



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 45

Fri 25th June

Dear All

A recent Meditation by Marjorie Clark centred around refugees and asylum seekers as Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Founded in 1998 and held every year around World Refugee Day on the 20 June, Refugee Week is also a growing global movement.

Refugee Week's vision is for refugees and asylum seekers to be able to "*live safely within inclusive and resilient communities, where they can continue to make a valuable contribution.*" The Bible itself does not use the word "refugee" but there are certainly many references in the Bible to welcoming the stranger in your midst and loving your neighbour as yourself.

In the light of these Biblical exhortations, the Church of Scotland has recently signed 2 open letters to the UK Government asking, firstly, for a "fairer and more humane asylum system in partnership with devolved governments" and, secondly, stating that the UK proposals, set out in a recent consultation paper entitled the "New Plan for Immigration" will cause harm and suffering and breach the obligations of the UN refugee convention.

A new campaign called "Together with Refugees" was launched by the Asylum Reform Initiative on 10 May and is backed by the Church of Scotland.

On a more positive note - I'm sure, like me, you were delighted to read in the headlines recently that:

"The orphaned son of an asylum seeker who has lived under the threat of deportation for 10 years has been told he can stay permanently in the UK."

The article continued with the story of Giorgi Kakava, 13, who has finally been granted the right to remain indefinitely by the Home Office which means he can continue living in Glasgow for as long as he wants.

I am proud to say that this case was championed by Rev Brian Casey, Minister of Springburn Parish Church, who lobbied the UK and Scottish governments and launched an online petition which attracted 92,650 signatures.

Fiona Bruce,
Session Clerk

PRAYER

Faith and hope for
a fruitful plentiful planet for all
perfectly balanced for bees and birds

Faith and hope for
A fair sharing for all
Radical rethinking of resources

Faith and hope for
A peaceful place for all
Safety, security, somewhere to call home

And for all your love

Praise be!
Amen

(from Life & Work)

VACANCY UPDATE

Nominating Committee

Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in names for our Nominating Committee. The following people have been appointed and met on Wednesday for the first time to agree their Convenor (Tom Morrison) and Clerk (Raymond Young):

Ann Attridge	Fiona Bruce
Mark Crichton	Andrew Davies
John Dewar	Michael Ellacott
Nicola Macnee	Tom Morrison
Maureen Pearson	Joyce Thom
Lesley Williamson	Jenni Wilson
and Raymond Young	

Please hold them all in your prayers and ask for guidance in the work they are about to do.

I would like also to clarify the Vacancy Update from the last edition of the Newsletter in that it is all vacancies *who have been permitted by Presbytery* who are being allowed to continue with the process- and, sadly, there are several churches within the Presbytery of Perth whose vacancy has been sisted.
Fiona Bruce
Session Clerk



DIARY

Sunday: Live streamed Worship from 10.45
ID 953 7532 1288 Pass code 058724

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 .



Myrna & Arthur Little would like to thank, most sincerely, everyone at St Matthew's for their good wishes - as well as the beautiful *floral* bouquet - received during Arthur's recent illness. Those are very much appreciated.



23rd June -Mark Crichton

27th June – Jenny Fraser who will be 94 years young!

1st July - Dinah McAleese

2nd July – Daisy Stratton will be 98!

5th July - Isobel Sinclair

12th July - Doris Robertson

21st July - Alison Sweeney

22nd July- Jean Young

24th July- Jean McIntyre (80 this year)

25th July – Andrew Davies (25 this year)

31st July - Sheila Murray



FLOWER ROTA

Sun.	Donated By:	Arranged by:	Delivered By:
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



Sunday	Beadle	Door Duty Team
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



ZOOM Services when you are on holiday.

Our regular Sunday worship will continue throughout the summer both in Church and on Zoom. This of course means you do not need to miss an opportunity to meet with your friends from wherever you happen to be. Please make sure you take the ZOOM code with you on holiday, open up your laptop or iPad and join in!

ID 953 7532 1288 Pass code 058724

Nominating Committee

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will have been updated on the progress of the vacancy with the election of the Nominating Committee. As the elected Convener I would like to thank those who have put their trust and faith in me to lead the Committee through to its conclusion. I am delighted to have Raymond Young as Clerk to the Committee and with your prayers and support we look forward to a successful search for our next Minister.

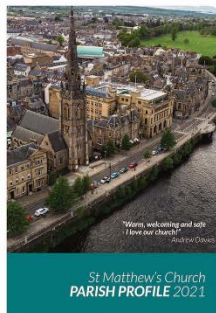


Please note that the work of the Nominating Committee, of necessity, has to be fully confidential. I would ask that you respect that confidentiality and do not ask of or expect updates from any of the Committee. If there is something to tell there will be a Newsletter Extra sent out to bring everyone up to date at the same time.

Tom Morrison, Nominating Committee, Convener.

Parish Profile

The Parish Profile has now been finalised and approved by Kirk Session. Thanks are due to the “team” of Alastair Byers, Janet Martin, Marjorie Clark and me who compiled it, along with Ian Potter who carried out the graphic design.



The Parish Profile now appears on our website (courtesy of our “website guru” Andrew Mitchell) - see www.perthstmatthews.org.uk and is available for any Applicant and for use by the Nominating Committee.

I would urge all of you to consider whether you know of any possible Applicant and, if so, please direct them to our Parish Profile which can be downloaded from the website.

Fiona Bruce
Session Clerk

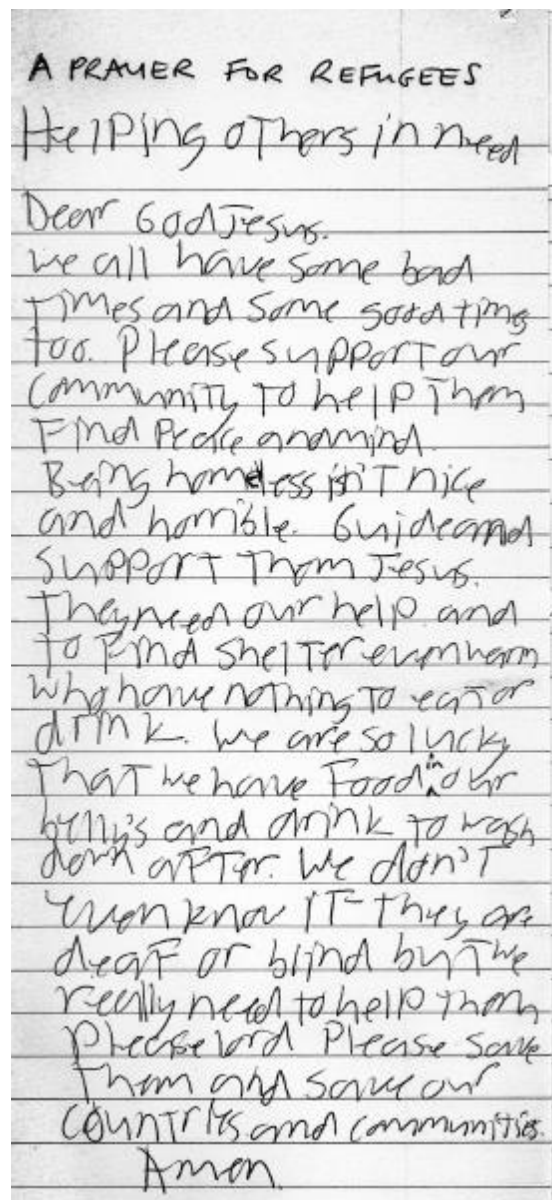
Doors Open Days 18th & 19th September 2021

We are signed up for “Doors Open Days” once more. By that time we expect to be able to open our door to the public again. It will take place from Saturday 18th



September to Sunday 19th September. We would intend to do what we have done in the past. A bit of exhibition, a bit of music and teas & coffees. It will be nice to see visitors coming through our doors again. Please note the date as we will be looking for volunteers to act as guides and provide hospitality.

A prayer from Andrew Davies



Summer Houseplant Care

After one of the wettest Mays on record, the



clouds have parted and the sun has finally decided to make an appearance, meaning Summer has arrived! Although houseplants need light and warmth to survive, too much of a good thing can be damaging to their health, leaving them with droopy stems and brown, shrivelled leaves. If these signs are left to worsen, your plants could even be at risk of dying completely.

As a result, it's important to keep an eye on your houseplants during any periods of heat like the one we're predicted to experience over the coming weeks and make sure you adapt your plant care routine to ensure they stay happy and healthy despite the change in conditions. I like to dust off my houseplants and take them outside for a summer clean. Gently spray them with water to clean the leaves and then water them well before you take them back inside. If they are in a South facing window it may be necessary to move them to a slightly shadier spot in the peak of the summer, they won't dry out so fast.

Indoor plants, just as their outdoor counterparts, need to be fertilized to stay healthy. Think of fertilizer as the other half of your potting soil. When potting soil is fresh, your plants won't need much – if any – fertilizing. This is especially true with modern, fortified potting soil which has fertilizer mixed in. After about two months, however, the plant will have consumed the nutrients in the soil so you'll have to fertilize it if you want continued, healthy growth. I use a liquid houseplant feed every 2 weeks until September.

You can tell if the plant needs repotted if the roots are showing at the base of the pot or coming out of the top of the pot. Just use a pot the next size up. There are plenty of houseplant composts to choose from and most foliage plants will do well in these. If you do have cacti or orchids though try to get their specific compost as the drainage is much more open.

Your plants deserve the best of care!

GUILD NEWS

Last Friday the Big Sing in the Sanctuary here at St Matthews was also a Big Success. Twenty people came along and enjoyed hearing about the future plans for the Guild in the coming year, joined in some favourite hymns, and enjoyed a cup of tea together. We were able to pass on £65 to help with the Malawi project which helps teenage girls.



Now we have plans for the new Guild session, which will begin on Monday 6th September at our usual time of 2 pm with a recording of the Annual Gathering, a similar experience to that of last Friday. There will be Guild news, a talk from the Moderator of the General Assembly and singing to enjoy and join in.

On Monday 4th October we will have a talk from Ruth Box who will give us details of our new project for 2021-22, Chocolate Heaven.

You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter that the Guild are going to help run a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th September.

We are planning to hold our meetings in the Sanctuary this year.

Lorna Morrison, Convener

Macmillan Coffee Morning Saturday 25th September 2021

A year ago we supported the Macmillan Coffee morning by having a successful On-line event and have offered to have one in church on the Macmillan Coffee



Morning day of **Saturday 25th September**. The Guild ladies have enthusiastically offered to make the tea and coffee on that day. So- another date for your diary to support a very worthwhile cause.

THE UNEXPECTED

This is a column when different readers will tell us something unexpected about themselves.

*This week we are delighted to hear from our friends in Germany, **Angela and Wolfgang**, about how they first visited St Matthew's:*

It started in 1991, when we first arrived in Scotland after very hot days and nights in Wiltshire and Buckinghamshire where we visited Wolfgang's relatives. As we were bound to book holidays during the school breaks, we were very glad to find a cooler destination (next stops would have been Iceland or Greenland). We stayed for a week in a nice B&B at Pitcullen Crescent and, oh boy, everything was so overwhelming: the beauty of the different landscapes, the interesting sightseeing, the weather and most of all the friendly people, which we met on tours, in B&Bs and in pubs (!). So for the next years we behaved like good tourists, visiting castles, palaces, museums, galleries... in and around Perth. By then we stayed for a fortnight.

And then came 1995. On the 7th of July we decided that now we could dare to join in a full Sunday service. So after a long breakfast and a longer chat with our hosts we went to the nearest church which was Kinnoull Parish Church. But the service had already started and the doors were closed. We went down to the riverbank and suddenly we heard church bells (we now think it must have been St. John's), saw that the doors of the church with the high steeple were still open, dashed over the bridge and entered St. Matthew's. Again we were overwhelmed: the extreme friendly welcoming at the door and cheerful service and the joyful hymns. The service was conducted by a locum minister because Ewen Gilchrist was on holiday. Due to this delightful experience we came back the next Sunday and were on the hook again. Since then we planned our holidays with the most amount of services possible. Sometimes we were even in St. Matthew's twice a day.

So this was the unexpected turn for you being stuck with us and the unexpected turn for us encountering the pleasure of worshipping in different but also familiar ways. Now we could start to tell 37 or more chapters about unexpected events connected to the story above: from

meeting people, developing friendships, still visiting sites, exploring every nook and cranny (including beaches, restaurants, bookshops and ice-cream parlours) staying in beautiful flats for 4 weeks up to enjoying zooming into Sunday services and chats. Hope to haste us back to Perth in summer 2022. Beware!



The walking group will continue over the summer. The next walk is from **Stanley to Kings Myer** on Saturday 3rd July 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

Jean Young will lead a walk at Forteviot of about 6 miles on 7th August.

Please get in touch with Jean Young (07801 889820 or jy2@btinternet.com) if you would like to join this group)

Jean

As we are taking a **summer break** it would seem like the right time to make a special thank you to those who have made regular contributions to the newsletter. I am sure you can all identify who they are but it is only right that we thank Fiona, Andrew, Nicola, Janet, Marjorie and Jean. To the others thank you with a special thanks to the "UNEXPECTED" CONTRIBUTORS for revealing interesting stories of their past. And of course thank you also to our Mail Man Tom!

Please note that the Newsletter is going to take a *summer break* over July and August although there may be the occasional page sent out with update information as required.

Wishing all our readers a very relaxing and sunny summer!

