



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 40

Fri 16th April

to Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education."

We may not be able to win a Nobel Peace Prize but, in these times, we desperately need the Peace which Jesus granted his disciples and gives us freely too.

Fiona Bruce

Dear All

This week Jean Young talked on the theme of "Peace" in her Meditation.

In Luke ch 24 vs 36-48 Jesus appeared to the disciples after the "Road to Emmaus" and, with the disciples frightened and startled and worried about what was happening, He said to them "*Peace be with you*".

Jean went on to talk about peace and what it is. Is it a process? Can we quantify peace? What does it signify to win a Peace prize?

This prompted me to find out more about the Nobel Peace Prize and I was amazed to discover that, between 1901 and 2020, 107 individuals and 28 organisations have been awarded the Prize. I had no idea that it had ever been awarded to organisations and, in fact, last year was awarded to the World Food Programme (WFP) "for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict."

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize three times (in 1917, 1944 and 1963), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been awarded it twice (in 1954 and 1981).

Again, I was unaware that the 2012 Peace Prize was awarded to the European Union (EU) which "for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe."

In fact, when I thought about it, I realised that I only knew of individuals who had been awarded the Peace Prize- and those recently, most notably in 2009 (that long ago?)

to Barack H. Obama "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." and in 2014 jointly

A Celtic Blessing



Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.



Here is our Easter cross which was beautifully prepared by Norma Wright:



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.

Is it not great to be back in church knowing that we can provide ZOOM SUNDAY to those who have not managed to book a place in church.

As we enter the 3rd Sunday in church I am pleased to report that we are making progress with the zoom broadcast from the church. Easter Sunday was great 50 persons in church and 37 on Zoom. Our second Sunday was similar in terms of numbers BUT a few gremlins got in the way and things were not as we would have liked. However the issues have been resolved and as I have said before we are all on a big learning curve and practice makes perfect.

Following worship Zoom “breakout rooms” will continue to be available, BUT, whilst the Breakout Room is open the AV team cannot pickup to go home. So, we are planning to put in place a time limit of 15 minutes of breakout and see how that works.

We appreciate the work being done by John Paton and Jenni Wilson together with the support from Michael and our Ministers.

Tom Morrison,



To **MARY KEENAN** who reaches the age of 100 on 17th April!

Some of you may remember Mary from days gone by at St Matthew’s. Mary grew up in Logiealmond and has 2 sons (Brian and John) and a number of grandchildren. When her son, John, was in the Scouts Mary used to help out at the Scout Coffee mornings and Sheena Beange remembers her from that time. She also attended the Guild with her sister Chris (who was Manager of the old Windsor Restaurant in St John’s Street) and she herself was a hairdresser in North Methven Street. Unfortunately Mary may well spend her 100th birthday in hospital but our thoughts are with her and we send her very special birthday congratulations!



Birthday wishes are also sent to:

Michael Ellacott for today 16th April



Sandy Murray on 25th April

and **Malcolm Thom** on 29th April



Also belated birthday wishes to our Caretaker, **Paul Moran** (75 years young on 10th April)

And **Irene Lamond** on 9th April.

NOTICES

VACANCY UPDATE

- **VOTE TO DEPART**

A second ballot has now been e-mailed to Elders present at Kirk Session on 14 April. If the majority again vote in favour of the decision to “depart” then that decision will be final and St Matthew’s will consider a potential applicant who is in a same sex marriage/relationship.

- **PARISH PROFILE**

The “Parish Profile” Committee (Marjorie Clark, Janet Martin, Alastair Byers and me) appointed by Kirk Session has now drafted the Parish Profile of St Matthew’s which will be sent to any applicant Minister. The Kirk Session met on 14th April to discuss what St Matthew’s priorities should be and our vision for St Matthew’s and this will be incorporated into the draft.

- **ELECTORAL REGISTER**

The Electoral Register, consisting of Members and adherents, has now been finalised.

MODERATOR’S VISIT

I am delighted to report that the Moderator, the **Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair**, is visiting Perth Presbytery for the week from **Sunday 25 April to Sunday 2 May**.

On the first date a service will be live-streamed at **11am from Ardoch Church** and, on the last date, at **10.30am** a service will be live-streamed from the **North Church**.

On **Thursday 29 April from 8-9pm** there will be a live-stream event featuring the Moderator and his special guests entitled “Out of Lockdown” and reflecting on Community Justice and touching upon Covid-19 too.

These services and event are open to all and, if you are interested in attending, please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com

and I will send you the relevant Zoom codes when I receive them.



PA Newsletter article by Fiona Bruce:

We are delighted that St Matthew’s Church re-opened its doors again on Easter Sunday. As before there are only 50 spaces available in terms of Scottish Government regulations.

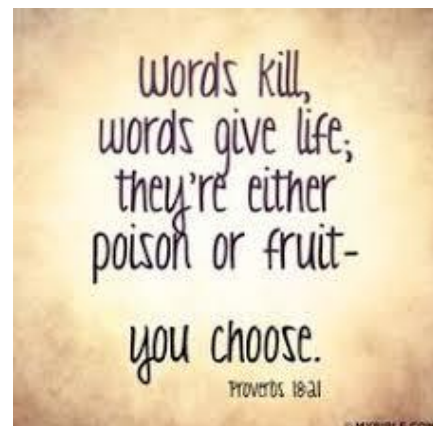
For each Sunday service spaces should be booked on “Eventbrite” and this also helps with our “Track & Trace” procedures. This is the link to Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-worship-tickets-127686837769> or see our website which is: www.perthstmatthews.org.uk

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.

We are also able to “live-stream” the service to you using the following Zoom link at 11am:

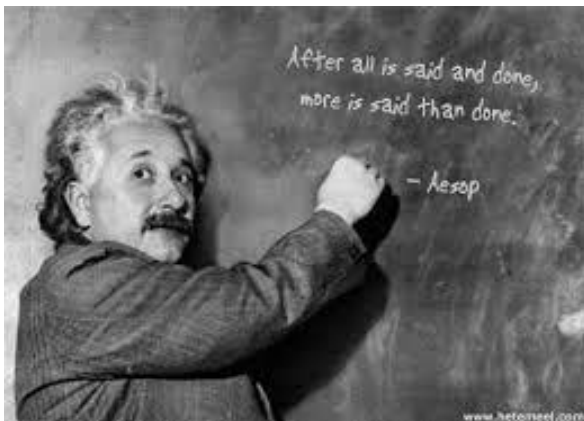
<https://zoom.us/j/95375321288?pwd=Z0ZQckF2dEVpcmNUTWtPdmZxeUhgQT09>



Janet's Jottings

Sage Advice

No doubt like me, you will have heard the saying "ne'er shed a cloot 'til may is oot" uttered more than once recently. Despite the fact that I have already spotted some may blossom along the riverside and up Kinnoull Hill, the unexpected flurries of snow and the temperature plummeting below zero in the past week or so, have made sure we'll all be hanging on to our 'cloots' for a bit longer!



It started a train of thought about other old Scots sayings that we all grew up with. Many were very clear advice, others just completely dumfounded me. "Mony a mickle makes a muckle", was my granny's sage advice to save the few pennies she'd give us for doing her messages for her. Not that we heeded it very often; tempted by the instant gratification of a bag of assorted sweets (4 for ha'penny), or some Mc Cowan's toffee, the mickle rarely got the chance to evolve into a muckle! A number of years ago, Billy Connelly did a wonderful skit on his memories of the same sayings and I still laugh out loud if it is ever repeated on TV. Children pulling funny faces were regularly informed "Better watch out, if the wind changes, your face will stay like that!" He recalled sitting with friends making grotesque faces or crossing eyes to see if it would really happen – "been there, done that" as they say; I'll bet some of you have as well!

Usually when we children were capering, or winding each other up, my mother's voice would rise above the hysteria to announce

"You'll be laughing on the other side of your face shortly..." What? Try explaining that sentence to a foreigner! Sometimes on asking advice on how something looked and my mother seeing something wasn't quite right would advise "Oh it's fine, a blind man running for a bus will never notice". Familiar Scots sayings were regularly given out as words of wisdom at times when children were hankering after things that they were never likely to get. I am sure I am not the only one to have been told "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride."

However, there were also more serious proverbs that stayed with me. If we were caught looking down on anyone or thinking less of them, we would be given a strict telling off and firmly told "Do not judge by appearances – a rich heart may be under a poor coat." Or if caught being unkind to other children, we were often warned "Be sure to taste your words before you spit them out".

The Bible has many sayings and proverbs and I suspect that many of our own Scots sayings derived from them. In Proverbs 27:19 we read "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart". Then in Proverbs 21:33 "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from trouble". That translated to Scots may well be the equivalent of "Haud y'er wheesht"!

In signing off, I will remind you to "Be happy when y'er living as ye'r a lang time deid!"

Words from the mouth
of the wise are gracious,
but fools are consumed
by their own lips.

Ecclesiastes 10:12





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 that never runs dry.

SWEET PEAS

Sweet peas must be one of the most popular plants for scent in the garden. They are very easy to try and the seeds are big and easy to handle. Plus, they come in so many gorgeous colours. The ones I'm growing this year are all supposed to have fantastic scent so I can't wait for the flowers!

I usually soak the seeds prior to sowing but have never bothered with 'nicking' i.e. putting a little score on the seed and have always had a good rate of germination.

Sow 2 or 3 seeds into a pot that's at least 9cm across, or root trainers or homemade newspaper pots filled with peat free potting compost. If you only have regular multi-purpose compost then just use that.

Push each seed into the compost to the top of the joint on your index finger, roughly 2.5cm and ensure the seeds are well covered. They like a long pot to give the roots plenty of space.

Put them in a frost-free greenhouse to germinate or in a cool indoors location. They don't take long, maybe a week to 10 days.

If you're germinating them indoors make sure you keep them somewhere cool or they'll get tall, leggy and weak very quickly. Once they have 4 or 5 leaves put them outside during the day, bring them in at night or into a greenhouse. Pinch out the very tip to encourage the plants to branch and give more stems. Ultimately this produces more flowers. Let them grow on till they are bushy and about early May you can think about planting them outside. They love lots of feeding and sunshine. Maybe plant them near a garden seat so you can enjoy the scent.

WALKING GROUP



The walking group were blessed with beautiful Spring weather for their walk round Inchtuthill at Spittalfield on Saturday 3rd April.



It was a 5-mile walk taking in a view of the site of the large 50-acre Roman fort with elevated defences perched above a bank now covered in trees. We then walked alongside a sparkling River Tay with lovely views where we enjoyed our picnic (see photo).

The next walk will take place on Saturday 1st May. Please contact Jean Young on iy2@btinternet.com if you are interested

Please feel free to join us- new faces are always welcome!





Given that the usual fund-raising activities by the Perth Christian Aid Committee are not able to go ahead

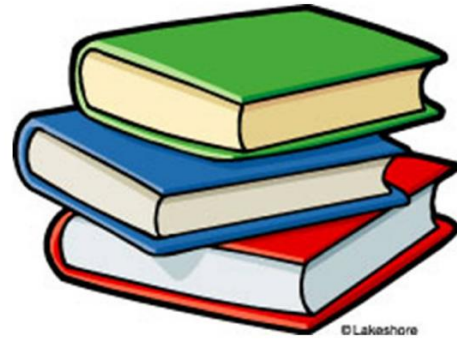
this year, two ladies from the North Church are hoping to take part in the Virtual Kilt Walk next weekend (23- 25th April) to raise funds for Christian Aid. Liz Thomson and Janice Taylor plan to walk 5-6 miles on each of the three days – and any money raised will be topped up by 50% by the Tom Hunter Foundation. If you would like to sponsor them, please visit their Just Giving Page

here:<https://virtual.thekiltwalk.co.uk/fundraising/ScotlandVirtualKiltwalk2021-LizThomson>

(Guild members will remember Janice, as she is the recently retired President of Perth Guilds Together.)

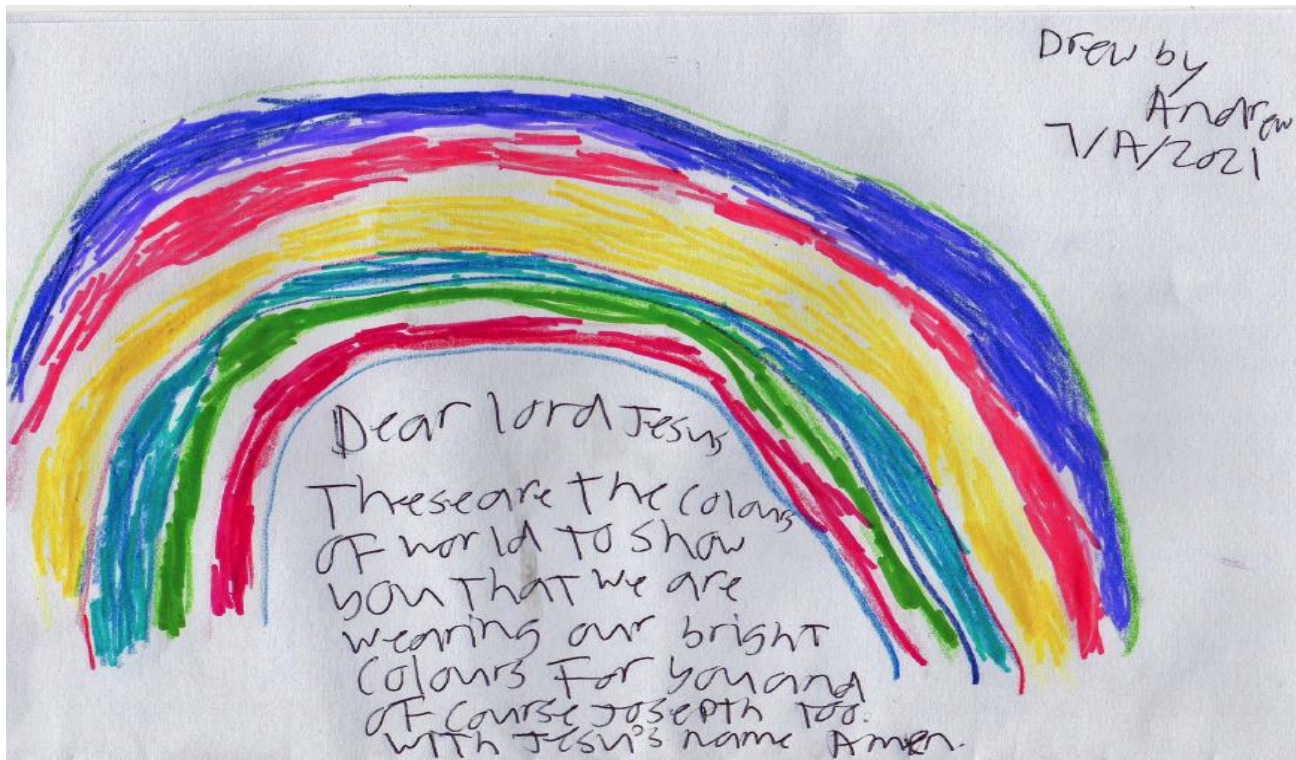
Looking further ahead, St Matthew's is planning to hold a virtual quiz night for Christian Aid on Friday May 14th.

For more info about the vital work which Christian Aid does, please visit www.christian-aid.org.uk



With reference to the book review that Andy Turnbull wrote for the last magazine, just to let you know that the book **Pretending to be Somebody Else** is on Amazon, on both Kindle and paperback. <https://tinyurl.com/y6p32trs>

Should anyone want a copy of the paperback, Lesley Mackie is happy to provide one for anyone local at the slightly reduced price of £10.



The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 41 will be on **Friday 30th April 2021**.. All contributions to FMBruce6@googlemail.com by **Fri 23rd April 2021** by 12 noon.

Please note earlier deadline!