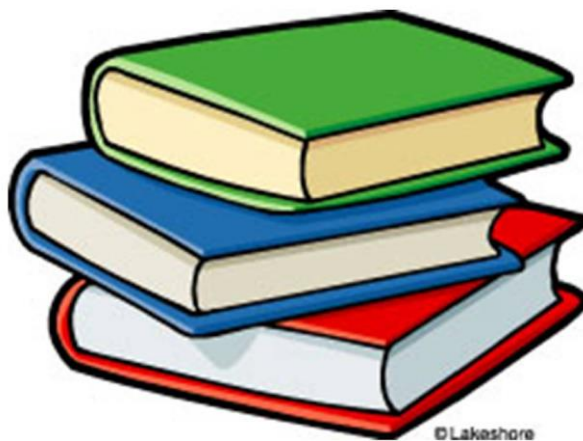
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CONGRATULATIONS

On her 85th birthday next week to **Rita Dalton**

On her 90th birthday on 24 May to **Muriel Smith**

**PRETTY WILD
HOW WE USED TO
EAT CAKE AFTER
SOMEONE HAD
BLOWN ON IT...
GOOD TIMES...**



BOOK QUIZ

Hopefully many of you found all 5 book titles last week.

10 book titles down and 15 to go. Good luck!

The next 5 are as follows:

1. Scruppy with a little flower girl
2. Has this aquatic vessel sunk?
3. Had all his work done by Friday
4. Prickly fowls
5. Farewell mister French fries

Please keep them until you have all 25 when you will be given instructions on how to submit them. I will draw all correct answers out of the hat and the lucky person will win a book!

Church Services

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/services-online.

Alternatively, Rev Scott Burton, is also streaming online worship at

www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org

BBC 1 Scotland will also be broadcasting their new half-hour weekly show "Reflections at the Quay" on a Sunday morning. Check programme schedule for time. Best to tune in early as the broadcast does not always fit with the programmed time.

INTRODUCTION TO FOOD HYGIENE & SAFETY ONLINE COURSE

The Church of Scotland have contacted me with information on this 2-hour online course. If anyone is interested in completing this, please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com for further details.

BUTTON BANDS FOR NHS STAFF & CARERS

Liz Barrett has contacted me to ask our help with making button bands for masks. She says:

Nurses and carers have been struggling to get a tight fit with some masks with elastic, and we've been asked to help by producing button bands, so that the elastic can be hooked onto them behind the head. If you're in a virus-free household in Perth, and could help by sewing bands (by hand or machine) from heavy cotton (to withstand hot washes), or donate fabric or buttons (1.5 – 2cm in diameter), please contact Liz Barrett at liz@kildonan.co.uk for details.



LOCKDOWN

What has lockdown meant you? We would like to hear interesting anecdotes of your lockdown experience.

Remember Beverly, she is our Facility and Outreach Manager who has been on furlough for the last 7 weeks. She has been at home looking after and educating her 2 boys. Exercise has been difficult and she has bought herself a 'treadmill' to exercise at home. However always one for a challenge she wants to put this exercise to good use and is going to be looking for sponsorship to boost her on her way to a target yet to be established. What would you like her to do? A virtual marathon, a virtual run from Perth to Dundee, Edinburgh, or Glasgow. Let us have your suggestions for "The Beverly Challenge." The money raised from sponsorship will come to St. Matthew's Church.

Watch this space for an update next week on how to offer sponsorship.

REMEMBER

Sunday is Communion, Please join us on Zoom at 11 am for our service of Holy Communion.

If you cannot manage ZOOM be with us in your thoughts as you privately give thanks to your lord for his comfort in seeing us through this difficult time.



To Contribute please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com