



# St. Matthew's Church Perth

## e- Newsletter No. 60

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022**

Friends, we are fast approaching the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. At St Matthew's, we have big plans. On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 10am – 3pm** we are working with the Council to make the Vintage Car Rally a roaring success. We will be serving burgers, hot dogs and ice creams along with refreshments and home-baking. We will have a bouncy castle, clown and games for children of all ages. It will give each one of us the opportunity to be the face of the local church, as we roll up our sleeves, help people and have fun doing it. We're going to have an absolute ball doing it because it will get us out into our community.

**On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**, from **11am** we continue our theme of getting out into our community by holding our worship just outside the doors of the church (weather-permitting, of course). It will be a songs of praise style service and as we sing our wee hearts out and raise the curiosity of passers-by, all we need do is share our hymn sheets and they can participate too. We are taking away the anxiety that some people feel about walking through the doors of the church by not walking through them ourselves. I hope you will support this crazy idea of your new Minister! After the service, we will go into the church to enjoy a lunchtime party to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and our community.

These are wonderful opportunities to meet people where they are and our church would do well to look to Her Majesty's example on that front. At a time when many were flouting COVID restrictions, the Queen placed herself firmly among the everyday folk of the United Kingdom

when she followed the rules to the letter at the funeral of her husband, Prince Philip. That act of humility in a time of terrible pain spoke volumes about her love for her neighbours, the ordinary folk, us.

Whilst I would not consider myself a royalist, I have deep respect for the Queen as an individual and a fellow Christian. Every year, she speaks of her faith in a meaningful way that has worldwide impact. Like all of us, she has lived through the highs and lows of family life and has trusted that her faith would keep her going. She reminds me of so many of her generation who, sadly, I've got to know through their loved ones' stories. She is resilient, hard-working, loyal, passionate, and has a terrific sense of humour. She has given her life in service to us all as a disciple of Christ, not just through the duty of her position. So this summer, I will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee to honour a sister in Christ and all those of her generation whose legacy will live on for generations to come. I hope you will join me, as we serve one another in faith.

Every blessing, Your Minister, Fiona

*St. Matthew's Church*

# Songs of Praise

## Jubilee Service & lunch

**SUNDAY 5th JUNE 11am**

Join us in front of St. Matthew's for an outdoor Songs of Praise service with surprise guests, followed by a tasty Jubilee lunch.

LUNCH TICKETS  
ADULTS £5 KIDS £2  
\*\*\*NOW ON SALE\*\*\*  
AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OFFICE 636757  
OR ON A SUNDAY MORNING.



## 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>

## URGENT APPEAL – CHURCH FINANCES

Unfortunately, as our regular givings by way of Standing Orders, Direct Debits and WFO envelopes do NOT meet our regular expenditure such as salaries and utilities, we now have a critical situation.

My appeal is to all Members to consider their offerings and increase them if possible.

Offerings can be made at any time by BACS transfer, standing order, cheque or cash to the following Account:

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

It is also possible to make a donation at any time using the following QR Code:



## Holidays and Church

Do you take the opportunity to visit other church services whilst on holiday? Tell us of your experience. Lorna and myself had 2 Sundays away from St. Matthew's in the last weeks. On our first Sunday we took the opportunity to join the ZOOM congregation of St. Matthew's enjoying a catch up with Wolfgang and Angela and Margaret Wright. On our second Sunday we worshipped at Dornoch Cathedral, a very traditional service, using the hymn book, no screens, but with a lovely set of modern hymns. Interestingly the minister sang solo and unaccompanied the first verse of the first hymn before being joined by the choir and congregation. In the absence of an organist the minister continued to demonstrate her talent by announcing the hymn and promptly sitting at the piano to accompany. A valuable hour spent.

Please remember to take the zoom link with you on holiday or if you want to catch up on St. Matthew's go onto You Tube. Tom Morrison

## 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, 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

St. Matthew's Church



### Markinch to Kennoway

Please note the changed date for our next walk which will take place on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

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!

## ANNUAL STATED MEETING

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.

As this meeting had to be cancelled due to illness a new date is presently being arranged and formal notice will be sent out in a Newsletter Extra

Rev Fiona Bullock

## 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?

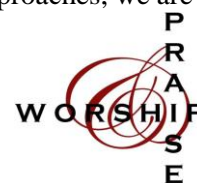
Would you simply like the chance to discuss faith and the church? I am hoping to run some sessions shortly with the intention of these leading up to an

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](mailto: FBullock@churchofscotland.org.uk) or on 01738 570241 and I can ensure that you receive details.

## Preparing for worship

Each Sunday in church, it is a joy to find that so many of you want to chat with Michael, our wonderful organist, and me. We live for these opportunities to hear your stories. However, we've become aware that, as the time for worship to begin approaches, we are not giving you the attention you deserve. So we humbly ask that for the ten minutes leading up to worship, we pause these conversations, which will allow us to prepare ourselves and our words and music for our service. Please do seek us out after worship to continue – there's nothing quite so frustrating as a story half-told or half-heard! Thank you for your understanding and support.

Rev. Fiona and Michael



## Worship Group

One of my favourite aspects of my role is leading worship. It is a true privilege to be trusted with the word of God: its translation, interpretation and application to life today within a community through stories, songs, prayers and reflections. However, our times of worship together never involve just one person. There are many within our church family who contribute to our worship: our musicians, the AV team, those who lead our midweek meditations, those who step in to lead services when the minister is not available and many more besides. In order to keep our worship fresh, relevant and running smoothly, I'd like to establish a Worship Group. In the coming weeks, I will be inviting folk to get involved but perhaps you have a burning desire to be part of this project or to find out more about how worship is planned. If you would like to be involved in planning seasons of worship like Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas, Bible studies, special services like Remembrance Sunday, and general ongoing issues about our Sunday services, please get in touch with me. Please don't be shy – speaking to me about it does not mean that you have committed to being a member of the group.

With thanks, Rev. Fiona

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wow! What a strange mixture of the interesting, dull and complex the General Assembly is!

This year the GA took place as usual in Edinburgh from Saturday 21 May to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May and I was lucky enough to be appointed as a Commissioner by Perth Presbytery and attended every day, along with my son, Andrew. (As you will see from this photo he missed the memo re “Men in Grey Suits”)



This is just to give you a flavour of what went on and my experiences as an Elder attending- which are possibly different from those of a Minister.

The first Session on the Saturday included an address by Lord Wallace of Tankerness as the retiring Moderator ( you may recall that he preached at our Anniversary Service last November) and the formal election of the new Moderator, Rt Rev Iain Greenshields, who holds office for the coming year.

This was the day when the GA approved the creation of 4 new Presbyteries (including our own) which was accepted by 352 votes for to 7 against, merging Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld & Meigle, Perth and Stirling into 1 Perth Presbytery.

There followed a lot of discussion as to how the new Presbytery Clerks will function and then a Report from the Theological Forum about the Westminster Confession of Faith which has been retained as a “subordinate standard alongside a new Book of Confessions.” In my opinion , this discussion was far too complicated if you’ve not studied theology and even if you have...

The GA this year was a hybrid of personal attendance and online attendance but unfortunately this first day was marred by problems with online voting- and too many “points of order”!

Commissioners are also encouraged to “vote with their feet” when a matter is not controversial. “People will get sore feet with all the stamping” was Andrew’s comment!

For your information, it was reported that there are 653 Ministers on payroll as at April 2022, 331 vacancies (and Interim Moderators), 163 Locums and 45% of Ministers over 65 within the next 5 years.

The GA agreed further reforms of its central structures so that the current Faith Nurture and Faith Impact Forums will be brought together under a single Active Faith Leadership Team with 4 Programme Groups: Mission, People & Training, Public Life & Global Justice and Resource & Presence.

At the end of the GA the Rev Fiona Smith was sworn in as a replacement for the retiring Rev Dr George Whyte, becoming the first woman to hold the position of Principal Clerk permanently.

Things I enjoyed about the Assembly:

- **Communion and the daily services** at the start of each day- the singing was magnificent!
- The final approval given without much ado to legislation that will **allow Ministers to register to conduct same-sex marriages** if they wish. I know that our own Minister, Rev Fiona Bullock, has already registered to do so! The vote was 274 for and 136 against. Our “own” Rev Craig Dobney spoke well in favour of the motion.
- **Report of the Ecumenical Committee**- which spoke about “koinonia” (fellowship) and a **Declaration of Friendship** (“The St Margaret’s Declaration”) with the Catholic Church in Scotland which was approved by 421 votes to 4 against. “Unity is not the same as uniformity”.
- I enjoyed hearing about the work of the **Scottish Bible Society** and, in particular, their “Beyond Disaster” trauma healing programme where they have 400 Ukrainian trauma-trained Bible Society staff who, I was very impressed to hear, are all still in Ukraine.
- **The Faith Impact Forum Report** was where we heard about their policies to combat fuel poverty, net zero emissions and climate change. I took the opportunity to speak to a staff member about promoting a policy to introduce solar panels to churches and manses and he undertook to take this forward so watch this space!  
A motion to levy a windfall tax on oil and gas companies (which is now Government policy) was voted in by 288 to 83 against.

The Rev Emma McDonald from Dundee described how fuel poverty impacts eating as well as heating.

- Then came **the Faith Nurture Forum Report** where comments were invited on the Vacancy Procedure Act by September 2022 and I'm sure we will be able to oblige!
- There was an interesting **Report from the Guild Convenor**, Margaret Muir. The Guild is 135 years old this year and one of the highlights mentioned was their Annual Gathering when they were able to chat with Members on a live link, including St Matthew's Guild! It was incredible to hear that their Project Partnership Scheme has raised £7 million since 1969 and they were praised by the Moderator for their innovative and creative projects.
- **Meeting up** with lots of different people, including Craig & Donna Dobney, Charles Lines and Ian Young.

All in all, a very worthwhile few days and, as the Moderator concluded,:

*"The Church has to work together to bring Christ to the people and the people to Christ".*

Fiona Bruce



At her service last Sunday **Rev Fiona Bullock** recited this prayer written by a friend of hers, which summed up this year's General Assembly beautifully:

### **General Assembly prayer**

**God bless the money investors and pension assessors**

**God bless the creatives and curmudgeons**

**God bless the weary and confused.**

**God bless the commissioners: diligently on point,**

**waffling with wavering voice,**

**and some two pages behind.**

**God bless the whispered arranging and the lawyers explaining.**

**God bless the preachers and prophets among us.**

**God bless the first to their feet and those stuck to their seats.**

**God bless the beauty of bowing our heads together in prayer and singing in harmony together online and in the hall.**

**God bless the tech team and cleaners and stewards who put up with us with grace and a smile.**

**God bless the boxes and words we wrap around ourselves and each other.**

**God bless the Holy Spirit of laughter and of passion.**

**God bless the history and stories that bind us together and hopefully help us to soar.**

**God bless the little voice on Zoom asking why and in the hall a cry 'bye, bye.'**

**God bless the smiles and waves, the tears, the silence and pauses.**

**God bless the gong and the bell and the clock running slow.**

**God forgive us when we might get it wrong and help us to not just rumble our feet but be moved and enthused and connected once more.**

**God forgive us when we forget as we head for the door:**

**You have blessed us with work now to do not just for ourselves but for others and for you.**

**God bless the days we each are given that together we point toward your love and your life within us**

**God bless your church blossoming anew.**

**Amen.**

**Rev. Ellen Larson Davidson**

## Janet's Jottings

### Life Unmasked

It didn't take us long to become accustomed to wearing masks at the height of the pandemic. I don't know about any of you, but it was an experience I found uncomfortable at the best of times. Occasionally, I was in a panic as I had forgotten my mask – how many times, like me, did you find yourself at a shop door, only to have to dash back to the car to retrieve a mask? Occasionally when I was feeling hot and claustrophobic, I would remind myself to stop moaning as medical and care staff were wearing not only masks 24/7 but full PPE. Apart from looking like an astronaut, how hot and uncomfortable would that have been for hours on end?

We soon learned that wearing a mask affects communications, as well as inhibiting our natural facial gestures. What a joy it is to see the faces of others! To see their features, expressions and familiar mannerisms. As I do, I am sure you get great delight in being able to smile on meeting people and to see their smiles in return.

When masks became mandatory, it was interesting how inventive people became at making their own 'bespoke creations' before the mass-produced ones became available. It didn't take long before they also became a fashion accessory, even a status symbol. They appeared in all shapes, colours, with or without sparkles, a logo or in the shade of one's favourite football team or charity. I enjoyed perusing the variety on offer.

Masks have had a variety of functions over the centuries, have been used to entertain, to hide identities, for religious or tribal rituals and in some cases even to threaten people. Someone once said that 'behind every mask there is a face and behind that a story'.

The Japanese say that you have three faces. The first is the one you show to the world, the second face you show to your close friends and family and the third face you never show anyone. It is the truest reflection of who you are.

What is the face behind our story? In Corinthians 3:18 it states "We who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory".

Now that our physical masks are all but removed, will others see the Lord's glory and the face of Christ shining in the folks of St Matthew's? Let's pray that God's grace will be reflected in our smiles as well as in our everyday actions in reaching out to others around us. *Amen*



### Risk Assessment through Covid Pandemic years;

While risk assessment and health and safety have been much maligned words over the past few years, the Church of Scotland has been giving a very helpful lead for Churches since the pandemic started in 2020. Taking Government Regulations and Guidance and translating them for use by Churches in order to protect and safeguard churchgoers was no easy task. Our Risk Assessment Group, led by Rev Marc Bircham, until Rev. Fiona Bullock came to St Matthew's, customised the generic risk assessment from Church HQ in July 2020 and held regular meetings to adapt our Risk Assessment from the early days of closure and restrictions to the ending of regulations on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 when the group was terminated in favour of a return to "normal". This "new normal" recognises that although the virus is still in our communities, continuing attention to good hygiene measures and, if desired, the wearing of face-coverings can help to alleviate the risks. Thanks to Joyce Thom, Fiona Bruce and Tom Morrison for their valued contributions to the work of this group.

Andy Turnbull

Editor's Note- and a big "thank you" too from all at St Matthew's to Andy Turnbull for his able and sensitive leadership of our Risk Assessment Committee over the last couple of years.

## Update from the Foodbank

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, Perth and Kinross Foodbank was able to keep open during the two years of the Covid pandemic. Now, with the current increases in the cost of living, we are facing new challenges.

The Foodbank in Cutlog Vennel is **open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 12 – 4, and on Thursdays from 1.30 – 3.30p.m.**; in the last few

months, there has been an obvious increase in the number of people using the Foodbank. In a normal week now, we are processing between



70 and 90 vouchers; some for single people, some for couples and others for families, meaning that over 100 people are being fed each week. And while donations of food are still coming in, we are giving out more food than we are receiving. Many supermarkets have collection points, and we are grateful for the generosity of the public in supporting our work. (I am hoping that we can restore our collection point in St Matthew's so that donations can be brought to church each week, which can then be taken up to the Foodbank.)

Each month, we update our website and Facebook page, indicating which of our stocks are low; at the moment, **we are looking particularly for long life milk and long life juice, tinned puddings, tinned fish, instant meals – and toilet rolls.**

All donations will be gratefully received!

Marjorie Clark

## Wanted

Do you have a coffee cafetiere that you no longer use. If so can you consider passing it on to me to use in the café during the Summer Gallery.



Thanks,  
Tom Morrison

## SHORT COURSES FROM TRINITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Trinity College has announced 4 Short Courses starting in Autumn 2022 which are suitable for a wide variety of backgrounds and look very interesting:

Listening in Mission  
Designing & Leading Worship  
Preaching in Church Contexts  
Contemporary Visual Art & Worship  
For more information please look at:  
[www.trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk](http://www.trinitycollegeglasgow.co.uk)

[Belated birthday wishes to Muriel Smith 92 years young on 24<sup>th</sup> May](#)



## St. Matthew's Summer Gallery

Tay Street, Perth, PH1 5LQ

Sun 3rd July to Sat 10th September 2022

Changing exhibition programme throughout the summer.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> July      | Paintings by Allan Perera-Liyanage                                     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> July    | Textiles by Kalamkari  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> July    | Available  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> July – 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug | St. Matthew's members annual exhibition                                |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug      | Paintings by Ruth and Ian Dunsire with Sheila Garden and Sheila Martin |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug     | Textiles by Stitch-Colour-Cloth  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept | Photography by Tom Ryan and Ewelina Labuda                             |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept     | Lockdown Exhibition  |

Free entry and café available within this 150 year old church building

Please visit to support St. Matthew's in the Community

# CHURCH ROTAS

## Door Duty For June

5 <sup>th</sup>	Perth South Team (Malcolm)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Oakbank Team (Donald)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Burghmuir Team (Isobel)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Bridgend Team (Alastair)

## Readers for June

5 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Young
12 <sup>th</sup>	Fiona Bruce
19 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Attridge
26 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Martin

## Flowers for June

5 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Wright
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sheena Beange
19 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Lindores
26 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Sawyer

## Flower delivery for June

5 <sup>th</sup>	Platinum Jubilee
12 <sup>th</sup>	John Dewar
19 <sup>th</sup>	Nicola Macnee
26 <sup>th</sup>	Fiona Bruce

## Beadle for June

5 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Turnbull
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Morrison
19 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Thom
26 <sup>th</sup>	Colin McKenzie

## Coffee Rota for June

5 <sup>th</sup>	Platinum Jubilee
12 <sup>th</sup>	Marjorie
19 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce
26 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy

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 June

Wednesday 1 June	11-1 Fiona & Andrew
Thursday 2 June	11-1 Lesley & Joan
Monday 7 June	11-1 Marjorie 1-3 Isobel
Wednesday 8 June	11-1 Andrew Tait
Monday 13 June	11-1 Marjorie 1-3 Isobel
Tuesday 14 June	12-2 Lesley & Joan
Wednesday 15 June	11-1 Fiona & Andrew
Monday 20 June	11-1 Marjorie 1-3 Lesley & Joan
Monday 27 June	11-1 Marjorie 1-3 Isobel
Tuesday 28 June	12-2 Lesley & Joan
Thursday 30 June	11-1 Fiona & Andrew

There is an urgent need to have more volunteers to have the church door open. It is one of the few things we can do to encourage people into Gods House, even if it is just for a quick look around or a visit to a place of sanctuary and peace.

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](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com)

## Perth: St. Matthew's Church

### Sunday worship at 11.am

<b>Address:</b>	Tay Street, Perth, PH1 5LQ
<b>Church Tel:</b>	01738 636757
<b>Minister:</b>	Rev. Fiona C Bullock
<b>Contact :</b>	01738 570241(Manse) 07587 281344 (Mobile) <a href="mailto:FBullock@churchofscotland.org.uk">FBullock@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
<b>Session Clerk:</b>	Fiona Bruce <a href="mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com">FMBruce6@googlemail.com</a>
<b>Church Office:</b>	Beverly Skene <a href="mailto:Office@perthstmatthews.org.uk">Office@perthstmatthews.org.uk</a>
<b>Newsletter Ed:</b>	Fiona Bruce <a href="mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com">FMBruce6@googlemail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Dewar <a href="mailto:Dewar34@hotmail.co.uk">Dewar34@hotmail.co.uk</a>

Registered Scottish Charity NO. SCO16829

## Vacancy for a Beadle

**We are looking for a volunteer (male or female) to be part of the Beadle Rota. 1 week in 4 commitments. Speak to Tom, Malcolm or Andy for information if you think you may be interested**

**Next Issue No. 61 on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.**

**All contributions to [FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com) by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022**