



St. Matthew's Church, Perth

e-Newsletter No. 74

November 2023

As we go to print, our minister Rev. Fiona is currently off on sick leave; we continue to keep her and her family in our prayers, and send our best wishes for her recovery. Our thanks once again to Janet Martin for her reflection below.....

Water of Life

Water, water everywhere! October brought us a deluge of rain and flooding. Like many others, I was drawn down to view the height of the river Tay. I was amazed not only at how quickly the river had risen, but also by the speed and power of it. It was astounding how Stanner's Island all but disappeared and how the quickly the North Inch was engulfed.



Water is a fascinating substance. In its natural state it is clear and pure, looks very ordinary and tastes of very little. On a calm loch it reflects mountains and trees like a giant mirror. It cascades down waterfalls. It has the ability to freeze over and turn solid. Water also has a mind of its own; It can creep into crevices, slither under doors, rapidly increase its flow, gather momentum and before long a benign puddle can turn into a torrent; always reminding us not to underestimate its power. In Africa, deserts and dry riverbeds can spring to life in hours when the rainy season comes. Fish, birds and other creatures come to drink and eat the bountiful crops that have sprung from nowhere. All made possible from the power of water.

Water features a lot in the Bible. As children we learn the story of the great flood sent by God to cover the earth when He realises how sinful and wicked humans had become. As the water recedes, God sends us a rainbow as a sign of His covenant. He promises that never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life on earth. We also hear of Jesus walking on the water. He encourages his disciples to join him, but they are afraid. His actions demonstrate that they, or indeed we, need not be afraid. If He can walk on water amid a storm, then He is there to walk with us in through our overwhelming problems in the storms of life.

In John 7:37-39 Jesus speaks of 'living water'. "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." The verse draws upon the life-giving properties of water. 'Living water' is a metaphor used to depict the spiritual sustenance and salvation that Jesus Christ offers. It represents the Holy Spirit's ability to refresh us, quench our spiritual thirst, cleanse us, and bring forth life wherever it flows.



I was honoured to be able to witness the power of ordinary water and living water working together last week, when our friend Dawn Anderson was baptised in Loch Clunie – one brave lady! It was a very moving and emotional experience as we watched Dawn wade into the chilly water. The Rev. Scott Burton used the familiar baptismal liturgy as he immersed Dawn fully in the water, but somehow those words came to life as she rose from the cold water, having been blessed with the warmth of the Holy Spirit. For Dawn embarking on her new journey of faith and fellowship in St Matthew's and for those of us that might be struggling with our faith, I leave you with some reassuring words from Isaiah 43:2 which show that we must never underestimate the power of the living water.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

CHURCH NEWS

Zoom and You Tube Links for Sundays

Zoom code for Sunday morning worship from 10.30a.m Click the following link and when asked provide your name then join the meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/868884300748?pwd=omhN3xdeXbaARVmQyxigrW8lgKTfX1.1>

OR "Join a meeting" on ZOOM providing the following: **meeting id = 868 8430 0748** then provide the **password = 436175**

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

Midweek Musings

This is an opportunity to meet for a short time with others on their faith journeys, as they share their thoughts and challenges! We finish no later than 9.30a.m. All welcome to join us.

Wednesday at 9 a.m. Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88455159577>

Meeting ID: 884 5515 9577 Password 536657

The next **Boys' Breakfast Blether** will be held in Wetherspoons (next door to the church on Tay Street) on **Wednesday 8th November** at **10a.m.** As always, new attendees will be made very welcome.

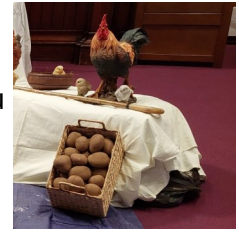
October—a month for giving Following on from the article in last month's newsletter, you are reminded that there is still an opportunity to support the church financially by reviewing your monthly giving, and/or making a one-off donation. If at all possible we would ask that your gift be made by BACS transfer, marking it "Gift Month" to the following account:- Account Name: St. Matthew's Church

Sort Code: 83-47-00 Account Number: 00760133

Donations can also be made by cheque or cash in the offering plate on any Sunday or by sending your donation to St. Matthew's Church, Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ. Your donation can also be made using the card machine situated at the front of the church as you enter. Donations can also be Gift Aided—if you are a taxpayer but have not previously registered for the gift aid scheme, please consider doing so now.

It's all happening on **Sunday 29th October.**

At our morning service, we will be celebrating our **Harvest Thanksgiving**; many thanks in advance to Roy and his team for the appropriate decoration of the sanctuary. You are invited to bring an item for the Foodbank; tinned or dried food, long-life milk or juice, toiletries, etc. But please also bring a bag to take away some of the fresh vegetables and fruit from the display.



We will also be **welcoming new members** into our congregation—Dawn Anderson, Andrew Davies, David Donaldson, John Paton and David Sawyer will be admitted by Profession of Faith, and Chris and Chrissie Dobbs by resolution of the Kirk Session.

Last but by no means least, this service will include the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**; all who love the Lord are invited to His table.

As at all our Communion services, there will be an opportunity to make an offering as you leave to a charity; Water Aid is this month's chosen charity—see Tom's article on page 6 of this newsletter.

Members of the Kirk Session are asked to meet at 10.30a.m., prior to the service. (And please all remember, the clocks go back the night before!)

Our Service of Remembrance on **Sunday 12th November** will start at 10.45a.m.



I love harvest time and
Having a Family and the
love that you give lord
I feel blessed, loved and
wonderful about it.
Please lord let us support
others who need our help
and even more as we look
to you for guidance and
support that you give
I feel thankful at
the moment so do we all
too. Amen

**Andrew's
prayer**

100th FESTIVAL

100th Festival
Perform
in
Perth



Also featuring guest recitals including...



EXHIBITION

4 Cellos
5pm, Sunday 29th October

Sunday 29th October - Saturday 4th November

PERTH HIGH SCHOOL
12noon, Monday 30th October

PERTH AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
7pm, Wednesday 1st November

ENCORE CHOIR
7pm, Friday 3rd November

Grazyna Młynarczyk's Music Students
1pm, Saturday 4th November

ABERFELDY GAELIC CHOIR
7pm, Monday 30th October

MORRISON'S ACADEMY
5pm, Thursday 2nd November

JULIE YOUNG SINGERS
10am, Saturday 4th November

PERTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLES
2pm, Saturday 4th November

FAIR CITY SINGERS
5pm, Tuesday 31st October

DOLLAR ACADEMY
7pm, Thursday 2nd November

STEELE VOCAL QUARTET
11am, Saturday 4th November

JAMBOUREE SINGERS
3pm, Saturday 4th November

SINGING ANGELS
Spiewajacych Aniołki
5pm, Wednesday 1st November

JULIE YOUNG DANCERS
5pm, Friday 3rd November

PERTH ROCK CHOIR
12noon, Saturday 4th November



Scan here for updates of each day's programme

OPENING TIMES

Sunday 29th October
4pm-8.30pm

Monday-Friday
10am-2pm; 4pm-8pm (closes at 6pm on Tuesday)

Saturday 4th November
10am-4pm (Recitals all day)

in St Matthew's Church

Tay Street, Perth. PH1 5QL.

FREE ADMISSION

www.perthshire-music-festival.org.uk

Perthshire Musical (Competitive) Festival Association - Scottish Charity Number: SC010789

Celebrating a Century of music making St Matthew's is delighted to be playing host to the 100th Anniversary Exhibition of what is now known as "Perform in Perth." The exhibition will trace the history of the Festival from its foundation in the 1920s through to the present day, highlighting the contributions made by various personalities, musicians and volunteers. It promises to be of great interest and features some well-known personalities, fondly remembered.

The week of the exhibition sees a dazzling array of guest artists, as itemized in the above poster. In a week-long celebration, these local orchestras, choirs and music groups will be giving short concerts at 12noon, 5pm or 7pm on most days.

The Exhibition opens its doors at 4pm on Sunday, 29th October, and continues from 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 8pm, Monday to Friday. A grand finale takes place on Saturday, November 4th, with a musical marathon from 10am through to 4pm. The best part is that admission is absolutely FREE! Everyone is invited come along and join in celebrating a century of music, culture, and community at the Perform in Perth 100th festival Exhibition. It's an event that promises to be a symphony of nostalgia and a testament to the enduring power of music to bring the community together. Don't miss out on this celebration of Perth's rich musical heritage!



St Matthew's Walking Group October's walk was cancelled because of the floods and storms! We hope the weather will be kinder for this month's outing on **Saturday 4th November**, as we explore the area around Rumbling Bridge and Crook of Devon, distance 3-4 miles. We meet at Broxden Park and Ride at 9.30a.m. New walkers are welcome—if you would like to know more or join this walk, please email Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com

Guild News – November 2023

At our October meeting we had an interesting talk from Fiona Martin about her charity The Sunshine Box. Sunshine Boxes are toy boxes filled with new toys, books and games for children from 0-16 years who are undergoing painful or frightening procedures in hospital. The children can choose a gift to make the difficult and daunting experience of being in hospital somewhat more comfortable. It would be good if our Guild could fill a toy box with small, inexpensive toys to help this charity for Christmas. We could also provide cosy socks, little knitted hats for premature babies, jigsaws and colouring books with colour pencils. All these boxes of gifts are distributed around the childrens' outpatient clinics and wards in the hospitals around Tayside, so this is a local charity helping local children. All donations should be new, and a maximum cost of £5 is suggested for the small toys. The next Guild meeting is on **Monday 30th October** and will be in the Mission Hall as the Sanctuary is booked out for another group. The speaker is Robert Alexander of The Vine Trust. On 13th November the topic is Paper Craft, while Rev Gillian Munro is our speaker on 27th November.

Lorna Morrison, Convener

A letter of thanks from Archie and the Scouts

Dear Friends at St Matthew's

I wanted to write to thank you personally for the support you have given me over the last 18 months. The run up to our amazing trip to South Korea was hard but I learned a lot from all the events I was part of planning and help run. On a personal level it was fun fundraising with the 11 people from Perth I then travelled with as well as mixing and doing activities with the wider group of 40 from East Region. The tight bond we made in the early days I think helped us a huge amount when we finally got to Korea.

We arrived in Seoul on the 25th July - after a day's travelling - full of excitement for what lay ahead. I then found out I had been chosen to carry the flag for the UK at the Opening Ceremony. Amazingly the first Scottish person to do this – what an honour!! We had 6 busy days in Seoul taking in the sights. On the 2nd August we travelled the 6hrs from Seoul to the Jamboree site in Saemangeum Buan-gun. It was hot, sandy and sticky as we rushed to put up tents and get ready for the Opening Ceremony. There was a talk from Bear Grylls and others, a drone display and lastly the Flag Ceremony where I was the 150th of 162 country flags to walk onto the stage.



It was super hot and sticky even at night, with the temperature not really dropping below 25 and some were struggling with the heat and bugs. Thankfully our Unit of 40 was good at keeping each other going, drinking enough and motivated. We knew we had 12 days to enjoy the site and its activities so it was to be approached as 'a marathon not sprint'. Sadly after just 3 days we heard that the site organisers were just not coping with keeping on top of food deliveries, health needs and cleanliness and with huge unspeakable disappointment the UK Contingent made the decision that all 4500 participants were to leave site and head back to Seoul hoping this would help take the pressure off.



We headed back to hotels in Seoul and started 8 days more sightseeing, cultural activities before our return flight on 13th August. On the 11th August there was a Closing Ceremony at the World Cup Stadium this brought most of 47000 participants back together one last time. The main event was the passing of the Jamboree Flag from Korea to Poland for 2027 World Scout Jamboree.

Our experience of the Jamboree was not what was expected we had hoped for an amazing International Camp mixing with people from all over the world but sadly this was not to be. But we made the best of our time in Seoul and I have made friends and had experiences which will stay with me forever. Many thanks again for your support, *Archie Mitchell*

22nd St Matthew's Scouts
are hosting a

Coffee Morning!

St Matthews Church

Saturday 11th November 2023
9.30-12.30 (Adults £3 / Child £2)

Enjoy Home Baking, Hamper Raffle, Guess the Birthday, Scout
Crafts, Tombola, Quiz Sheets and more!!

*Thanks to Roy and Marie
Nicol who spotted this
amusing notice outside a
church in the middle of a
refurbishment.*



Coming up.....



Regift it

I discovered that I had lots of unused items in my cupboard. Toiletries, jigsaws, books, scarves, socks etc. that had kindly been given to me some time ago but were not to my taste. Last year, I took them to the church Christmas fayre and in selling them made £150 for St Matthew's funds. In doing so, I realised that I was helping others, as the cost of living is so high at present that buying gifts can be expensive or prohibitive for some folks. So, if you have any (new & unused) items that you think might sell on my 'Regift' stall, please let me know (Tel: 01738 625074) I can collect, or you can leave them with Beverly in the office. Thanks, *Janet Martin.*

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

Put a smile on someone's face this Christmas. Please pick up a leaflet, fill a box and return it to the church by Friday 3rd November. Thank you. *Janette Millar*

Also a request from Perth Baptist Church .. If you are able to give some time to help with the sorting and organisation of the boxes between Mon.13th and Thurs.16th November they would be happy to see you. Phone 0792 882 7898 for more info.

Fiona Bruce still has a few Crossreach 2024 Calendars for sale at £5 each. She can be contacted by phoning 07787 103531 or emailing FMBruce6@googlemail.com

Looking forward to Advent and Christmas.....

The PACT Advent Lantern Parade is on **Saturday 9th December**—gather at St Ninian's Cathedral at 4.45p.m., then process down to St John's Kirk for community carol singing.



The PACT Carol Service is on **Friday 22nd December** at 7p.m. in the North Church; guest preacher Rt. Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. A warm invitation is extended to all to both events.

Calling all knitters! Culture Perth and Kinross libraries are leading the Cosy Rugs project this year. Last year individuals and groups knitted and crocheted thousands of 6" squares, made into hundreds of rugs, and some beautiful whole blankets. Over 130 rugs were picked up from AK Bell Library last winter, and scores at other libraries, for anyone who needs them. If you or any groups you know could help, please pick up leaflets and donate yarn and squares and finished rugs at A K Bell. Help with sewing up is especially needed – please contact Liz Barrett on 571527 or email lbarrett@pkc.gov.uk



Photo Studio The Tower Room has now been converted into a photo studio, complete with studio lighting, back drops, and tabletop facility. The purpose of the studio is to give a space to those in the congregation who may aspire to trying out portrait / group photography and get the benefit of support from others already skilled in such work. We hope that the church's youth organisations can come along and learn a bit about photography, benefitting from a good hobby and adding to their badge collection. The facility will be available to hire out to both professional and amateur photographers who need a studio space. Should you want to know more about the studio, have a word with myself and I'll be pleased to show you round. *Tom Morrison*

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

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WaterAid The retiring Offering at Sunday's Communion Service is in aid of "WaterAid", an international charity which works to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. Working with partners, Wateraid supplies materials, expertise and support to communities in some of the toughest places in the world. Communities requiring a water supply would be given the equipment, pipes etc. and an expert in water supply who would organise and instruct the villagers to create and manage their own facility. This means that the villagers value the supply, know how it is installed and are able to subsequently maintain it. On Sunday there will be the opportunity to make a donation, read a leaflet about the charity and fill in a "Gift Aid" envelope also should you like to enhance your donation. *Tom Morrison*



Hello to Gordon Webster (94) from Western Australia, a friend of Janet Martin's who follows us on You Tube every week. We love the scooter!

Sunday morning rotas for November

Welcome Teams

- 5th Gannochy (Wendy Burnett)
- 12th Muirton (Janet Martin)
- 19th Perth City (John Dewar)
- 26th Perth South (Malcolm Thom)

Beadle Duty

- 5th Bill Chalmers
- 12th Andy Turnbull
- 19th Malcolm Thom
- 26th Raymond Young

READERS

- 5th Gillian Heath
- 12th Marjorie Clark
- 19th Ann Attridge
- 26th Raymond Young

TEA/COFFEE TEAMS

- 5th Marjorie Clark
- 12th Isobel Sinclair
- 19th Joyce Thom
- 26th Wendy Burnett



FLOWERS

Nov.	Donated by	Delivered by
5th	Marjorie Clark	Lesley Williamson
12th	John and Helen Dewar/ Isobel Morrison	Evelyn McLaren
19th	Sheena Beange	Janette Miller
26th	Alison Ford	Janet Martin

The next issue of the newsletter is due out at the beginning of December and will cover both December 2023 and January 2024. All contributions by **30th November** please to the editor: Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com

If you do not already receive this newsletter electronically and would like to receive future issues via email, please send your email address to the editor, and you will be added to our distribution list.