



# St. Matthew's Church Perth

## e- Newsletter No. 41

### Fri 30<sup>th</sup> April

Dear All

Marjorie's reflection on Wednesday was prompted by the first hymn which Barbara chose at Sunday service on 18<sup>th</sup> April – "Lord, you have come to the seashore" followed by a longing to see the sea again!

This, in turn, reminded her about how much of the Gospel story takes place around the sea – in particular the Sea of Galilee or Lake Tiberias. Jesus called his first disciples as they were mending their nets beside the Sea; Jesus preached, on more than one occasion probably, to the crowds, from a boat pushed out into the water. He crossed the Sea of Galilee in order to find a quiet spot to commune with his Father. Then there is the story of the stilling of the storm – and another story of him walking on the water and Peter jumping out of the boat to meet him.

And then of course, post-Easter, we have a very detailed story of the disciples encountering Jesus on the shores of the lake. We find it in **John chapter 21**.

Of course, this fishing trip doesn't turn out to be very successful – at least not at first – but then comes this encounter with Jesus who tells them what to do, casting their nets on a different side of the boat.

And Jesus wasn't just standing on the seashore - he was cooking them breakfast on a charcoal fire, welcoming them to share a meal together, just like old times. It's a scene of friendship and reconnection and, just as he did at the Last Supper, Jesus plays the role of both servant and host at their breakfast on the beach. There are messages for us here, about encountering Jesus in the ordinary and the everyday - we don't just meet Jesus in church, but as we go about our daily business. And maybe, also, we need to listen to him when he suggests we try to do things differently. As Marjorie wonders – is this a message for us on our vacancy journey?

We may have missed out on that early morning cookout with Jesus; we may not have been out in that fishing boat or hauled in that net with the other disciples, but we are offered the same promises nonetheless. Jesus can see to it that we are, all of us, welcomed and fed, healed and forgiven, given fresh starts and new opportunities to serve in his name. We may even be surprised some day to find great abundance, nets full to bursting, where it seemed nothing at all would ever materialize for us. After all, our risen Lord is nothing if not full of surprises.

#### PRAYER

Lord, save us from ourselves.

**We continue to do the same things over and over, expecting different results.**

Lord, save us from doing too much.

**We go fishing every day, not noticing you waiting with a meal on the beach.**

Lord, save us from doing too little.

**We say we love you, and yet so often we neglect your sheep.**

Lord, save us from ourselves.

**Help us to hear and respond when you say, "Follow Me."**

Jesus, you meet us at the water's edge of our ordinary lives.

You accept each one of us lovingly, you encourage us, you invite us to abundance. Nourished by the food of your word, warmed by the fire of your unfailing love, may we in turn nourish, heal and love those we meet today.

Amen

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Communion Service at**  
**11am**

**Retiring offering in**  
**support of Christian Aid**



Donations should be sent to the Treasurer by making a BACS (bank transfer) payment clearly marked Christian Aid

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



## DIARY

**Sunday: Live streamed 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

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>

## Church reopening - Covid Update

You have probably been listening to the Scottish Governments changes to the Covid Guidelines, I am pleased to report that your representative group from the Church of Scotland have engaged with the Government and come up with revised guidelines for Churches.

The good news is that from Monday 26th April they have removed the numbers restriction on how many we are allowed in church, BUT, have retained the requirement for social distancing. The consequence is that at St. Matthew's we are permitted approximately 80 downstairs and 20 upstairs. Why approximately, this depends on the numbers of couples, family groups and those on their own.

The requirement for Track and Trace is still in place so be prepared to have your name recorded.

ZOOM SUNDAYS will continue and will continue to be a regular part of Sunday Worship at St. Matthew's. We are pleased with the continuing support of Zoom Sundays and are delighted to see Wolfgang and Angela joining us regularly from their home in Germany. We have also enjoyed the company of Janet's friend in Western Australia. Perhaps once we

are all permitted to travel again, **we** can make a point of joining in from wherever we happen to be.

Tom Morrison, Stewardship Convenor.



We send "Get well soon" wishes to Christine Clark and also to Molly Gorham who are both in hospital and hope they get home soon.

*Get well...  
..... soon!*

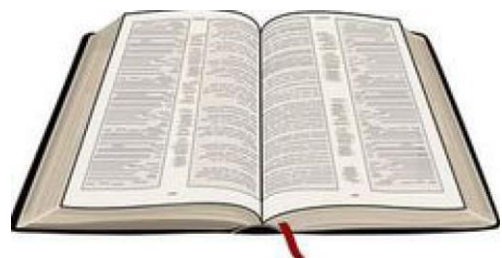
## DEATH

It is with sadness that we note the death of one of our long-serving Elders, Fred Selby, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Fred was an Elder at St Matthew's for over 40 years and received his long-service Certificate. He enjoyed helping with overhead projections when they started in the church.

Fred married his wife, May, at what was the West Church in 1961 so they would have celebrated their Diamond Wedding in June. They had a son, Ross and daughter, Julie and 6 grandchildren.

The funeral is due to be held on Friday 30 April but with limited numbers due to Covid regulations.

We send our prayers and condolences to May and the family.



## VACANCY UPDATE Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

### VOTE TO DEPART

I can advise that at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot held recently the Kirk Session voted unanimously to “depart” from the Church’s traditional view on “same sex” relationships in the context of our new prospective Minister. This decision is now final so that St Matthew’s will consider a potential applicant who is in a same sex marriage/relationship.

### ELECTORAL REGISTER EDICT

This was finalised at Kirk Session on 14<sup>th</sup> April with 368 Members and 7 Adherents, all of whom will be eligible to vote, when the time comes, to elect a Nominating Committee and subsequently a new Minister.

### Andrew’s prayer

LET US pray  
Dear Lord Jesus  
Spring is about  
laughter, hope and joy  
also excitement as things  
are looking out more  
aren't they and more  
people are going out  
and seeing their  
friends and families  
Also it's about love  
and happiness as well  
Spring is the most  
happiest time of the  
year because it's becoming  
a bit more warmer.  
Thank you so much  
God for creating  
this world and I am  
Thankful for it.  
It has changed my  
life and I'm sure it  
has for others too.  
Even for our churches,  
cafes, restaurants,  
gyms, organisations  
and part of our  
communities too.  
In Jesus's name  
Amen  
Praise The Lord  
look forward  
in Faith



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.*

### Crop rotation

If you are planning on growing veg this year then you need to think about crop rotation if you are using the same bit of ground that you used last year. This is what the farmers do with their crops when you see cereals one year and potatoes the next.

Crop rotation helps to control and prevent a build up of common veg pest and diseases. You basically don't grow the same veg in the same ground each year. eg. Clubroot is a problem on brassicas (Cabbage, sprouts, cauliflower) and remains in the soil from one year to the next. Also, if you vary the crops it keeps the soil healthier and things grow better because the different groups of veg have different nutrient requirements. Finally, it is easier to grow the same veg together in one area because their growing requirements are the same.

Divide your plot up in to 4 equal sized areas (or 3 depending on how much space you have). Use each area for a specific group of veg each year.

An example might be: area 1 -onions and leeks and legumes (peas, beans)

Area 2- brassicas (cabbage, radish, cauliflower, turnips)

Area 3- potatoes (good for cleaning the soil as they suppress weeds well)

Area 4 – root crops (carrots, beetroot, parsnip, celery).

The following year move each crop round to the next space and so on. It's really important to do this to avoid pest and disease build up. You can't beat a bit of home grown veg.

**Nicola MacNee,**

## GUILD NEWS

### The Guild nationally has launched our six new project partners to work

during the years 2021-24. We have an exciting mix of projects and we are sure you will enjoy hearing about them in the months ahead. I am very aware that most of our **St Matthews Guild** members cannot access zoom so it is good to give you this information by church newsletter. Details below are for 3 of the new projects, and in the next newsletter you will see the other three. This is an opportunity for us to choose which projects we would like to support, as the usual pattern is to choose one for each year. After you have read the details of all 6 of these let me know which 3 you would like to support, contact me by email, [lmstitch@yahoo.com](mailto:lmstitch@yahoo.com), or phone 01738 631552, or at the church on Sunday, and we will go ahead with the favourites.

**Lorna Morrison, Guild Convenor.**



### Beat (Eating Disorders) Scotland

Eating disorders have a huge impact on young people and on their families. This project will help develop a network of young ambassadors who will work in schools, colleges and universities, but who will also work with Church congregations, the Boys Brigade, the Girls Brigade and school chaplains to raise awareness of the impact of eating disorders and encourage people to seek help. Additionally, they hope that by engaging with Guild members, Guild members will be better informed and will be able to open doors to meetings with community leaders, GP practice managers, teachers and others, to share resources and key messages about eating disorders.



### Pioneers: Chocolate heaven, South East Asia –

This project will help build and develop a factory to support the production of sustainable chocolate production in South East



Asia.

We want to see:

- more farmers receiving fair prices
- more workers experiencing regular employment - many for the first time
- more parents able to provide a bright future for their children

### **Starchild:** Finding the light in every child, Uganda –

We are hoping that we will



together be able to build a centre where children with a range of learning disabilities - but particularly autism - can come to learn alongside their peers. In Uganda, children with learning disabilities are often hidden away and do not receive the education they should. This project hopes to tackle that stigma, support the children and their families and also help to educate community leaders.



## Quiz Night

St Matthews are holding an on line Quiz Night on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm.

Enter in teams or individually. If you have not requested fellow team members you will be assigned to a team.

Just a bit of fun and a way of raising money for Christian Aid.

To enter, contact Jean Young on [jy2@btinternet.com](mailto:jy2@btinternet.com)

The more the merrier!



## Walks

The next walk is on Saturday 1st May and will be at Lady Mary's Walk in Crieff.

Meet in the car park at the foot of McCrosty Park at 10 am.

An easy walk of about 4 miles.

Please let **Jean Young** know if you intend coming. [jy2@btinternet.com](mailto: jy2@btinternet.com) or 07801 889820



## Taster of our 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Your 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team are now working hard in preparing a programme for our celebration year.

If and when you are asked to support the team, we will be grateful for your help. It is only by having many doing a little that we can succeed in our efforts. There will be many tasks over the year for which help will be required ranging from rearranging the chairs in the Sanctuary, helping at events, to acting as hosts, etc. Watch this space for an updated programme as it develops.

The programme will run from the Anniversary Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2021 when the **Moderator of the General Assembly, The Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC (Jim Wallace)** will address us during morning worship through to the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022 when we will have an invited guest to preach at morning worship to close our celebration year.

Tom Morrison, for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

## Moderator's Visit to Perth.

This week Perth welcomed a visit by the Moderator of the General Assembly, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Martin Fair. Although he had a number of visits during his week a large part of it was virtual. This involved services, presentations and discussions.



On Wednesday Elders of St. Matthew's along with Craigie/Moncreiffe, St. Leonard's, and St. John's Kirk shared a Zoom conversation with the Moderator. He outlined what a COVID moderatorial year entailed, comparing it to the previously arranged travels and visits in Scotland and overseas.

The Moderator reflected on parts of his early ministry when he took "church" to the youngsters of Cumbernauld as a Summer Mission, bringing out the message that we have to take church to the people and be open to new ideas of "church".

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May the Moderator will preach at North Church. The Service at 10.30 will be live streamed.

Tom Morrison, Stewardship Convenor

## Socially Distanced work party required.

After a year of limited use of the Sanctuary there is a need for a volunteer work party to sort out a number of



things that have been allowed to go unattended. e.g. Christmas decorations, gallery cleaning, etc. Please contact Beverly with your name and phone number and Mark will be in touch to sort out a time with you. There may have to be a number of sessions as we cannot have a large work party, BUT, the work is essential to bringing the Sanctuary back into full Covid safe use.

The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 42 will be on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.. All contributions to [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto: FMBruce6@googlemail.com) by **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.