



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 14

Fri 26th June

*Open our eyes to see past our own interests and concerns,
to Your broader vision for us and for our world.*

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Dear all

In this week's Wednesday meditation Marjorie Clark referred us to the Gospels of Matthew 8 :23-27 and Mark 6: 45-52 and the episode of Jesus calming the storm when Jesus said "Do not be afraid. I am with you"- words which occur frequently in many ways throughout the Gospels.

These words are very pertinent to us all now I am sure.

As Marjorie said, Jesus was still loving and gracious to his disciples even though they got things wrong, as we often do. Even when his disciples were panicking, Jesus reassures them and asks "You of little faith. Why are you so afraid?"

We are encouraged to keep our eyes on Jesus and trust Him at all times.

I was reminded of an old hymn which my Mum used to sing to me:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Marjorie ended her Meditation with A "Prayer of Confession" from the Centre for Mennonite Brethern Studies

Prayer of Confession

***God, You call us to step out in faith,
to place our lives in Your hands,
and to wholeheartedly commit to following You.
We confess that we find this difficult to do.
It is not always easy to follow where You lead—
to turn away from our own personal wants and desires,
to let go of our safety nets
and trust that You will provide for us in all things.
Forgive us when we doubt You, God.
Increase our faith.***

Stop Press - only 28 miles to go

BEV'S CHALLENGE



This is Bev's last week on her virtual walk from Perth to Iona (a total of 140 miles) and she has now reached 132m. £454 has been pledged by 21 people but I'm sure there are many more people out there who would like to recognise Bev's achievement during lockdown- and also whilst trying to home-school 2 children!



Please pledge your support by using the following Go Fund Me link:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/june-walk-to-iona?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy-link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

Or by sending a cheque payable to "St Matthew's Church" to:

The Treasurer
St Matthew's Church
34 Craigie Road
Perth PH2 0BH

This has been Bev's own "walk of faith" and we thank her for her efforts on behalf of St Matthew's Church.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk
FMBruce6@googlemail.com



UPDATE ON ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

It was agreed at our Zoom Kirk Session on Wednesday 24th June that St Matthew's would not open for private prayer but rather preparations would be made to re-open St Matthew's Church once the Scottish Government, the Church of Scotland and Presbytery have given the go-ahead. To that end a small group are looking at physical distancing, sanitising, access and all the other matters contained in a (very lengthy) Church of Scotland document. Further information will be given in future Newsletters. Watch this space!

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

Many of you may have already seen this article which has been "doing the rounds" on Facebook:

We could now open the building for private prayer but the kirk session has decided not to and here's why we made this decision....

If you came for private prayer we would have to ;

- Make you wash your hands or sanitise them at the door
- Instruct you to wear a mask
- Ask you if you had COVID 19 symptoms, underlying health problems or got a flu jab (and turn you away if the answer to any of these was "Yes")
- Tell you which seat to sit in (we know how much Church people like this!)
- Warn you not to sing
- Make sure you left by another door
- Then clean and sanitise every surface people touched

Alternatively you could

- Sit and pray in your favourite armchair in your house with a nice mug of tea or coffee ☕
- Go for a walk, short drive, cycle, run and pray (Yip praying with your eyes open is allowed)
- Pop round to a Church friend and have a nice chat and wee prayer together in their garden

Talking to God is a conversation that requires no special place, objects, people or words. He loves you and He is listening when you pray, wherever you pray. So, just go for it 🙌🙏
The Church building is temporarily closed but God's ears and heart are open wide.

Notices

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **JENNY FRASER** who will be 93 on the 27th JUNE

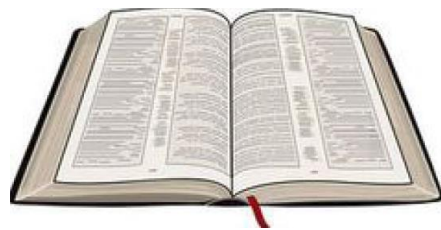
To **DAISY STRATTON** who will be 97 on the 2nd JULY.

Best wishes from St.Matthew's

Congratulations!

To our former JAM member, **Katriona Allan**, who not only is No 4 in Scotland for Squash but has also just been awarded a First Class degree in Applied Sport Science from Edinburgh University.

To **Eilidh Burton** who has graduated in Fashion Management at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
Well done Katriona and Eilidh!



DEATH

*We heard recently of the death of one of our members **Tom Kerr**, who lived in Lewis Place and latterly in Craigie. Tom, who met his wife Anne when they were both young teenagers working at Monart glass in the 1960s, went on to work with the Post Office after they got married. His last round before he retired was in the Luncarty area, where he was affectionately known as 'Postie Tam'. Tom passed away on 19th May after 66 happy years of married life. We pass on our condolences and prayers to Anne and their family at this sad time.*

A few Seasonal Clippings about the Garden From Nicola McNee



Isaiah 58:11

And I will always guide you and satisfy you with good things. I will keep you strong and well. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water, like a spring of water that never runs dry.

Midsummer Sowing.

We're at the point where we can start thinking about harvesting from our veg. plot as things such as early potatoes, radish, lettuce and many other leaves and even courgettes are just about pickable but there are plenty of things you can still sow to keep the veg. supply going well into the autumn and even winter such as leeks and kale. As it's midsummer, seeds will germinate quickly but just be aware that the wee seedlings will need a bit more protection from birds and slugs. Other things that can be sown just now are fast maturing veg like pak choi, lettuce, peas, radish and carrots. Choose dwarf and fast maturing varieties.

You might still be able to get young veg plants at the local nursery or garden centre. This will save you time and these are often called transplants, because that's what you do with them! Get them planted out then water well.

You need to make sure your soil is in good condition, make sure it's well dug over and feels fairly fine. If possible, dig through some compost or fertiliser as this will really help your plants.

If you're not interested in planting veg then there are plenty of quick germinating flowers that can be put in the ground at this time of year such as Nigella which has a fluffy flower, often in pinks and purples and has a ferny like foliage.

Another great one for this time of year is night scented stock (Matthiola) which has a small pink flower which gives off a beautiful scent in the evening.

Other examples are Scottish marigolds (Calendula) and poached egg plants (Limnanthes) which will go on flowering until the end of autumn. The bees will love these too.

They should all germinate really quickly as the soil is relatively warm and you can expect to see green shoots within a week...hopefully! Or sprinkle a few in an ornate pot.

READER COMMENTS

A reader commented on last week's Newsletter that she remembered visiting a stone memorial to **Soren Keirkegaard** in Gilleleje when on holiday in Denmark. " Apparently this was the site where he worked through his deepest thoughts, gazing out onto the water from a peaceful forest. I can relate to this, it's such a wonderful place.

She also commented that "the article about the gentleman going across to the bank in Skye with a caseload of money also made me smile. Changed days! My school friend's husband works for RBS in security, and he has to go across to Arran regularly on the ferry - with a fully locked van, body armour and locked security case - park outside, walk a few meters into the bank, deliver the money, get a signature All to make sure that the bank's insurance against theft is maintained."

Changed days indeed from Alastair Byers' experience going over to Skye simply carrying his suitcase of money!





Getting into ZOOM

Here is a You tube video which may help you all get started in Zoom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

COFFEE AND CHAT on Zoom

On Mondays at 11am – 11.45am
Bring your own cake and coffee, “drop in, drop out” basis!

Meeting ID: 867 3402 4259

Password: 546913

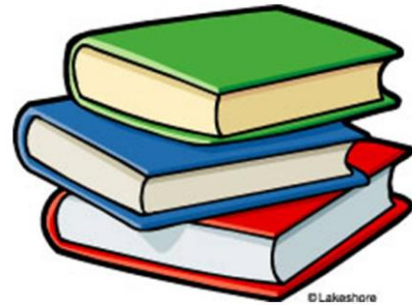
WEDNESDAY MEDITATIONS at 9am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86712488884>

Meeting ID: 867 1248 8884

Jean Young is the administrator of these Zoom meetings . Drop Jean an email and she will ensure that you are kept informed, should the link go wrong.
jy2@btinternet.com

The Wednesday Meditations are open to ALL and followed by a time of conversation and news. Please consider this happy start to a Wednesday on Zoom. There is space for all of us at the table.



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Alison Sweeney, a member of St Matthew’s Book Group writes about (and makes me want to read!)

A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee.

She says :

“This is his debut novel of which there are more to follow.

This historical crime fiction thriller is set in Calcutta, India, when the stability of the British Empire is under threat.

The main character is Sam Wyndham. He was a policeman in London before the First World War. After the war he was a detective with Scotland Yard.

During his service in the First World War, he saw many horrors and injuries, so in 1919 Sam is anxious for a new start, and is encouraged to take up a new post, and is appointed as a detective in India.

Sam arrives in Calcutta and is introduced to Sergeant Surrender-not Banergee. Within hours of his arrival Sam and his Sargeant are called to the scene of an horrific murder.

They must solve this crime quickly due to racial tensions at the time. The victim was an Englishman, an aide to the Lieutenant-Governor of Calcutta. The investigation leads to many problems that Sam and his Sergeant find themselves in when trying to discover the truth.

The Indians were treated as subordinates in their own country. Anglo-Indians did not fare much better as they were not fully accepted by either culture. It was a traumatic time for all.

I enjoyed this book very much. It is very well written and gives us more understanding of that time in history. I am now ready to read the next two books featuring Sam Wyndham and Surrender-not Banergee.”

Eric Duff contributed this piece:

8 Things to teach our children :

- 1.Great minds discuss ideas
- 2.Two things matter : Honesty and Respect
- 3.Be kind. Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle
- 4.If you don't step forward you will always be in the same place
- 5.If you don't ask you don't get
- 6.Your words are powerful - use them wisely
- 7.Will this problem matter a year from now?
- 8.Great achievements require time

FILM QUIZ

Do you know your films? As with the Book Quiz, I'll ask 5 questions each week and then ask you to let me have your answers at "the end". There will be a draw of correct answers – and a prize!



The final 5 questions will appear next week.

- 16 The Bard has a crush
- 17 A very angry male cow
- 18 Scrawling on walls in the US
- 19 Clint Eastwood's character could do with a wash
- 20 Early meal at the jewellers

WORSHIP

Rev Scott Burton, is streaming online worship at www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org

Rev Marc Bircham, our Interim Moderator is also streaming online worship. See You Tube at "Madoch Centre"

North Church Perth:
<https://www.perthnorthchurch.org.uk/sunday-live>

St.Leonards Church Perth:
<https://slitfperth.co.uk/>

Letham St.Marks:
<https://www.lethamstmarks.org.uk/>

The Moderator's Conversations "A Fair Question"
<https://www.facebook.com/churchofscotland/videos/269437690942848/>

World Mission Update



Link to World Mission report.

<https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=29d4cd56ce6871362e9339137&id=a90828ef9c&e=e2d62b0609>

SHAWL MINISTRY

I know that we have many keen knitters at St Matthew's who will be interested to learn how the Shawl Ministry is going. This article is written by Moira laing:

Blessings from Perth Prayer Shawl Ministry
We may be unable to meet together but needles are still busy .
A shawl has been delivered to a lady who" needed something to hug ".
Wool has been shared out between members.
Contact has been ongoing via email with Ninewells and through many friends communicating a knitting delivery was organised this week - by a nurse !
Every time we give an item away we bless it so I repeat our prayer:

May God's Grace be upon these gifts for others :
Warming ,comforting ,enfolding,and embracing
May they be safe havens :
Sacred places of security and well being...
Sustaining and embracing in good times,
As well as difficult ones.
May those who receive them be cradled in hope,
Kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in love.
Blessed be
Amen

We have been asked by the Street Pastors to circulate the following:

Street Pastors

I feel that
the bottom has
fallen out of my
world

I don't
know what will
happen to my job ...
my course... my
future. Life is so
meaningless

Coming out of lockdown Street Pastors have been updating training to "listen help and care" for folk with these and similar thoughts.

More SPs are needed - either day or night shift!

If you would like to find out contact **N O W**
perth@streetpastors.org.uk or 07840 867674

Dear friends, I hope that you are staying safe, sane and healthy during this pandemic.

Perth Street Pastors are urgently looking for new recruits to join them and we are hoping to start the next training in July. Could you please circulate the attached and encourage people to prayerfully consider joining Perth Street Pastors.

The vast majority of our team are self isolating at present and we are really in need of support as we start to come out of lockdown. If anyone would like to discuss what is involved then please contact me on ggloudos@aol.com or 01738629200 or 07840867674.

At present we have teams going out on Friday's and Saturdays, noon - 4pm & 4pm - 8pm. We fully intend to have day time patrols going forward so if you are unable to do the 10pm - 4am patrol then we still have a real need for early patrols. If you can manage one patrol a month that would be great and if you wish to do more then that would also be very helpful but not required.

We are also looking to recruit more School Pastors, which again is a daytime activity for approximately 2 hours as often as you feel able (normally every 3/4 weeks).

Training will be partly delivered via Zoom and modules and there will also be some interactive training when we are allowed to do so.

I would ask that you prayerfully consider joining us and I am sure that you would really enjoy this ministry as well as the fellowship of your other fellow Christians.

Please see an item below which has been discussed at Perth Action for Churches Together (PACT) Perth Prison is actually within the Parish of St.Matthew's and it would therefore be very appropriate if volunteers from St.Matthew's feel able to participate in this worthwhile venture. If you are interested please contact Andrew Symon below and also me Fiona Bruce as well as I think it would be good for interested St.Matthew's members to be able to support each other in this.

Wanted: church volunteers for ex-prisoner 'home group' support scheme ('Inside Out': PACT-SPS)

'Inside Out' will be a regular bible-based 'home group'-style facility allowing ex-prisoners, on release, to maintain and develop a church link. It will be jointly overseen by Perth Action for Churches Together and the Scottish Prison Service.

Quite a few prisoners find or renew their faith when they're inside, but don't always find a welcoming church when they get out. Church volunteers can help them find their way to a lasting church connection.

The plan is to meet weekly. Depending on numbers, volunteers will be asked to attend on a rotational basis (i.e. not every week). We are negotiating suitable premises. Due to Covid-19, face-to-face meetings are not currently possible, but we can arrange the preparation sessions online so that we're ready to start when the Covid-19 situation allows.

At this stage I'm looking for interested people to sign up for the four planned preparation sessions. How the group operates thereafter will depend on the regulations surrounding Covid-19, and the Scottish Prison Service in identifying suitable prisoners for the scheme.

Andrew Symon a.g.symon@dundee.ac.uk
01738 643750

To Contribute please contact me on
FMBruce6@googlemail.com