



# St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 55

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

## A week of celebration at St. Matthew's

Well, how do you follow such an incredibly special service of induction? You write a wee article for the magazine of course! Friends, I am absolutely delighted to be your new Minister and I thank God for bringing us together. Thank you for the warm welcome you have offered Ian, Calum and I and for all the hard work you have put into making the Manse a comfortable home. Thank you too for the team effort that ensured my induction service was Spirit-filled and very meaningful. Those here in the church were joined by folks online from across the country and there was a real sense of community, support and blessing.



In the coming weeks, I look forward to new challenges as I get to know you and the way things work here at St Matthew's. I am certain that we will create an exciting path forward together. It will be a steep learning curve for me so, although I will do my best, I also crave your patience and understanding.

As I get to know you, you'll probably want to get to know me too. So, here's a wee fact about me - I love coffee! Coffee is always in order and I am looking forward to lots of chats over a cuppa.

For now, I pray that this will be the beginning of a wonderful new chapter together.

Every blessing,  
your Minister, Fiona.

The church was floodlit **RED** on *Wednesday* when the Moderator of Presbytery Inducted our new minister Rev Fiona Bullock. Witnessed by members of Presbytery, family and congregation Fiona accepted the charge and at the invitation of the Moderator we all welcomed Fiona with loud applause and cheers in celebration.

*This coming Sunday (23rd)* will see Rev Fiona Bullock being 'preached in' by her friend and colleague Rev Alison Notman. This will be followed by refreshments when there will be an opportunity to meet Fiona and for us to say thank you also to Rev Marc Bircham, who has been our Interim Moderator during the vacancy.

### Prayer

Sovereign God,  
We thank you that you have made us all different,  
In character, temperament, background and experience.  
We thank you for the diversity this gives us, and for the opportunities it brings to share with one another.  
Help us to be open to all we might learn and offer,  
To recognise that our differences should not be a source of weakness but strength.  
We thank you that you meet us as we are, with all our quirks and foibles,  
Everything that distinguishes us as individuals, the good and the bad, the pleasant and the ugly, and all our peculiarities.  
Each of us has our own unique experiences of your love, yet we share the same faith and work towards the same goal.  
Lord God, help us to see you in one another, not despite our difference but because of them,  
And may we learn more of your purpose, more of your saving love, and our fellowship deepened.  
These prayers we ask in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen





## DIARY

**Sunday: Live streamed Worship** from 10.45

ID 953 7532 1288 Pass code 058724

**Wednesday Meditation at 9am (Restarting on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.)**

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=UkYxcHo5SVV2Kv9JN0swc3JleitLZz09>

## COVID omicron

Guidance from the **Church of Scotland** suggests that all the present precautions should be kept in place with the addition of recommending that those attending should take a **Lateral Flow Test**.

However, should you decide not to attend church please note that our **Zoom Services** continue to be available. See ZOOM Diary above

In **addition** , all church Services are now also being steamed on YouTube. To access YouTube service simply open You Tube and search “ st matthews church perth “ and select the service you would like to see. These services are LIVE and recorded.

**203 You Tube views of Induction service.**

## INDUCTION SERVICE

St Matthew’s Church, Perth was delighted to welcome its new Minister, Rev Fiona C Bullock, on Wednesday night when she was inducted by Presbytery.

The photo shows Rev Fiona Bullock flanked by the Presbytery Moderator, Rev Ken Stott, and Rev Colin Caskie, the Presbytery Clerk , together with Rev Marc Bircham who was the Interim Moderator during the Vacancy.

Perth & Kinross Council rose to the occasion by lighting the spire in red being the colour appropriate for an Induction!



On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 St Matthew’s Church in Perth bade farewell to Rev Barbara Quigley and Rev Anne Brennan who had conducted their services and provided pastoral support as required for over two years whilst they were in vacancy and during the pandemic.

They were thanked for their sterling contributions to the ministry of St Matthew’s and were each presented with a stained glass panel, designed by Jenni Wilson and created by Alan Lewis, which depicted St Matthew’s on the banks of the River Tay..

*“Thank you very much for your kindness, support and encouragement as we served as locums over the past couple of years.*

*The stained glass windows of St Matthew’s are a generous gift and will be a fitting reminder of our time at St Matthew’s“*

*Anne and Barbara*



# NOTICES

**KIRK SESSION in St Matthew's on Wednesday  
26<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm**

Could all Elders please note the above date and let me have any Reports asap

Thanks *Fiona Bruce, Session Clerk*

**Lorna Gray** is 80 years young on 25<sup>th</sup> January!



**Wolfgang Kannenberg**

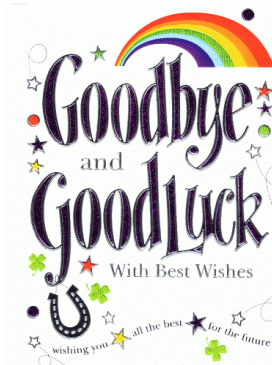


To **Joan Nicoll**, now at home recovering and **Molly Gorham** in hospital and hope that they are both up and about soon.

We also send a Wave to **Mary McIntosh** and **Mary Keenan**- both in their 100<sup>th</sup> year- who are also in hospital at the moment.

## FOND FAREWELL

We send our best wishes to **Sheila and Sandy Murray** in their new home in Troon. Sheila was a mainstay of our gardening team and we are very grateful for all the work carried out for many years.



Good news for Guild members, with COVID restrictions lifting. Masks should be worn and preferably a Lateral Flow Test.



We will be able to meet on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 2 pm in the Sanctuary. David Sawyer will be our speaker. Plans are going ahead for a Winter lunch on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Salutation Hotel. Looking forward to seeing you all at these events. Lorna Morison, Convener.

## DEATH

It is with sadness that we note the death recently of four longstanding Members-



**Alice McGregor, Chrissie Cramond, Dorothy Borrie and Francis Boynton.**

Chrissie was also a faithful and long-serving Elder who was delighted to take part in our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and her service of Thanksgiving will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January in St Matthew's Church at 10.30am.

The Funeral of Alice McGregor will take place also on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January at Perth Crematorium at 10.30am and that of Dorothy Borrie at St Matthew's Church on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10.30am also.

We send our prayers and condolences to the family of all the above.

## Andrew's Bereavement Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus  
I know it is hard for most people to lose someone that you closest to you go so that we are all thinking of them and their families to show how much that we support and love them so much. In this time Lord support them in their grief and in sadness and help them. We all need friends to lean on to let them know that we are here for them. Sending thoughts and prayers at this time Amen.

St. Matthew's Church

150  
YEARS



## PILGRIM'S WAY WALK

### 3rd section Dunfermline - Lassodie

The next stage of our walk is from Dunfermline to Lassodie. However, as we did on the last walk we will do it in reverse We park at Blairadam Forest Car Park off the B914 (The road signposted to Knockhill of the motorway). Then walk back to Dunfermline- which is about 6 miles.

Please meet at Broxden carpark (up near the electric chargers) at 9am. .Please bring a snack/ packed lunch with you though there will be a chance to stop for coffee or lunch as wished.

Please let Jean Young know on [ly2@btinternet.com](mailto:ly2@btinternet.com) if you intend to join us.

All welcome!

### Winter Emergency Appeal

Edinburgh Direct Aid is launching an emergency appeal to save the lives of vulnerable refugees living in and around the town of Aarsal in Lebanon. The town is situated at 5000ft above sea level and winter temperatures can drop as low as minus 15 degrees. There are approximately 70,000 refugees living in flimsy tented structures and makeshift shelters. The price of fuel for their small oil stoves has risen by 350% in real terms and can only be bought in dollars. None of the refugees has the \$345 they would need to buy enough to last the winter. We fear that the very young and the very old will die unless money can be found to provide them with fuel.

We are working to alert larger agencies than ours to the impending crisis, but we hope to raise at least \$33,000 to get help to 1500 Syrian families and 400 Lebanese families living in the highest areas. Please would you consider donating something, however small, to this appeal? Please make cheques payable to Edinburgh Direct Aid and post them to 29 Starbank Road Edinburgh, EH5 3BY, or go to the website [www.edinburghdirectaid.org/donations](http://www.edinburghdirectaid.org/donations) or by phone to 0131 5521545

Thank you for your help.

## Janet's Jottings

January brings the beginning of a new year and we turn our thoughts to new opportunities and new directions that our lives may take. Sometimes it is not always easy to make decisions about taking on new challenges as we can be frightened to let go of the old familiar things. I recently came across this poem, which also may be used as a prayer. It allows us to recognise our fears and help open our hearts and minds to what God's plans are for us this year. So don't sit on the 'edge of maybe', perhaps after you have said this prayer, also remind yourself of the words of one familiar hymn "*Be bold, be brave, for the Lord your God is with you....*" and see where He takes you in your mission and outreach this year!

### I tremble on the edge of a maybe

O God of Beginnings,  
as your spirit moved  
over the face of the deep  
on the first day of creation,  
move with me now in my time  
of new beginnings.  
When the air is rain-washed,  
the bloom is on the bush  
and the world seems fresh  
and  
full of possibilities and I feel  
ready and full.



I tremble on the edge of a maybe..  
A first time, a new thing,  
a tentative start; and the wonder of it  
lays fingers on my lips.

In silence Lord,  
I share now my eagerness  
and my uneasiness about this  
something different I would be or do;  
and I listen for your leading to help me  
separate the the light  
from the darkness  
in the change I seek to shape  
and which is shaping me.

Ted Loder

## EVENTS AND ROTAS

### St Matthews Burns Supper 2022

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January; 6:30 for 7pm, in the Main Church Hall.

Tickets: Adults £10; Children £5; from Wendy Burnett

([burnett\\_wendy@ymail.com](mailto:burnett_wendy@ymail.com) / 07958 744 795)

Come and join us to celebrate the life of Robert Burns whilst raising funds for St Matthews.

Enjoy a 3 course traditional Scots meal; accompanied by tea/coffee (BYOB), and an evening of speeches, poetry & music.

### Tayside Big Band Returns!

**Concert, Sunday 27 February at 7.30 in St Matthew's Church Tickets £6**

We're so happy to be with you again after a gap last year for reasons that don't need any explanation!

Maybe you've not been to a Big Band concert before. Here's a wee flavour of what you can expect. For Glen Miller lovers we have Moonlight Serenade and Take the A Train. There are some blues with plenty swing, charts from the Musicals and even some funky numbers, including the unusually Scottish- titled Wheech McGee for fun.

Our singers for the evening will wow you with well-known songs, including Sway, That's Life, Pretty Woman and Begin the Beguine with our own Artie Shaw, Andrew Mann, on clarinet.

All in all, a concert to blow away the winter blues and to think "How Sweet It Is" (another song on offer) to think that Spring is Just Around the Corner (that song is not on the programme –yet!)

Tayside Big Band, with its keys, rhythm, reeds and brass sections, has players from Fife, Angus, Dundee and of course Perthshire and is led by the aforementioned Andrew Mann..

We look forward to seeing you there. Please spread the word that Sunday night (27 February) is Jazz Night!

Andy Turnbull

### Readers for February

6th	John Dewar
13th	Colin McKenzie
20th	Lorna Gray
27th	David Sawyer

### Flower

(To be updated)

### Flower delivery

Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Janette Miller
13 <sup>th</sup>	Freda Stewart
20 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Sweeney
27 <sup>th</sup>	Tom and Lorna Morrison

### Beadle for February

6 <sup>th</sup>	Colin
13 <sup>th</sup>	Andy
20 <sup>th</sup>	Tom
27 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm

### Coffee Rota

(To be updated)



Issue No. 56 on **Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022** All contributions to [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com) by Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2022