



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e- Newsletter No. 59

Fri 29th April 2022

Friends, we had a wonderful Easter celebration, didn't we? I had an absolute ball on Easter Day with you all. I loved leading the ecumenical early morning service at Quarrymill – it was a glorious day, made even more so by Christians worshipping together beyond denominations. And our Easter service at St Matthew's – well, words fail me. I was so excited to see all the Easter bonnets and bunnets, the product of such effort and creativity, to enjoy folks' enthusiasm in hunting for the chocolate eggs, but most of all, to see the smiling faces of our church family praising God together, some of whom we'd only just met. It was so much more than I'd hoped it could be and afterwards, I was happily exhausted, knowing that I had a week's holiday planned. Not a week away anywhere, you understand, but a week off work.

Since returning to work, I have been asked "Did you enjoy your break?" and found myself responding, "Well, I've got a toddler and a husband...it wasn't much of a break!" (Sorry Calum and Ian!) However, that's not really true. I did have a break. I had a break from juggling work and home life. I was able to be fully present with Calum: to play with him without having to run away to a meeting part-way through a game. We went on many different adventures: in the house, in the garden, and away in the car too. I learned to see the world through his eyes, to run because it made him laugh and made me laugh too, and to make ice-cream cones from Play-doh, which we'd pretend to lick, accidentally making contact with the disgusting stuff. We sang 'Old MacDonald had a farm,' loudly, in the bath, in the car, in the supermarket while he rode around in the trolley. It was simply wonderful.

Easter Bonnet Parade Winners



Adult Winner
John Spence

Junior Winner
Abbie Crichton



Now that I am back at work, I notice that I am more present in each task I undertake too. I am feeling the benefit of having had a rest and having played. So let me pass on the lesson: take a break. Sabbath is important, whatever your Sabbath is. Allow yourself time to smell the roses, or search for the wee beasties under the plant, if that's more your thing. Have that extra cup of coffee. Make that phone call you've been meaning to make for ages. Give yourself permission to devote time to life-giving activities. We may all have been called to the priesthood of all believers but not one of us was called to do it all alone. We have the greatest possible example: Jesus often took himself off to a quiet place by himself before he was able to focus on the task at hand. So take time...breathe...rest...and then think about which of the incredible range of activities going on at our church you'd like to get involved in! Ha ha! Seriously though, as I strive to take a Friday as my usual day off, I encourage you to think about what Sabbath means for you.

Here's a wee bonus fact about me: My favourite author is James Patterson, although he did not write my favourite book. During my holiday, I finished one of his novels, read another, and began reading a third!

Blessings, Your Minister, Fiona



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 restrictions have been lifted and we as a congregation have to take our own responsibility to protect ourselves. Please feel free to wear a mask if it makes you feel more comfortable and at the same time others will respect your choice. Should you feel you have Covid symptoms do not attend church until they are clear.

Contactless Payments and Donations

St.Matthew’s has, thanks to a few kind donations, moved into the Contactless Era with the purchase of a Contactless payment system. We are all used to paying for even the smallest item using card payments. This unit will allow for everything from offerings to ticket purchases and even the donation for your after - church tea and coffee using your card. Once you have registered your details it will even collect Gift Aid.

Please speak to Tom Morrison or Alastair Byers should you require more information.



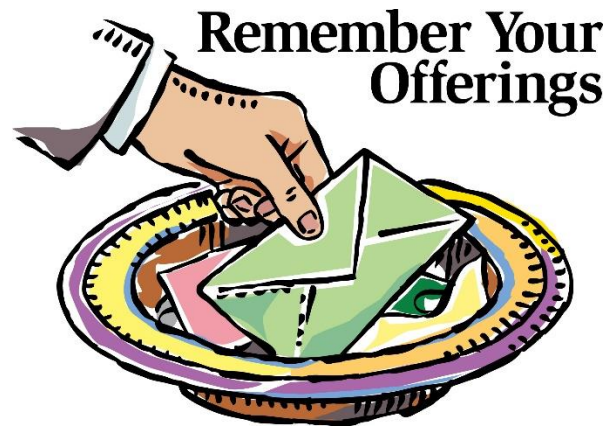
Urgent Appeal

At the last Kirk Session Meeting the Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts and Budget for 2022. The figures presented show that we need to make a substantial increase in our offerings.

However, having looked into the current givings the Treasurer had reported that no more than 40% of our 351 members are contributing to St. Matthew's.

My appeal is to all members to consider their offerings and make an increase if possible.

This request is particularly made to the 60% of our members who are not making an offering. We all know that the church is a place of worship and comfort and does not compare to a club and does not have a membership fee, but, in many respects offers similar facilities of friendship, fellowship and learning and is always there for you. Please consider your financial support.



Offerings do not need to be weekly, they can be monthly, or even annually. They can be made in cash, cheque or direct debit. They can also be Gift Aided, if you are a tax payer

Should you require help or advice in how to make an offering please contact the Treasurer, John Dewar at dewar34@hotmail.com or through the church office.

Offerings can be made at any time by BACS transfer to the following account.

Account Name: St. Matthew’s Church
Sort Code: 83-47-00
Account Number: 00760133



Sunday 5th June, 11.00-16.00,

Jubilee Service and Gala

Platinum Jubilee Gala, Sunday 5th June, St Matthew's Church

I am certain by now that you all have Sunday 5th of June marked in your diaries! On that day, we will begin our celebration with an outdoor Songs of Praise service at 11am from the steps of the church. A Council-run parade will pass by the church shortly after the close of the service. When this has passed, we will launch into our Gala day. With free entertainment across the afternoon, including our very own Michael Ellacott, the Tayside Big Band, the Rock Choir, a clown and others, along with games to play and stalls to peruse, it is bound to be a great day. Our wonderful catering team will be offering party food and a drink at the bargain price of £5 for adults and £2 for children. Tickets for this can be purchased in advance. There will be hot dogs and ice cream for sale.



Most of all, it is a great opportunity for our community to get to know one another whilst having fun. It will take a lot of work but we can do it together. We'd appreciate all the support we can get. If you can help, even for a couple of hours, please get in touch with Bev. Look out for the sign up sheets in church. However, the most helpful thing to do is spread the word – on Sunday 5th of June, the place to be is Tay Street!

“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?

Some people have already contacted me but we need more exhibits!

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 07787 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



Guild News May 2022

The Guild programme is completed for this season. However, we are having **Knit and Natter sessions** on Wednesday afternoons 2-4pm, beginning on Wednesday 4th May, in the cafe or Sanctuary. Any ladies are welcome to join for a chat even if you don't knit!



Lorna Morrison

PILGRIM'S WAY WALK



COMMUNION and ANNUAL STATED MEETING – Sunday 15th May 2022

Our Annual Stated Meeting will have a different format this year. During our service of worship, we will give thanks for the life of our church in 2021. I'd love to be able to share stories and show photos to provide the bigger picture than the finances can show. We will present the figures and full sets of accounts will be provided on request.

When we have shared the story of 2021, we will join together in Communion to celebrate that we are part of a much



bigger story: the family of God. In order for me to do the Annual Stated Meeting in such a way, I need your help, because I didn't arrive until January. Please send photos and stories that you are happy for me to share to FBullock@churchofscotland.org.uk by 12noon on Thursday 12th May. Thank you!

Leslie to Markinch

Our next walk will take place on **Saturday 2 April** and is approximately 6 miles through the paths of Glenrothes alongside the river. We will be guided by Douglas Galbraith, who has provided the historical notes, on this leg of our journey. We will have a stop for lunch so please bring a pack lunch this time. The church in Markinch is going to give us tea/coffee when we get there.

Please meet at Broxden carpark (up near the electric chargers) at 9am.
Please let Jean Young or Fiona Bruce know on [jy2@btinternet.com](mailto: jy2@btinternet.com) or [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto: FMBruce6@googlemail.com) if you intend to join us.
All are welcome!

150th ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS

One of our Members, Jenni Wilson who is a graphic designer, has very kindly designed some t-shirts to commemorate our 150th Anniversary - one including our church logo for general purchase and the other for our walkers containing the Fife Pilgrim Way details also. Please see the link attached for Jenni's website.



These are £15.25 each.

<https://voice.teemill.com/collection/st-matts/>

If you would like to purchase one of these unique t-shirts at our special price please let me know either by e-mail or phone or see me at church by 15th May.



Thanks
Fiona Bruce
[FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto: FMBruce6@googlemail.com) or 07787 103531

Christian Aid

Christian Aid. Gift Aid envelopes will be available for all donations. For those who would be missing the usual coffee morning there will be a "big brekkie" in the Episcopal cathedral from 10-12 on Saturday 21st May.



LIFTS TO CHURCH & EVENTS

I am trying to put together a list of people who would be willing to provide lifts to elderly people in our church who would not otherwise be able to attend church or the various other events we hold.

Please let me know if you are willing to do this.
Thanks

Fiona Bruce 07787 103531 or
[FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto: FMBruce6@googlemail.com)

LARGE-PRINT HYMNSHEETS

For the past couple of months, we have made hymn sheets available at our Sunday services. There are two options: large print, and blue print on pastel-coloured paper. We hope that this will assist those with sight issues or dyslexia to participate fully in worship. The intention is to ensure that St Matthew's continues to be an accessible church. This service has not been used so far but it might just be because you don't know about it. I encourage all welcome teams to offer these sheets to the congregation as they arrive. Many thanks, Rev. Fiona

New Member Class



Have you ever thought about joining the church? Do you have questions about faith that you would like to explore before making a commitment?

Would you simply like the chance to discuss faith and the church? I am hoping to run some sessions shortly with the intention of these leading up to an opportunity to become a church member should you so wish. With no dates or times fixed at the moment, I'd like to gauge interest. If this would be of interest to you, please get in touch with me at FBullock@churchofscotland.org.uk or on 01738 570241 and I can ensure that you receive details.

Congratulations to:

Morag Rattray on 20th May

Beverly Moran on 21st May



CHURCH ROTAS

Door Duty For May

1st Burghmuir Team (Isobel)
8th Bridgend Team (Alastair)
15th Gannochy Team (Jean)
22nd Muirton Team (Janet)
29th Perth City Team (John)

Readers for May

1st Lorna Morrison
8th Andy Turnbull
15th Carolyn Byers
22nd Alastair Byers
29th Jenni Wilson

Flowers for May

1st Tom Morrison
8th Rae Simmons
15th Jack Rough
22nd Irene Lamond
29th

Flower delivery for May

1st Janette Miller
8th Janet Martin
15th Carolyn Byers
22nd Alison Sweeney
29th Evelyn McLaren

Beadle for May

1st Tom Morrison
8th Andy Turnbull
15th Colin McKenzie
22nd Malcolm Thom
29th Colin McKenzie

Coffee Rota for May

1st
8th Frances's Team
15th Marjorie;s Team
22nd Wendy's Team
29th Isobel'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.

ROTA for OPENING OF THE CHURCH TO VISITORS in MAY

Monday 2 May	12-2	Janet & Marjorie
Thursday 5 May	11-1	Fiona & Andrew Tait
Monday 9 May	11-1	Marjorie & Wendy
Monday 9 May	1-3	Jack
Thursday 12 May	11-1	Fiona & Andrew
Friday 13 May	11-1	Lesley & Joan
Monday 16 May	11-1	Janet & Jane
Monday 16 May	1-3	Jack
Monday 23 May	11-1	Marjorie
Tuesday 24 May	12-2	Lesley & Joan
Friday 27 May	11-1	Jack
Monday 30 May	11-1	Marjorie

Please support your church by coming along for a tea or coffee if you are in town or volunteering for guiding or making a tea or coffee



where you see a gap in the Rota! (which is attached to the fridge in the café) Any questions please just ask me. Thanks Fiona Bruce

07787 103531 or FMBruce6@googlemail.com

Janet's Jottings

'A Man's a Man'

A number of years ago, I was speaking with a Russian gentleman in Edinburgh. He told me how much he loved Scotland and proceeded to amaze me by reciting some Burns' poetry in perfect Scots. He explained that when he was in primary school, all the children had been told about Robert Burns and learning his poetry was mandatory. This was of course long before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union was still in place.



It seems that Robert Burns first became popular in Russia in the 19th century. This was possibly due to the expression of egalitarian ideas of society highlighted in his poetry at a time when the vast majority of Russians lived in oppression,

poverty and servitude. Burns' works were translated into Russian and he was seen as a great source of inspiration for ordinary Russians. Post Russian Revolution, he became known as the people's poet and today he is still taught in schools alongside their own national poets. I was also intrigued to discover that Burns was held in such high regard by the Russians that they produced the first postage stamp dedicated to him in 1959.

I asked the man what his favourite poem was and his reply was 'A Man's A Man for a' that'. The other night I was watching the news as President Putin was pontificating in his usual manner. I came to thinking about this man and wondering if he's still alive and whether he is aware of the truth of the war in Ukraine? I looked at Putin and all I could hear was the Russian man's voice reciting to me (in clear Scots) the following words.....

*Ye see yon birkie, ca'd a lord
Wha struts, an' stares, an' a' that;
Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that:
For a' that, an' a' that, His riband, star, an' a' that,
The man o' independent mind,
He looks and laughs at a' that.*

Was Putin one of those children who may have learned Burns' poetry in his youth? Did he learn to

recite the lines that still touch so many hearts in so many countries across the world? Amazing poems that reflect our own distorted visions of ourselves, the joys of nature, the comical reflections of our inappropriate behaviour, the delights and angst of love and of course, the social injustices humans inflict on one another. If Putin was indeed introduced to the poetry of Burns', I fear that he has most certainly forgotten it, or chosen to disregard the messages contained. I am tempted to write to remind him of the extraordinary cultural dominance Burns once achieved in the Soviet Union and that he might consider Burns' ideas of respecting others. Words are said to be mightier than the sword – let's hope so!

*Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
May bear the gree, an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
It's coming yet, for a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er,
shall brithers be for a' that.*

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Have you ever caught yourself thinking, 'I wish fundraising was easy'? Well, now it is...or at least some of it is. If you shop online for food, clothing, gifts, even insurance of the various kinds, you might be able to donate to the church at no additional cost. Just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk, select 'Create account' at the top and follow the instructions. We'd be grateful if you would choose 'Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland' as your cause. When you shop, go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for your retailer. When you click on the link, the donation will be applied automatically. Alternatively, you can download the app or donation reminder browser extension (much more simple than it sounds!), and when you go directly to a website or use a search engine to find a retailer, it will bring up a box to ask if you want to use Easyfundraising for your purchase. Simply click on that and it will refresh your access to the website and automatically generate your donation. It may only be 10p or 20p for some purchases but as one retailer says, 'Every little helps.' For some insurance, utilities and telecommunications companies, the donation is a fixed amount and more significant. And did I mention that it costs you nothing? That's got to be worth a try – good luck!





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
	26th	PITLOCHRY THEATRE	
DECEMBER	3rd	CHRISTMAS FAIR	150th
	tbc	ROCK CHOIR CONCERT	150th

Intogther have invited us to join a 30minute prayer ZOOM on Wednesday 4th May from 9 – 9.30pm.

This will be based on the Feldgild Compline which is a liturgy of the Northumbrian Community. You can join on the zoom by using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5983256174>

Meeting ID: 598 325 6174

Perth: St. Matthew's Church

Sunday worship at 11.am

Address: Tay Street, Perth, PH1 5LQ

Church Tel: 01738 636757

Minister: Rev. Fiona C Bullock

Contact : 01738 570241(Manse)

07587 281344 (Mobile)

FBullock@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Fiona Bruce

FMBruce6@googlemail.com

Church Office: Beverly Skene

Office@perthstmatthews.org.uk

Newsletter Ed: Fiona Bruce

FMBruce6@googlemail.com

Treasurer: John Dewar

Dewar34@hotmail.co.uk

Registered Scottish Charity NO. SCO16829

ROCK CHOIR Rachel Leitch & Rock Choir **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. 60 on Friday 3rd June 2022.

All contributions to FMBruce6@googlemail.com

by Tuesday 31st May 2022

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS AT
ST.MATTHEW'S WITH EASTER BONNETS

