



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 49

Fri 8th October

Dear All,

We have received the following from the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC:

“As we enter the final few weeks before COP26, the global climate change conference taking place in Glasgow (31st October – 12th November), we are writing to encourage every congregation in the Church of Scotland to do all that we can do to ensure that this gathering succeeds in addressing the huge challenges that we are facing.

A call to prayer and worship

Our first message to you is to encourage our congregations to pray; in our worship and preaching in the Sundays leading up to and during COP26, and to join the many opportunities for in-person and online worship that are now being planned, across Glasgow and elsewhere. We would also ask that you will consider arranging local events where people can come together to pray for justice for the poorest and for our planet.

A call to witness on the streets

We hope you will encourage as many people from your congregations as possible to take part in the global day of action and mass mobilisation which will take place on the **6th November** in Glasgow and around the world.

We invite you to hold a vigil outside your own church on 6th November as a public sign of

solidarity and support for climate justice and care for creation.

Hear the voices of those people most deeply impacted

Our third request is to ensure that the wisdom and experience of our sisters and brothers in the countries most affected by global heating and in societies least able to cope with measures to mitigate the impact is uppermost in our thoughts and actions. The poorest are often excluded from decisions which hurt them most. “

If you would like to be a part of this please speak to me .

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

PRAYER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

You spoke into the silence
Light suffusing darkness.
You spoke into the silence
Blowing clean life giving air into the space
You spoke into the silence
Warmth and cold infusing the air
You spoke into the silence
Solid ground formed out of gushing water.
You spoke voice carrying over the sound
People, plants and animals came to life.
You spoke each creation balanced against the next so life would be abundant and sustainable.
You saw everything you had made and declared it to be very good.
You spoke choosing to give us humans stewardship over all that You had made.
We speak and act
Darkness of pollution limits light levels and damages the air we breathe.
We speak and act
Ground poisoned, burnt, stripped bare.
We speak and act
Spoiling, limiting, destroying quality of life and life itself.
We speak and act
Without hearing Your call over the noise of the world to be good stewards.
You speak. You create. You want us to be stewards of Your creation.
We come to You to re-learn how to care for the earth and people you have made.

Katrina Rowland (Christian Aid)



DIARY

Sunday: Live streamed Worship from 10.45

ID 953 7532 1288 Pass code 058724

Wednesday Meditation at 9am

ID: 818 8897 1376 Passcode: 905980

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>

Quick link for Meditations

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81888971376?pwd=UkYxcHo5SVV2Ky9JN0swc3JleitLZz09>

VACANCY

In the last Newsletter and in church last week I was delighted to intimate that the Nominating Committee have nominated Rev Fiona Bullock and arrangements have been made for her to conduct public worship in St Matthew's on **Sunday 24th October at 11am.**

Immediately after that service there will be a vote on whether or not Rev Fiona Bullock should be appointed as the new Minister of this congregation. Anyone whose name appears on the Electoral Register of this congregation shall be entitled to vote.

I would also like to intimate that all Members and Adherents who are on the Electoral Roll but are unable to attend the Service on 24th October in person due to Covid-related issues will be given the opportunity to register to vote by contacting Bev, the Facilities & Outreach Manager, on **07912 843790 by Monday 18th October.**

Those who have registered will receive emailed / lettered instructions on the voting procedure.

Having viewed or listened to the Service by Zoom on Sunday 24th, those Members or Adherents who have registered will be able to e-mail their vote to voting@perthstmatthews.org.uk or phone in their vote to 01738 636757 by 12.30pm following the Service.

Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk

Anniversary Celebrations.

St. Matthew's Church



We are now only 6 weeks away from our **150th Anniversary Service** (21st November) when we will welcome the **Moderator of the General Assembly, The Rt.Hon.Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC** to preach for us.

Your 150th Committee have been working hard to prepare for this service and the other events and celebrations.

A programme of events will be posted in the Newsletter and on posters within the church building. There are many objectives in a celebration of this nature - spiritual, social, community and outreach - and we propose to encompass all of these aspects throughout the forthcoming year.

Our first event, by tradition, would have been the last event in our calendar, however, due to Covid our celebration year has been turned round and we start our year with the Anniversary Service. Plans for this have been ongoing for about 2 years now.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

The Anniversary Service will take place on Sunday 21st November 2021 at 11am. followed by a light lunch in the church hall. There are a number of invited guests and it has been agreed that the congregation "book" their place, primarily in order that the catering can be sorted out. In the early days of the lockdown we reopened the church by using Eventbrite as a ticketing agency and are doing the same for this service.

To reserve your place at lunch/ church??on Eventbrite please use the link below which will be operative from Monday 11th October. The number of spaces for lunch is limited to 150. Spaces in church? Should you be unable to access Eventbrite please telephone Beverly from Tuesday 19th October at the Church office phone number ?? 01738 636757. If Beverly cannot answer the phone leave a message with your name and phone number and a request for tickets. Beverly will contact you within 2 or 3 days.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/perth-stmatthews-church150th-anniversary-service-tickets-187860183867>

SOCIAL EVENTS

We have planned to have a social event each month throughout the year. These events are designed to bring the congregation and community together following the long absence due to Covid. Full details will appear during the next weeks and in the newsletter. By the time these are underway we would like to think our new minister will be in post and using these opportunities to meet the congregation informally. More info to follow.

Tom Morrison,
Stewardship Convenor.

150th Events – Advance Notice for the diary

ROCK CHOIR CONCERTS:

These will take place on **Saturday 4th December** at 2 and 7pm.

Tickets, priced at £8, will shortly be available from Bev.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

This will take place on **Saturday 11 December**. More details to follow on both.

WORK PARTY

Please join us on **Saturday 13th November** 10-12 noon in preparation for our Anniversary Service.

Tea and bacon rolls provided!

St. Matthew's Church has chosen **Sunday 17 October 2021** for the focus of this initiative. We, as a congregation, have suffered particularly from being unable to rent out our halls and sanctuary from March 2020. It is only now that organisations and others are beginning to recommence their activities. While our income from bank standing orders has held up, our income from the WFO envelopes, the weekly gift aid envelopes and the open plate has fallen dramatically due to the long periods when we were unable to open due to the pandemic. There also continues to be an understandable reluctance from some members to return to church. We have only been able to meet all our financial commitments since March 2020 due, in particular, to a generous legacy from a former Elder, a generous donation from a member of the congregation and the income generated from the letting of the flat. This income was also reduced due to the enforced closures during lockdowns.

We would therefore ask you to give your support to this initiative insofar as you are able either by returning the yellow envelope, placing your donation in an envelope clearly marked "National Giving Day" or making payment by bank transfer again marking the payment "National Giving Day". If you are a taxpayer please also mark your envelope "Gift Aid".

The bank details are as under:-

Account Name: St. Matthew's Church

Sort Code: 83-47-00

Account Number: 00760133

If you unable to make your donation on Sunday 17 October you can still continue to do so until the end of November.

We would ask all members to give prayerful thought to supporting the initiative.

Tom Morrison, Stewardship and Finance Convenor

John Dewar, Treasurer



**SUNDAY 17
OCTOBER
2021**

This is a national initiative from the Church of Scotland to encourage members of the Church to support their local congregation during September and October after what have been and continue to be most difficult times in many ways including the income available to churches to carry out all their work.

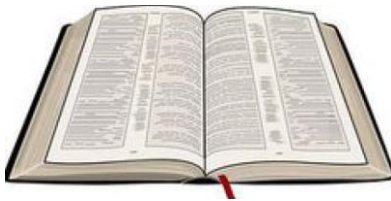
NOTICES

DEATH

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of our long-serving Elder and faithful Member, **Mrs Christian Smith**, who died on 30th September, just before her 94th birthday, after a long illness.

The funeral will be held this **Monday 11th October** at 11.30am in St Matthew's Church.

We send our prayers and condolences to Frances and Andy Turnbull and their family.



A WAVE and a Prayer are sent to **Dorothy and Michael Ellacott**

MEDITATIONS

We are pleased to announce that the Wednesday Meditations have re-started following their summer break.

These are taken by members of the congregation and are on Zoom at 9am – so you can even access them whilst on holiday!

The Zoom access code is as follows:

ID: 818 8897 1376

Passcode: 905980

We are delighted to advise that Teas & Coffees have restarted end of the Sunday service.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On the **Saturday 25th September** the Guild held a Coffee morning as part of the Macmillan Coffee Morning Appeal. They are pleased to report that £473 was raised for this very worthwhile charity.

Many thanks for your support.

Lorna Morrison, Guild Convenor.

Retirement Gift

If you would like to contribute to a presentation to our Church Caretaker, Paul Moran, please contact Session Clerk, Fiona Bruce, with this by 31 October 2021. If you wish to contribute by bank transfer please mark payment "Paul"

The bank details are as under:-

Account Name: St. Matthew's Church

Sort Code: 83-47-00

Account Number: 00760133



Service of Reflection 2021



You are warmly invited to a special online service of reflection on All Souls' Day.

When: Tuesday 2 November, at 5.30pm.

Duration: Approx. 40 mins.

A Time to Reflect

The service will mark our thankfulness to God, and to so many people, for their faith and kindness in supporting Christian Aid's work. It will feature contributions from across the Christian Aid community, including Chief Executive Amanda Mukwashi, and an address from our Chair, Dr Rowan Williams.

We will honour our supporters who have generously left a gift in their Will for Christian Aid's work and celebrate the lives of the much-loved people in whose memory donations have been made. In their name, we continue to challenge injustice and fight poverty.

We've all been through such enormous change and loss in the last - nearly two - years, especially those who have lost loved ones. This is a time for us to come together in a moment of comfort, hope and solidarity, allowing space to remember those who lit up our lives.

Contact legacyteam@christian-aid.org or (020) [7523 2177](tel:75232177) for information or queries

City Centre Renew Wellbeing Space

Many of you will know that several churches have been working together to set up a Renew Wellbeing Space in the City Centre to support people with issues of poor mental health, loneliness and social isolation. We have been making good progress and now have a space in the Methodist church to host meetings on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons. We have names of some volunteers already but we are now in a position to offer training as we move ahead.

Initial training sessions will be on **Monday 25th October** at 10am-1pm or **Thursday 28th October** at 1.30-4.30pm. If you would like to be a part of this

ecumenical project and are available at one of these times, please get in touch with James Gill (jamesandsheena.gill@virgin.net) and they will give you all the details.

We would like to know of your interest by **Friday 22nd October** if possible.

It would be great if you would pray for us and also ask God if He is leading you to be a part of this work.

James Gill from the Baptist Church.

Andrew's prayer for Autumn

Dear God Jesus
Do you love walking in
The leaves to make your
Feet tickle inside?
Do you find Autumn a
great Feeling? Now these
are the questions that you
have to ask you don't have
to be alone. Bring someone
with you.
Somewhere you can take
time and to heal as well
also to GRIEF alone as
well. LIFT a pile of
leaves and you'll find
Peace and love which I
know I do to.
Amen

The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 50 will be on **Friday 22nd October 2021**. All contributions to FMBruce6@googlemail.com by Wednesday 20th October 2021