



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 30

Fri 20th November

Dear all

This week's Meditation by Jean Young was about Hope. She and Viv filled the Advent bags with candles which each symbolised something different and the first of these is "Hope"- *the hope of the Prophets that the Kingdom will come.*

She asked the question "What do people hope for?" and described the hope of the Chilean potholders that they would be rescued and the hope of the rescuers that they would find people alive!

More specifically – What do we hope for now? Do we hope for a return to "normal", hope that we will be able to spend Christmas with our families, hope that we have a future?

In **Psalm 33** v 20 we hear that:

**We wait in hope for the Lord;
He is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
For we trust in his holy name.
May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
Even as we put our hope in you.
Amen**

"HOPE" IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

"Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –

And sweetest – in the Gale – is
heard –

And sore must be the storm –
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –

I've heard it in the chilliest land
And on the strangest Sea –
Yet – never – in Extremity,
It asked a crumb – of me.



Emily Dickinson

Vacancy process moves forward!

ST MATTHEW'S NEEDS YOUR HELP!

At the recent Kirk Session it was agreed that we take the first steps in the Vacancy process. This involves sending out 2 mailings to all Members of St Matthew's.

Over the course of "lockdown" we have accumulated many e-mail addresses which we can use. However, there will still be many letters which have to be posted.

In order to save postage costs it would be good if

- Those people who hand-deliver Newsletters could let me know to whom they deliver so that we could "add in" the vacancy letter (hopefully in 2 weeks time)
- People would volunteer to hand-deliver letters to people they know or in streets surrounding them. Please let me have a list of the people/streets you could deliver to.
- Both by Wednesday 25 November
- Arrangements will be made to deliver letters to you for onward distribution.

Thanks
Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk
FMBruce6@googlemail.com

Congratulations to Rev Craig Dobney on his Ordination and Induction as Minister of Comrie linked with Dundurn on 18th November.

Craig, a former member of St. Matthew's, pictured here with the Moderator of Presbytery, Rev Ken Stott



Sunday Services.

To reserve your place please use the following link to Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-worship-tickets-127686837769> OR if you do not use the internet Phone Beverly, our Facilities and Outreach Manager, on 01738 259961

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The service on **Sunday 6th December** will be "Blue Christmas".

Communion will take place on **Sunday 13th December.**



A prayer from Andrew

Let us pray
Dear Lord Jesus

In this time of Final Lockdown
we hope finally we seek your presence
now. There is lower cases now and is
some depressing ones too. Keep our
Friends and Community safe and healthy.
Lord Jesus please support us now as we
seek your help pray for them and
guide our churches and organisations.
In Jesus name
Amen.

Christmas Project....

Hello Everyone,
Viv here. I hope you are all well. It is that time of year again... "Christmas".
Over Advent keep an eye out on the railings and the garden.
Let us try to spread a little Hope, Peace, Love and Joy over the season at these unknown times.

Please Please Please if you have any fabric scraps and ribbons can you please get them my way.
Email me... viviennej84@hotmail.com.

Thank YOU in advance.
Stay safe and stay well.
Social distance hugs x viv x

Advent Bags prepared by Jean and Viv for the uniformed organisations



The Remembrance Stones painted by our uniformed organisations placed in our remembrance garden



NOTICES

Congratulations

Belated Birthday Wishes to **Joan Nicoll**

Congratulations to **Lesley Williamson** on her recent retirement.

RETIRAL COLLECTION

The collection held at the end of the Remembrance Service on 8th November raised £271.79 for Poppy Scotland.



Sending a Wave and a Prayer to:

Sheena Beange

Jean & David Sawyer

Isabel Morrison

Rev John Murdoch (Minister of St John's & St Leonard's) who is now recuperating at home

St Matthew's Walking Group

The December walk will be on Saturday 5th December and we will be doing the Silver Walk at Bridge of Earn. It is a short 4 mile walk and should take about 2 hours. We meet at the car park opposite the Institute at 9.45am. The walk takes us along wooded avenues through fertile farmland on tarmac and paths. It may be muddy in parts so boots are advised. Following the walk we can have coffee or lunch at the Earn coffee shop or at the Village Inn in Bridge of Earn.



Please email Lesley Williamson to let her know if you can make it. ljwbubbles@aol.com

We were sorry to learn of the death of **Duncan Naysmith** on 25th October. Many folks will remember Duncan who was our treasurer for a while when he and his wife **Jean** were members of St Matthew's.



They both willingly and cheerfully involved themselves so much in our fellowship and activities. We send our love and prayers to Jean, Katie and Ian at this sad time.

Thank you

I would like to thank all those in St Matthew's who have offered support on hearing of the recent death of my husband Tom. To **Marc Bircham** who thoughtfully took time to call by on hearing our news. To **Janet** who visits regularly and who gave me lifts to visit Tom at Louisebrae. We are especially grateful to **Marjorie Clark** for agreeing to officiate at Tom's funeral. Her pastoral care and compassion, along with a prayer shawl meant a lot. Knowing how much Tom enjoyed St Matthew's, it has been heartening for the family to receive your messages, cards and flowers during this sad time. We are grateful to all who have reached out to us with their kindness and prayers.

Molly Gorham

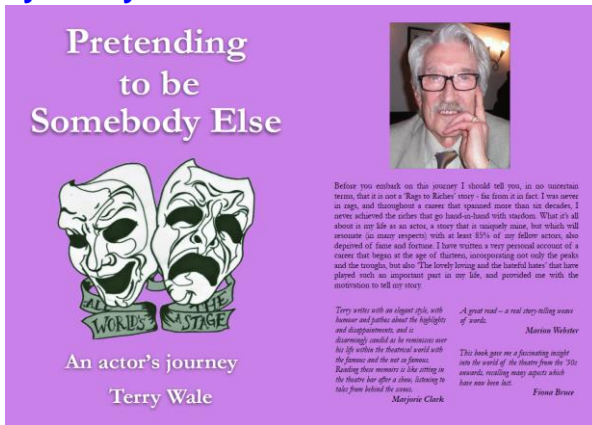
Thank you from Chrissie.

One of our long time members, **Chrissie Cramond**, who lives in Kincarrathie Care Home, was delighted to receive a prayer shawl from St Matthew's. She has asked that thanks be passed on to **Marjorie Clark** for delivering the shawl, also to those folks in the prayer shawl ministry who knit the shawls. Chrissie says that she uses her shawl to keep the draughts off her when sitting by the open window for some fresh air. She thinks of all her friends in St Matthew's each time she wraps it round her shoulders.



Book Review

An introduction to the memoirs of Terry Wale by Lesley Mackie



Terry Wale (my husband!) has been writing his memoirs for over 25 years and has finally completed them. A chance meeting with a lovely publisher back in December got us focused and we've spent the entire lock down period on this project. We felt it was now or never! While others have read half a dozen books during this time – I've read one book six times! And as he started as a child actor in 1951, it's a long story at 540 pages – and I don't enter his life until page 326! There were times when I thought I'd be carted off as I encountered daily battles over what could and could not be said about the people who had passed through his life! Libel suits were to be avoided at all costs! I hope I'll get my life back now – and get on with my own memoirs! Incidentally, I think it's a pretty good read!

Pretending to be Somebody Else is now available on Amazon in paperback and as an e-book for download. If anyone who lives locally (Perth area) would like a hard copy, I can get it at a reduced rate of £10 as long as postage is not involved. Email on esstel@blueyonder.co.uk or call on 01738-440891 and we can arrange for you to collect it.

Summary from the book cover

It is not a 'Rags to Riches' story; far from it in fact. I was never in rags, and throughout a career that spanned more than six decades, I never achieved the riches that go hand-in-hand with stardom. What it's all about is my life as an actor, a story that is uniquely mine, but which will resonate (in many respects) with at least 85% of my fellow actors, also deprived of fame and fortune. I have written a very personal

account of a career that began at the age of thirteen, and covers almost seventy years, incorporating not only the peaks and the troughs, but also 'The lovely loving and the hateful hates' that have played such an important part in my life, and provided me with the motivation to tell my story.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pretending-Somebody-Else-Actors-Journey/dp/B08L1N18XB/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Pretending+to+be+Somebody+Else&qid=1602861803&sr=8-1

IF GOD WENT ON STRIKE

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike
Because he was not treated fair in things he did not like
If only once he had given up and said
"That's it I'm through, I've had enough of those on earth
So this is what I'll do
I'll give my orders to the sun - "cut off the heat supply"
And to the moon "give no more light"
And run the oceans dry
Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on
Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone"
You know he would be justified, if fairness was the game
For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain than God.
And yet, he carries on, supplying you and me with all the favours of his Grace and everything for free.
Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go.
But what a deal we have given God to whom all things we owe.
We sometimes do not care who we hurt to gain the things we like.
But what a mess we would all be in if God should go on strike.

To Contribute please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com