



St. Matthew's Church

Perth

e- Newsletter No. 44

11th June 2021

Vacancy Update

At the recent General Assembly it was agreed that all vacancies have to have a Minister **preaching as sole nominee by 31st December 2021** (ie such that the congregation will then vote on their suitability for the post) otherwise the vacancy will be listed (ie they will not be able to proceed any further in their search for a new Minister).

There is therefore obviously some urgency now in our search for our new Minister!

All Members and Adherents should now have received an e-mail or letter in the following terms:

We are now at the stage of appointing a Nominating Committee which is elected to look for and recommend one person deemed to be suitable to be the minister of our congregation and parish.

We are therefore writing to all people on our Electoral Roll to ask you to nominate one person who you consider suitable to be appointed to the Nominating Committee. The Committee will comprise a maximum of 13 people and it would be good to have as wide a representation of ages and interests as possible.

If you so wish, please complete the undernoted Form, ensuring that you have a seconder for this person and that the proposed candidate also confirms their willingness to stand.

Please then return the Form by 18th June 2021 by post as follows:

St Matthew's Church
Tay Street
Perth PH1 5LQ
Or by e-mail to clerk@perthstmatthews.org.uk

Rev Marc Bircham, Interim Moderator

I nominate (Full name in block capitals)

Proposed by.....

Seconded by

Confirmed willingness to accept nomination (Signed by nominee or confirmed by nominator)

Date.

A Parish Profile which can be sent out to any Applicants has also been prepared and awaits the approval of Kirk Session on 16th June. Thereafter it will appear on our website.

It's now "all systems go" so please keep the Nominating Committee in your prayers as it seeks to find the right person for the mission and ministry at St Matthew's and to guide us through the next few tumultuous years.

Fiona Bruce

Session Clerk

PRAYER

God we praise you

As faith is planted in our hearts and souls, so you have "planted" us in the world.

Not to be rooted, static, unmoved and unmoving; but rather actively transforming the world around us;

Using the gospel to challenge injustice, to bring compassion and love.

Co-workers with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit.

May our hearts overflow with thankfulness for all you give, for all you ask, for all we are invited to do, for all we will achieve through you, for you, and for all your creation.

Amen

From "Life & Work"



DIARY

Sunday: Live streamed Worship from 10.45

ID 953 7532 1288 Pass code 058724

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>

NO NEED TO BOOK FOR CHURCH NOW .

- JUST TURN UP FOR 11AM!



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://Watergate%20%7C%20Perth%20%7C%20Self%20Catering%20Holiday%20Cottage%20(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.

NOTE: Prices have been reduced in the past week.

NOTICES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday Congratulations are sent to:

Margaret Wright for 9th June

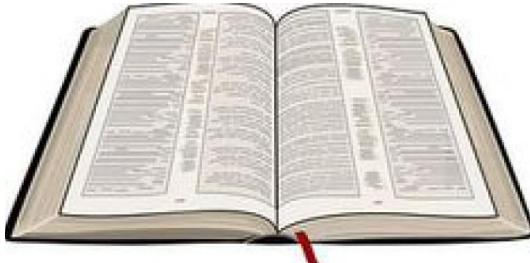
Special 70th Birthday
wishes go to **Lesley Mackie** on 10th June.



Grace Rosenfeld who is 87 on 12th June

And **Sheena Clark** on 12th June

And **Guy Willoughby** on 24th June



It is with sadness that we intimate the death of two of our Church family- **Mr Brian Turner**, lately of Glenrothes, and **Mrs Laureen Blyth** of Perth who died on 24th May 2021.

Please note the following changes:

COFFEE AND CHAT

This Monday morning group has run weekly throughout lockdown. It has now been decided that it has run its course and will cease forthwith.

WEDNESDAY MEDITATIONS

This weekly group will continue until 30th June. There will be a break over the summer and it will re-start on 1st September 2021.

FLOWER ROTA

Sun.	Donated By:	Arranged by:	Delivered By:
June 13 th	Sheena Beange	Norma Wright	Alison Sweeney
June 20 th	Betty Lindores	Alison Ford	Evelyn McLaren
June 27 th	Jean Sawers	Norma Wright	Lesley Wale
July 4 th	Marjorie Clark	Norma Wright	Nicola Macnee
July 11 th	Norma Wright	Norma Wright	Carolyn Byers
July 18 th	Maureen Fraser	Alison Ford	Marjorie Clark
July 25 th	Alex MacDonald	Norma Wright	Lesley Williamson



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.

Aftercare of your Bulbs

A common question at this time of year is what to do with bulbs after they have flowered and if it is ok to cut off the stems? Tulips and daffodils have just finished flowering and the old stems can look untidy but they play an essential role in the bulb's life.

Daffodils- Cut off the dead flower heads but leave the long green leaves. There might be a seed pod at the back of the flower, cut this off too as you don't want the daffodil to put all its energy in to seed production. Let the leaves die down for at least 6 weeks before you cut them off, this lets the energy from the leaves go back into the bulb for next year. You can also give the bulbs a feed with either a granular fertiliser like bonemeal or a bulb feed or a liquid tomato food. Just one application of the feed will help to produce better flowers next year and stop the bulbs going blind (not flowering). If you have really big clumps of daffodils you can lift them carefully with a fork and split them up and replant them in other areas of the garden. Bulbs grown in tubs can also be planted out in the garden for next year.

Tulips- Tulips are a bit fussier than daffodils. They can be treated in exactly the same way as daffodils but there is no guarantee of good flowers the following year. There are 2 options, start with fresh bulbs if you want a guaranteed display or, lift the tulips after 6 weeks and dry them off in a cool place then store them in a dark, well-ventilated place until the Autumn when you can replant them. Often tulips left in the ground will split into lots and lots of small bulbs, that's why they don't do so well in future years. (This doesn't apply to the small early species tulips, they flower reliably year after year). This year the Tulip display has been especially good and has gone on a bit longer due to the cold start.

Sunday	Beadle	Door Duty Team
June 13 th	Colin	Muirton - Janet
June 20 th	Andy	Perth City - John
June 27 th	Tom	Perth South - Malcolm
July 4 th	Malcolm	Oakbank -Donald
July 11 th	Colin	Burghmuir – Isobel
July 18 th	Andy	Bridgend – Alastair
July 25 th	Tom	Gannochy – Jean

Church of Scotland General Assembly

The Church of Scotland General Assembly met ‘virtually’ this year, over 5 days, using Zoom to enable over 600



participants to listen, discuss, debate and vote on some very important matters. I was one of almost 500 Commissioners, and we were joined by overseas delegates and observers from different denominations. There were only a few people actually in the Assembly Hall on the Mound in Edinburgh, Moderators past and present, church officials, conveners of committees and the camera operators who did an amazing job in keeping us all connected. The Lord High Commissioner was there also; this year the role was taken by Prince William, and he gave a gracious speech, describing his and Kathryn’s love of Scotland and the important role of faith



in his life. This year’s Moderator is Jim Wallace, former deputy First Minister and elder of St Magnus Cathedral, Orkney; he is only the second elder to hold the office in modern times.

There was much to consider during the 5 days, and some challenging statistics. Did you know, for example, that there are currently 300 vacant charges in Scotland – almost one in three throughout Scotland. And that 40% of the current ministers are likely to retire in the next ten years? Warnings have been given over previous General Assemblies, about the situation facing the church, and hard-hitting decisions had to be made if the church is to have a sustainable future. We heard from the Assembly Trustees about last year’s annual deficit of £11 million, and that, going forward, the church can

afford 600 ministers; every Presbytery Plan is being revisited, including that of Perth Presbytery, and already work has begun on a new Presbytery Mission Plan for our area. This will inevitably lead to big changes, and every church, whether or not they have a minister at present, will be impacted. Much was said during the Assembly about the ‘5 marks of mission’, by which every church could be assessed; these identify the role of the church to be to

- Proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
- Teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- Respond to human need by loving service
- Seek to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation
- Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

There were many other reports presented and decisions made at this General Assembly – on disinvestment in oil and gas industries, on the work of Crossreach, with tribute paid to the hard-working staff who had been on the frontline during the pandemic, as well as the impact of the pandemic on partner churches in Africa and Asia. The debate as to whether ministers can perform same-sex marriages trundles on, and it was also agreed to reconsider the appropriateness of the Westminster Confession of Faith (written in 1647), which is still cited during ordination of ministers. There is not space here to give a proper resume of the wide sweep of subjects covered – but for more info, I heartily recommend Life and Work’s four page summary of the decisions, and their implications for the church, (including us at St Matthew’s) which can be found here:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2021-special-supplement>



Marjorie Clark

GUILD NEWS – GOOD NEWS FOR EVRYONE



We have been given permission to meet as a Guild in the Sanctuary, and coincidental with this the Church Guild nationally is organising and livestreaming a **BIG SING on Friday 18th June at 2 pm**. This event will feature

contributions from each of the new project partners as well as one of our Church of Scotland Mission Partners, Gary Brough. Gary will share with us information about a project he is running in Malawi to end the practice of early marriage where children, mainly girls under 16, are married. The offerings from the event will support the work Gary is doing.

Here in St Matthews we plan to join in this **BIG SING** live in our Sanctuary, on **Friday afternoon the 18th of June**. The usual restrictions, of social distancing, mask wearing and Track and Trace will be observed just as we do on Sunday mornings, but remember as from Sunday the 13th we will be allowed to sing! The Church door will be open from 1.30 pm to give us time to be ready for the 2 pm start.

This event is being hosted by the Guild for anyone else who would like to come along. Please come and join in the singing, and enjoy a cup of tea.

Lorna Morrison, Guild Convener

Dear God

Thank you very much For the bluebells that you have created and we're very thankful for them and all that you do for us

God I was born to love you Thank you for nature you have built for me and others too and you brighten up our day we are very thankful for everything that you have given us Amen.



Walking Group

The sun shone last Saturday on the eight of us from the St Matthews walking group, who explored the Methven Woods and the north bank of the River Almond around Pitcairngreen and Almondbank. The 6-mile walk had lots of variety, taking us through woods, round a lochan, over fields and along river banks, all followed by refreshments in the Pitcairngreen Inn. A great time was had by all.

Marjorie Clark

The next walk from Stanley is on the 3rd July details in next Newsletter.

Prayer and Picture by Andrew Davies



The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 45 will be on **Friday 25th June 2021**. All contributions to FMBruce6@googlemail.com by **Wed 23rd June 2021**