



St Matthew's News

No 91 July & August 2025

Dear Friends

As the newsletter goes to print, our minister Fiona is on compassionate leave, following the recent death of her father. We send her and her family our sincere sympathy, and assure them that we continue to keep them in our prayers.

So, instead of a letter from the manse, this comes from your recently appointed new Session Clerk (from 1st June.) I want first of all to pay tribute to Raymond Young, the retiring Session Clerk, and thank him for the careful and thoughtful way he has helped to steer St Matthew's over the last couple of years. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for his steady hand and expertise through changing and challenging times. And as I take on the role of Session Clerk, I am grateful also to Janet Martin, who has assumed my previous role as Pastoral Care Convener.

There are many changes afoot in the wider Church of Scotland – at local, Presbytery and National level. In May, I had the privilege of attending our General Assembly, and listened to the challenges the Church is facing because of dwindling congregations and fewer people feeling 'called' to full-time ministry. But it was not all doom and gloom - we also heard about new initiatives and many exciting stories of growth and new mission projects.

Change can be unsettling. It can be difficult to move from the familiar but change also opens up new possibilities and opportunities. We need to be aware and alert to them at St Matthew's. It is good to see new faces on a Sunday morning, and we look forward to everyone feeling that they have a part to play in our church family. To quote the title of our new hymn book, which Rev Fiona has been introducing to us, "God Welcomes All".

And of course, there is one thing which does not change – our loving God is the same 'yesterday, today and forever'; He (or she) is always there for us to turn to, to seek guidance from, in times of joy and sorrow, in our work and leisure, at church and in our daily lives. So I share with you this prayer:

"Lord Jesus, In these days of change and transformation in our Church,

In times of letting go and picking up

May our present lives reach out, with You

To the communities in which we are placed,

And to the people we seek to serve

May our incarnation in village, town and city

Be a living reminder of Your presence

In Your Church, with Your people,

Laying our hands upon daily life,

And serving our neighbour in Your name,

Amen."

Marjorie Clark

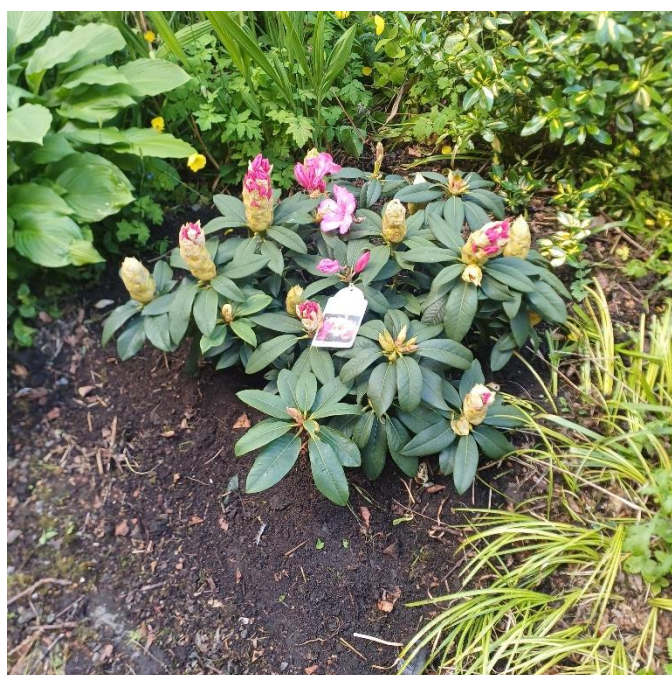


Christian Aid at 80

This year, 2025, sees the 80th anniversary of the organisation which was to become Christian Aid. In 1945, aware of the refugee crisis in Europe following the 2nd World War, a Scottish padre, Rev Douglas Lister, appealed to the churches in Britain and Ireland to send help - food, clothing, etc, - to those in need. Despite their own post-war privations, Christians in the UK responded generously; the original, rather unwieldy, title of "Inter Church Committee for Reconstruction in Europe" grew to become Christian Aid, the churches own ecumenical overseas development agency, and it has been responding to emergencies, encouraging development projects, and campaigning against injustice ever since.



To mark this 80th anniversary, Christian Aid has been encouraging churches to plant trees, as a sign of faith in the future. Our garden committee however felt that the garden was too small for a tree, but



instead we have planted a rhododendron - deep red to reflect the Christian Aid colours - and it flowers in May, which is of course the month of Christian Aid Week. I am grateful to Nicola Macnee for finding just the right plant, and the right space for it. We hope it will serve as a reminder to us all of the good work which Christian Aid continues to do, and encourage us to continue to give it our support and prayers.

Can I also draw your attention to the Big Brekkie, being organised locally by Christian Aid supporters on **Saturday August 30th** in the North Church Halls, Perth, **from 10 - 12**. This will be an opportunity to celebrate! There will be tea, coffee and food (including cake!) We will look back at

what has been achieved, how we were able to give support locally, and hear how best we can continue to support Christian Aid going forward. Stalls and speakers including Val Brown, Head of CA Scotland - doors open at 9.30, coffee and tea and food from 10.00 a.m., speakers etc. from 10.45-11.30 a.m., close 12 noon. Open to all - no tickets but donations welcome. For catering purposes, registration is desired, but not essential. (More details to come about registering on Eventbrite) Do come along and enjoy looking back, and looking forward! (Did we mention cake?)

Marjorie Clark

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

OR youtube.com/@stmatthewsperth/streams where services can be watched at the time most convenient to yourselves.

Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Delivery
6th July	Angela & Wolfgang Kannenberg	Carolyn & Alastair Byers
13 th July	Marjorie Clark	Helen & John Dewar
20 th July	Janet Taylor	Evelyn McLaren
27 th July	Cathy Gray	Nicola Macnee
3 rd August	Jean Young	Lesley Mackie
10 th August	Helen & Donald Stewart	Marjorie Clark
17 th August	Marie & Roy Nicol	Frances & Andy Turnbull
24 th August	Jenny Fraser	Fiona Bruce
31 st August	Eileen Montgomery	Chrissie Dobbs / Charlotte Hay

Message from **Margaret Wright**

I would like to say thank you for the beautiful flowers, gifts and cards sent to me from St Matthew's for my 90th birthday, which were much appreciated.

Since the beginning of Covid I have only missed two services from St Matthew's on Zoom, which I have enjoyed with Angela and Wolfgang. Kindest Regards, Margaret Wright.

Walking Group

On 5th July the walk will be led by John and Kim Paton. We will start at Broxden and walk for just over an hour. Afterwards we will have a late coffee or early lunch at Dobbies.

On 2nd August we have responded to Dunkeld Cathedral's invitation to do a reflective walk followed by a sandwich lunch. The cost of this is "by donation".

The picture shows some of the group from our last walk round Loch Monzievard.



Andrew's Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus

We are grateful for love, flowers, faith, hope and everything you do for us as young, elderly and all ages and disabilities.

We love the sun and the different types of flowers and especially our own walks to make us happy. Thank you for nature and birdsong too. Amen.

A Jammy Challenge

Many of you will know that I have been known to make the odd jar of jam (or hundreds of them!) to sell for church funds. Over time I have been given miniature, one portion sized jars. Pretty as they are, they are a footer to fill, so I never use them. To recycle the box that I have accumulated, I have come up with an idea of how you can help me fill them. Don't panic, you don't need to invest in a jelly pan to do this! I would like you to take one home and fill it with spare change. Despite their diminutive size, it is amazing how many coins they can hold. The variety of coins I squeezed in amounted to a two-figure total. I have deliberately not said how much I squeezed into my jar as I want to see if anyone can beat my total. Are you up for the 'Jam Challenge'?



If you would like to raise some funds for St Matthew's, please help yourself to one of the jars (in the café area) at church and fill it up over the next month - all denominations of UK coins welcome. Remember to include your name on the slip and return the jars to me by **Sunday 24th August**. The owner of the jar with the highest total of money will win a prize of a £20 M&S voucher, which can be spent on a treat, or maybe some of your favourite jam! **Janet Martin**

ST.MATTHEW'S CHURCH

MUSIC

for a summer's evening

Wednesdays 7.30pm REFRESHMENTS FROM 6.45PM
9th July - 13th August

ENTRY
 SUGGESTED DONATION £5

MUSIC BY :

NEIL GIBBONS & FRIENDS - SWING MUSIC
 PSO WIND ENSEMBLE
 CAMERATA ORCHESTRA - LIGHT CLASSICS
 ODD ALLIANCE - FOLK MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD
 HIGHLAND NOTES - POPULAR SONGS
 PERTH BARBERSHOP SINGERS

ST.MATTHEW'S CHURCH,
 TAY STREET,
 PERTH. PH1 5LQ

ALL WELCOME

Music Dates For Your Diary

- 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.



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

Sat
 July 5
 &
 Sun
 July 6



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



Traditional 19th 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



LIVE AT ST.MATTHEW'S

LAST ORDERS

YOUR LOCAL ROCK TRIBUTE BAND

15TH AUGUST 2025

ST.MATTHEW'S CHURCH, TAY STREET, PERTH. PH1 5LQ
 8PM - 11PM (DOORS OPEN 7.30PM)

TICKETS £10
 AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OFFICE (01738 636757)
 OR VIA EVENTBRITE (+BOOKING FEE)

WINE / LAGER / CIDER FOR SALE / DANCEFLOOR

2026 Tanzania Experience

Hi my name is Ruaridh Macnee, I am an S6 pupil at Perth Grammar School. You might know my Mum Nicola. I have been given the opportunity to go to Tanzania with a Scottish charity called The Vine Trust in June 2026.

Vine Trust School Expeditions are an opportunity for students to make a real and lasting difference to Tanzanian communities living in poverty. Working closely with in-country partners, volunteers construct individual family homes for some of the world's most vulnerable people - providing shelter, security and hope, and empowering communities to achieve a brighter future.



Ruaridh (in orange) and companions setting out on their hike.

On our trip we will be staying in Moshi and helping to build brick houses for the local people.

This will be a fantastic experience of meeting and visiting another culture whilst learning skills for the future. We have to raise our own funds to pay for the Expedition. I have done a Hill trek to Beinn a' Ghlo', a distance of 22km taking in 3 munroes. We have done a plant sale and are planning a quiz night in September. Then in January I hope to run a fundraising Bingo afternoon tea in the Church. We have to raise over £3000.

The proceeds from the various fund raising activities I have planned will contribute towards the cost of my expedition,

including international flights, accommodation, food, in-country transport, and the purchase of construction materials and resources. Any additional funds raised will go towards future Vine Trust construction projects and the development of Vine Trust's programmes.

I will keep you posted on my progress.

Thank You Very Much.

Ruaridh Macnee

You can help Ruaridh raise funds by clicking on this link [Fundraising page](#)

The Classic Car Rally.

It was 'all hands-on deck' for the St Matthew's crew at the Classic Car rally on Saturday 31st May. Beverly and Jimmy working behind the scenes aided by David. The BBQ team of Tom, Raymond, Malcolm, Alistair & Bill, kept the burgers flipping and hot dogs flying. On café duty Joyce, Alison, Anne, Carolyn, Nicola & Barbara, amongst others, juggled endless cups of tea and coffee, as well as ice cream cones. Janet, aided by Liz and Pete were the





'trolley dollies' delivering the packed lunches to all the car owners. The hard work raised over £1,400 for St Matthew's. However, as well as a fundraising day, it was also a 'fun-raising' day. So, if you enjoy having fun and fellowship, come and join us for future events



Janet's Jottings

The essential Ingredient.

Life can be so dark at times. One look at present world events is enough fill one with despair. We all have our moments of sadness, or difficult times. Have you ever noticed though, that sometimes in the midst of gloom, or when we are being tested to the limit, something or somebody, comes along and sheds some light, or humour into the darkness; leaving you with a smile when you least expected it? As we are all made in the likeness of God, I feel we can safely say that He/She most definitely has a sense of humour. Therefore, we should rejoice in this essential ingredient. Let's use it to bring some joy into the world of others. Let's hope that you find time to give someone a laugh and to appreciate the humour of others over the summer. This story about Forrest Gump's simple sense of humour, always makes me smile, so I hope it does the same for you.



When Forrest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forrest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forrest. "I hope it's not too hard. My momma used to say, "Life is like a final exam. It's hard."

"Yes, Forrest, I know, said St Peter. However, this test has only three questions. Here they are."

- 1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"
- 2) How many seconds are in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forrest, That's easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? It's..... Today and Tomorrow of course"

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't quite the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forrest, "How many seconds are in a year? My answer is Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And then the last question," said Forrest, "What is God's first name? I know that one too. It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with "Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forrest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said..... "Run, Forrest, Run!"

Who's in the pews?

Raymond & Jean Young.

Where were you born/brought up?

Jean – born in Dundee Eastern Cemetery (1 Old Craigie Road is within cemetery); brought up in Newport on Tay.

Raymond – born Jarrow, brought up in Glasgow.

What is/or was your occupation?

Jean – a secondary school teacher – started off geography and RE, then finished up in guidance and learning support.

Raymond – trained as an architect but spent most of my time on social housing and regeneration policy development.

What brought you to St Matthew's?

The children. When we came to Perth in 1989, we asked our three sons to choose which church we should join. And Jean has stayed, though Raymond, as a prodigal son spent 20 years in Dunning before returning to the fold in 2021.

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

Jean – I used to enjoy working with our teenagers in the JAM club. I am on the coffee team, I am a member of the walking group, School Pastors and help out at events when I can.

Raymond - just retired as Session Clerk, the building projects, the AV team.

Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy?

Jean – athletics, folk music, knitting, sewing, theatre, walking.

Raymond – walking, singing, railways, theatre, opera.

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

Jean - competed against an Olympic gold medal winner – and I lost

Raymond – smuggled bibles into East Germany.



the



Joan Lackie

Where were you born/brought up?

I was born and have lived in Perth all my life.

What is/or was your occupation? Before I retired, I was for many years the Head Cook in Perth Grammar School. For the last five years before retirement, I was supplying buffet catering for Tayside Contracts.

What brought you to St Matthew's? I came to St Matthews to join my family when my old church closed.

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

Until recently, I was catering Supervisor for all catering requested in St Matthews. I organised all aspects of this, along with the help of a team. I also volunteer for the Sunday Coffee team, kitchen cleaning team and the door welcome team.

Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy?

I love reading and used to do a lot of knitting and tapestry work.

What is the most surprising thing about you that we might not yet know? You may not know that for 10 years prior to having my family, I loved working as a typist and Library Assistant in the County Library in Rose Terrace.



Leap of Faith Plants for sale at the Summer Fair



Sunday Morning Rotas for July & August

Date	Welcome	Beadle	Readers	Tea / Coffee	AV Desk
6th July	Perth South Malcolm Thom	Malcolm Thom	Fiona Bruce	Wendy Burnett	Raymond Young John Paton
13th July	Oakbank Donald Stewart	Raymond Young	Gillian Heath	Frances Turnbull	Nicola Macnee Alastair Byers
20th July	Burghmuir Isobel Sinclair	Tom Morrison	Edie O'Brien	Marjorie Clark	Peter Barrett Andrew Davies
27th July	Bridgend Alastair Byers	Bill Chalmers	Michael Ellacott	Isobel Sinclair	Gillian Heath John Paton
3rd Aug	Gannochy Wendy Burnett	Andy Turnbull	Alison Sweeney	Joyce Thom	Raymond Young John Paton
10th Aug	Muirton Janet Martin	Malcolm Thom	Ann Attridge	Wendy Burnett	Gillian Heath Peter Barrett
17th Aug	Perth City John Dewar	Raymond Young	Raymond Young / Margaret Doig	Frances Turnbull	Alastair Byers Andrew Davies
24th Aug	Perth South Malcolm Thom	Tom Morrison	Roy Nicoll	Marjorie Clark	John Paton Nicola Macnee
31st Aug	Oakbank Donald Stewart	Bil Chalmers	Nicola Macnee	Isobel Sinclair	John Paton Andrew Davies

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

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Registered Scottish Charity No. SCO16829

The next issue of St. Matthews News for September is due out on Friday 29th August. All contributions by Monday 25th August please to the Editor: david.roderick2@btinternet.com