



# St. Matthew's Church Perth

## e- Newsletter No. 38

### Fri 19<sup>th</sup> March



**At the Kirk Session meeting last week I outlined what we may do to celebrate St. Matthew's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**A small team has volunteered to coordinate the events. This team will need to enlist the help of the organisations and others to organise the different elements of the year. Please be willing to support this year making it one to be remembered for St. Matthew's. The one when hopefully we welcome a new minister to our Congregation.**

**Watch this space for news of our special year.**

**Tom Morrison,  
Stewardship Convenor**

Dear all

The celebration of St Patrick's Day, the Patron Saint of Ireland, recently took place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and commemorates the death of St Patrick which was thought to be on that day in 431AD.

In her Wednesday Meditation, Jean Young described how, as a 16-year old, he had been captured by Irish pirates from his home (in Scotland?) and taken to Ireland as a slave! There he worked as a shepherd for 6 years and it was then that he became more aware of spirituality and, in particular, Christianity.

He successfully escaped and made his way home, only to hear "a voice" telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary – and the rest, as they say, is history!

I did not know that St Patrick had been a slave when young and nor was I aware that in the national flag of Ireland (the Irish Tricolour) the green stripe stands for Irish Catholicism, the orange stripe represents Irish Protestantism and the central white stripe represents the hope for peace between the two groups.

Here is now an old Irish Blessing:

Christ be with me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ behind me'  
Christ before me,  
Christ beside me,  
Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort me and  
restore me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.



Amen



Joy is colour

Yellow shines.

Redbreast singing in a winter tree.  
The frost is like a coat of diamonds.

Buds on branches,  
waiting to become flowers.

The rainbow is a stream of light  
that becomes an arch  
no one ever walks through

Poem & painting by Galina MacNeacail  
Printed for Carlops Parish Church (SC004340)



## 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

Thursdays: Lent Study 7pm and Holy Week Maundy

Thursday Communion 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm

ID: 983 7963 5054

Holy Week Meditations Mon – Fri at 9.00

ID : 977 1495 2443

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>

### St. Matthew's takes the next step into live streaming.

Following the success of ZOOM Sundays we are moving on to LIVE STREAMING as the answer to the question. "What happens when we get back into the Church Building?"

We are very fortunate in having the expertise of John Paton to take us down this road. Suitable equipment, and support has evolved for this project and I am pleased to report it is all happening from **Easter Sunday.**

**The link will remain the same as above each week:**

**ZOOM connection ID: 953 7532 1288 and Pass Code 058724.**

As part of the team putting this together I know that there can be teething problems and I would ask you to have patience and support the team who are doing their best to ensure St. Matthew's Worship extends beyond our walls.

Tom Morrison

## VACANCY UPDATE

The Kirk Session duly met with the Presbytery's Vacancy Advisory Committee last Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March and thereafter we are conducting a mandatory Kirk Session vote as to whether St Matthew's will "depart" from the Church's traditional view on "same sex" relationships in the context of our new prospective Minister, whoever that may be. More on that in the next Newsletter.

Our next step has been the appointment of a "Parish Profile" Committee by Kirk Session which will draft the profile of St Matthew's which will be sent to any applicant Minister. If you feel that you would like to contribute to this Profile in any way, please contact me as below.

### What we need you to do:

We have now "finalised" our Congregational Roll which contains the names of all our Members and this , along with the names of our "adherents" (who are "fellow travellers" and regular attenders at St Matthew's but not Members) , will form our Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll, in turn, will give you the right to sit on our Nominating Committee and also to vote to appoint our new Minister in due course so, if you have any doubt about your eligibility either as a Member or Adherent, please contact me by 2 April on 07787 103531 or by e-mail [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com) and I will be happy to check and add you as required.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

## Givings

As we are soon to get back into Church for Sunday worship please note that if you are not able, at this time, to attend the service but would like to make your Giving please do so directly to the Treasurer

The Treasurer St Matthew's Church 34 Craigie Road Perth PH2 0BH	OR by BACS To: Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland Account Name: St. Matthew's Church Sort Code: 83-47-00 Account Number: 00760133
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## CHURCH WALK – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April



I am delighted to say that, under the auspices of Ramblers UK, we are permitted to re-start our walking

group for up to 15 people.

As usual this will take place on the first Saturday of the month- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April- and we will be starting from Spittalfield. Please park at the Green , Spittalfield at 10am.

The walk takes about 2.5 hours (including a stop for a snack halfway round) and is flat . The paths were well-maintained but may be muddy in places.

There are a few picnic tables on the Green where I thought we could have a picnic lunch at the end of the walk if the weather is fine and dry and temperate!

Please e-mail me to let me know if you will make the walk so that I can complete the “Track & Trace” Forms in advance.

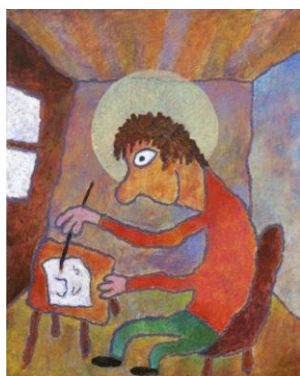
We have had a few days of beautiful Spring weather so let’s hope for more of the same!

Fiona Bruce

[FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com)

### SOLITUDE

Solitude, a simple den,  
A piece of paper and a pen,  
A cup of tea, a piece of toast.  
A window and the holy ghost.  
Some calm, a table and a chair;  
The mind is free, the soul is bare,  
There’s love to make and life to hold.  
The ancient tiny thread of gold  
That runs through all the joy and gloom  
Is found inside this little room.



## CHARITY COLLECTIONS

Throughout the year, particularly following **Communion Services and other special services**, we have a retiring collection for a charity nominated by members of the Kirk Session.

I thought it may be of interest to show the totals given by St Matthew’s members to a variety of charities over 2020 and 2019. In addition, the final total for our recent collection for ESOL was £490.

These figures are taken from our Accounts to end December 2020 recently approved by Kirk Session.

**Please Note** as we are unable to hold our usual Annual Stated Meeting this year, should anyone wish to be e-mailed a copy of the Accounts please contact our Treasurer, John Dewar (who does such a sterling job in producing them) on: [dewar34@hotmail.com](mailto:dewar34@hotmail.com)

Many thanks to all who contributed

Fiona Bruce

<b>Collections for Third Parties</b>		
	2020	2019
<b>During the year special offerings were uplifted and made online for the following charities:</b>	£	£
Poppyscotland	272	226
Mary’s Meals	135	-
Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning	325	-
Christian Aid	285	246
Church of Scotland Olive Grove Chapel	212	-
Checklin Works Compassionate Christmas	272	-
Sakhi for Girls’ Education	136	-
Perth Street Pastors	-	211
Church Action on Poverty	-	257
TCCL	-	85
Greyfriars House	-	147
	1,637	1,172



## 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 garden that has plenty of water, like a spring of water that never runs dry.

### Grow your own Tatties

Potatoes are one of the most rewarding and easy veg even if you don't have a garden because you can grow them in a tub as long as they are outside.

Now is the time to buy seed potatoes (these look like normal potatoes but have been prepared specially for growing and are virus free).

They are split in to 3 main groups,

1st earlies, 2nd earlies and maincrop. This describes how long the plants will take to mature.

1st Earlies can crop in about 12-14 weeks so you can have a crop by June. Varieties include: Pentland Javelin, Arran Pilot and Sharpe's Express.

2nd Earlies take a couple of weeks longer so are usually ready about July. Varieties include: Maris Peer, Charlotte and Vivaldi.

Maincrops take longer to mature so are ready late Aug/Sept. Varieties include: Rooster, King Edward and Golden Wonder.

The earlies need to be started in to growth using a process called 'chitting' All this means is that the potatoes are laid out in a tray (egg boxes are good for this) in a light frost free place and the wee eyes (buds) on them start to develop in to tiny shoots. This allows them to have a good head start when they are planted. It will take 2 or 3 weeks for them to chit so get them going now.

For planting be careful not to knock the shoots off. If they are going in a tub or a bag make sure it is at least 30cm deep by 30cm wide. Place the potatoes shoot up on a thick layer of multi purpose or veg compost then cover them well. As they grow you can add more compost to cover the stems until the tub/bag is full. Covering the stems as they grow also protects them from frost. Water well and let them get on with it!

If they are going in the ground dig a trench about 25cm deep and sprinkle in a general fertiliser then place the tatties in the bottom about 25-30cm apart with the shoots upwards. Cover them over and as they grow pull the soil up over the stems to avoid the

developing potatoes going green if they are exposed to light.

Anyone can have a go and kids will love this as it is always such a great surprise to see what has grown, especially if they are in a pot and you can have a great potato unveiling by emptying the pot when they are ready!

Nicola Macnee.

### **GUILD NEWS**

A little bit of news for the Guild members in St Matthew's. First of all, I hope you all received your little gift which was my challenge to myself, during February to make and send out a gift to each Guild member. Many of my embroidery friends set themselves challenges and this was mine.



The Guild National Council has been meeting by zoom, and also Guilds Together Perth & Kinross met last Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, to pass on reports and assure us that plans are going ahead for next session.

The Guild projects for the last 3 years come to an end soon, and the totals were given to us last week. Crossreach: £97,972.06, The Sailors' Society: £78,837.39, The Boys' Brigade: £90,539.78, World Mission: £75,802.64, Malawi Fruits: £81,374.02, Free to Live Trust: £92,327.71.

As a Guild we were not able to fundraise for our chosen charity this past year, or to hear the presentation which had been planned for last October, however if you feel you would like to contribute a little to any of the projects before they finish you could pass something on to me or Jean McIntyre via the church letter box.

Next year's projects will be presented at a zoom meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, so if you can link in to this let me know and I will make sure you get the codes.

Also planned ahead are dates for the Annual Gathering for which the Caird Hall has been booked for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021, and the Christmas Big Sing in Glasgow Tron Kirk on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Both of these are of course dependent on Covid restrictions being lifted.

It would be good to think that by September we might be able to meet properly in our church building as St Matthews Guild. This is Covid dependent, but keep your prayers going and fingers crossed that next winter will be more normal than the one just over.

Blessings, Lorna Morrison, Convenor.

# NOTICES

## 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 say that, subject to Government Guidelines on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and Presbytery approval, we are intending to re-open St Matthew’s for our **Easter Sunday service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 11am**

As before there will only be 50 spaces available in terms of Scottish Government regulations. As this includes our Minister, Duty teams and A/V teams the available spaces should be booked on “Eventbrite” once again and this also helps with our “Track & Trace” procedures. This link to Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-worship-tickets-127686837769> will allow you to make your booking or phone Bev, our Facilities and Outreach Manager, on 01738 259961

If you are not on the internet or internet spaces are full you can make a booking also by phoning, Bev.

Appropriate physical distancing and sanitising facilities will be in place and we are all required to wear face coverings.

Music will once more be provided by our Organist, Michael Ellacott, who will lead us in song but unfortunately the congregation is still not permitted to sing.

However, there is one difference in that it is hoped that we will be able to “live-stream” the service to you. See the boxed notice for details of this exciting new venture.

Thanks to John Paton, Alastair Byers and Tom Morrison for organising this.

We do need more volunteers to assist with the A/V so please contact Alastair Byers on [alastair.byers1@btinternet.com](mailto:alastair.byers1@btinternet.com) should you be able to take your place on the Rota. Full training will be given!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

To **Jimmy Forrester**- belated birthday greetings for 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## HOLY WEEK

There will be our usual Meditations each morning of Holy week by Zoom from **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 2 April at 9am**. The Zoom Code is given in the Zoom Diary.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION

Rev Barbara Quigley will conduct our Communion Service on **Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm** from St Matthew’s Church (No congregation permitted) This will be “live-streamed” to us in our homes and the link details are given in the Zoom Diary

## Thanks

To Ilona Crichton who has recently retired as Convenor of the Pastoral Care Committee.

And to Marjorie Clark and Lesley Williamson who are continuing with the Pastoral Care duties.



## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

This week Janet Martin writes about: **'Katharina Luther – Nun, rebel, wife'** by *Anne Boileau*.



This is the story of Martin Luther's wife Katharina von Bora and her journey from being a nun to marrying the man who caused religious upheaval in 1517 by pinning 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg criticising the Roman Catholic Church.

Boileau uses Katharina's own diary (written when she was confined to bed awaiting her first child) to tell us the story in her own words. Katharina born into an aristocratic family is sent away to a convent school at an early age and then enters the convent to become a nun. In time, she becomes disillusioned with her Catholic faith and after hearing about the rise of the new Protestant Faith, plans her escape. This is dangerous for both her and the other nuns, who became fugitives in a world where the disruption of the Reformation was taking place.

What is obvious is that Katharina, is a very strong character and it is her strong personality and the strength of her faith that sees her through the turbulent times when her life is in danger prior to her marriage. The book is written in an easy-going style which describes not only spiritual and social currents set flowing by Luther, but Katharina's personal journey and her intimate insights into the hidden personality of the great theologian himself. It is obvious that they were both determined characters and although his strength is required to push forth his vision of a church ruled by Christ, not Rome; her strength is required to maintain the household where endless scholars and visitors come to hear the philosophy of the great man himself. The writer pulls together a fascinating picture of 16<sup>th</sup> Century Saxony, describing how they lived off the land throughout the seasons. Growing most of the food and meat they consume as well as upon the local agriculture. Ways, that we in our industrial society are now beginning to realise are more sustainable than our 'global' food production and all its negative results.

This tale of courtship and marriage between a courageous ex-nun and a learned, but temperamental ex-monk with a vivid mission to change the Christian world, made a fascinating and easy read and I thoroughly recommend it.

**It is said that laughter is the best medicine. Here are some alternative Medical 'Terms' to make you laugh.**

**Artery** – the study of paintings  
**Benign** – what you be after you be eight.  
**Caesarean Section** – a neighbourhood in Rome.  
**Cauterise** – made eye contact with her.  
**Enema** – not a friend  
**Dilate** – to live a long life  
**Fester** – quicker than someone else  
**Fibula** – a small lie.  
**Outpatient** – a person who has fainted  
**Seizure** – a Roman Emperor  
**Morbid** – A higher offer  
**Terminal Illness** – getting sick at the airport.



**Reminder**

**Christian Aid Week**



this year is from **10th - 16th May**.

However, you can put **Friday 14th 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.

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

Jean Young,

The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 39 will be on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021**. All contributions to [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com) by Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March