



# St. Matthew's Church Perth

## e- Newsletter No. 42

### Fri 14<sup>th</sup> May

Dear All

This week I'd like to concentrate on **Christian Aid** – I'm sure many of you will know that this is Christian Aid Week. What you may not know is that this organisation was set up 75 years ago by the church in response to the refugee problem in Europe following the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

In her Meditations this week, Marjorie Clark stressed that Christian Aid, wherever it works, operates in partnership with local organisations as they are best placed to know the problems AND the solutions. She cited the example of building flood shelters in Bangladesh which reduce the death toll in flood-prone areas – the “disaster mitigation” aspect of their work.

Marjorie also gave the example of the “duck rearing” project in that area- ducks rather than hens because ducks can swim when the area floods!

Christian Aid's ethos is that:

“Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives.

We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

For 75 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Our voices and actions are stronger together. And with your help, we can make an even bigger difference.”

What a challenge we are set!

Fiona Bruce  
Session Clerk



### PRAYER

Spirit of God,  
In a world still airless from lockdown,  
Come, breathe new life into the way we live.  
In a Church still breathless from the challenge to change,  
Come, breathe purpose and steadiness in the way we witness.  
In our lives still recovering from a season of weariness and restriction,  
Come, breathe hope into our hearts and souls.

Spirit of God,  
Move over the arid places of our lives,  
And bring us, in time, to blossom with your fruit:  
Love, joy, peace,  
Patience, Kindness, goodness,  
Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Amen





## 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

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May,**

**Christian Aid Quiz night 7.00**

ID: 915 7728 9621

Passcode: 954918

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.

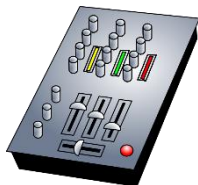
To Unmute yourself press \*6

Quick link for Sunday Worship

<https://zoom.us/j/95375321288?pwd=Z0ZQckF2dEVpcmNUTWtPdmZxeUhGQT09>

## AV DESK

Our AV team are to be congratulated once again on their hard work in producing the ZOOM pictures to those watching at home at the same time as controlling the sound and screen within the sanctuary.



In doing this they have been using cameras, one purchased, one donated and one borrowed. They could do with a donation of another 2 cameras.

**Do you have a Video Camera in your cupboard no longer in use?**

The basic specification is as follows but if you are uncertain bring it into church and the AV team will check it out to see if it fits the bill.

- HDMI output socket port, either full size HDMI, Mini or Micro.
- HD camera either 1080p or 1080i
- Zoom useful to have.
- It does not need to record as long as it can still pass a picture through the HDMI port (e.g., the recording facility could be bust but it would still be useful to us.)

# NOTICES

## CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ



This is taking place tonight at 7pm.

You can enter a team, or come along as yourself and you will be put into a team. Please e-mail Jean Young on [ly2@btinternet.com](mailto:ly2@btinternet.com) with your name / and those of your team members, as appropriate.

Suggested donation is £5 per team member.

## RETIRAL COLLECTION

The Retiral Collection following Communion on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May in aid of Christian Aid raised the generous total of £262.

## Sending a "Welcome Home from Hospital"

to:

Molly Gorham  
Christine Clark  
Arthur Little



A big "Thank you" to **Lorna Gray** who has been St Matthew's Magazine Distributor for 13 years and is now taking a well-earned rest!



## FLOWER ROTA

St Matthew's has a well-received flower ministry and, as things are opening up again, **Norma Wright** would like to hear from people should they wish to donate to and/or deliver flowers so that she can set up another Flower Rota.



Please contact Norma on:

[David\\_wright48@btinternet.com](mailto:David_wright48@btinternet.com)

(Note the underscore between the "d" and "w") or speak to her at church.

## GUILD NEWS



Here is the second set of projects we are being offered to support through our St Matthews Church Guild. You will remember we had the first three two weeks ago in the previous newsletter.

After you have read about them all, decide which three you would like to support over the next three years, and the favourites will go forward. You can choose any three from the 6, it does not need to be either group of 3. Contact me by email at [lmstitch@yahoo.com](mailto:lmstitch@yahoo.com), telephone 01738 631552, or at church on Sunday morning.

Once we know which projects we are going to support we can plan ahead to have a speaker come and tell us more about these worthwhile causes, and plan how we can raise some money for them. Hopefully, by the autumn we will be planning to enjoy our Guild meetings again.

**Lorna Morrison, Convener**

### Finding homes for vulnerable children in Scotland - [Home for Good](#) is

a Christian charity that is passionate about finding a home for every child who



needs one. They work to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption. They also equip the Church to welcome these families and help support people on their journeys. This project will allow Home for Good to reach all parts of Scotland and will also enable them to build their network of volunteers. Once trained, these volunteers can run events, offer training and build support groups that provide much-needed encouragement for these families. We want all children to find a loving home and this project will help us to do that.

### Hear our voice! Brazil - This

is a project at Faculdade Unida de Vitória (UNIDA) designed to empower young women through theological education. UNIDA believes in an education that can transform lives in a violently unjust Brazilian society.



It has three core elements:

Providing access to accredited theological education for young women through special scholarships.

1. Equipping young women for leadership in churches, faith-based organisations, and wider civil society through practical education.
2. Mentoring young women through accompaniment and work placement.

### Kazunu: Village of Hope, Tanzania -

Working with [the Vine Trust](#) and their partners



on the ground, we will help them take forward the development of a sustainable village with a school, health centre and 40 individual homes, as well as a community hub. The large family homes will enable young families to serve as foster parents to four or five orphan children identified by the church in partnership with community leaders and social services. Self-sustainability will come through the agriculture market, gardening, fish farming, and the development of a transport business.

## CHURCH RE-OPENING

**Psalm 122: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"**

The revised Church of Scotland Covid Guidelines now allow us to have as many in the building as we can so long as we continue to "socially space". For St. Matthew's that means we can accommodate up to 80 persons on the ground floor of the Sanctuary.

As a consequence of the above it has been agreed that we will cease to use Eventbrite for the foreseeable future. So simply come to church where your name will be recorded in the attendance register for Track and Trace, just like school days.

For those unable to be physically present for whatever reason- be it because they are in Australia or Germany, on holiday, or at home - **the Zoom live-stream of the Sunday Service will still be available**- see the Zoom Diary for details.

## Watergate Holiday Flat

Due to Covid lockdown there are a number of weeks available to let during the



remaining weeks of 2021. Full details of the flat can be found on the Sykes Cottages Website at [Watergate | Perth | Self Catering Holiday Cottage](#) ([sykescottages.co.uk](http://sykescottages.co.uk))

If you have relatives or friends looking for a holiday in Perth please encourage them to consider the church flat. If you would like to visit the flat see Tom to arrange a visit.



*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.*

## Frost Damage

What a lot of cold weather we have been having! Plants have varying degrees of hardiness and some can survive arctic conditions while others need to be kept at tropical temperatures. The RHS (Royal Horticultural society) have a hardiness scale and it ranges from 1 (the most tender plants ) to 7 (the most cold tolerant plants). The hardiness rating is really useful when you are choosing plants for your garden.

Leaves- These last few frosty nights have done a lot of damage to existing hardy plants. This is mainly shown up in the growth tips turning brown or black and wilting. Normally these plants are happy in the cold but in the early spring they have started in to growth and the new leaves have not had a chance to develop any cold tolerance. The cells have actually been destroyed by the cold and these leaves won't recover. The best thing to do is to check the plants further down the stem for signs of growth and lightly trim back to new buds (eg. Roses, Hydrangeas). If there are no obvious signs of growth then it might be best just to gently trim off or pull off the damaged leaves. The dormant buds lower down the stem then hopefully start to grow. As the plant is having to make extra new leaves it is a good idea to give it a feed with a general purpose fertilizer . Gently rake in some chicken manure pellets or fish blood and bone. The soil will be nice and moist just now. Most hardy plants will recover from this set back you'll be pleased to hear.

Buds and flowers- It can be a different story with buds and flowers, if they are hit by the frost they usually don't recover and will turn brown and usually drop off the plant. This is especially common on Magnolias, Camellias and Rhododendrons, Fruit trees can also

suffer from this. It is so frustrating when you have waited all year for the flower! Make sure the plants are not growing where the buds get hit but the early morning sun because if they thaw out too fast after a frost this is when they are damaged. Don't plant them in an East facing border.

Bedding Plants- It is so, so tempting just now as the nurseries and garden centres fill up with bedding plants like Marigolds, Petunias and Geraniums. Be warned these are not at all hardy (hardiness rating of 1) and will not take any frost at all or even very cold winds at this time of year. If you do have to buy them then keep them in a well-lit place like a greenhouse or a porch. If frost is forecast then cover them with a layer of fleece or newspaper. Late May and even the 1st week in June are the times when we can safely say we won't get a late frost in Scotland!

## Walking Group

The walking group enjoyed Lady.Mary's Walk in Crieff on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.



The next walk is from Stanley to Kings Myer on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of June led by Tom Morrison. Meet on Mill Street Stanley, between King Street and Store Street at 10 am for this pleasant 6 mile walk through the countryside NE of Stanley. Contact Tom if you wish to join the walk [Stewardship@perthstmatthews.org.uk](mailto:Stewardship@perthstmatthews.org.uk)

## Appeal for a Socially Distanced work party

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 01738 259961 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 UNEXPECTED

*This is a column when different readers will tell us something unexpected about themselves. This week **Andrew Davies** tells us about a recent adventure:*

I had great fun walking the "West Highland Way" last week with my Mum and my sister, Rachel.



On the first day we started off at Milngavie and walked to Drymen where we stayed at the "Kip in the Kirk". We were the first guests of the year so

the owner gave us prosecco and made us tea and scones which was so lovely.

The next day we walked to Rowardennan over the Conic Hill. There were fantastic views over Loch Lomond but Rachel thought that Mum and I were very slow walking down the hill!

The third day was the one I found the hardest when we walked the length of Loch Lomond to Inverarnan for 14 miles. It was very up-and-down with lots of boulders to clamber over.



I said to Mum that I thought I "would die from exhaustion!"

Mum was due (and very thankful!) to finish after the third day so Rachel and I walked on together to Tyndrum. It was a slightly shorter walk of 9 miles and we finished a bit earlier.

That was just as well as the next day was the longest- 19 miles from Tyndrum by Bridge of Orchy to Kingshouse – and was Rachel's favourite day. We were lucky that the weather

was dry as we had to cross Rannoch Moor and there's not much shelter there.

I said it was like a "walk in the park" and enjoyed my cup of tea and empire biscuit when we finished! We got a taxi to take us to our Bed and Breakfast in Glencoe.

Back by bus the next morning to start at Kingshouse and walk up over the Devil's Staircase to Kinlochleven. Unfortunately it was a bit misty with some hailstones as well so the views were not as good as expected. When we arrived in Kinlochleven the sun came out and we could sit outside and enjoy the views of the hills.

Our last day was from Kinlochleven to Fort William. The very end when you walk the last 2 miles on the road was a bit of a slog and I was a bit tired by now so I sat down at a bus stop when we reached Fort William and wouldn't move to the finish line for a bit!



We were supposed to get a train to Glasgow but there was a train strike so Mum and Dad came to pick us up in Fort William. They brought a bottle of prosecco which we all enjoyed. I felt very tired but as if I have achieved something- walking 96 miles in a week!

Now I'd like to walk the one in Spain! (the Camino de Santiago)





LISTENING TOGETHER  
LEARNING TOGETHER  
BEING TOGETHER

'Intogether' aims to share Jesus' love with families who have children with additional support needs (ASN). Statistics suggest 33% of mainstream school pupils have ASN. Our churches do not reflect this. Why is this? And how can we bridge the gap to offer God's care and support?

#### LISTENING TOGETHER:

We are piloting a listening service for parents in partnership with a local primary school. Life is much more challenging when your child has ASN. It can be a struggle to have needs recognised and met, and sadly, society is quick to judge when it sees a parent struggle with their children's behaviour. Families are excluded from social activities because too many changes are needed to welcome them. 53% of families say having a child with ASN causes major relationship difficulties. Our listening service is an expression of God's interest and love, if required.

#### LEARNING TOGETHER:

Intogether wants to raise awareness of ASN in our parishes. We offer training to help churches welcome children with (ASN) and their families. We are happy to meet churches in their own contexts to discuss ways to include everyone.

#### BEING TOGETHER:

The ideal is to support families to worship where they are, but we recognise that sometimes, families may need an alternative. 90% of families with children who have ASN would never consider attending church as we know it, because it is simply too difficult. So we hope to establish a monthly gathering designed with children with ASN and their families, where alternative spaces are offered so that families can experience worship in a way that might work for them.

#### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED:

Could you pray regularly for us? Or offer admin skills, or become part of the team at our worship gatherings, or volunteer with our listening service as it expands? If you are interested please get in touch!

Anne Stott, Community Minister, Bertha Park



 [intogether20@gmail.com](mailto:intogether20@gmail.com)

 InTogether

InTogether is a Perth Presbytery Initiative sponsored by Perth North Church of Scotland SCO13014

LISTENING TOGETHER LEARNING TOGETHER BEING TOGETHER

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

This week **Lesley Mackie** writes about "**The Miami Disclosure**" by **Anne Downie**



*Anne Downie is an old friend of mine and I'm familiar with most of her plays. Many of you will have seen *The Yellow on the Broom* at either Dundee, Perth or Pitlochry. She has written one novel *The Witches of Pollock* before her recently published thriller *The Miami Disclosure*.*

*Without going into too much detail and giving too much away: When a young New Yorker discovers he was adopted, he sets out on a difficult journey to trace his birth mother. His subsequent actions lead to life-shattering consequences on both sides of the Atlantic. It sets a racy pace from the first page and takes us into the action immediately. The plot revolves around a subject that can provoke strong responses from all sides of the debate. The various settings in which the action takes place feel very authentic - in Miami and Edinburgh - and the author obviously knows the theatrical world very well. A fast-moving, exciting and intelligent novel that unfolds like a gripping, contemporary film and lives on in the mind of the reader.*

*Anne Downie is a very talented story teller who has used topical issues and interwoven them into a gripping and dynamic storyline. Well worth a read.*

*The Miami Disclosure is available on Amazon in Paperback and Kindle.*

The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 43 will be on **Friday 28 May 2021**. All contributions to [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com) by **Wed 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021**