



# St. Matthew's Church Perth

## e- Newsletter No. 24

### Fri 4th September

Dear all

#### On a Tandem with God

This was the title of Janet Martin's Meditations on Wednesday and it reminded me of my recent experience as "the stoker" on the back of the "E-tandem" we have just purchased. Usually Andrew is on the "back of the bike" but I thought I would try it out. I hated it! I hated having to pedal at the same time as my husband who was "the chief" on the front of the bike. I hated having to cycle at the speed which he dictated and stopping when he did!

He, in his turn, much preferred a compliant Andrew as his "tandem partner!"



As Janet asked:

"If we look at the journey of life, I wonder how many of you would be happy to sit on the back seat of a tandem – having someone else leading you and making decisions along the way?

Would any of us be any happier if God was up front doing the driving?

How would we feel if He took us on a route we hadn't planned to go down? "

What if the road went uphill and required a lot of pedalling and effort from the back as well as the front to reach the summit?

Travelling along a road that might have many twists and turns and even an emergency stop or two, a road that we might only be able to catch a glimpse of over His shoulder.

Would we be willing to get on that bike with Him?"

As Janet concluded- the secret is to have **faith** in your front seat driver and similarly to **trust** in God and His ability to decide what is best for you throughout your life.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

#### A Prayer for Creation Time

"Tread lightly!"  
says God.  
(Who, having made the world,  
still dreams  
and sings  
of lovely justice,  
glimpsed and yet to come  
for all good creatures:  
- life we share.)

"Love me, my love:  
express in your embrace  
of flesh and blood,  
of sky and soil,  
the care, esteem, and courage  
that lovers need to see the dark days through  
Come to me as a swim in the autumn sea:  
for I will carry, uphold, and refresh you,  
even when you're out of your depth.

Though, without respect and awe  
for God, the Earth, Yourself, together,  
you will have chosen danger;  
you will have built on sand;  
you will have trampled fledgling life;  
and burned, polluting, sacrifice  
which was not yours to offer  
on the altar of the Earth.

But there is beauty yet:  
And Christ's forgiveness, sharing:  
hope that needs not wait to hope,  
and steps to take right now, before day's end.  
Yes, there are songs to sing on journeys  
travelling lightly,  
for we tread on dreams of God.  
So be it.  
Amen.

(From CofS World Mission and Acknowledging  
'The cloths of heaven' by W.B Yeats).

## **COFFEE AND CHAT on Zoom**

On Mondays at 11am – 11.45am

Meeting ID: 848 5358 1017

# CHURCH RE-OPENING

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

I am delighted to let you know that Presbytery approved our Application (at the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt!) to re-open our Sanctuary.

Our first service, led jointly by our Locums Rev Barbara Quigley and Rev Anne Brennan, will be held this Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September and, as there are only 50 spaces available in terms of Scottish Government regulations, I have e-mailed or phoned all those who contacted me initially to say they were interested in attending church when it returned..

For subsequent Sundays from this Monday 7 September there will be 35 spaces available for online booking 2-weekly on “Eventbrite”. This is the link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stmatthews-church-tay-street-perth-church-service-tickets-119178926377>

This is a free booking service which will be very helpful in terms of us then having “Track & Trace” details. By booking in such a way you have given your consent to us holding these details for 21 days as required by Government.

If you are not on the internet or the internet spaces are full you can make a booking also by phoning Carolyn Byers on 01738 553835 or 0775 9218623

Please note that, if you are part of a duty team and have advised your duty team leader that you will be on duty on a particular day, you do not need to make an online booking but the team leader should include you for “T&T” purposes.

Appropriate physical distancing and sanitising facilities will of course be in place. We are all required to wear face coverings and unfortunately singing will not be part of the service- though I am pleased to say that music will be provided by our Organist, Michael Ellacott.

In order to keep everyone safe things will have to be different but we hope still to provide a welcoming

## **MEDITATIONS on Zoom**

On Wednesdays at 9am

Meeting ID 894 3256 5717

space for worship at St Matthew’s and I look forward to seeing you there.

IMPORTANT

Should you find that there are NO bookings available please ensure that Carolyn Byers is aware as we will be monitoring numbers closely to know when we should have an additional service available.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

## **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

### **WORLD MISSION**



**Newsletter. Copy this link to open:**

<http://us20.forward-to->

[friend.com/forward?u=29d4cd56ce6871362e9339137&id=2f4bfe8cf5&e=e2d62b0609](http://us20.forward-to-friend.com/forward?u=29d4cd56ce6871362e9339137&id=2f4bfe8cf5&e=e2d62b0609)

### **Guild News**

A reminder to Guild members that the “virtual” Annual Gathering is on Saturday 5th September from 11 am,

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 Guild news, a talk from the Moderator, hymn singing from previous Gatherings, and a Communion Service which you can join in from home with your own “bread and wine” . I hope many of the Guild members and any others who are interested will be able to link in and enjoy sharing this special time.  
Lorna Morrison



## 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.*



### Creating a Raised Bed

Raised beds are a great way of growing a wide range of plants and are particularly popular for growing fruit and vegetables. They are also really useful for anyone who has poor soil or drainage issues or a very bad perennial weed problem like Horsetail (yes, I have a big problem with this in my garden). Children in particular love raised beds as they can be built at just at the right height for them.

The key thing to remember if you're making your own raised bed is to use treated timber so it won't rot. You can make them any shape or height you like but they tend to be easier to work with if they are square or rectangular and not too high. You should line the bed with a good quality landscape fabric if you have a perennial weed problem as this will create a barrier between the soil and the actual wooden frame but allows drainage. I have also seen the wooden frame put straight on to grass with no lining and this works well where you have good soil. The preferred working height is around 45cm and think carefully about the width as you want to be able to reach across the bed to plant.

It's important to fill the bottom few centimetres of the raised bed with crocks and stones which will help the drainage. Depending on the size of your raised bed, it can be quite expensive to fill it with compost so you might choose to add topsoil which is cheaper in bulk, then mix a good compost in to the top layer. Each year you can add as much manure or organic material as you like to keep the bed productive.

If you want to get started straight away try a few herb plants such as thyme, sage and rosemary that can go straight into the raised bed and you'll be able to harvest them within weeks.



St. Matthew's Church



It is no accident that our new website and our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are coming together but it is coincidental that we are in a vacancy at the same time.

Our new website ( [www.perthstmatthews.org.uk](http://www.perthstmatthews.org.uk) ) which we advised you of last week is developing day by day and will be a major part in how the life of our church progresses during our anniversary year and will also convey important information to prospective ministers on the "health" of St. Matthew's.

History is an important part of such a celebration and on the website you can find detail of the laying of the foundation stone, and what has been sealed in a casket, as well as information on the church through to 1950. Marjorie Clark, with Andrew Tait and David Sawyer, are compiling an updated history and would appreciate any information or anecdotes to share and record for the future.

Tom Morrison

### Walking Group

Next Saturdays walk will be from Dunning. A lollipop walk of about 5 miles. Flat. A bit of



road walking, tracks and a bit through a field. Down the Dunning burn to the Earn. One quite muddy bit under the railway. Lunch / Snack at the Tee Room in Dunning. Meet in Rollo Park in Dunning at 9.30. If you plan to go, please get in touch with Jean Young at [jy2@btinternet.com](mailto:jy2@btinternet.com) or phone her on 07801 889820. To get numbers for the Tee Room.

## The Unexpected

*This is a column when different members of the congregation will tell us something unexpected about themselves.*

*This week Jenny Fraser, tells us of her father's war time experience:*



After reading Ronnie's Soriede's story about his father's involvement with the 'Shetland Bus' during WW2, I thought you might be interested in hearing about my Dad's war time experiences.

We lived in Glasgow and prior to the war my Dad (John Lamond) was in the Army Reserve. He was called up as soon as the war started and enlisted in the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division and sent off to France. He fought as part of the British Expeditionary Forces at St Valery and was subsequently overcome by the German army. Some of the troops escaped by climbing down the cliffs, but he was one of 10,000 who were captured by the Germans on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1940 - something he certainly wasn't expecting to happen. All the British troops were then marched all the way to Poland. A long arduous trek with some dying on the way. They were fed very meagre rations, which were hardly enough to sustain a sedentary person, never mind someone marching miles each day. French women left bread and water on the roadside for the prisoners, but the German guards would not let them eat it and prisoners were kicked or shot if they attempted to. After 2 weeks they eventually arrived at the POW Camp Stalag XXA Torun in Poland, where he was to stay for the remainder of the war.

I was only 12 at this time and my mother was worried sick, as all she had was a letter from the Red Cross stating he was missing, presumed captured at that time. Dad, however, had managed to scribble a letter and dropped it on the road during the long march. As he hoped, someone did find it and posted it back to my mother who miraculously received it about 1 year later! By this time we had officially heard he was a POW in Torun.

The camp was an old fort surrounded by water. They had basic provisions and occasional Red Cross parcels. They worked hard and kept themselves amused by putting on band performances, theatre shows, playing football etc. One chap even did tattoos, so my Dad decided to get one of Winston Churchill on his arm, just to annoy the camp guards! However, for Dad, his main occupation was being part of the 'Escape Committee'. He helped to plan various escapes from

the camp, but because he was on the committee, his turn was invariably last.

Liberation came on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1945 when the Russians appeared. However, Dad and some others decided a few days before that they weren't so keen on being tangled up with the Russians. So as the Germans were all packing up themselves as the Russians advanced, they managed to slip out of the open gates in amongst the mayhem of the departing Germans. He and a friend along with a couple of Australian soldiers, travelled on foot, hiding in woods, barns and fields and after a number of weeks, got as far as Odessa. There they met up with resistance fighters who supported them and contacted the British. After another long, arduous, overland journey, they eventually got to Naples, where they were able to get on a British troop ship and got home to UK.

I remember going up to Central Station in Glasgow with my Aunt to meet him off the train. I was scared that I wouldn't recognise him, but there in amongst the crowds I saw him getting off the train and was so excited to have him home again, as was my mother and the rest of the family.

Not for long though, as he returned to Germany after the war to work with the Control Commission where he helped with sorting out all the displaced persons.



On discharge from the army, one of his jobs was being employed as a chauffeur. Although Dad never talked much about his time in the war, he would meet up occasionally with an old army pal Roger McGuire and they would share stories. Remembering some of the friends they'd lost and of course the atrocities they had witnessed, particularly to the Polish people; which affected Dad a lot. I suppose the talking with Roger was a kind of therapy for them both after what they'd been through.

Sadly, my Dad got cancer in his vocal cords and died in 1976 in his late 60s.

I often wonder how he and others coped with all the trauma they experienced and then had to return and slot into an 'ordinary' life, which must have been very difficult for him and so many other servicemen and women. My daughter who lives in USA, sent me this lovely poem which brings me comfort when I think of him and others who are no longer with me. I hope it will be helpful for others who are missing someone in their lives.

**Jenny Fraser.**

## Native American Prayer

I give you this one thought to keep –  
I am with you still – I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awake in the morning's hush  
I am the swift, uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not think of me as gone –  
I am with you still – in each new dawn.



A Wave and a Prayer to Chrissie Cramond recently returned from hospital

## Janet's Jottings

### What's in a name?

During my annual holiday to Islay this year I very much enjoyed seeing all the wildflowers on my walks across the machair. On one particular walk over boggy ground, I came across one that I hadn't seen for a few years. I have always known it as the Bog Star. However, when I got back to the campsite and was sitting chatting to my neighbouring campers, they identified it as the 'Grass of Parnassus'. I was intrigued, as it certainly looks nothing like grass and is a long way from Parnassus!



Out came the Encyclopedia Britannica (aka 'Google' these days!) to explore the origins of the name. Its Latin name is *Parnassia Palustris* and apparently it dates back almost 2 Millenia where it was found on Mount Parnassus. As the Greek cattle seemed to develop as much of a taste for it as the grass, it became known as an 'honorary' grass. It has rather a sweet smell, which some think is not unlike honey, so possibly that's why they were attracted to it. Or maybe they just munched it up with the grass as they went along – who knows?

Despite being named after a Greek hilltop, it can be found all over Europe in marshy ground and wetlands. I went on to read that it is the symbol of Clan MacLea and is also the County flower of Cumbria and Sutherland, so obviously is a well-liked plant. I shall see this pretty wee flower in a new light now and be delighted to call it by its more exotic title 'Grass of Parnassus'!

## Culture Perth & Kinross Covid-19 Collecting Project

The coronavirus pandemic is having an enormous impact on every aspect of our lives. Culture Perth & Kinross is the charitable trust that looks after the region's Museums, Archives and Libraries. We are creating a Covid-19 Collection which reflects how people, business and communities across Perth & Kinross are affected by the pandemic. The collection will become a resource for current and future generations to understand the impact of Coronavirus and learn from our experiences.

Do you have anything you could offer to the collection? The list below is not extensive, but it should give you a good idea about what sort of items we are looking for:

- Diaries and correspondence
- Photographs, film and sound recordings
- Creative and artistic responses
- Leaflets and posters
- Temporary signs and notices
- Equipment and other objects

We are interested in both physical documents or objects, and digital information and photographs.

If you have any items or digital files you wish to offer, or any questions, please email [Covid19Collecting@culturepk.org.uk](mailto:Covid19Collecting@culturepk.org.uk) with details. A member of the Collections Team will respond to your email. We appreciate all offers but we are not able to accept all items.

We have also created a short survey to find out how the pandemic is affecting our everyday lives. If you wish to participate you can access it at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CPK-COVID-19](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CPK-COVID-19).

Mark Simmons  
Collections Assistant

To Contribute please contact me on  
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