



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 26

Fri 25th September

Dear all

In common with Marjorie Clark, who gave us some "Thoughts on Harvest" in her Meditations this week, I love this time of year!

As she said "There's the sharpness of the mornings, (though I personally am not quite so appreciative of this being without heating at the moment!) and the cry of the geese overhead as they migrate. Right now, the cropped fields are dotted with their bales of hay, the potatoes are waiting to be lifted, and there are laden tractors travelling from field to farmyard."

She spoke about how "a walk in the country or on the golf course is enlivened by the sight of the rowan trees heavy with berries, and brambles in great profusion, and of course the beautiful autumn colours of the trees" and spoke about how the cycle of the seasons invokes a sense of wonder and awe, as we contemplate the mystery of life and creation.

Finally she posed the question "As Christians, what harvest do our lives show?" Paul in his letter to the Galatians uses an analogy from the farming world when he talks about

Marjorie concludes that "The Holy Spirit, if we let him (her or it?), can invade our lives and transform them. The **fruits of the Spirit** describe what a Christian's character grows into over time. There is nothing here about being able to do miraculous deeds, or being able to speak in tongues – it is not about doing, but **being** – it could be described as holiness taking root within us. It is something we **are**, not just what we do or think. And it doesn't happen overnight. Just as the crops don't spring up overnight, the fruits of the spirit need time and care and cultivation – and I reckon God must have an infinite amount of patience with us all!

So, at this time of Harvest, it's good to give thanks for all the good gifts which we have received from the bountiful hand of the Creator; let's remember the responsibility we have for our world and the people in it; and let's also allow God's Spirit to grow in us, just like the seeds in the ground, so that the harvest of the Spirit will be evident in our lives, our actions and our church."

GOD OF THE SEASONS- A PRAYER FOR HARVEST-TIME

God of the seasons, as earth turns over into autumn,
And the days empty more quickly of light,
We turn to you.

Amongst the red and orange and gold,
And the revealed praying boughs of the trees that
seem to reach to heaven itself,
Remind us of the colour and architecture of our
natural faith.

Remind us to let our roots run deep into your hope,
And be nourished by your loving presence.

Remind us to raise hearts and minds and eyes
Upwards and outwards like branches to embrace
The far horizons of your grace.

Remind us that the dark is not too dark for you,
And that even there you will meet us
To bless and protect us, and give us light,
And warm our very souls.

When our world seems bleak and fractious
When argument and fear grip our minds and hearts,
And our daily news is a litany of woe,
May our Lord of hopefulness sing the words
And breathe the silence that steadies our lives.



Give peace, O Lord, in our time,
Give hope, O Lord, in our time,
Give justice, O Lord, in our time,
Give grace, O Lord, in our time,
Give generosity, O Lord, in our time,
Give love, O Lord, in our time.

So hear our prayers for better days
And opportunity to share our faith
In ways that brings good news to empty lives,
And fearful hearts and broken spirits.
That the soul of our world, our nation and our church
Might be revived and strengthened
To do God's work, and live God's promise,
And make the difference for good
That transforms lives and shapes the future.
Amen

COFFEE AND CHAT on Zoom

On Mondays at 11am – 11.45am
Meeting ID: 583 638 8728

MEDITATIONS on Zoom

On Wednesdays at 9am
Meeting ID: 583 638 8728

ZOOM

For those who regularly join in the "Coffee and Chat" and the "Meditation" sessions you will note that the Meeting ID is the same for both sessions and will continue to be the same until further notice.

For those of you who are uncertain about using Zoom I am happy to talk you through making the connection.

Tom Morrison: Stewardship@perthstmatthews.org.uk

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.

Colourful Autumn Pots & Baskets

Please don't think that now that the days are getting shorter and it's getting a bit cooler that there can't be fantastic colourful displays in the garden. There are plenty of plants that will provide Autumn and early Winter colour on the patio or at the front door.



If you've had hanging baskets or pots in your garden throughout the summer then it's best to start again from scratch for an autumn display, unless you have permanent plants in the pots. This means new compost and new plants. A good multi-purpose compost (ideally peat-free) is best for hanging baskets as it's light and easy to handle and it's less likely to dry out. You can use the same for pots or if it's a longer term planting then use a soil based John Innes compost.

The main difference between creating a Summer container and creating an Autumn and Winter one is that the basket or pot needs to be planted much more densely as growth is much slower from now on. Cram the plants in so that no compost is showing as this will be the final display. They don't require special feeding because the days are shorter and growth is much slower and although they need some watering, you don't have to do this every day like you would with your summer containers. They are best sited in a slightly sheltered spot as the weather deteriorates.

Choose a good mixture of plants and foliage for your container to provide plenty of colour and interest. Plants such as Cyclamen, Heathers, Dwarf Chrysanthemums, Violas, Pansies, Bellis and Primulas are ideal. There are also lots of different varieties of foliage available, such as Euonymus, Ajuga, trailing Ivy, dwarf grasses, variegated Thyme and Creeping Jenny. The foliage is all frost hardy but the flowers usually only last until about Christmas. The Primulas and Pansies usually perk up again about February if the weather holds up. The you can start all over again in the Spring!

Re-opening of St Matthew's Church

Psalm 122: "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Each week there will be 35 spaces available for online booking on "Eventbrite". This is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stmatthews-church-tay-street-perth-church-service-tickets-119178926377>

If you are not on the internet, or the internet spaces are full, you can also make a telephone booking. Full details of who to phone will be given in the Friday Newsletters. From now until 30th September please contact Janet Martin on 01738 625074 or 07747 423557. From 5th October the contact is our Facilities and Outreach Manager, Bev Skene on 01738 259961

NOTE It is essential that you book to ensure there is a place for you and your name is properly on the Track and Trace list.



Sending a wave and 'Hola' to Helen & Tom Brown who live in Alicante Spain and hoping Tom regains good health very soon.



Church Keys



New locks have been fitted. Please return to Tom or Fiona any keys you have for the old locks as the locks with their keys are to be sold.

New keys are being distributed to those who need access regularly out with office hours.

Mark Crichton, Property Convenor

JOB VACANCIES

1] POPPY SCOTLAND REQUEST

Hello My name is Ian Jackson and I am the volunteer development officer for Poppy Scotland (Scottish Charity No. SC014096)

I am contacting St Matthew's Church today hoping that the church or members of the congregation would like to help to deliver a Poppy Appeal in Perth this year.



The Poppy Appeal is the charity collection for the armed forces in the run up to Remembrance Sunday. This is organised at a local level exclusively by volunteer Area Organisers. Unfortunately, Perth currently has no volunteer Area Organisers to run a Poppy Appeal so I'm looking for help to ensure that there is a Poppy Appeal in Perth this year.

In its most simplistic form we need someone to organise the following activities:

- Think about the local area and where tins should be placed for max coverage (we can help with this as we have some previous information on locations used but this can be adjusted to your requirements how much or little you as a club can take on)
- Placing an order for supplies i.e. collection tins poppies etc (again I will help you and advise you through this process)
- Putting out Poppy Appeal collection tins and poppies in local shops etc
- Replenish and empty locations during the poppy appeal week as required
- Depending on numbers and willingness collections based at a high traffic area such as a supermarket
- Collecting the tins & poppies at the end of the appeal
- Taking collected monies to RBS to be banked

Perth is a traditionally strong area of support for the Poppy Appeal and it would be a real shame if it did not happen this year, so if anyone in St Matthews church is able to help that would be great.

If you would like some additional information please feel free to call on 07458003529 or email me on i.jackson@poppyscotland.org.uk

2] BLYTHSWOOD BOXES

Another plea for help- Unfortunately Janette Millar is unable to organise our Christmas boxes this year so we're looking for someone else to distribute the leaflets, co-ordinate with the Baptist Church and deliver our boxes there, all in October.

If you want to know more about what is involved please contact Janette on janettemillar19@gmail.com

If you can do this please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com.



Biblical Anagrams.

Here are the answers to the anagrams quiz for those of you that are still scratching your heads! Janet Martin



No looms	Solomon
Evil is cut	Leviticus
Wander	Andrew
As mule	Samuel
Hog tail	Goliath
As martian	Samaritan
Last again	Galatians
A shoe	Hosea
Ransom	Romans
I'll head	Delilah
Neonatal mist	Lamentations
A jeer him	Jeremiah
Negate mesh	Gethsemane
Chariots inn	Corinthians
Amen he hi	Nehemiah
Beach razzed nun	Nebuchadnezzar

This contribution was sent in by Harry Wilby, one of our readers.

Dr. J. B. Ely tells how an ophthalmologist just out of college, opened an office in a large American city where he was a stranger. Patrons were slow in coming to him. He became a bit discouraged, until one day he met a blind man on the street. Looking at him closely, he asked: "Why don't you have your eyesight restored?" He heard from the man how he had tried many physicians and having spent all his money without avail. "Come to my office in the morning," suggested the doctor. The blind man went. When an operation was performed, and proved successful, the patient remarked regretfully, "I haven't the money to pay you." "Oh, yes" said the doctor, "you can pay me in a different way and I shall expect you to do so. There is just one thing I want you to do, and it is very easy. Tell everybody you meet that you were blind, then tell them who it was that made you see."



As Christians, it is the same for us. It is our mission and business in the world today - to tell all people what great things the Lord has done for us. This is our commission. The good news of personal salvation through Jesus is to be made known everywhere, and the telling of it is laid as a charge upon every one of His disciples. Would you have a new experience, be renewed in spiritual vigour and enjoy real adventure in spiritual things?

Let us remember the Master's words, "Go . . . to thy friends, and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for thee."

Please download at the following link:

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Monday 12th October St.Matthew's Church is organising a Virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning.

For many years "Macmillan" has benefitted from the work done by Betty Lindores in organising a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Royal George Hotel for friends and St.Matthew's members. This year it cannot be organised in the same way and, as part of Church Stewardship, St.Matthew's is stepping in to organise a Virtual Coffee Morning.

It will take place as a ZOOM meeting from 11am till 12 pm and access will be via the following Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5836388728> Meeting ID: 583 638 8728

The purpose of the Coffee Morning is basically to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Appeal but it is also a time when friends will be able to get together have a chat and have a little entertainment.

There will be music, poetry, and startling images of Perth as well as the opportunity to chat.

There is a quiz which I will email out separately. There is a **prize** of Morning Coffee for 2 at **George Street Tea Room**. However, the answers to the quiz and the winner will be given at the **Coffee Morning**. Your answers should be sent to Tom Morrison, St.Matthew's Church, Tay Street, PH15LQ or placed in the church letterbox by midday on Sunday 11th October.

Donations can be made directly to Macmillan using the following link: <https://thyg.uk/BUU004727437> or sent to the Treasurer by making a BACS (bank transfer) payment clearly marked "Macmillan"

The bank details are as follows: Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland Account Name: St. Matthew's Church Sort Code: 83-47-00 Account Number: 00760133	or please send a cheque to : The Treasurer St Matthew's Church 34 Craigie Road Perth PH2 0BH
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A Harvest Prayer from Andrew Davies

LET US Pray

FATHER God, we are surrounded by the riches of
The colours of Nature and The Fruits of The harvest.
Help us to see These Things as a reminder of your
unfailing love. Even as we pray, we remember how
often we take you for granted and sometimes even
act as if you did not exist. Forgive us for
Thoughtlessness and selfishness,
and help us to make this season a time when
we resolve to give you the very best that
we can offer.
Amen.

To Contribute please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com