



# St. Matthew's Church Perth

## e- Newsletter No. 15

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Dear all

"100 Days of Lockdown". It should be the name of a book or film! How are you getting on?

Raymond Young was telling us during his "Meditations" talk on Wednesday that it was 50 years since his graduation from Strathclyde University and that his graduation class were having a Zoom Reunion.

It made me recall meeting a retired doctor who was recounting how much more he enjoyed reunions when everyone was retired and there was none of the arrogance and competitiveness which had existed in reunions during people's working lives!

Anyhow, Raymond then wondered what a reunion of Jesus' disciples would look like and, indeed, what had happened to each of the disciples following Pentecost.

He also considered how, and on what basis, Jesus had chosen his 12 disciples as named in Matthew 10:2.

Raymond then quoted from a Memo he had found online which posed the question:

**"The Twelve Disciples: Were they management potential?"**

**TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph, Woodcrafter Carpenter Shop, Nazareth**

**FROM: Jordan Management Consultants, Jerusalem**

*Dear Sir:*

*Thank you for submitting the resumes of the 12 men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.*

*It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.*

*Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale.*

*We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic depressive scale.*

*One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.*

*We wish you every success in your new venture.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Jordan Management Consultants*

In our celebrity-strewn, star-struck society, let us give thanks for those in low- paid jobs who make our daily lives happen - and never more so than during this lockdown.

### PRAYER

Lord of all life

We bring to you today our thoughts for friends, colleagues and people who have helped us over the years and in particular over the last few months during this epidemic.

+ For memories of time spent with people with whom we have lost touch

+ For people who are no longer with us but who we remember fondly and are therefore still alive in our being

+ For people whose names we may not know but have helped us through this period of uncertainty

+ For people who have quietly gone about their job at some risk to themselves to ensure that even in lockdown we have food, who have emptied our bins, who have brought us news from others all without fuss.

+ For our friends who have cheered us, listened to us, shared their stories with us

+ For our church families who have continued to inspire and support us.

For all these we give thanks and pray that we too may offer support, companionship and reflect your love as your disciples.

In Jesus name we ask it  
Amen.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk  
[FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com)

### **Beverly's Challenge**

**Well I have finally reached my destination of Iona!!**

**Since starting my "Virtual Walk" on the 1st June, I have covered 140 miles over 30 days.**

I have thoroughly enjoyed this challenge as it has kept me focussed and fit. I have even gone down a size in clothing, which is great!

It has also been "challenging" at times, juggling the boys and their school work. Most of my walking was done when they went to bed. My eldest, Nairn, has also enjoyed having a wee run on the treadmill.

I am amazed that I managed to make just under £779!!! Thank you to all who have donated.

There is still time yet to donate by using the link below, St. Matthew's FB page or by sending a cheque to John Dewar. Can we make it to £800??

I had a lovely visit from Fiona and Andrew today, who very kindly



brought me flowers and a very welcome bottle of Prosecco ☐

Thank you all who have supported me and I hope to see you all soon.

Beverly x

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/june-walk-to-iona?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy-link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/june-walk-to-iona?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy-link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

### **JEAN YOUNG writes about an island she knows well: IONA**



As Beverley came in to Fionnphort on the last leg of her walk from Perth to Iona, one of the first things she would see was Iona Abbey. The old Benedictine Abbey has dominated the view for centuries. However after the Reformation the buildings gradually became ruins. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Duke of Argyll paid to have the roof put on the Abbey Church, thus allowing worship for the first time for ages. With great foresight he said that every service had to be fully open to all.

In the 1930's, George MacLeod, a hero of the first World War, was minister of Govan Old Parish Church in Glasgow. He was distressed at the poverty he saw all around him and realised that the Church was not speaking to the poor.

He knew Iona from family holidays there and always felt that it would be good if the living quarters of the Abbey could be restored. He gathered together some trainee ministers and some unemployed craftsmen and, after a series of breaks ("If you think that is a coincidence I wish you a dull life was a favourite saying of his") he set about the rebuilding. The main object of the exercise was to train the ministers and bring about the renewal of the Church. And so the Iona Community was born. Work was virtually stopped during the War but continued in the post war years. Throughout these years, courses were run and many folk camped. The rebuilding was finished in 1965 and the Abbey buildings were opened by the Queen.

Since then, visitors have come from around the world and many lives have been changed as folk have studied a social Gospel. Beverley will have seen scaffolding as she approached the island. Ministers were not really very good builders and the living quarters were not really suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A major refurbishment programme was just about finished when lockdown came. The builders ready to finish the building may have been on the ferry as Beverley walked across the water.

Post Covid, the purpose that George MacLeod set out with – the renewal of the Church – is as relevant as ever.



## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

MINTA THOMSON, a member of St. Matthew's Book group, writes about an impressively long read. She says;

### 'A Suitable Boy' by Vikram Seth

Like many people, I was dismayed when the the Central Library in Perth closed without warning due to the coronavirus outbreak in March. I had withdrawn a number of books prior to this, and happily read my way through those, but in due course I found I had finished them all.

I looked around the house and my eye fell upon a book by the Indian writer Vikram Seth, given to me many years ago by my mother. Although it is said to be the longest novel in English history (I have it in three parts) don't let that put you off! It is set in the early 1950s in post independent, post partition India, and concerns the efforts of a mother to arrange the marriage of her 19-year old

daughter to 'a suitable boy'. The daughter is equally determined to ignore the efforts of her domineering mother.

The novel is set in the fictional town of Brahmpur, located in the Ganges basin near Banares, and is wide-ranging in the topics that it covers, including Hindu-Muslim strife, the abolition of the feudal system, the first post independence national election and family relations. Charming, each of the 19 parts is described on the contents page with a rhyming couplet, such as part 3;

A couple glide down river in a boat.  
A mother hears that mischief is afloat.

Returning to the book twenty-five years after first reading it, I have found it an interesting and engaging read, good for taking my mind off the uncertainty that surrounds us during the coronavirus outbreak. I have loved learning more more about a country and it's culture that I visited on my travel adventures after university, when I went overland to India in the late 1970s. Coming from a close multi-generational family myself I have loved the description of the central family and it's wide circle of friends and relatives. I thoroughly recommend this book and it's large cast of characters, and hope that the library in Perth might stock it so that others can enjoy it as I have.



### **COFFEE AND CHAT on Zoom**

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

**Meeting ID: 840 7324 0879**

### **WEDNESDAY MEDITATIONS at 9am.**

**Meeting ID: 820 3251 4234**

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](mailto:jy2@btinternet.com)

# NOTICES

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To **Isobel Sinclair** who will be 80 years young  
on Saturday 4 July.



In the cafe area in the Sanctuary a pair of bi-focal glasses in a case. Please e-mail Fiona Bruce if they are yours!

## FILM QUIZ

The final 5 questions:

21. The Jets and the Sharks slug it out.
22. Icy-fingered apostle
23. Italian get-away.
24. Ruler of the big cats.
25. Very hot horse gear .



Please gather up all 25 answers and either e-mail them to me at [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com)

Or post them to me, **Fiona Bruce at 6 Kincarrathie Crescent, Perth PH2 7HH**

To arrive with me by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. I will then draw the lucky winner from all the correct entries and they will win a prize! Good Luck!

PS. I think my husband has set a very tricky quiz so even if you do not have ALL the answers please submit an entry.

Who knows? You may be the best!

## 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.

### Roses for Summer Colour

It's peak rose season just now. You can't fail to see a few around and about in folks gardens. Even in the hedgerows. Roses went out of fashion a bit as they were a lot of work and seemed to be plagued by pests and disease. Major breeding work has made huge improvements in modern roses.

Modern varieties are bred for long flowering season, heavy scent and are generally disease free. Roses are definitely back!! They are really versatile and you can get bush roses (good in borders), climbing roses (good on a wall or fence), ground cover roses (ideal for smothering weeds), patio roses (ideal for growing in pots) and standard roses (a good feature plant).

The flowers are fabulous and there are so many colours available (pinks, reds, oranges, yellows, cream, purple, white). I love roses for their scent.

Variety names like Desdemona, Emily Bronte, Amelia and Anna Pavlova make you think of ethereal, floaty flowers in delicate shades with sweet scents.

Growing – Roses will grow in most garden soil types except really chalky soil. They love loads of water after planting and respond well to good feeding. I use farmyard manure as a good mulch at the roots in the spring but you can get specific rose fertilisers if you prefer. Feed them every year in the spring to encourage good blooms.

Pruning can scare some people but as a very rough guide do it in Feb or March and thin out the old wood



that has flowered and any dead or crossing stems. Always cut to a bud that faces out the way and this creates an open bush shape. If the bushes are very tall and leggy in the Autumn you can take off about one third of the growth just to stop them rocking too much in winter storms and damaging the roots.

When they start to flower they will go on for longer and produce more flowers if you regularly (at least once a week) dead head the plants. Just snip off the dying flower back to the next leaf joint and this stops them trying to set seed and encourages more flowers.

Roses look gorgeous with catmint and lavender.

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## Through the eyes of a child

Some children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments and these were the answers. Incorrect spelling has been left in!

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
  2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
  3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
  4. The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
  5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah
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## What has lockdown meant for you?

**TOM MORRISON has written an interesting account – and tired me out in the process!**

I have heard of friends who have decorated their homes from top to bottom, others who have manicured their garden within an inch of its life. Others who have walked every day and accumulated a substantial mileage. Only today, one of our church members was telling me that to date he and his wife have accumulated 500 miles, simply walking in and

about Scone. If we all added up the individual things we have done it would be considerable.

Having spent a lot of time on projects outwith the home, this lockdown brought a forced change of plan, for the good, may I say. It allowed me to concentrate on the many tasks that had been put by the wayside.



First up was spring cleaning and sorting out clothes. How much do you have in your wardrobe that has not been worn for years, has shrunk, is worn out, would be better at the charity shop? Only problem the Charity shop was closed. However that started the ball rolling and before I knew it the DIY had started again, building a wardrobe in the loft for the least used but not to be disposed of. Following that, the loft was cleared and the bins filled and more stuff for the charity shop!

Next came MY time of clearing the workshop. A worthwhile task as coincidentally I acquired a load of second hand timber which allowed me to finish off the underside of the decking. Working in the garden of course meant I had to do some gardening, not my favourite pastime, but needs must. Shrubs cut back, lots of debris, dump is closed! Major flower bed challenge achieved in clearing weeds.



Sit back and relax, watch a bit of TV, only to see an advert from a company offering to insulate the roofs of Conservatories. This looked interesting, we can only use our conservatory in the summer so could be worthwhile. Checked it out, saw how it was done, and considered the DIY route. Yes it was a starter. 2 weeks later thanks to the wonders of the internet materials were purchased, and duly installed. Now new French doors to the conservatory are on order.

***When will this lockdown end and let us get back to normal???***

**Do you have any interesting tale to tell of lockdown experiences? Pass them on to Fiona.**

## WORSHIP

**Rev Scott Burton**, is streaming online worship at [www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org](http://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/>



Eco-Congregation Scotland has launched a new accessible resource for churches. "Let's talk about the climate emergency" will help local congregations talk about climate change, care for creation and how we as Christians can engage with and support the CoP26 climate talks next year.

Although the launch is passed there is lots of information to be found by following the link below.

<https://mailchi.mp/2c6bdb8d5db9/lets-talk>

Fiona has taken on the link role with Eco Congregation Scotland and will be passing on ECO information in the future.

However, if anyone has a special interest in the church in eco matters, please let her know and she will be happy to pass on this role.

## World Mission Partner Plan

Extract from a newsletter from our Missionary Partner

**David Sinclair in the Czech Republic.**

"Here in Prague you would think, if it were not for the masks, that life was back to normal. The shops have been open for some weeks, people are back at work, and the churches are open as well. Prague recently celebrated 'Churches Night', postponed from last month, when hundreds of churches opened their doors for people to come in for concerts, exhibitions, talks, discussions, or simply to look. It is an event that happens every year and is always well attended, even this year; it is a chance, in a country where church attendance is low, for people to maintain an annual interest and an annual contact.

The masks, of course, stand out as the thing that still makes us realise that these are not normal times; they are still worn in shops and on public transport – but not (unless you want to) in the open air. They also make it possible to be in the shops, or to be in church. They provide, in their abnormality, the ability to be normal.

Worship, of course, with a mask on, is a slightly strange experience – singing is particularly strange and inevitably muffled, but we do sing. At least, those of us who are there sing. Attendance is still a long way down on what would be normal in the church we attend. This is true also of other places, somewhat to the frustration of ministers who would like to be preaching to greater numbers, and are worried that fear of our neighbours will cause an unhealing and permanent wound in the body of the church."

To Contribute please contact me on [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com)