



# St. Matthew's Church

## Perth

### e- Newsletter No. 37

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Dear All,

For this week's online meditation Janet Martin used the late David Ogston's 'Scots Worship for Lent and Holy week' book. David enjoyed expressing his thoughts in his native Doric language, therefore the following excerpt from 'The Disciples Journey' is written in Doric. It is based on Mark Ch 9 v 33 about the disciples walking with Jesus on the road to Capernaum. They are squabbling amongst themselves. Jesus uses a child to remind them that they not only need to love each other, but also to reach out to the 'unloved' in society, a message that is just as important to us two thousand years on. These words of David's (merged together) can be read as a poem, or as prayer, as Janet invited us to do.

Saviour and Lord  
You gyang afore us,  
You traivel in front o's.  
You map the grun we dinna ken,  
An there's naewye we gyang  
But You hinna been there.

Teach us tae see You  
Faar You tell't us  
You wid be.  
In the hungert,  
The thirsty,  
The ootlin,  
The nakit,  
The sick,  
In the jile,  
In aa the fowk we mak invisible  
Because we dinna wint  
to see them.

Because we think  
They dinna coont.

Lord, teach us tae see You  
On ilka road,  
Especially the lang road,  
Tae Emmaus.  
Traivel aside's  
Faan oor herts are sair,  
An though oor een be steekit  
Help us tae ken  
Foo near at haun You are.

## Lent Prayer

Transfigured Jesus  
You trusted your friends to see a glimpse of who  
you knew yourself to be  
and this glimpse was momentary.

We see a glimpse of who we can be, of who our  
communities can be,  
of what our art could be, of what our loves could  
be.  
And then we blink and the glimpses seem gone.

Help us to be nurtured by these fragmentary  
perceptions  
of possibility. Help us take courage  
from tiny reminders of what love can look like.

Especially when we're tired, or feeling far  
from such experiences.

Because you had moments of beatitude  
that were good enough to carry you through  
weeks of trundling toward Jerusalem  
toward a clash with powers that sought to undo  
you.

Amen

Written by  
Padraig OTuama  
Corrymeela Community.



## LENT

Our weekly Lent Studies are continuing on Zoom  
on a Thursday evening 7-8pm on

**11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March.**

All are welcome to "attend" and it would be lovely  
to see some "new" faces!

The Zoom details are given in the Zoom Diary.

## HOLY WEEK

There will be Lent Meditations each morning of  
Holy Week from **Monday 29 March to Friday  
2nd April at 9am**

With a **Communion Service** conducted by Rev  
Barbara Quigley on **Thursday 1 April at 7pm**



## DIARY

Sunday Worship from 10.45  
ID 953 7532 1288 Pass code 058724

Monday: Coffee and Chat 11.00  
ID: 930 1458 2081

Wednesday: Meditation 9.00  
ID: 977 1495 2443

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> (onwards for 7 weeks) Lent Study 7pm  
and Holy Week Communion 7pm  
ID: 983 7963 5054

Holy Week Meditations Mon – Fri at 9.00  
ID : 977 1495 2443

Kirk Session Meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 7pm  
ID: 971 3201 2543

Kirk Session Meeting ( Vacancy) Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
7pm.  
ID: 9532627 8848

All the above can be accessed using the telephone by dialling : 0131 460 1196 And enter ID, and Pass Code where required, above when requested.

To Unmute yourself press \*6

Quick link for Sunday Worship  
<https://zoom.us/j/95375321288?pwd=Z0ZQckF2dEVpcmNUTWtPdmZxeUHGQT09>

### Spring – mending

Spring makes no apologies  
for winter.

This morning she is pulling back  
the white sheet,  
uncovering lost footprints.  
All the sounds are awakening,  
echoes of birdsong in trees,  
the tools of spring whirring,  
young leaves leaning into the light.  
Reaching – it's what the living do.  
when you breathe your apology  
across the morning coffee,  
there is a chill in the air  
but it's Spring – I let it be enough.



Cindy Smith

## VACANCY UPDATE

Please see below the “Citation” from Presbytery which I have been asked to publicise whereby members of St Matthew’s are encouraged to attend the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. However, this should be purely a formality where the result of our recent vote in favour of “calling” a Minister on a 5-year term will be reported.

**The Church of Scotland  
PRESBYTERY OF PERTH  
Registered Scottish Charity No SC014528  
25th February 2021  
VACANCY AT PERTH: ST MATTHEW’S**

**Notice is hereby given (Sundays 28th February and 7th March) that at its next meeting the Presbytery of Perth will receive a report from its Planning and Development Committee in relation to the present vacancy at Perth: St Matthew’s.**

**The Presbytery of Perth will meet on-line at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 9th March for the conduct of regular business; and the congregation, which can choose to appoint a representative to be heard, is hereby cited to attend for their interest.**

**A link to access the meeting will be available nearer the time.**

**Alex M Millar (Rev)  
Clerk to the Presbytery**

Thereafter our Kirk Session will be meeting the Vacancy Advisory Committee (appointed by Presbytery) by Zoom on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm when any questions as to procedures and “what happens next” will be answered.

It’s a long and tortuous process in this time of Covid but we are now making some progress.

Fiona Bruce

Session Clerk

The previous Newsletter contained the Lent Study Actions up to 6<sup>th</sup> March. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Actions- each day during Lent take some time on your own to follow one of these legacy moments:

**5th March** Consider — What part could you play in getting new wine into new wineskins? (see Matthew 9: 16-17)

**6th March** - What practices in church life have to die in order to let new things flourish? (See John 12: 24)

**7th March** - Sit quietly and read Isaiah 53: 3-12 out loud. Pause and reflect on the drama and severity of the words. Read it out loud again. Then say a prayer to God with whatever is on your heart.

**8th March** - Take some time today to rest.

**9th March** Think about the 'alloparents' in your life, the people who were not your parents but who helped raise you and shape who you are. If they are still alive and you are in touch with them consider writing them a note to say you are thinking of them.

**10th March** - Act — To put God's love into action in your life what is something sweet you could do for someone today? Maybe not the first person you think of, cast the net a little wider and see who comes to mind.

**11th March** - Reflect — imagine showing Jesus around a place that is meaningful for you. What would you point out to him?

**12th March** - Say a prayer for the isolated, the lonely, the alone.

**13th March** - Reflect — what are the troubles in your heart that you can hand over to Jesus's loving care?

**14th March** - Act — What's something you could do today to 'round up' to be unexpectedly generous to others?

**15th March** - What is a song that lifts your spirits? Find a moment today to listen to it, or even play or sing it yourself.

**16th March** - Reflect — Think about an everyday thing that Jesus would have experienced on earth — try to enter his first century world

**17th March** - Symbolic action — Take some water and slowly pour it into a bowl, glass or cup. As you watch the water think of the tears you have cried over your life and reflect on the tender love of God who cares for us.

**18th March** - Act — Is there any small step you can take today that could be the start of something new? Ask God to bless your new endeavour.

**19th March** - Take a little while simply to 'be' in the presence of God. You don't need to do or say anything, simply take a moment of quiet.

(Taken from Sanctuary 1<sup>st</sup>)

**Christian Aid Week** this year is from 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May.



Many folk in the congregation support this week by going to coffee mornings and collecting. These activities will not be possible this year, but the need is even greater. Nearer to the week we will issue ways in which you can support the cause. However, you can put **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May** in your diaries now. We will hold a **quiz on zoom** that evening. There is usually one in August, but whether or not that goes ahead is anyone's guess just now.

Some folk will want to be a team with their friends, and that is possible. However, if you are on your own, zoom has the facility to put you in to teams and you then become part of a unique team. You may find yourself as the star of the show or a very interested bystander.

More details will be available nearer the time, but in the meantime please keep Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May clear.

Jean Young,

## Poetry and Birdsong

Poetry and birdsong: who understands either one?

Like a mad dream, they wake us up!  
Passionate calls from a high branch,  
mutterings from a dark cave of cedar.  
In the velvet suspicion of first light,  
before children wake and the dawn bell clangs,  
ears open to these mysterious sounds, and  
you weep for your life, the incomprehensible joy.

*James P. Lenfestey*





### 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.**

### Supplies for the Garden

This is just exactly the time of year when we would all be flocking to the local nursery or Garden centre and buying all sorts of goodies. Sadly, they are not allowed to open at the moment so I thought I would look at a few options to help get your hands on some essential garden supplies.

The bigger garden centres are offering click and collect. You have to know what you need to use this method so it's good for ordering things like seed potatoes, fertilizer, seeds, compost and onion sets. If you are looking for a bit of colour the only way to know what is in stock is to go online or have a look at the facebook page. Most of our local nurseries and smaller garden centres will post pictures of their newly arrived plants. Please try to support them if we can because behind the scenes are lots of smaller nurseries that grow the plants and they have stock ready now. There are acres of Primulas, pansies and bulbs ready for our gardens and once these have finished flowering they have no saleable value.

You might want to think about recycling a bit more this year if you need pots and trays for seeds. Many of the tubs and containers we recycle in to our blue bins make perfectly acceptable plant pots or trays. Make sure they are a suitable depth and punch a few drainage holes in the base.

A multi-purpose peat free compost is the best type to buy for most jobs. It can be used for planting or sowing seeds. As well as the garden centres, some of the supermarkets will stock compost plus most of the country stores round Perth. Old compost that you

used last year is usually not suitable for re-using as it will have no feeding left in it and it might harbour pests or diseases. Rather than put it in the brown bin I just add it to beds or veg plots as a soil improver, especially as the price of a brown bin has gone up again!

Finally, why not do a bit of plant and seed swapping with friends and family (safely of course). Most seed packets have far too many seeds in them so get swapping or raise a few too many plants and use them to barter.

Nicola MacNee, our Resident Horticulturist.



**Molly Gorham** on 5th March, (and get well soon wishes are also sent to you.)  
**Marion Stewart** on 7th March  
The sisters **Elliott – Joyce** (Thom), **Alison** (Sweeney) and **Joan** (Lackie) on 15th, 16th and 17th March

A WAVE AND A PRAYER to:  
**Jean McIntyre**



### Passing

It is with sadness that we note the death of our long-standing member,  
**Hannah Nisbet**, on 28/2/21.  
We send our prayers and thoughts to her family and especially her daughter Margaret.



## THE UNEXPECTED

*This is a column when different readers will tell us something unexpected about themselves. This week **Andrew Tait** tells us part of his story. What a coincidence that my son, Andrew, and I were just reading that Benjamin Zephaniah poem the other day!*

"I recently read the poem, 'Heroes' by Benjamin Zephaniah. In this thought-provoking short poem he is writing about finding heroism in the everyday. The poem made me begin to reflect more widely as to whether I could bring to mind my own personal hero (I'm sure many of us have one or more) – someone who may have influenced my own life journey.

Without hesitation I have to name my maternal grandmother- my 'Broadsea Grannie'. Broadsea, in times past was a small fishing village adjacent to but now merged with the larger NE fishing town of Fraserburgh. The 'people of Broadsea formed a vigorous and close-knit community' with neighbour supporting neighbour in time of need. My Grannie would remind me that, 'your ancestors could navigate small boats by oar and sail to the Hebrides, Shetland and Greenland with nothing but the sextant set with the noonday sun and stars to guide them at night.' This grit and determination and sense of community was reflected in her own life story.

Fraserburgh was a major herring port from 1850 – 1960's and she had been a 'fisher lass' or herring girl. The girls began gutting and packing the 'silver darlings' at the age of 15/16. The work was long and hard starting at 6 o'clock in the morning, often until 11 o'clock in the evening. The herring were sprinkled with salt and the gutted fish packed in brine. A sharp knife known as a 'futtle' was used. Painful cuts and sores, aggravated by contact with the salt were common. Indeed, injuries often led to blood poisoning. Fingers were protected with 'cloots' – strips of cotton made from old flour sacks. These were not always foolproof and some of the 'lassies' got dreadfully sore hands and many bore the scars for the rest of their lives.

During the second World War my mother stayed with her parents. My parents moved at the end of the War and thereafter I spent the long summer school holidays with my grandparents until I was 12 years old. My grandparent's house lay immediately adjacent to the seashore. The Broadsea shore and rock pools were my constant playground. I had total freedom, leaving my 'grannie's house after breakfast, only returning in



response to hunger pangs (Cullen skink soup mm!) and a concerned and loving grandmother's repeated homeward call! It was a time of gathering and cooking mussels and whelks from rock pools teeming with a variety of sea life, of swimming in larger rock pools.

In adulthood I would visit a household constantly filled with laughter and healthy 'debate' (my 'grannie' went on to have 9 children). Over the years however, earlier backbreaking work and family commitments had taken a toll health-wise. My 'grannie' developed crippling rheumatic arthritis.

A person clearly loved by her large and wider family. She was admired for her fortitude and quiet dignity, her wit and warm words of wisdom. And finally, a compassionate and giving nature towards others."

### **'MY BROADSEA GRANNIE'**

In memory of Catherine Findlay Lovie McKenzie  
(21:12:1891 – 13:09:1969)

Back bent and bowed  
Shuffling laborious gait  
Arthritic gnarled hands  
Tears occasioned by persistent pain.

Steely determination masked physical frailty.  
A much admired and adored grandmother  
Met daily adversity with spirited fortitude  
Moulded from earlier brine-soaked days.

Yet still, an endearingly gentle soul.  
Uplifting memories of this former herring lass  
Inspire and influence my own life journey.  
Past and present coming together in seamless measure.

## The Moderator Rt. Rev. Martin Fair

This **Sunday, 7 March, 2021**, Christians across Scotland – and beyond – will once again join together in prayer and reflection at **7pm** in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

As in previous weeks, 15 Christian churches and organisations, including the Church of Scotland, have co-signed a letter calling for prayer.

Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has been taking part in the weekly prayers and is encouraging all of us to join him.

“There are some things which make sense for a certain period of time but which come to a natural conclusion - such as clapping for carers during the spring lockdown. Prayer isn't one of them,” Dr Fair said.

“The Apostle Paul encourages us to ‘pray without ceasing’ and Jesus himself offers parables where persistence in prayer is lauded.

“It can be hard to keep going when there's no end in sight; much easier when the finishing line comes into view. In the case of the pandemic, it still feels as if there's no light at the end of the tunnel.

“All the more reason then for God's people to continue faithfully in prayer. And even better when we can pray across the whole of the Church, unrestricted by denominational divides.

“If Sunday at 7pm is in your diary, keep it there. Thank you. If it hadn't been, it would be great to have you involved. It matters that we pray.”



## God of Space and Time

Meet us in the place where we are today.  
Meet us in the place where we are  
And transform us by the presence of your Son.  
In this place, may we encounter the One who embodies your love.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of Space and Time,  
Meet us in the place where we are today.  
Meet us at the break of day  
And be with us in all that lies before us.  
In the place in which we live, may we see life renewed.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of Space and Time,  
Meet us in the place where we are today.  
Meet us in the place of suffering  
And bring your healing presence among us.  
In the place of suffering, enable us to reach out to those beside us.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of Space and Time,  
Meet us in the place where we are today.  
Meet us in the place of sorrow  
And bring your light into our darkness.  
In the place of sorrow, may we become bearers of your light.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of Space and Time,  
Meet us in the place where we are today.  
Meet us in the rhythm of life  
And renew hope within us.  
In the community in which we live, may we bear witness to the God of hope.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God of Space and Time,  
Meet us in the place where we are today.  
Meet us at the close of day  
And be with us through the night.  
Keep us safe and bring us to the dawn of a new day.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Amen



*It's the new tracing app.  
It tells me if I'm near  
anyone who understands  
the latest rules'*

The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 38, will be on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. All contributions to [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com) by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March