



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 23

Fri 28th August

Dear all

Another interesting topic was "A New Song", part of the Week of Prayer last Saturday.

The reflection was based on Psalm 98:

"Sing a New Song to the Lord"

And the speaker drew our attention to the call to open ourselves up to the new things which God is doing. God is constant and unchanging- but is still in the business of doing new things!

In the Book of Isaiah God says "I will do something new"

And we, in turn, need to be aware of the new things which God is doing.

One of the questions Marjorie asked in her Wednesday Meditation was "Which is your favourite hymn?" and we came up with several answers - some old favourites and some much newer.

But what we are all asked at the end of the Week of Prayer Reflection is:

So, might God's people begin to sing a new song to the Lord - and in the singing, might we become aware of what God is doing and is going to do among us - even making a way in the wilderness before us and causing rivers to flow in the desert?

Today, we are asked: "what new song will you sing?"

Fiona Bruce, FMBruce6@googlemail.com

Session Clerk



PRAYER

"Sing to the Lord a New Song"

Based on Psalm 98

Lord, in this time when we are unable to sing your praise together,
how we miss our songs,
and long to make a joyful noise to you!

We want to sing to you again,
to tune up the instruments and offer praise along with their sound,
to join with all creation in extolling your Name,
to roar with the sea,
clap with the floods
and sing for joy with the hills.

But, Lord, if we are really honest,
we would quite like to get back to singing the old songs again,
the familiar ones,
the ones we have missed so much.
We're not just so sure about singing a new song to you!

Lord, while we are longing to 'get back',
could you be calling us to move forward?
While we are straining to return to what was,
are you leading us to what is going to be?
While we are missing all that was familiar,
might you be pointing us towards unknown paths?
While we are remembering the much loved old songs,
may it be that you are going to teach us a new song?

Lord, after this strange time,
when we have lost the clarity of the familiar air,
stumbled to the irregular rhythm
found the harmonies discordant
and the melody tuneless,
may we see and accept that you are calling us to a new thing,
a new future,
a new vision,
to sing a new song to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Rev David Denniston

COFFEE AND CHAT on Zoom

On Mondays at 11am – 11.45am

Meeting ID: 842 0612 8829

MEDITATIONS on Zoom

On Wednesdays at 9am

Meeting ID 818 9707 6657

Guild Annual Gathering

The Church of Scotland Guild hold their Annual Gathering on the first Saturday of September, usually in the Caird Hall, Dundee.

Due to not being able to “gather” this year, a Virtual Gathering has been arranged for Saturday the 5th of September. This can be

accessed through the Guild section of the Church of Scotland website or the Guild Facebook page on your own computer, laptop or Ipad in your own home. The link will be live from 11am on the 5th and will last for 80 minutes.

There will be news from the National Convener of the Guild, a talk by the Moderator, and our Guest Speaker Dave Kendall, the CEO of the Church. There will be music, hymn singing from previous Gatherings, and a Communion Service will be part of this which you can join in from home with your own “bread and wine” . A DVD of the Gathering is also available, and we hope to be able to play this in St Matthew’s when it is safe for us to meet again.

It seems unlikely that we will be meeting together as a Guild in our own church in the near future. However, I am sure you will all be talking on the phone to your Guild friends and maybe having a coffee in a local cafe occasionally. We are planning a syllabus programme for 2021 and will keep you posted of when we can meet up.

Lorna Morrison



Our new Job Share Locums:

What's a locum? (1)

Rev. Barbara Quigley

We're used to hearing about locum doctors at our GP surgery. Someone who fills in whilst there's a job that needs doing. It's pretty much the same when a church has a locum appointed. Except for this stint I'm now sharing the job with Anne.



So are we locums or locae? [My Latin never was that good]

The job is to 'hold the fort', 'steady the ship', 'keep the show on the road'. Or whatever cliché you would like to add. Unless it's a long vacancy running into many years, a locum sees that the basic pastoral work gets done, sacraments are administered and Sunday worship happens. They rarely to get involved in starting new stuff that cannot be sustained by the congregation once the locum has flitted.

For me the joy of being a locum [and I've done that for all of the time I was teaching in Dundee] is having the visible stuff without the responsibility for decision making, meetings and moderating Kirk Sessions. They great strength of St Matthew's is the dedication of it's people in looking out for one another. Many have stepped up to make sure folk are in touch and not forgotten about because we cannot yet meet in person to worship. And it's not only the elders who are grasping the challenge of what it means to 'be church' in these exceptional times. Remember the old children's hymn “The church is not a building -the church is it's people.”

God be with you till we meet again.

Blessings
Barbara



Walking Group

We will meet for a walk on Saturday 5th September.

Details are being finalised this weekend. If you want to go, please get in touch with Jean Young at [jy2@btinternet.com](mailto: jy2@btinternet.com) or phone her on 07801 889820. She will then tell you where and when to meet on Saturday 5th September. The walk will be about 5 miles. Bring a drink and a mid morning snack.

What's a locum? (2)

Rev Anne Brennan

Dear all,

I have been asked to write a little bit for the newsletter to introduce myself, though I confess, I'm not very good at this sort of thing. I am coming aboard as a job-share locum with Barbara, but at the moment exactly how things will work, and what worship and pastoral care will actually involve in the coming months is a little bit hard to predict. I am looking forward to gradually getting to know you, either in person or by Zoom, or whatever form that might take.



I have never been a locum before, well, not as a minister, though I spent many years working as a locum pharmacist when my daughters were young. I retired almost a year ago from full time ministry in Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers, and my husband, Brian and I moved to Findo Gask. I have three daughters (and their husbands) and four grandchildren, who I love spending time with. I enjoy all sorts of crafts, gardening and photography. Over the last few years, my husband and I have spent some of our holidays walking and cycling various Camino and cycle paths, though I was really glad to discover companies who would transport your luggage from one place to another, leaving us to follow behind with only what we needed for that day. The walking is a bit slow for my husband who is a keen hill runner, though!

At the time of writing this, we are still waiting for the go ahead from Presbytery to restart worship in the church building. This will be a challenge for everyone, including Barbara and me, as the format will need to be a bit different from the usual, and it will be a bit of a journey, as will all church life, actually, as the life of faith always is. One of my favourite bible passages is from Hebrews 11, where the writer talks about what might be called the heroes of faith, and says of Abraham

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking

forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

As things gradually start up, and as I start getting to know you and work with you, we are all embarking on a new stage of the journey together, not sure of the road, or even the landscape that we are to travel through, but like Abraham, stepping out in faith and in the confidence that God is with us every step of the way.

Buen Camino!* (*Good journeying, the pilgrims greeting)

Anne

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.

Gardening for your Senses.

It's important to remember when creating a sensory garden the aim is to stimulate all your senses not just focus on the



obvious senses such as sight and smell. You might just want to create a small sensory area in your existing garden.

Think carefully about what might stimulate each of your senses so it's not all about strong smelling plants as you may also want to have a small water feature or several different kinds of surfaces to walk on such as grass, gravel paths, slabbed areas or bark.

Thinking about sound, long grasses, water, wind chimes and gravel paths are all great for stimulating your hearing.

Smell is really important so you could use plants such as night scented stock, lavender, roses, lilies and honeysuckle but herbs like thyme, curry plant, mint

and sage are also favourites, plus the bees love them too! Position them near a seat or a door where you pass them regularly. Planted pots are great for this and can be moved around easily.

Don't think that plants are too delicate to touch. You can create little features that you can feel using pebbles, fleshy leaves or seedheads or use plants that have lots of texture such as lamb's ears (Stachys byzantina) which is almost velvet like.

When it comes to taste then many of the herbs are delicious but so also are nasturtiums which have a peppery taste or a raised bed full of home grown veg!

The visuals are all down to personal preference in terms of what plants and colours you like to look at but there's a huge amount to choose from throughout all the seasons. Just now I'm enjoying Dahlias, Japanese Anemones, Hydrangeas, Rudbeckia and Echinacea. I love those daisy-like flowers.



**A WAVE and a PRAYER to:
Wolfgang and Angela**



**Happy 70th Birthday Congratulations to
John Dewar on 1st September**

ONLINE COURSES AT TRINITY COLLEGE, GLASGOW

There are three online courses to be run between September and December by Trinity College Glasgow which may be of interest to Members

They are:

Reimagining Christian Practice in an age of Uncertainty

Designing and Leading Christian Worship

Managing difficult Church Change

Further details at

www.trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk



WEBSITE!

I am delighted to report that, courtesy of our web- designer, Andrew Mitchell, we now have a new St Matthew's website up-and-running.

See www.perthstmatthews.org.uk

Various people have contributed so far but there is still opportunity to write an article on your Group or Organisation for inclusion!

This website will be also be a showcase for our Vacancy so it's important that we include as many of the aspects of St Matthew's as possible. Together with this there will be a series of new church email addresses published next week.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

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/>

Glasgow Cathedral

BBC Scotland Sunday at 12 noon with the Cathedral Minister the Rev Mark Johnstone

To Contribute please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com