



St. Matthew's Church, Perth

e-Newsletter No. 70

June 2023

A letter from the Manse

Friends, it has been a real blessing to be able to spend some time outside recently. As an introvert who loves rainy days with the prospect of finding a cosy corner in which to drink coffee and read a good book, I forget how nice it is to be outside. I talk often about my appreciation of nature and I take time for this too, but at the moment, my joy is in watching Calum outside. He loves it! Whether at nursery or at home, he is outside every chance he gets. When we were on holiday in Berneray after Easter, there was one morning he was out on his bike doing circuits of the house at 8 o'clock in the morning – we hadn't even had breakfast. He has been out playing in the manse garden before breakfast a few times lately. He has also discovered the thrill of riding his various vehicles down to the bottom of the cul-de-sac and back again. He and Freya, our Border Collie, love being out in the garden at my parents' house too. When we arrive, Freya makes a bolt for the back door and subsequently the shed, where she knows her favourite toy lives. Calum and Grandan even made themselves a little 'man cave' in the shed last weekend. All that fresh air and fun are brilliant for us all.

Having children and pets around can remind us to take pleasure in the little things. Life as an adult can be very serious and we rarely allow ourselves permission to be child-like. However, we should remember that Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (Matthew 18:3-5, NRSV) We need to find our inner child in the way we approach life and faith, just like our very own Guild did when they had a session of laughter yoga with Dr Kylie Murray recently. Maybe we could all do with some laughter yoga in our lives.

This is my encouragement to you today: take on a child's perspective in the way you view the world, if only for a few moments. Find the joy. Seek the laughter. Revel in the thought that every time you do this brings you closer to the kingdom of heaven. Then please tell me about your adventures – especially if it can be over a cup of coffee!

Every blessing,

Your Minister, Fiona

AD-LIB ARTS
ARTS FOR ALL

PERTH THEATRE JUNE 6th - 10th 2023

Tues 6th June 7.30pm
Weds 7th June 7.30pm
Thurs 8th June 7.30pm
Fri 9th June 7.30pm
Sat 10th June 2pm and 7.30pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
www.perththeatreandconcerthall.com
Box office: 01738 621031

JOSEPH
and the
Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Lyrics by TIM RICE Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Our own Andrew Davies is appearing in the above production—thank you for the advert, Andrew!

CHURCH NEWS

Zoom and You Tube Links for the Sunday services:

Zoom code for Sunday mornings from 10.30a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86884300748>

Meeting ID: 868 8430 0748

Zoom code for Wednesday morning reflections— from 8.50a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88455159577>

Meeting ID: 884 5515 9577

You Tube links for Sunday services

We now have an easy to remember link to take you direct to the St Matthew's church YouTube home page as follows:

youtube.com/@stmatthewspertth OR

youtube.com/@stmatthewspertth/streams

June 4th

<https://youtube.com/live/GTIT-SBAjkY?feature=share>

June 11th = <https://youtube.com/live/Kn2JCGMv51c?feature=share>

June 18th = <https://youtube.com/live/EembTAfNf84?feature=share>

June 25th = https://youtube.com/live/nLiXCR_chng?feature=share

Kirk Session meeting

Elders are reminded that the next Session meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd June at 7.30p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Reports should be submitted to Raymond Young, Session Clerk by Thursday 15th June, so that they can be circulated with the agenda.

New members

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.

Event Promotion When we run an event at St. Matthew's it is important that as many people as possible are aware that these events - coffee mornings, concerts, exhibitions, etc. - are happening. Advertising is the essence of getting people to attend and to that end I am looking for your help. In the first instance please pass on the word to friends and family for events they could be interested in. Secondly if you are a Facebook user, and many of you are registered, you can help by 'sharing' promotional material to your friends and in turn asking them to share it. In that way promotional material will be seen by many hundreds or even thousands of people within days. The Summer Gallery will be starting soon with different artists and groups each week. Your help in promoting these can be the bit that makes it a continuing success. *Tom Morrison*

Church Family News

We regret to record that St Matthew's has lost three of its faithful members in the past month.

Henry Macdonald died on 6th May, after a short illness. His funeral will be held at Perth Crematorium on Tuesday 6th June at 11.30a.m.

Pat Leith died in Cornhill on 16th May; her funeral has already been held.

Sheena Clark died in Cornhill on 24th May, and her funeral is scheduled for Monday 12th June at 10.30a.m. at Perth Crematorium.

All three had been valued members of our congregation and each had contributed in their own special way to the life and witness of St Matthew's. We give thanks for their lives, and send condolences to their families at this sad time.

Charity donations. After each Communion service, it is our custom to have a retiring collection in aid of charities chosen by the Kirk Session. At other times special appeals are made or events held. As a result, the following sums were raised during the last financial year:

Poppy Scotland	£369
Christian Aid	£404
DEC Ukraine Appeal	£727
C of S Guild Starchild	£276
P&K Foodbank	£460
MacMillan Coffee Morning	£267

Events in St Matthew's

This coming Saturday, 3rd June, sees the **Vintage Wheels Weekend** again in Tay Street, when the street will be filled with vintage cars, with lots and lots of visitors around. There will also be the Pipe Band, Perthshire Brass and an Old Steam Organ. The church will be open, serving teas, coffees, cakes, etc, as well as beefburgers! We are also supplying goodie bags for all the car owners and their helpers. We are hoping for the same great weather that we had last year; and even at this late stage, donations of home baking would be greatly appreciated, as would offers of help to serve the teas. It sounds as if it will be a great day—don't miss it!

St Matthew's Walking Group

Because of the above event, the walking group (who normally meet on the first Saturday of the month) will meet instead on **Saturday June 10th**, when Tom will lead a walk in the Errol area, of approximately 5 miles. Meet at Broxden at 9.30 that morning. Please let Tom Morrison know if you intend to walk by emailing t.k.morrison@blueyonder.co.uk



£12.50 Per Person (Under 5s Go Free)

Buy your tickets online at policechoir.com

Hot off the heels of their tour to New York City for Tartan Week, Scottish Police and Community Choir are proud to present "Back on the Beat"

With special guests: Arbroath Pipe Band and The Gordon School of Dancing

In support of Cornhill Macmillan Hospice and The Beatson Cancer Charity

St. Matthew's Church of Scotland, Tay St, Perth PH1 5LQ
(Doors open 19:00)



Congratulations to Wolfgang and Angela Kannenberg who celebrate their Ruby Wedding on June 4th. We look forward to welcoming them back to St Matthew's this summer.



The Boys Breakfast Blether continues to be well attended and we are pleased to see some new faces coming along. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 14th June** at 10a.m. in Wetherspoons and we look forward to seeing you there.

Tea and a Blether

Fiona Bruce writes: I'm organising a tea/coffee morning on **WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE** 10am-12 noon as a fundraiser for Alzheimer Scotland so please put the date in your diary and come along! I know that the men have their get-together next door that morning but I'm hoping they too will support this venture by at least coming in for their tea or coffee afterwards. We'll even prepare a separate table for them!

Alzheimer Scotland have set up a new office in George Street in Perth so I've invited the Manager, Gary Wiscombe, to come along too to speak to us and answer any questions.

I hope to see you there! Fiona Bruce
FMBruce6@googlemail.com

And an invitation from St John's Kirk

St John's are holding a "Songs of Praise" style evening service on **Sunday June 4th**, from 6—7p.m. to which we are warmly invited. Summer suns will, of course, glow!

Janet's Jottings

All shall be well

While shopping in a busy supermarket the other day I watched shoppers duck and dive in front of each other with laden trollies. I found it hard to believe that it seems no time at all since the Covid pandemic had us all avoiding each other and often getting a glowering look from over someone's mask if one inadvertently wandered into their space. As I drove home, I heard on the radio that the Government is issuing forms for us to feed back how Covid and lockdown affected us all. Apart from being totally scunnered at all the restrictions, I think it is fair to say that for many of us, having lockdown imposed on us, was no fun and was indeed not an experience we would have chosen, or wish to go through again in a hurry. Imagine my surprise later the same day when I heard of two people who personally chose to self-isolate themselves from society.



One is a chap called Chris Cameron, who is planning to raise money for charity by spending 60 days on Rockall. An island well named, as it really is all rock! A giant hunk of rock out in the Atlantic, with nothing other than one ledge 4m by 1.5m to cling onto while being battered by all the elements of the sea, not forgetting being constantly bombarded by droppings of a variety of seabirds – rather him than me!

That same week Women's Hour did a feature on Julian of Norwich. She was a fascinating woman who lived in the 14th century. Julian was an anchoress – a woman who had retreated from the world to live a life of prayer and contemplation, alone in a cell. She willingly chose to go into lockdown at the age of 30. Her decision was made after she was lying on what she thought was her deathbed. Julian suddenly saw Christ bleeding in front of her. Due to that and other visions, she received insight into His sufferings and His love for us. This experience led her to write two texts along with her most famous book 'The Revelations of Divine Love'.

Julian has since become known for many sayings; her most famous being her "All Shall be well" quote, which I am sure you are familiar with. However, I wasn't aware of the whole quote, which is as follows

"All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well, for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go"

I find those words incredibly powerful. Despite her isolation from the world, she was literally able to 'think out of her box', look out at the world and know in her heart that God's love was at work in it. I pray we never have to go through a lockdown again, but we know that even in our daily lives each of us will no doubt continue to be faced with new challenges. Whatever comes your way, or whatever metaphorical 'ledge' you are clinging to, I hope the words of Julian of Norwich will remind you of that amazing love that is out there to support and guide us until all is well again.

Janet Martin

AWAY DAY Several members of our church have expressed an interest in having an 'Away Day' to see the Great Scottish Tapestry in its purpose-built gallery in Galashiels and we have now firmed up on the date as **MONDAY 3RD JULY**.

The idea is that we will hire a bus, leave from St Matthew's at 9am, travel the two-ish hours to our destination and have time to see the Tapestry and have lunch and return to St Matthew's, depending on traffic conditions, by around 5pm.

Your bus fare depends on how many seats we fill! The cost bracket will £14 - £20 per head. Entry to the exhibition is £8.55-£9.45 and we will have a short welcome introduction.

Once numbers and cost-per-head are calculated, payment for the bus will thereafter need to be made by mid-June on a non-refundable basis.

Those who wish to participate please contact Wendy on burnett_wendy@ymail.com by Wednesday 7 June.



**Bonhard House Garden Opening
In aid of St Matthew's Church
Saturday 24 June 2 - 6pm**



Entry £5 adults, children free
Tea, coffee, cakes - donations
Children's treasure hunt, croquet



Traditional 19th-century garden of 5 acres. Magnificent mature trees (six classified as remarkable), lawns with herbaceous borders, rhododendrons/azaleas, newly planted rose pergola, wildflower areas, kitchen garden, orchard, ornamental ponds, pinetum.



Bonhard House
Murrayshall Road
Near Scone
PH2 7PQ



St John's Kirk, Perth - Concert-

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, Texas will give a concert in St John's Kirk of Perth at 7.30pm on **Thursday, 8 June, 2023**. They will be accompanied by their organist and international recitalist, Dr Ahreum Congdon. The 45-member choir, under their conductor, Dr Michael Waschevski, performs to a high standard. This promises to be a wonderful evening of sacred music. Tickets are priced at just £5 and can be bought at the door - all proceeds to Christian Aid. There will be an opportunity to make a further donation should you wish to do so.

And an appeal from the Friends of St John's Kirk—as they prepare for the increase in visitor numbers with the opening of the new Perth Museum, if anyone is interested in joining their team of stewards showing visitors round that historic building, please drop in to their Open Day on Saturday 24th June, from 11a.m.—3p.m., to find out more.



Bridge at St Matthew's

On Saturday 19 August, Café Bridge, an event supported by the Perth Bridge Club (SCIO 049190), will take place in Perth for the first time. St. Matthew's Church will play a prominent role in this fun but competitive event that is aimed at bringing the exciting mind sport of Bridge, as it is classed by the International Olympic Committee, to the wider community. The charity tournament will be played in 7 different venues throughout the Fair City. St. Matthew's Church is not only one of the play venues but also the reception centre for the full day. Our magnificent church will see around 100 participants in the event from all over Scotland coming through its doors.

Café Bridge is very popular in the Netherlands and Belgium where many Bridge clubs have turned this into an annual fundraising event. It is slowly gaining popularity in Scotland and the rest of the U.K. and the tournament in Perth promises to add to that.

The very sociable game that is Bridge is open to everyone – all ages and all abilities - and is taught and played in a friendly local club centrally located in King Street in Perth. Playing Bridge is a great opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and to exercise and challenge the mind. We are looking forward to a great day on Saturday 19 August and hope that it may spark an interest in joining in with thousands of other enthusiastic players throughout Scotland. Perth Bridge Club will give you a very warm welcome. The club offers lessons for beginners and improvers beginning every October. For further information about the event on 19 August please contact Marijke Lafferty on mclz@blueyonder.co.uk. For information about Bridge classes contact perthbridgeclub@gmail.com

Fiona Bruce adds: I'm looking for for volunteers to help serve teas and coffees for a couple of hours between the hours of 9am - 5pm. Anyone willing to help please contact me on FMBruce6@googlemail.com

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

Address: Tay Street, Perth, PH1 5LQ

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Tel: 01738 570241

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Greetings from Fernandina Beach

Thanks to a Manse Exchange between the then ministers of St Matthew's Church and First Presbyterian Church, Fernandina Beach in Florida, a covenant relationship was formed between our two congregations. Since then, both pastors (Rev. Scott Burton and Rev. Wain Wesbery) have moved on, and both churches now have new ministers—Rev Fiona Bullock and Rev Dawn Mayes. I had the pleasure of spending a fortnight there in 2019, and was made very welcome; sadly, Covid put paid to plans for a group of their members to visit Scotland in 2020. However, I still keep in touch with the outreach committee, and their Associate Pastor Rev. Julie Higbee, and the quilted tapestry which hangs at the back of our sanctuary was a present from them, a lovely reminder of the link between us.



First Presbyterian recently held a Mission Sunday and invited people to send messages to their partner churches—a little bundle of these prayers arrived in the church office recently, and I share some of these with you. It would be good to explore how we can continue this special relationship in our changed circumstances. (It's a great place to visit!)
Marjorie Clark

Door Teams for June

4th Bridgend (Alistair Byers)
11th Gannochy (Wendy Burnett)
18th Muirton (Janet Martin)
25th Perth City (John Dewar)

Readers for June

4th John Dewar
11th David Firth
18th Andrew Tait
25th Raymond Young

CHURCH FLOWERS

June	Donated by	Delivered by
4th	Margaret Wright	John and Helen Dewar
11th	Sheena Beange	Janet Martin
18th	Betty Lindores	Lesley Mackie
25th	Jean Sawyer	Evelyn McLaren

Praying God's blessing over you all. May Jesus be glorified in your ministry and congregation.

My prayers are with our friends at St Matthew's!

Start each day with a grateful heart. Psalm 107.1

Many prayers for your church – know God has you all covered!

Friends – we continue to pray for you and care for you. May the spring sunshine warm your spirits!

Please come to visit our church

Love to you all! Saying a prayer for y'all!!

God loves you – and so do we!

May God's providence protect you all and guide you.

I would love to visit your church. We would love to have members of your congregation visit us. God Bless you!

The next issue of the newsletter which will cover July and August is due out on Friday 30th June 2023. All contributions by **Sunday 25th June please** to the editor:
Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com