



St. Matthew's Church, Perth

e-Newsletter No. 71

July/August 2023

Friends, last month, I wrote encouraging you to take a child's perspective on life. We certainly did that during worship on Sunday 11th June, when we sang Sunday School hymns from the 80s with gusto. I was delighted to see so many people joining in with the actions – even if I became concerned about potential injuries! I have had a few requests for more of these hymns – watch this space!

This month, my encouragement to you is to try a different perspective. We have great opportunities in our church community and our local community to view the world through a different lens. Throughout July and August, we have our St Matthew's Church Summer Arts Gallery. Each week, a different artist or artists will be exhibiting their works in the sanctuary of the church. Art fascinates me. Love it or hate it, every piece of art can inspire conversations about how we view the world and everything in it. Each piece of art represents a story and, at the Gallery, you will have the chance to find these out from the artists themselves. We may also find our own stories reflected in others' artwork, as we interpret the images and items according to our personal experience.

During the Gallery opening times, there will be teas and coffees available. Last summer, I enjoyed taking time to appreciate the displays nearly as much as I enjoyed the fellowship I had with others, visitors and churchgoers alike. The Gallery offered a meeting place, an opportunity to get to know one another as well as to discuss the art. I hope that you will take advantage of this over the summer.

I had a similar experience last weekend at the Bonhard House Open Gardens event. I would like to offer particular thanks to Chrissie and Chris for generously offering us the use of their incredible gardens and all the team who worked so hard to make this event a success. Throughout the glorious afternoon, I spoke to many different people as we appreciated the colours and textures of the lovingly nurtured gardens together. I was especially happy to meet Lilia, Sergei, Sophia and David – a Ukrainian family who have been making Scotland their home from home for the past few months. (I didn't meet their other son Peter who was busy having fun with friends elsewhere in the five acre garden.) I was blessed to try some sweets Lilia made and watching Calum and Sophia playing with bubbles together made my day. Sergei spoke of their gratitude about having a new start and new opportunities. Even as I chatted with them and thought about everything they have been through, I was struck by our similarities too – we all wanted to ensure our children had the best opportunities possible in life. It made me realise that this is what God wants for all his children: the opportunity to live life in all its fulness.

Having a different perspective can teach us more about God. His presence can be found in many weird and wonderful places... and people, for that matter! Blessings can be found in even the darkest of places. We can come to know him more through other people, other cultures, and various artistic expressions. Come to think of it – we can get to know and understand ourselves better too. So widen your horizons. Change your perspective. Challenge yourself with something new this summer. And find God in surprising places. May the God of adventure go with you.

Every blessing, Your Minister, *Fiona*

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/868884300748>

Meeting ID: 868 8430 0748

You Tube links for Sunday services

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

youtube.com/@stmatthewsperth OR

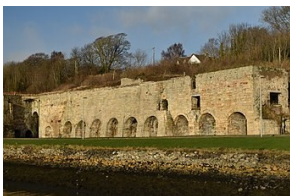
youtube.com/@stmatthewsperth/streams

Our Wednesday morning reflections at 9a.m. are taking a break over the summer, but will be back after the holidays—watch this space!

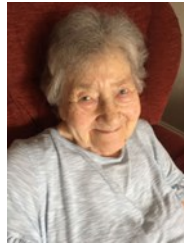
St Matthew's Walkers

Fiona, Alan and Andrew are leading our next walk on Saturday 1st July which starts in Limekilns in Fife. This is a relatively short circuit of around 4 miles but with lots of interesting features where we start by walking along the promenade into Charlestown, passing 14 limekilns which were quarried into the cliffs in the 1700s. We then follow the old railway line and eventually pass the Scottish Lime Centre Trust.

Please meet at 9.30am at Broxden Park & Ride. Bring a mid-morning snack and we will finish in a nearby tearoom. All welcome, but if you plan to be there, please let Fiona know on FMBruce6@googlemail.com.



The next **Big Boys Breakfast** will be held in Wetherspoons (next door to the church on Tay Street) on **Wednesday 12th July at 10a.m.**—as always, new attendees will be welcome.



Happy Birthday Jenny!

Best wishes and love from all her friends at St Matthew's are winging their way to Jenny Fraser, who celebrated her 96th birthday on June 27th.

Andrew's prayer

Dear Lord Jesus
I love my church ^{Family} as well as my personal home ^{Family} too.
Because that's what it says about on songs in the church which is lovely.
I love you all. Amen

Andrew has also sent this note after appearing in "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" at Perth Theatre recently:

"Just wanted to thank you so much for all your support to see me in my show. It was amazing and a wonderful privilege to see you all there. Catch up with you all very soon, and have a wonderful week."



A very big "thank you" to all who contributed in whatever way to our very successful "Tea and Blether" in June. Gary Wiscombe, Dementia Advisor in Perth was pleased to have a chat with so many people! I'm delighted to let you know that the sum of £449.50 was raised for Alzheimer's Scotland.
Fiona Bruce

And yet more hospitality possibilities.....

(a) Fiona Bruce is hoping to run a series of 'afternoon teas' and is looking for the traditional tiered cake stands. If you have any and would be happy to lend them, please let her know.

(b) Please see last month's newsletter for info about Café Bridge, being held in St Matthew's on Sat. 19th August. If you can offer to help serve teas and coffees on that day, please contact Fiona.



Bonhard House
Open Day Saturday 24th June

The pictures on this page will, we hope, give you a flavour of what was a wonderful day as Chris and Chrissie Dobbs opened their house and beautiful garden to visitors from St Matthew's and beyond. There was trampolining, as well as a treasure hunt, tea and coffee and delicious home - baking, croquet on the lawn (which some took to, quickly and competitively), wonderful flower displays, and walks through the lovingly-tended gardens, serenades by Gillian, a plant and marmalade stall, and lots of smiles and friendly chat, while the sun shone the whole afternoon. The event raised over £1000 for church funds, and a huge thank you must go to Chris and Chrissie, to Janet Martin who organised the volunteers at the refreshment stall, and to all the volunteers who made the day such a success and so enjoyable.



St. Matthew's Summer Arts Gallery

Tay Street , Perth

Mon – Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Sun 1-4 pm

- Sun 2 – Fri 7 July Liz Harvey, "Seeking Treasure"
- Sun 9 – Fri 14 July Fusation "Up close & Colourful"
- Sun 16 – Fri 21 July Alan Lewis "Glass for all time"
Kerin McGreevy Wildlife Photographer
- Sun 23 – Fri 28 July Paintings by Douglas Findlay and
June Graney
- Sun 6 – Fri 11 August Paintings by Ruth Dunsire, Ian
Dunsire, Sheila Garden and Maggie Wallace.
- Sun 13 – Fri 18 August Textiles by Stitch-Colour-Cloth
- Sun 20 – Fri 25 August: Artwork by Sybil Galbraith,
Mary Allen Graham, Beth McDowall. Watercolours,
landscapes, wire works.

Free Admission Browse Meet the Artists Tea and Coffee

Fully wheelchair accessible venue: open to all

SUMMER GALLERY HELP

Many thanks to those who have offered help during the next 8 weeks. There are still spaces to be filled. Please check the list in the cafe area and offer your help if possible.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We thank Fiona Bruce who recently offered the following as her contribution to our weekly Wednesday morning reflections on Zoom.....

My "Thought for Today" is "books" – in particular the Bible as a book. This is largely because we have just returned from the Melrose Book Festival so books were uppermost in our minds!

One of the best speakers, Robin Ince, who fronts "The Infinite Monkey Cage" on a Saturday evening with Brian Cox on Radio 4, reminded us that humans are the only beings who transmit their thoughts onto paper- and he encouraged everyone to write!

Books are many things to many people- they can be a source of comfort, a source of inspiration and of guidance. And so with the Bible- the Book we as Christians look to for the same reasons. "This Is The Day", a book of readings and meditations from the Iona Community relates the story of an African woman who summed up the Bible thus: "Other books I read. This book reads me".

That book also talks about the Bible as "Revolution as well as revelation". "How the theme of social justice echoes through the pages of scripture like an insistent drum-beat" and "stands all worldly values on their head. However marginal an interest in social justice and political issues may sometimes seem to the mainstream of church life..." Biblical historians can talk about the various books which came together to form the Bible as we know it today, but I'd like to concentrate on the language of the Bible. For example, the late Rev David Ogston, himself a great wordsmith, talks about how the Psalms touch heaven and earth. He writes they have given us a "devotional vocabulary". "If they teach us remorse- the searching of the heart; if they keep us towards adoration- the lifting of the heart; if they introduce us to wonder- the broadening of the heart..." Yet the Psalms also teach us of the misery of the hunted, loneliness, betrayal and the pain of the Cross.

The other thought I'd like to leave you with is also from the Iona meditations and it is this: "Someone once said they were not worried by the parts of the Bible they did not understand. What did bother them was the parts they did understand...the parts that are so clear ... such as the Beatitudes and some other parts of the Sermon on the Mount...for the only way to avoid the challenge of such passages is to pretend that Jesus meant something else or that, for some reason, what he says does not apply to us." Anyhow, these are just a few thoughts on our Book, the Bible. Its language and its meaning have the power to fire our imagination and search the heart, lift the heart and broaden the heart. *Fiona Bruce*

PRAYER For the word of God in scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

A message from Viv—remembering the Art Tower

Thank YOU!! Thank YOU to ALL OF YOU who supported the 'Art Tower' from its early beginnings - from the approval of the Kirk Session changing the use of the Tower Room from J.A.M Club to Art Tower; from the support of so many of you donating all things crafty for our use; from everyone who joined me to work on so many wonderful projects which were displayed within our wonderful church building; from those of you who have appreciated and enjoyed all the creative displays on offer.

The first ever project we created was 'Christmas Presents, Christmas Presence'. Another was 'Christmas Angels' (especially thanks to Ann). There was the Easter where the old shed in the garden had one last final duty to perform. It was going to be the stage of 'the tomb' in the Easter story, where a large stone is in front of the tomb and then it rolls away. A very 'large egg' was created with the use of wood, yarn, craft eggs and chocolate eggs as a symbol of 'the large stone' (thanks especially to Jeanette and Abbie). The 'large stone' rolled from 'the tomb' into the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Everyone enjoyed the fruits (or should I say chocolate) from this creative project.

Now that same 'egg' rolled itself all the way to PKAVS's Walled Garden in March 2023. It had a new duty to perform as part of their dinosaur-themed plant sale in May 2023.

All of the amazing craft materials which had accumulated throughout the years found new homes like 'the egg'. They were donated to PKAVS at the Walled Garden and Wisecraft, St. John's Nursery, Our Lady's P.S., Lisa Earl at CREATE and a couple of art students.

Just like the egg it is now time for the Tower Room to say goodbye to itself as 'The Art Tower' and start its new adventure with Tom and others as a photography studio.

Thanks again to each one of you for your support and love. It is very much appreciated by me. The Art Tower just wasn't working anymore thanks to lockdown. I especially found Covid difficult and 'getting back to normal'. I still do.

Don't worry, this isn't the last you will hear, see, find me. I will always be about in some form. I will try to get back on Sundays.

Hugs and love, Viv x



Janet's Jottings

Are we there yet? Summer holidays are looming, for many of us a break away from home, the chance to relax (in sunshine if we are lucky) and a change of scene from the responsibilities of our daily lives is always a welcome prospect. Memories of childhood holidays came to mind the other day. The excitement of going away, mixed with the frustration of having to pack the necessary bits and bobs to take with us. I can still hear my mother's voice, "remember your swimsuits, sandals, or whatever, and don't forget your wellies, you'll be the one with wet feet if you don't!" Getting the car piled high with camping gear, 3 children, a dog and sometimes an extra friend, was akin to a Heath Robinson sketch. The inevitable tick list – map, flask, sandwiches, last minute loo visits, calamine lotion, and a check round the house. Then of course the inevitable question "has anyone seen the front door key?". Living in Kinloch Rannoch, our door was always open, only being locked when we went away on holiday. The key was usually kept in a wee box on the sideboard (does anyone even have sideboards these days?), and for some strange reason every year when my father went to retrieve it there was no sign of it. A frantic hunt would eventually unearth it and in due course we'd be on our way. Mum was always well prepared for our journey, the inevitable bag of barley sugars (in case anyone felt queasy!), drinks and snacks and she was also great at keeping us entertained. Lots of singing (no cassettes, CDs or Podcasts then!) and we had a variety of favourite 'car songs' we all loved to sing. When we got bored, it would be 'i-spy' or perhaps 'spot the car'. We each chose a colour of car and we had to count how many we passed en route. No matter which colours I chose, it seemed that every car we passed was every colour but mine!



Inevitably, the ubiquitous cry (from children the world over), would go up "are we there yet?". Our excitement of new adventures was very quickly usurped by impatience. Being on the Christian journey, as we know is certainly not always akin to a holiday. However, it is a journey. A journey where we travel in Christ's footsteps, not always paying heed to the direction He actually wants us to go. Like children, we can easily be distracted by what's at the side of the road or stop in the 'lay-bys of life' for a little longer than necessary. Daily life is not always a holiday. It is a journey of ups and downs and unexpected events round each corner. However, following Christ is very much a journey of excitement and anticipation; a time when we will meet new people and learn new things. Don't be in too much of a hurry, as Ewen Gilchrist reminded us at the Easter reflections, we are all 'work in progress', in God's time we **will** get there.

Janet Martin

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

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Vintage Car Day in Tay Street.

Working closely with the Council we were asked to be the caterers for this event at the beginning of June. A great deal of preparatory work was done, to get ready to provide home baking, serve teas and coffees and run the burger stall.

We were also asked this year to cater for the car owners by providing 'goodie bags.' We agreed to do 100 units but this escalated to 200 by the day before the event. I must say a big thank you to the catering team for coordinating the purchasing of the contents of these 'goodie bags' and to the team of volunteers, seen in the photo, who formed a production line in the preparation of the bags.



On the day itself, the sun shone, and Janet Martin and Liz Barrett did a sterling job as the 'trolley dollies' in delivering the bags. It was a great day for St. Matthew's with good fellowship and it was a viable sign of how the church can work with the community.

Tom Morrison

Welcome Teams for July and August

- July 2nd Perth South (Malcolm Thom)
- 9th Oakbank (Donald Stewart)
- 16th Burghmuir (Isobel Sinclair)
- 23rd Bridgend (Alistair Byers)
- 30th Gannochy (Wendy Burnett)
- August 6th Muirton (Janet Martin)
- 13th Perth City (John Dewar)
- 20th Perth South (Malcolm Thom)
- 27th Oakbank (Donald Stewart)

Readers for July and August

- July 2nd Gillian Heath
- 9th Ann Attridge
- 16th Lesley Mackie
- 23rd Jenni Wilson
- 30th David Sawyer
- Aug. 6th Joyce Thom
- 13th Lorna Morrison
- 20th Lesley Williamson
- 27th Roy Nicoll

CHURCH FLOWERS

July	Donated by	Delivered by
2nd	Marjorie Clark	Marjorie Clark
9th	Eileen Montgomery	Tom and Lorna Morrison
16th	Ronnie Soreide	Fiona Bruce
23rd	Isobel Morrison	Alistair and Carolyn Byers
30th	Ina Soreide	Janette Miller
Aug. 6th	Jean Young	Lesley Mackie
13th	John Spence	Freda Stewart
20th	Marie and Roy Nicoll	Frances Turnbull
27th	Jenny Fraser	Nicola Macnee

The next issue of the newsletter is due out on Friday 25th August 2023. All contributions by **Sunday 20th August please** to the editor: Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com