



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 58

Fri 1st April 2022



Friends, after the past couple of years, we know something of being through times of isolation, separation, and anxiety before finding days of light, freedom and wonder. This is Easter. During Holy Week, between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, we journey with the disciples through confusion, hurt and disappointment and even when the moment of revelation comes on Easter Day that Christ is alive, there is still yet fear amidst the joy. If ever there was a time to be at one with our myriad feelings, it is during Holy Week. If ever there was a time to be honest about our doubts, it is during Holy Week. If ever there was a time to realise that, even in our isolation, we are journeying alongside fellow Christians the world over, it is during Holy Week. On Easter Sunday, we bring all that we are and all that we have experienced as we accompany the women to the garden tomb, and it is with the same stunned, powerfully emotional relief, that we shout, "Hallelujah!" as we realise that all along, we were seeking Jesus too.

I offer you an invitation to journey together through our programme of services in Holy Week, both in person and online. Come as you are to worship, fellow seekers, not because we know it all but because we know that we don't. You are welcome: whether you have been many times before, only occasionally or never before; whether you want to participate in discussion or sit in the silence; whether you call yourself a Christian or are intrigued to find out why other people assume the name. You don't need to know the story – it will be told again. Come and see.

Every blessing for Easter – may surprising things come your way.
Your Minister, Fiona

Holy Week and Easter (Sunday 10th to Sunday 17th April)

Palm Sunday 10th April

service, 11.00, St Matthew's Church

Monday 11th April – Friday 15th April:

- 09.00, Daily meditation, St Matthew's Church, followed by bacon rolls and hot drinks
- Short daily reflection from Rev. Fiona available on our YouTube channel and Facebook group to access at your convenience

Tuesday, 19.00, Evening worship,
St Leonard's-in-the-Fields Church

Wednesday, 13.30, Prayer Walk around the city centre. Leaving from the garden of Perth North Church, this will last around an hour taking in Horsecross, St. Matthew's, St. John's, St Leonard's, the Methodist church and finishing in Old St Paul's.

Maundy Thursday service

including Communion, 19.00, St Matthew's Church

Good Friday:

- 14.00-15.00 and 17.30-18.45 St Matthew's Church will be open for quiet reflection and creative prayer
- 19.00, Tenebrae service, St John's Kirk

Easter Sunday: 17th April

- PACT (Perth Action of Churches Together) Ecumenical service, 07.00, Quarrymill, led by Rev. Fiona Bullock, followed by breakfast at Scone Old Church Hall.
- **Easter celebration, 11.00, St Matthew's Church** – there will be a prize for the best Easter bonnet/bunnet so get creative!



Save the date: Sunday 5th June, 11.00-16.00, Jubilee Service and Gala

On Sunday 5th of June, the place to be is Tay Street for our St Matthew's Church Jubilee Gala.

We will praise God, celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and raise funds for our church.

Get the date in your diary now!

Our celebrations will begin with an outdoor Songs of Praise Service at 11.00, accompanied by a variety of musicians. More on this soon.

After the service, our street party and gala will be the talk of the town. Food, drinks, stalls, a bouncy castle, ice cream, and games will be accompanied by free entertainment all afternoon for all the family. We want to encourage as many people as possible to come along and join in the fun so please spread the word. This will be our Summer Gala to raise funds for the church. We will need lots of volunteers to make this happen so if you can help to run a stall, serve the food, set up for the day or tidy up afterwards, please contact Bev in the office. If you have any ideas, even weird and wacky ones, that you'd like to bring to the Gala, let us know.

More than anything, come along and celebrate.

Thank you!



Presbytery Mission Plan

Thank you to everyone who has participated in discussions about the Presbytery Mission Plan. Your passion and enthusiasm for our church and community as well as your concern for our neighbours was impressive. It was wonderful to be able to represent the views of the congregation and Eldership at our recent meeting with the Planning and Development Committee. Conversations are continuing and I will bring you an update in the next newsletter. Rev. Fiona Bullock.

Tom reported that at a follow up meeting of the P&D Committee it was reported that the St. Matthew's meeting was very encouraging and congregation and Session were thanked for the time, effort and prayerful consideration they had given to the plan and for their thoughts and support for their neighbours.

"LOCKDOWN " EXHIBITION

Janet Martin and I are organising an exhibition to run from **Monday 5th to Saturday 10th**

September to include all the various activities and projects you have worked on over the last 2 years during the period of Covid restrictions. What did you do? What did you achieve? What have you made?

We would love to hear from you with any ideas and objects you have- or photos of anything too big to exhibit!

Please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com or 07767 103531 asap.

The culmination of the week will be on the evening of **Saturday 10th September** when we are honoured to have actress, singer, poet and author, Gerda Stevenson talk to us about her film "The Stormwatchers" which she made as part of the Orkney Festival during lockdown and we will then have a private showing of the film.



Please put this date in your diary now!

Fiona Bruce



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>

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

COVID omicron.

Over the last month many church members have succumbed to this covid. Please be aware that is highly contagious and as well as following the guidance below please **DO NOT** come to church if you have any symptoms

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. (29/3)**



PILGRIM'S WAY WALK



Our walk last month was from Blairadam Forest Car Park past the outskirts of Kelty to Lochore Meadows Country Park. The latter is the scene of one of the largest land reclamation schemes ever undertaken in Britain as there were 7 pits on the site now occupied by the Park. All were closed between 1954 and 1966. Loch Ore had been drained in 1792 for agricultural purposes but the pits left behind sludge and pit waste and spoil piled up in its bed which is hard to imagine nowadays.

There are, however, various reminders of the pits throughout the Park including a replica pit-winding wheel which we shall see as we exit the Park on our next walk.



Lochore Meadows Country Park to Leslie

Our next walk will take place on **Saturday 2 April** and is approximately 8 miles, mainly flat, with a short hill just beyond Kinglassie.

Please meet at Broxden carpark (up near the electric chargers) at 9am.

Please bring a snack/ packed lunch with you if you wish and there will be a chance to stop for lunch at the end of the walk.

Please let Jean Young or Fiona Bruce know on fy2@btinternet.com or

FMBruce6@googlemail.com if you intend to join us.

All are welcome!

Fiona Bruce

Guild News April 2022

Monday 4th April will be the last formal Guild meeting of this session, the AGM, when we will look back on what has been achieved, and look forward to what we might do in the next session. And enjoy some home baking with our cup of tea.



It has been good to welcome 3 new members this session, and we would like to have one or two new committee members, especially to help with paperwork, but don't let this keep you away from our afternoon together.

We will be planning to support a new project from September, and the one chosen is

Home for Good – a Christian charity that is passionate about finding a home for every child in Scotland who needs one. They work to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption. They also equip the church to welcome these families and help support people on their journeys. GRAPHIC

DONATIONS BY ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

I am delighted to report that the Retiral Collection taken on Sunday 20th March raised the sum of £500 and the raffle at the Afternoon Tea raised £200 both for DEC, (Disasters Emergency Committee) Ukranian Humanitarian Appeal. which is working with a variety of aid agencies working in Ukraine.



In addition, in the Church Accounts recently approved by our Kirk Session, I note that we raised the following sums in 2021 at retiral collections:

Poppy Scotland	£341
ESOL Perth	£490
Bertha Park	£220
Christian Aid	£842
PKA VS	£280

In addition we contributed our annual contribution / payment of £500 to Churches Action for the Homeless.

Thanks must go to our Church Treasurer, John Dewar, for all his hard work throughout the year and to our Duty Teams, whose duties include counting the offerings each week.

Fiona Bruce

A Message from the Moderator

Dear Colleagues,

***Thy Kingdom Come* Global Prayer Initiative:
Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday 2022
(Thursday 26 May – Sunday 5 June)**

I write to you at a time when we are especially conscious of the need for action in response to the situation in Ukraine. It is beyond the capacity of any one of us to fully comprehend the enormity of the situation and the consequences of what is taking place. Many people in our country have put concern into action by supporting agencies bringing aid to those in need in time of war and I encourage you to do so.

Alongside this, there is an accompanying action that we can all take: Prayer.

If, like me, you find it difficult to know how to pray at such a time as this, we may recall the words of the Apostle Paul and the assurance they bring: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8: 26)

As we pray with frail words, the Spirit intercedes for us 'with sighs too deep for words'.

It is with a concern for prayer that I write to you to commend the *Thy Kingdom Come* Global Prayer Initiative 2022:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

In November 2018, the Church of Scotland committed 'to encouraging all its parishes and people to join in *Thy Kingdom Come*' and we have done so in the years since then and I gladly do so once more.

In 2022, *Thy Kingdom Come* takes place from Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday: 26 May – 5 June and I should wish to highlight the Prayer Journal commissioned for this year and the other new resources available:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/new-2022>

This is complemented by high quality youth resources:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/youth>

...and by resources for younger children:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

May I commend *Thy Kingdom Come* 2022 and encourage you to consider participating in this global prayer initiative at a time when our world stands in the need of prayer.

Wishing you every blessing,

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC
Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

NOTICES



Congratulations to Henry Macdonald on his BIG Birthday, 90 years young on 26th March.

Well done Henry!

Andrew's Prayer

I love spring time and all the
The leaves are starting to grow
also Flowers and nature are
starting to grow. Spring
time is my favourite
Season also very sunny and
parts sometimes the weather
comes in showers in sizes.
And that's what we are
going to be thinking about
and also it's other changes
that may change so many
lives and for what our
Future may bring.
Also it's about new friends
as well. Take care Scotland
with lots of things
happening when restrictions
are easing.
Peace be to God
Amen.

Loveliest of Trees

[A. E. Housman](#) - 1859-1936

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

The Cherry Tree in the Church Garden planted in November 2021 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee flourishes with the first blossom of spring.



Andy Turnbull on the 5th

April

Irene Lamond on the 9th

April

Moirra Bate on the 15th

April

Malcolm Thom on the 29th April



ROTAS

Door Duty For April

3 rd	Muirton	TL Janet Martin
10 th	Perth City	TL John Dewar
17 th	Perth South	TL Malcolm Thom
24 th	Oakbank	TL Donald Stewart

Readers for April

3 rd	Maureen Pearson
10 th	Sheena Beange
17 th	David Firth
24 th	Lesley Williamson

Flowers for April

3 rd	Lorna Grey
10 th	Freda Stewart
17 th	May Selby
24 th	Alison Fulton

Flower delivery for April

3 rd	Freda Stewart
10 th	Francis Turnbull
17 th	Lesley Williamson
24 th	Tom & Lorna Morrison

Beadle for April

3 rd	Colin
10 th	Andy
17 th	Tom
24 th	Malcolm

Coffee Rota for April

3 rd	Isobel's Team
10 th	Frances's Team
17 th	Marjorie's Team
24 th	Joyce's Team

Should you wish to be part of any of the above Rotas please have a word with any of the above names who will put you in touch with the appropriate rota organiser.

Holy week

We are setting up a "prayer tree" in the St. Matthew's garden with blue/ yellow ribbons so that people can leave a prayer message tied to a tree or bush. This will run from Palm Sunday till Easter Monday if anyone want to participate."



Opening the Church for visitors - ROTA

Dear all

We are hoping to open the church once more over Holy Week and thereafter throughout the spring and summer.

At the moment I am trying to put together a Rota for people who will be guides and those who will serve tea, coffee and biscuits to visitors.

I'm thinking of a 2-hour slot, very much to fit in with who can do what!

Can you please let me know by 7th April if you would be available weeks beginning:

11th, 18th, 25th April

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th May

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th June

Time slot- 11-1pm or 1-3pm

I will also put up a list in the café area.

Thanks

Fiona Bruce 07787 103531 or

FMBruce6@googlemail.com



St. Matthew's Church presents AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES



Join us for
Lunch & a Movie



Thursday 28th April @ 12noon

£6 LUNCH & MOVIE SPECIAL

Includes soup, crusty bread, biscuits & drink.

***** MUST BE BOOKED *****

Reserve your place by calling 01738 636757
or by putting your name on the list.

Janet's Jottings

Spring blossoms

Like most folks, I enjoy a bit of extra 'hibernation' on winter mornings, reluctant to get out of bed when it is still dark. Lately though, it has been a joy it is to wake up to bright, sunny mornings. I open the curtains and listen to the birds singing in the two enormous horse chestnut trees that for the best part of the year are the bane of my life. In summer the leaves are so thick that little light gets into the front of my house; then in autumn, the conkers rain down like spiky canon balls and require to be raked up and taken to the tip by the carload – not my favourite job!

In spring, the buds are slow to swell and burst open. I enjoy watching them unfurl a bit more each day until the wonderful blossoms on the trees look like majestic, white candelabras



adorning the branches. Coincidentally, a friend was telling me that The Ukrainian Capital of Kyiv is well known for its horse chestnut trees. They are almost as famous as the bulb

fields of Holland. Prior to the Russian invasion many tourists planned holidays to Kyiv in spring to admire them.

The chestnut tree, or 'kashtan' as Ukrainians call it, is the symbol of Kyiv. It appears everywhere – on the old 1-hryvnia coin, a bronze sculpture, on metro tokens (now a thing of the past), and on the city's coat of arms. Any song, poem or painting about Kyiv is highly likely to feature chestnuts. The Oldest chestnut tree is reputed to be over 300 years old and stands 15 metres high in the grounds of the Kitaevsky monastery; it is known as the 'Father' of all Kyiv chestnuts.



This tree was the inspiration for chestnut trees to be planted for the visit of the Russian Tsar Nikolay 1st. However, some officials felt chestnuts were too common and so the seedlings were ripped out and the more elegant poplars planted in their place. The locals picked up the discarded seedlings and it was their initiative and persistence that led to a mass planting of

boulevards, parks and gardens, therefore creating the beautiful city of blossoms.

I keep thinking about how blessed I am to be able to view chestnut trees blossom in peace. I wonder how long it will be before the citizens of Kyiv, dispersed across the world, will be able to return to view the blossoms of their chestnut trees and feel the joys of spring again in their homeland. I shall in future count my blessings that it is only conkers that drop on me and not bombs. I urge us all to continue praying for peace across Ukraine as I leave you with the words of a short haiku-type poem written by my friend Shelagh.



The chestnuts of Kyiv

clench tight in the storm's onslaught

Spring comes savagely

Shelagh Lamb

MUSIC FOR
PASSIONTIDE



ST JOHN'S PASSION

by

HANDEL

Sung by the choir of Perth Cathedral
with invited soloists
directed by Geoff Bolton

An hour of readings and reflective music
as we move into Holy Week

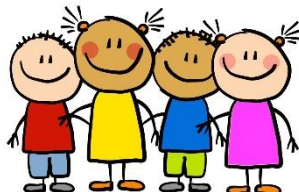
PALM SUNDAY
10TH APRIL
3.30PM

St Ninian's Cathedral
North Methven Street
Perth

CAN YOU HELP?

In discussions about the draft Presbytery plan, comments have been made that it would be good to have more children and young folk coming along to St Matthew's.

Recently, folk have been asked to help out with young folk - either to babysit or help with the creche. So far we have one volunteer for each category which is not enough!



Therefore, we need people to think about this and consider whether or not they could help. Do you look after your grandchildren? Do you help a neighbour with pick up from school? Do you have chats to the neighbouring children in your street? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then you are probably able to help out. If you want to see children in the church, then please be prepared to do something about it.

You will not need to make up ideas. These will be provided for you. Please get in touch with Jean Young (07801889820) or jy2@btinternet.com by 18th April if you can help - or bring your grandchildren along Jean Young

Easter Dawn Service

Easter Sunday
17th April
7am at Quarrymill
 (Macmillan Coffee shop end)

Followed by breakfast at Scone (Old) Church Hall
 (At the other end of Quarrymill Den)



Perth Action of Churches
Together

Please note the newsletter is now being created
 Monthly to reflect the church being back to a more
 normal footing



St. Matthew's Church
 Perth, Scotland



St. Matthew's Church

150

APRIL			
	28th	MOVIE DAY (EASTER PARADE)	
MAY			
	19th - 22nd	PERTSHIRE ARTS ASSOCIATION	
	27th	RACHEL & ROCK CHOIR	150th
JUNE			
	5th	JUBILEE STREET PARTY / SUMMER FETE	150th
JULY			
	9th July	WIMBLEDON AFTERNOON TEA	150th
	2nd July - 3rd Sept.	SUMMER EXHIBITION	150th
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
	11th	WALKING TREASURE HUNT	150th
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			
	19th	CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON	
	20th	END OF 150th YEAR SERVICE	150th
DECEMBER	26th	PITLOCHRY THEATRE	
DECEMBER			
	3rd	CHRISTMAS FAIR	150th
	tbc	ROCK CHOIR CONCERT	150th



Rachel Leitch
 &
Rock Choir



SPRING CONCERT

Refreshments
 Raffle



Friday 27th May

Doors at 6.30pm for 7pm start

Tickets £10

Available from office
 or at Sunday service



St. Matthew's Church,
 Tay Street, Perth.

Next Issue No. 58 on Fri 29th April 2022 All
 contributions to FMBruce6@googlemail.com by Fri
 27th April 2022