



# St Matthew's News

## No 90 June 2025

### Rev. Fiona reflects

Friends, for fifteen weeks in 1994, the band Wet Wet Wet held the number one slot in the UK charts with their version of "Love is all around." Part of the soundtrack of the much beloved film, "Four Weddings and a Funeral," you could not escape the song no matter how hard you tried. I seem to recall that eventually Wet Wet Wet themselves asked for folk to stop buying it because they were sick of hearing it – or was that an urban myth? It probably took the next ten years to get the song out of our heads and off the playlists of radio DJs and then...it was used as the basis of a song in another Richard Curtis movie: the song was "Christmas is all around" and the film, "Love Actually." And so the earworm began again. As it says in the film, "Love actually is all around." We couldn't escape the songs and we couldn't escape the films. If it wasn't people talking about them, it was folk quoting from them. Yet, here's my confession...I loved both of them because they really were about love – all sorts of love: romantic love, familial love, friendship love, unrequited love, self-love. These films made us look at our own lives and recognise the love we were shown and the love we had to show. We all became part of a great love story in our communities and across the globe in response.

Our new Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Rosie Frew, chose as her theme for the year, "Extravagant love." It is drawn from the letter to the Ephesians in the New Testament of the Bible, which talks about how broad and long and high and deep God's love is. How can we as individuals and as a church show God's extravagant love to the world? The simple truth is this – we can learn from the example of "Love is all around" and just keep playing the same record. We can keep loving each other. We can continue to love the strangers in our midst, the folk seeking a home or a spiritual home or a family to whom they can belong. We can demonstrate love by sharing what we have with the hungry and those who are in need in many different, complex ways. We can choose to offer a warm welcome and to quietly notice when others need to talk or need a hug. We can love-bomb our communities by showing love in every conceivable way, without limit and without prejudice.



In this past week, I have noticed that love lives throughout my life. I paid more attention to it. I saw it in the care a mother offered her baby in the vestry as we spoke about baptism and in the absolute trust and devotion of the little one as she snuggled right into Mummy. I witnessed it in a couple who will soon be married – in the knowing looks that passed between them and the gentle touches of comfort and support. In pastoral encounters, I saw God reach out in love and care to those who needed to know that God was indeed right there with them. I saw generosity bring smiles through sweets given and shared. I was reminded that I too need care, as I shared a meal with a friend who ministered to me. Love is all around. Extravagant love is all around.

So here is this month's challenge: love extravagantly. Love without counting the cost. Love with all that you are and all that you have. And when you think that you are running out, let the Holy Spirit fill you up with more love to share. At the end of the day, the cup is not half-full nor half-empty, it is a cup that can be filled over and over again (with coffee or other beverages). We are the same: vessels that can be filled with love to pour out over and over. Let's share love and receive love this month but more than that, let's choose to notice love at work in our lives and our communities and let's thank God for it.

With extravagant love and wild blessings

Your Minister, Fiona

## Zoom and You Tube Links for Sunday morning services

Click the following link, and when asked, provide your name then join the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82349848787...>

**OR “Join a meeting”** on ZOOM providing the following: **meeting id = 823 4984 8787** then provide the **password = 296100** It is also possible to join these services by phone—tel. 0131 460 1196, and when asked, key in the above meeting id, and follow the instructions. We also have an easy-to-remember link to take you directly to the St Matthew's church YouTube home page as follows:

[youtube.com/@stmatthewsperth](https://youtube.com/@stmatthewsperth)

OR [youtube.com/@stmatthewsperth/streams](https://youtube.com/@stmatthewsperth/streams) where services can be watched at the time most convenient to yourselves.

## Flower Rota

| Date                  | Donor             | Delivery       |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> June  | May Harris        | Marjorie Clark |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> June  | Sheena Beange     | Janet Martin   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> June | Betty Lindores    | Nicola Macnee  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> June | Jean Sawyer       | Janette Millar |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June | Eileen Montgomery | Alison Sweeney |

### A Message from **Sheena Beange**

A very big **Thank You** to all my friends in St Matthews for the many cards, phone calls and visits during the past month. I really appreciate your Good Wishes . I have been joining the service on YouTube so thank you also to Rev Fiona for her “wave”. God Bless, Sheena

## Who's in the pews?

### John & Helen Dewar

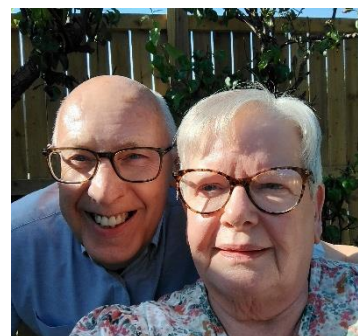
#### Where were you born/brought up?

We were both born and brought up in Perth

#### What is/or was your occupation?

John – I was and still am a chartered accountant

Helen – I was a clerk with the Hydro Board and then Christian's assistant in the church office for a number of years.



#### What brought you to St Matthew's?

John – I was baptised in the West Church (now St. Matthew's) in 1950.

Helen – I came with John prior to our marriage in 1973

#### Are you involved in any groups/or volunteering at St Matthew's or anywhere else?

John - I am an elder and have been gift aid convenor, session clerk and treasurer. I am on the Presbytery stewardship and finance committee and do independent examinations for a couple of charities.

Helen – I help in John's door duty group.

#### Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy?

John – Reading, badminton and I have been a St. Johnston season ticket holder for many years through triumph and despair.

Helen – I am also an avid reader. I have been researching my family tree which has been very interesting.

#### What is the most surprising thing about you that we might not yet know?

John – I interviewed and employed the comedian Fred McAulay before he went on to bigger things.

Helen – I am related to Jackie Stewart. I'm sure he's blissfully unaware of our connection.

## Janet's Jottings

### A garden for life

It all began with a garden. In Genesis, we read that God had no sooner created the heavens and the earth, when He set about making a garden. A beautiful place, a picture-perfect paradise; symbolising peace, beauty and abundance. It was full of flowers, trees, plants, rivers and everything to sustain life. He gave this garden to Adam and Eve to live in. However, as we know, due to human curiosity, an apple and a crafty serpent, it very quickly 'went pear-shaped', as the saying goes.



Since then, folks throughout the world, have had a fascination for gardens, producing amazingly creative places for enjoyment, relaxation and growing of food, as well as spaces to exhibit sculptures and artworks. From the ancient Hanging Gardens of Babylon to the Gardens at Versailles, or our own wee Branklyn gardens here in Perth, we are reminded that gardens have a special place in our hearts.

I too, love gardens. This passion took me and my friend Fiona Bruce, off to London last week for a visit to the Chelsea flower show. We went not just to experience the whole show for the first time, but on a special mission to support Down's Syndrome Scotland (DSS), who had created a garden for entry into the small gardens section. Created by Duncan Hall & Nick Burton, the garden celebrates some of the many wonderful qualities (or 'superpowers'), that people with Down's syndrome possess. Their sense of fun & mischief, immense capacity for care & compassion, affection, sensitivity & empathy. Down's syndrome is caused by an extra copy of chromosome 21 in a person's cells. This and other aspects of DS were reflected in subtle ways in the garden. The curved oak benches had 21 slats. The pool appeared a barrier, but had a hidden walkway; thus, reflecting the barriers, prejudices and misunderstandings, often faced by people who have DS and how they can be overcome. My favourite were the 2 large cauldrons of water which contained secret, water jets, which sporadically squirted water at innocent passers-by – a hint of the impulsive fun and mischief some people with DS might like to get up to!



The judges were also impressed by the garden, as they awarded it a 'Silver-Gilt' medal and then later it was also awarded the 'People's Choice' award. A testament to the creativity of the designers, as well as valuing the contribution that people with DS bring to our lives.

I leave you with the words of an anonymous wee poem on a mug that I own ***"The kiss of the sun for the pardon, the song of the birds for mirth. One is nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth"***. I hope you will find some time to enjoy a garden this summer.

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### Church Family

I've been aware in recent times that our church family is growing – yay! It is wonderful to see our family members together, both well-kent and new, and especially good to hear the buzz of conversation before and after worship. While each of us is already part of the church family, I would like to extend to you the invitation to profess your faith thereby becoming a communicant member of the church. I am going to run a series of events to explore faith, confirmation or church membership, discipleship (following Jesus) and mission (outreach) in the Church of Scotland. If you'd be interested in finding out more with the later option to become a member of the church, please let me know. These sessions will be available to those who are currently church members too – this is a great opportunity to explore and learn together.

Rev. Fiona



## Dates for your Diary



**Bonhard House Garden Opening**  
For Scotland Gardens and in aid of  
The Freedom from Fistula Foundation  
10am to 4pm

May 31  
June 1  
July 5  
July 6



Entry £5 adults, children free  
Tea, coffee, cake - (extra donation)



Traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century garden of 5 acres. Magnificent mature trees, 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



9 July: **Neil Gibbons** returns with a fabulous quintet to play and sing great songs from the swing era and beyond

16 July: **Eileen Waterston** and wind ensemble from Perth Symphony Orchestra returns with a varied programme of music -and instruments!

23 July: We welcome the **Camarata Orchestra** from Perth with a light classical programme

30 July: the **Odd Alliance** plays folk music and song from Scotland, England, Ireland, France and beyond on a range of instruments including hurdy-gurdy, small pipes, guitar, clarinet and whistles

6 August: we welcome the return of the **Highland Notes** who will entertain us once more with a wide range of enjoyable songs from across the years

13 August: **Perth Barbershop Singers**. Music and entertainment once more from Perth's own popular close-harmony male voice choir.



**Almighty God**, three in one,  
 we bring prayers of gratitude to you, knowing your love is everlasting.  
 Creator God,  
 we thank you for our lives, for all living things and for your gift of love.  
 Lord Jesus Christ,  
 we thank you for your teaching, your example and your earthly life.  
 Holy Spirit,  
 we thank for the breath of life, given freely to us, guiding us every day.  
 God of all,  
 we live in awe and wonder at your created world and bring thanks for your never ending grace and gifts.  
 Amen  
 Maggie Roderick

## Who's in the pews?

**Sheena Beange**

### Where were you born/brought up?

I was born in Elgin, where I was married to Gordon, before we moved to Glasgow.

### What is/or was your occupation?

I worked in local government administration. I was the volunteer co-ordinator at MacMillan House day hospice. For a number of years, I worked at the Quarrymill coffee shop and was chair of the Perth MacMillan Committee.

### What brought you to St Matthew's?

We first came to St Matthew's when Gordon and I moved to Perth in 1972. We liked Mr McBride's preaching. Also, the church had Sunday school, Cubs and Brownies for the family.

### Are you involved in any groups/or volunteering at St Matthew's or anywhere else?

I am an elder and involved in the door duty/welcome team. I also enjoy being a member of the Guild and have twice been president. I have volunteered my services at coffee mornings and other church events.

### Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy?

I enjoy knitting and patchwork quilting.

### What is the most surprising thing about you that we might not yet know?

I once took a service from the pulpit of St Matthew's.




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## Drop in Thursdays - June

During the month of May, several Thursdays have been dubbed 'Drop in Thursdays,' The prayer space has been open in the Session Room. There has been time available to speak to me without appointment. In the afternoon, we have shared "Faith Natters". I understand part of my ministry to be about creating space to meet with God, to meet with each other and to explore our faith together. I'm delighted to announce that 'Drop in Thursdays' will take place on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June: 10-2pm Prayer Space; 10.30-12noon Minister's drop in; 2-3.30pm Faith Natters. Please note that 29<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> June will not be 'Drop in Thursdays.' If you have any questions or you would like the details to join in by video or phone call on Zoom, please get in touch.

Rev. Fiona



## General Assembly



Marjorie Clark speaking at the General Assembly during the report from the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team giving thanks for the Church of Scotland HIV programme over the last 22 years.

### New Elders

As a Kirk Session, we have agreed to ordain and admit some new trustee Elders. Conversations are taking place at the moment with various nominees. We will bring names to the congregation very shortly but I ask you to pray for all who are being approached. Please pray that they will be able to discern whether the right answer for them is yes, no, or not now – all perfectly acceptable responses! Rev. Fiona

## Sunday Morning Rotas for June

| Date | Welcome                      | Beadle           | Readers           | Tea / Coffee        | AV Desk                         |
|------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st  | Burghmuir<br>Isobel Sinclair | Malcolm<br>Thom  | Lorna<br>Gray     | Wendy<br>Burnett    | Peter Barrett<br>Raymond Young  |
| 8th  | Bridgend<br>Alastair Byers   | Raymond<br>Young | Carol<br>Hull     | Frances<br>Turnbull | Andrew Davies<br>John Paton     |
| 15th | Gannochy<br>Wendy Burnett    | Tom<br>Morrison  | Janet<br>Martin   | Marjorie<br>Clark   | Raymond Young<br>Nicola Macnee  |
| 22nd | Muirton<br>Janet Martin      | Bill<br>Chalmers | Dave<br>Roderick  | Isobel Sinclair     | Peter Barrett<br>Andrew Davies  |
| 29th | Perth City<br>John Dewar     | Andy<br>Turnbull | Marjorie<br>Clark | Joyce Thom          | Nicola Macnee<br>Alastair Byers |

### Contact Details Perth St. Matthew's Church Sunday worship at 11.00 a.m.

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The next issue of St. Matthews News for July & August is due out on Friday 27th June. All contributions by Monday 23rd June please to the Editor: [david.roderick2@btinternet.com](mailto:david.roderick2@btinternet.com)