



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 51

Fri 5th November

Dear All

Hallelujah!

"Hallelujah" as our previous Session Clerk shouted out!

A lot can happen in 2 weeks!

As I'm sure most of you will already know, Rev Fiona C Bullock preached at St Matthew's as sole nominee on Sunday 26th October and was unanimously elected to be our new Minister by 101 votes to nil.

She was delighted to accept our Call and I am pleased to inform you that the Presbytery Vacancy Procedure Committee met this week and, having received all the required paperwork, approved the appointment of Rev Fiona Bullock to St Matthew's

The next stage will be the formal Induction of Fiona to St Matthew's by Perth Presbytery and I have been advised that this will take place in "early January" 2022.

However, as you will be aware we have various services and events happening in November and December so I'm sure that Fiona will manage to attend St Matthew's in a social capacity at some point and we look forward to seeing her and her family then.

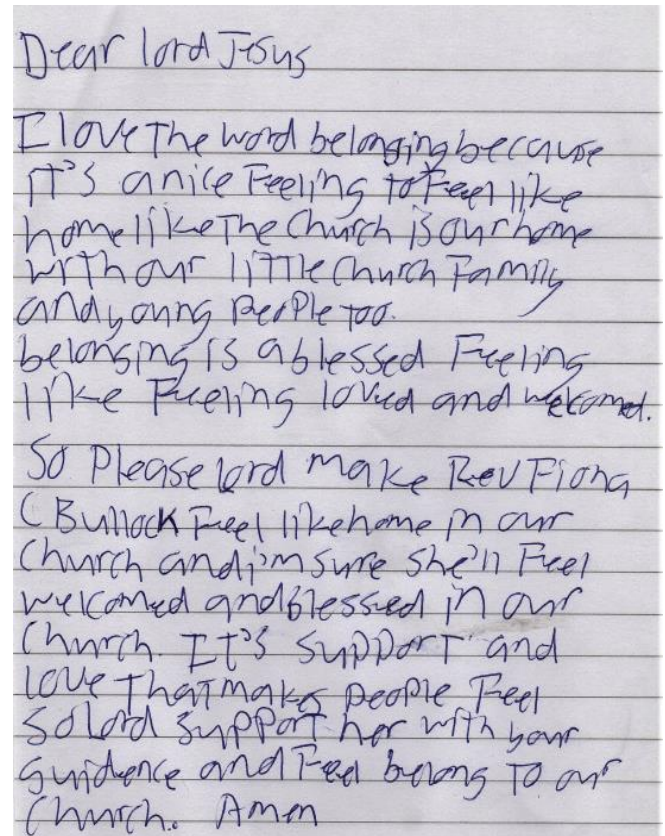
Fiona Bruce

Session Clerk



Andrew's Prayer-

Andrew was minded to write this Prayer following on from Rev Fiona Bullock's service on the importance of "Belonging" and "Home":



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

This will take place on **SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER** commencing, as usual, at the earlier time of 10.45am so that we can observe the Minute's Silence at 11am.



The usual retiral collection will take place in aid of Poppy Scotland.

St. Matthew's Church



We are now only 2 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.

.ANNIVERSARY SERVICE LUNCH

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.

To reserve your place at **lunch** on Eventbrite please use the link below **by 14th November.**

The number of spaces for lunch is limited to 150. Should you be unable to access Eventbrite please telephone Beverly 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. You will be contacted within 2 or 3 days.

Note: If you have a place for lunch can you please contact Fiona Bruce by 14th November FMBruce6@googlemail.com or 07787 103531 if you have any dietary requirements.

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

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



Tea and bacon rolls provided!



DECEMBER EVENTS at St. Matthew's



Christmas Concert
Saturday 4th. 2pm / 7pm
Tickets £8pp available at Sunday cafe



Christmas Movie & lunch
Thursday 9th. 12noon
Tickets £6pp available at Sunday



Christmas coffee morning
Saturday 11th. 10 am
Tickets £3pp available at Sunday cafe



Concert & interval refreshments
Sunday 12th. 3pm
Tickets (awaiting confirmation)



Christmas Carol Service
Friday 17th.
Details to follow

Tickets for all events will be available from the office, (Tuesday 10 – 12) or book by phoning 636757 OR, on a Sunday they will be on sale in church before or after the service.

150th Anniversary walks



On 4th December, we will start as part of our anniversary celebrations to walk the **Fife Pilgrim Way** from Culross to St. Andrews.

The first walk will be from Culross to Crossford, just outside Dunfermline, a distance of 6 miles. Having visited the Abbey at Culross we will walk to Crossford and get the bus back to Culross.

The January walk will not be on New Year's Day but will be on the 8th. when buses will be running.

Jean Young

NOTICES

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



Sunday Coffee

I hope you have all been enjoying a cup of tea or coffee after services over the last month. The commitments that we all have change over time and so this is a plea for new helpers to get in touch and have their names added to the rota. To that end you can contact me at frances.turnbull@btinternet.com or directly at church.

Thanks in anticipation of lots of eager, new helpers. It's a good way to get to know people and we love having new faces in the teams.

Frances Turnbull

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Andy and Frances TURNBULL on the birth of their new grandson, **HAMISH IAIN FALCONER** born on 26th October 2021 to Jennifer and Kenny.



CROSSREACH 2022 WALL CALENDARS

These lovely Calendars are now available from Fiona Bruce at church on a Sunday at a cost of £5 each.

NATIONAL GIVINGS DAY

There was a tremendous response to this and, so far, the sum of £4524.25 (including Gift Aid) has been collected.

Thank you to all who donated.



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>

RETIREMENT GIFT for Paul Moran

This will be presented to our former Caretaker at the lunch following the Anniversary Service on 21st November.

Fiona will bring a card to church on 7th and 14th November for signature

NOVEMBER CHURCH WALK



The November walk will take place on **Saturday 6 November** at Dunkeld along the banks of the Tay. It is a 6 mile walk almost completely flat with the exception of one short but steep incline.

Meet at Broxden at 9.30am for those who wish to car share. Please let me know on [jy2@btinternet.com](mailto: jy2@btinternet.com) if you are joining us. Bring a snack and lunch.

Afterwards we can go to Birnam with those who want to indulge.

BERTHA PARK

I am pleased to let you know that the Communion Retiral Collection raised the sum of £219.80 for the Bertha Park Project.

Rev Anne Stott, the Bertha Park Community Minister, was delighted and wrote in reply to our donation:

"What encouraging news! I greatly appreciate this interest and support from St. Matthew's congregation and kirk session.

Thank you once again for your generous donation,"

Church Flat

A reminder should you know anyone visiting the area that our church flat is available for let from "Sykes Holiday Cottages "

Comment made by a recent visitor to Watergate (the Church Flat.):

"Very spacious (is bigger than photos suggest) comfortable and warm flat. Great location as shops, pubs, restaurants, cinema and museums all a short (5 min) walk away. Spotlessly clean. Easy drive to Cairngorm National Park. No hesitation in recommending, just be aware it is a first floor flat so some stairs up to it (easy, with hand rail)."

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASS



The Scottish country dance class has restarted on Wednesday evenings in the main hall from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. We may extend the class until 9.30pm in time.

This is a very friendly class and new members are welcome. The cost is £3.00.

The current Covid rules currently are:

- No one should come to class if they are feeling unwell.
- Masks will be required when entering or leaving the hall at any time during the evening but not when dancing.
- There will be hand sanitiser available but please bring your own too and you'll be asked to sanitise your hands between dances.
- Chairs will be set out to comply with the required social distancing and unfortunately we will not be providing refreshments but there will be the usual interval so you can bring your own water/refreshments if you wish.
- Doors must remain open for ventilation.
- A record of attendees and contact details will be taken each night for Test & Protect.

Research studies have shown that Scottish country dancing is key to keeping fit and keeping the brain active.

Please contact Allana, the class teacher, on 01738 551148 or email [allanacreighton@btinternet.com](mailto: allanacreighton@btinternet.com) for more information.

Janet's Jottings

I recently bumped into a friend I hadn't seen for a long time. While we were chatting, I suddenly realised the time, apologised and stated that I had to go and do some messages before I went to work. He burst out laughing saying that he hadn't heard the term 'messages' being used in years. It's not heard often these days, but it certainly was in my childhood. When my parents sent me out on a 'message' I never quite knew what I was going to be asked to do and learned at a very young age not to question it, just to get on and do it as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Generally, it was the commonly known Scots interpretation of 'doing the messages' which meant going for some shopping.

It could though also mean a variety of other errands.

For instance, a lady up the road entrusted me every few days with the message of carrying a bucket load of vegetable peelings and food scraps to deliver to my granny's house to feed to her hens. Then the return 'message' from granny (with a firm instruction 'remember NO skipping on the way!') was to deliver half a dozen eggs safely back.

Another one was to be sent on a vegetable swap. When there was a glut of vegetables in our garden, Dad would send us to a neighbour with tatties, kale, beetroot or whatever and we would arrive back home with an armful of whatever was in excess in the recipient's garden.

On one memorable occasion, I was sent on an urgent message over to the local garage to request some grease as a wee boy on his holiday had got his leg stuck down a drain!

Doing the messages was never dull!

Although doing the 'messages' is a peculiarly Scottish term, being a messenger is the same in any language.

Christ is our greatest role model when it comes to delivering messages.

He also sent his disciples out on messages. One of the most famous being when he sent them out to find food to feed a huge crowd and they returned with 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Sometimes His messages can be challenging – Luke 6 v 41 *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye...."*

Or thought provoking - Matthew 10 v 34: *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to the earth to bring peace, but a sword"*.

Or encouraging - Matthew 11 v 28: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest"*.

Or reassuring - John 14 v 1: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me also"*.

Christ went to great lengths to see that God's messages got to the very folks that needed to hear them most.

Whether it was to the rich, the poor, the marginalised, the sick or disadvantaged, His message never wavered and that was "To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind".

He has instructed us to continue with His good work and deliver His messages on His behalf. So, the next time you go out on your messages – take Jesus with you and share the Good News!

Prayer

Gracious God,

We give thanks for being the recipients of your great message.

We rejoice in the fact that we have received the good news of your gospel in our salvation. Open our ears so that we may hear your voice and your commands.

Give us strength and courage to reach out to others and share Christ's message of love and peace.

May you pave the way for the conversations we need to have.

May our hearts sing with the words of your message so that we may be your disciples and make disciples of those whose paths we cross.

We ask that you help us to be aware of opportunities to bear witness to the greatness, the glory, and the goodness of our Saviour. Give us a boldness to walk through doors and proclaim the hope of redemption in Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life, for the glory of Your name and for the peace of the world.

Amen.

The next edition of the Newsletter, No. 51 will be on **Friday 26th November 2021**. All contributions to FMBruce6@googlemail.com by Wednesday 24th November 2021