



St. Matthew's Church Perth

e-Newsletter No. 62

Fri. 2nd September

Friends, as I write you this note, I am deep in preparation for Sunday worship. This is one of my favourite parts of ministry: one amongst many! I love leading worship, as it is one of the most humbling tasks in ministry. As a Minister, I make myself vulnerable every Sunday. I leave myself, my faith and my life open to scrutiny as I preach the Gospel. Will I be heretical? Do I walk the walk as well as talk the talk? Will I make a mistake or offend someone or challenge someone beyond the comfortable? Will they tolerate the hymns? There are lots of questions I ask myself but the questions that haunt me more than any others are probably, 'Am I fulfilling my calling?' and 'Is this service worthy of God?' Don't get me wrong – I try to live by the words of one of my placement supervisors, the Rt. Rev. Alan McDonald, "Remember...it is worship not a performance!" However, I am also human and I really want to do my best for God and for the congregation.

I take time to lovingly mould and nurture the service, often following the Revised Common Lectionary. This is an arrangement of weekly Bible readings across a three-year cycle and there is a discipline involved in approaching some of the more challenging texts. The fascinating aspect for me is that, although the same readings come around again, I never seem to see them with the same eyes. The contemporary context of politics, economics, and social norms blends with issues of faith and mission in a very particular slice of history and it is through that lens in that moment that I read Scripture. This has only served to confirm my belief in the timeless nature of our Scriptures. Yes, we need to under-

stand Scriptures within the context in which they were written but their application to life is still relevant today.

It is my hope that our worship might be a time of learning together about what God has to say to us now. At a time when we are often told that the church is no longer relevant, we gather together to praise a God who continues to be not only relevant but essential in our lives. We have a Gospel to proclaim, Good News for all the world. Worship should be the catalyst which inspires our action to reach out to others in our communities and beyond. We will be talking a lot about finance and property in the coming months and we need to – these are the resources that allow us to minister in particular ways and it is a good reminder to all of us, myself included, to consider what we give to the church in terms of our gifts: time, talents and money.

However, let us not lose sight of worship, mission and discipleship, as these form the calling card that make us distinctive and relevant in this ever-changing and ever-challenging world.

Blessings,

Your Minister, Fiona

PRAYER

Silent one,
May we pause,
Forget words
And find the moment,
Deep enough
That needs no words,
No sound,
No "fill",
Just the raw holiness
Of us,
As we are.

May we lay down the masks of praise,
And thanksgiving,
And confession:
The patterns we habitually use,
And fall into the mystery that visits us
When the chatter and rambling is done,
And we have nothing left to say.

And discover we need say nothing.
Just be in you.
Silently.

(Taken from "Life & Work")

New members?

If you are considering becoming a member of the church, please contact Rev. Fiona by the end of September. I would like to set up a meeting for all those interested in October.

NOTICES

ANNUAL STATED MEETING

This will take place on **Sunday 4th September**, following the service.

Please let John Dewar or Fiona Bruce know if you require sight of the Accounts prior to the meeting.

KIRK SESSION

in St Matthew's on Wednesday 14th September at 7.30pm

Could all Elders please note the above date and let me have any Reports by 7th September? Thanks. Fiona Bruce

Session Clerk

Minister's holiday

I will be on holiday from Saturday 17th September and will return to work on Tuesday 4th October. During this time, our Sunday services will be led by former Ministers of the parish – I'm sorry to be missing this but hope to catch up on YouTube afterwards. I am certain you will give them a warm welcome back. Pastoral cover will be provided by Rev. Kenneth Stott and Rev. Anne Redpath, whose contact details will be available from the office.

Missing you already! Blessings, Rev. Fiona

Worship Team

If you would be interested in participating in a new worship team to plan regular worship, special services and Bible studies across the year, please get in touch with Rev. Fiona as soon as possible. This will include discussions about the roles that AV and music play in worship.

A FORWARD DATE FOR THE DIARY

*The St Matthew's Scouts are doing a fundraiser on **25th November** in the Main Hall for St Andrews day to raise funds for the World Scout Jamboree for next year. £5 a ticket.*



Sunday: Live streamed Worship
from 10.45

ID 953 7532 1288 Pass Code 058724

Wednesday Meditation at 9am (restarting 7th Sept.)

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=Z0ZQckF2dEVpcmNUTWtPdmZxeU-hGQT09>

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 YouTube and search "st matthews church perth" and select the service you would like.

Doors Open Days 17/18th September and Macmillan Coffee Morning

As part of our 150th anniversary celebrations we will have our door open once again to allow the general public the opportunity to see and be told about our church building and all that happens therein.

We provide teas and coffees and as DOD weekend coincides with the week that the Macmillan Coffee Morning takes place we intend to fund Macmillan with the proceeds from the Saturday Coffees.

St. Matthew's Coffee mornings have always been well supported and I would hope that this event will be no different. Donations of home baking would be welcome together with waitresses/ waiters, coffee / tea makers.

Please contact Lorna Morrison to donate and volunteer. Tel: 01738 631552

BADMINTON CLUB



This re-starts on Thursday 1 September and continues every Thursday through to April at 7.30pm in the Main Hall. All welcome.

Please contact John Dewar for further details if required.

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASS

The Scottish country dance class will resume on Wednesday 14th September 2022 in the main hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The cost is £3.00. There will be an interval for refreshments so please bring your own cup.

New members are welcome and tuition will be given to suit all levels of experience.

Research studies have shown that Scottish country dancing is key to keeping fit and keeping the brain active, so please come along and give it a try.

We will still be following Covid guidance:

- No one should come to class if they are feeling unwell.
- Masks are no longer required but you can wear one if you wish.

There will be hand sanitiser available but please bring your own too and you'll be asked to sanitise your hands between dances.

Please contact Allana, the class teacher, on 01738 551148 or email allanacreighton@btinternet.com for more information.



ST MATTHEW'S GUILD

**Saturday 10th September
at 10am**



The Guild Annual Gathering is being held in the General Assembly Hall in Edinburgh on Saturday 10th September. However, here at St Matthews we plan to take a live link and have our Gathering in the Sanctuary. This will be from 10 am (doors open) until around 3.30 in the afternoon.

All members of the Guild in our area are welcome to join us in St Matthews for this Gathering. If you are coming, please let us know if possible (tel 631552 Lorna Morrison or email lmstitch43@gmail.com); bring your own packed lunch and we will provide tea, coffee and biscuits.

We are looking forward to a happy Guild day.
Lorna Morrison

FIFE PILGRIM WAY WALK

PITSCOTTIE TO CRAIGTOUN PARK

Our next walk will take place on **Saturday 3rd September** and is quite a short walk at approximately 4 miles.

Please meet at Broxden carpark (up near the electric chargers) at **9.30am**. Please bring a snack/ packed lunch with you if you wish. There are several places where we can have a bite of lunch at the end. Please let Fiona Bruce (FMBruce6@googlemail.com) know if you intend to join us. All are welcome!

CRAIGTOUN PARK TO ST ANDREWS

This will be our last walk on the Fife Pilgrim Way and will take place on **Saturday October 1st**.

It's another quite short walk and we hope to finish with Communion on the beach and a meal together.

All welcome- please put the date in your diary now!

JOINT CHURCHES WALK

Our walk on Saturday 30th July was led by Andy Riches from St Leonards with walkers from St Leonards Church. It was a great success with over 20 people taking part! We met at Fittis Road and walked down through Craigie to the South Inch where we enjoyed a well-earned cuppa and bacon roll!

EVENTS

Here is a list of what is happening at St Matthew's in September. You could be out most nights of the week! Who says church and community are dead?!

LOCKDOWN EXHIBITION

4-11th September

I am delighted to report that we have around 15 church members and their friends contributing to this and exhibiting a huge variety of items and stories from lockdown- from stained glass to photos to walks to cross stitch. Please come along and support your church and see what has been achieved during lockdown!

LOCKDOWN FILM and MUSICAL EVENING

Saturday 10 September at 7pm

The culmination of our week-long exhibition is a 2-for-1 concert with a film showing plus musical entertainment.

We are delighted to welcome internationally-renowned actress and singer, Gerda Stevenson, who directed the film "the Storm Watchers" based on a short story by George Mackay Brown, during lockdown.

She will tell the story of how she did this before we show the film and be available to answer any questions afterwards.



In the second half we will enjoy the music of Michael Ellacott. Tickets are £10 (to include cheese and wine which will be served at the interval). See Fiona, Janet or the Church Office for tickets.

WALKING TREASURE HUNT

Sunday 11th September at 2.30pm

As part of our 150th Anniversary Celebrations Eric Duff has compiled a photographic Walking Treasure Hunt. Meet at the church between 2 and 2.30pm to collect your treasure hunt images. Identify the locations and return to the church for tea/ coffee and cake- all for £4 per person.

EDINBURGH KILTWALK

SUNDAY 18th September

Andrew and I have decided to walk the 14-mile event as above. Andrew is raising funds for **St Matthew's Church** so will bring his sponsorship Form with him on Sundays! Following all the recent awful news about Afghanistan one year on, I'm raising money for the **Linda Norgrove**

Let's Celebrate!
Autumn Film and Music Night
"The Storm Watchers"
Directed by Gerda Stevenson
Musical Entertainment
By Michael Ellacott
Saturday 10th September
7pm at St Matthew's
Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ
Tickets - £10 including
cheese and wine

Everyone Welcome

PERTH ACADEMY "Sing As We Go"

Friday 16th September at 7pm.

An evening to launch the Perth Academy filmed tribute to the 79 former pupils of Perth Academy who gave their lives in the Second World War- some of whom are also commemorated on the War Memorials in St Matthew's Church.



The evening will comprise:

1. Film premiere
 2. Tea and Cakes and an opportunity to chat with the students and staff of the "Perth Academy Remembers" project team and the families and friends who have contributed to the film.
 3. Songs of World War Two sing-song with musical accompaniment.
- As with the "Flowers of the Forest" concert in St Matthew's the evening will be very informal and hopefully quite spontaneous. All are welcome to attend this free event but please let Fiona or Janet know for numbers.

Foundation which aims to support women and children there.

Once our 2 charities are confirmed our Just Giving pages should appear on the Kiltwalk website and all donations will be gratefully received. 50% will be added to any total by the Hunter Foundation. Thanks. Fiona & Andrew

Churches visited

On my annual holiday to Islay, I usually attend the local church of St Keiran's just outside the village of Port Charlotte. It is a small country church built in 1898 and designed by the architect Peter MacGregor Chalmers who was known for his Norman revival style and so it contains semi-circular arches and round headed windows. Like many churches at present, it is without a minister, so the service was taken by a lay preacher in the congregation. The music was provided by a keyboard player, who was accompanied by a lady playing the guitar, sometimes when musicians are unavailable, recorded hymns and music are played. I am always impressed by the quality of the singing, even though the congregation numbers only around 20 folks. I received a warm welcome and my ears pricked up during the sermon, which concentrated on faith and how we should be looking 'Forward in Faith'. On leaving the church, I was delighted to share with the preacher, that I was a pilgrim from St Matthew's and we had adopted 'Forward in Faith' as our mission statement after our refurbishment.



Another church I like to pop into in Islay (and have occasionally worshipped there) is the Round Church in Bowmore. I have always been fascinated by this building from the first time I visited as a child and my mother informed me that it was built round so that the Devil would have no corners to hide in. During that childhood visit I recall being totally pre-occupied with searching every nook and cranny to see if the devil might just be lurking about – you'll

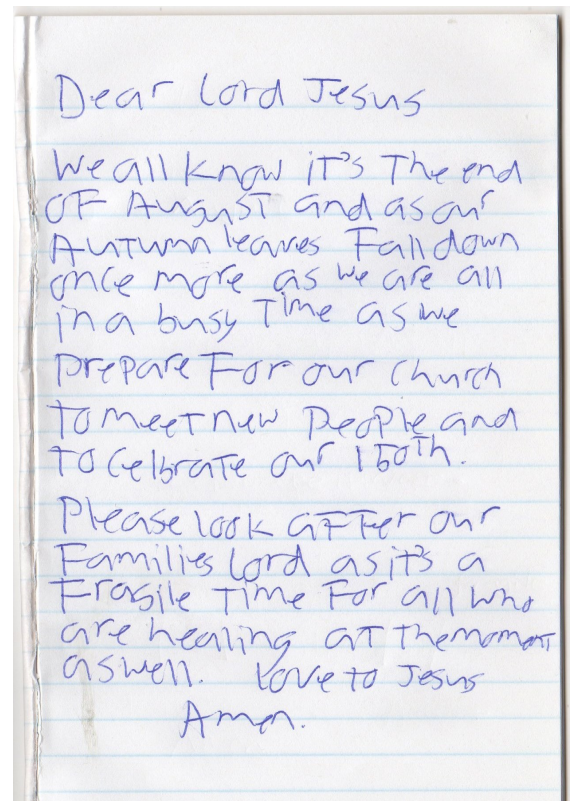
be pleased to know that I haven't spotted him to this day! The church was built in 1767 and is the only round Church in Scotland. There is uncertainty as to who the architect

was. Within the church are mementoes connected with the Rev. Donald Caskie who served as a minister in the Scots Kirk in Paris. He was known as the 'Tartan Pimpernel' for his role in helping over 2,000 allied servicemen to escape from German occupied France during WW2. The round Church is also a destination on the St Columba Pilgrim trail.

Janet Martin



A Prayer from Andrew



Jubilee Day winners

The winner of the hamper at the Jubilee Day in June asked us to donate it to a good cause. Janet took it along to the New Rannoch Centre in Shuna Court. The centre offers day support to elderly people who have dementia. They were delighted with the surprise gift. The photo shows staff member Charlotte with the hamper, who asked for thanks to be passed on from the service users.

...while Lucy Shaw won the large teddy bear by correctly guessing the bear's birthday (28th February). Here she is with the lady whose Jubilee we were celebrating!



Perth: St. Matthew's Church
Sunday worship at 11.am

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Dewar34@hotmail.co.uk

Registered Scottish Charity NO. SCO16829

CHURCH ROTAS

Door Duty For September/October

Sept.4th Perth City (John Dewar)
11th Perth South (Malcolm Thom)
18th Oakbank (Donald Stewart)
25th Burghmuir (Isobel Sinclair)
Oct: 2nd Bridgend (Alistair Byers)
9th Gannochy (Jean McIntyre)
16th Muirton (Janet Martin)
23rd Perth City (John Dewar)
30th Perth South (Malcolm Thom)

Readers for September

Sept. 4th David Sawyer
11th Jack Rough
18th Sheena Beange
25th Lorna Gray

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date	Donor	Deliverer
Sept.		
4th	Ronnie Soreide	Janet Martin
11th	Alison Sweeney	Alison Sweeney
18th	Fiona Bruce	Fiona Bruce
25th	Lorna Gray	Lesley Williamson

WILLS AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Alan Davies of McCash & Hunter, Solicitors, has offered his services to draft Wills and Powers of Attorney for members of St Matthew's Church.

This will be on the basis that, up to end December 2022, a donation would be made to St Matthew's of a sum equivalent to the standard fee for the work carried out- £150 for a Will of normal complexity and length and £200 for a Power of Attorney.

Please make payment online using the bank account details shown below, with the reference "Will".

Please also note that there is a fee of £83 charged by the Public Guardian for registering a Power of Attorney to be paid by the member.

If you are interested in the above, please contact Alan Davies on 01738 620451 or alandavies@mccash.co.uk

Bank details:

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



Next issue no. 63 is due out on Friday 30 September.

All contributions please to
FMBruce6@googlemail.com by
Sunday 25th September
(Please note earlier date)