



# St Matthew's News

## No 92 September 2025

### Rev. Fiona reflects

Friends, it has been quite a summer. We've had many warm, sunny days that felt like the summers of my childhood. We've had thunderstorms and rainy days that sounded like the angels trying out a new drum kit (let's set the theology of that aside). There have been adventures and lazy days too. It has been an emotional rollercoaster and this is life in all its fullness.



As a Manse family, we began the summer with sadness, when my Daddy passed away. He was the music man of our family and provided the soundtrack to our family life. My love of music certainly came from him – he introduced me to many different styles and different instruments too. We're going to miss his charm, his sense of humour and his quiet presence as well as the music.

I'd like to thank you all for your cards, flowers, gifts, messages and prayers during such a difficult time. They gave us comfort and helped us more than you'll ever know. I'd also like to share my heartfelt thanks to Marjorie, our new Session Clerk, who swiftly took care of worship arrangements and kept the Church moving forward. It allowed me the time to be with Dad in his last days and to honour his life by leading his funeral services. Thank you to Rev. Barbara, Rev. Maggie and Rev. Ewen for conducting such meaningful worship in my absence. Your care and support has been appreciated, as has your wonderful teamwork as a church family.

The summer was a time of joy and celebration too. As a family, we celebrated the marriage of our niece, Emilee, to her wife, Aleisha. On a very toasty day in July at Blair Castle, I was truly blessed to conduct the beautiful wedding of Joey and Fernando. We even got to see the newlyweds come out of the church in Berneray after my cousin, Iain, married the love of his life, Mags. Congratulations and blessings to you all.



At St Matthew's, we had the special joy of welcoming Finn to the church family. A gorgeous boy blessed with a wonderful family. We pray God's blessing on him as he grows and as his unique personality develops.

We've also sung "Happy Birthday" several times to members of the congregation as they have celebrated 'big' birthdays. At this rate, we're so accomplished, we'll soon be able to raise funds for the church by offering 'sing-a-grams'!

And after all of these times of gathering, as a family we made our way to our happy place, the Isle of Berneray. On the day of our journey there, we left Perth unsure of whether there would be a ferry at the terminal when we'd arrive in Uig – there had been a power-cut as a result of the storm the day before. However, the slight delay only meant that we had time to put in a few extra stops on Skye,



which was fun. The holiday was a real time of refreshment and relaxation. On the dramatic windy and rainy days, I was able to spend time on a jigsaw and I even finished a reading a book cover to cover! We spent lots of family time on the beaches and brought back lots of treasure in the form of shells, stones and sea glass. More than that, we embraced the adventures and the people and we made loads of fantastic memories. Here's a photo of Calum enjoying a ride on John Angus' quad with good boy, Ben, in the trailer. We are already looking forward to returning to the island next year.

This summer was a good reminder that life is an adventure. We all need to ensure that we take the time to treasure the experiences we have and to grab the opportunities that come our way. Take the time to tell people that you love and appreciate them – life can change so quickly. Take time to grieve and to sit with sadness because it is part of living. Take time to celebrate the good news' stories too because life is good.

And where was God in all of it? Everywhere. In the people. In the places. In the experiences. Right alongside me for every part of the adventure: holding me close; giving me strength; encouraging me to follow my dream and swim in the sea in Berneray (brr!); surrounding me with the best people.

As we move into a new session of church activities, I pray that we'll be ready to notice God wherever we are and whatever we are doing. May we remember to pause to smell the roses or celebrate the small wins or simply notice what God is doing. And may we launch ourselves into the work of the Kingdom like a madwoman trying desperately not to feel the cold during her first wild swim!



With extravagant love and wild blessings,

Your Minister, Fiona

**Rev Fiona Bullock**

### **St Matthew's Church, Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ**

St Matthew's Church in Perth is a Church of Scotland Congregation. We are Presbyterian Church and we are part of the Presbytery of Perth.

**All are welcome at St Matthew's.**

We invite everyone to come as they are, regardless of whether you are considering faith, confident in your faith or if you simply want to feel you belong here. We are an inclusive church welcoming all.

Worship starts at 11.00 am each Sunday. We have tables and chairs and no pews. Do come along.

## Christian Aid News

1. Come and enjoy some breakfast, and hear more about what Christian Aid is doing these days. The organisation that became Christian Aid grew out of efforts in 1945 to help refugees after the 2nd World War. To mark its 80th birthday, we will enjoy some cake, do some reminiscing, and hear from Val Brown, Head of CA in Scotland. Saturday 30th August, from 10 - 12 noon in the North Church. No charge, but donations will be welcomed. There will also be a Fair trade stall and a book stall. All welcome.

2. Our annual Quiz Night will be held at Letham St Mark's Church on Friday 12th September at 7p.m. Always a fun night, we are looking for teams of up to four people. Cost is £8 per person, which includes refreshments halfway through.



## Perth Big Brekkie

Saturday 30 August 2025  
10am-12 noon

Perth North Church,  
Mill Street, PH1 5PB





Amelia, cooling off in the river with her son Lazaro, 8, and Yakelin, 4.

Celebrate 80 years of supporting Christian Aid around Perth.  
Light breakfast available from 10am... and birthday cake!  
Activities from 10:30, including a presentation from  
Val Brown, Head of Christian Aid Scotland.  
Learn more about Christian Aid's work past and present.  
Fair trade stall, photo displays, book stall, prayer wall.  
Event Free—Donations to Christian Aid invited

To register, scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/CA25PBB>

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance.  
Registered charity No. 1155511. Scottish Charity No. SC022557. Company No. 5171525.  
The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid © Christian Aid 2025



*Interesting questions – delicious food – prizes – fun*

## QUIZ NIGHT

**7pm Friday 12 September 2025**

Letham St Mark's Church  
Rannoch Road, Perth PH1 2HH

### ***Who can come along?***

Anyone is invited to enter teams of up to 4 people.  
Friends, workmates, families, study groups, sports teams, or turn up by yourself and make a team with someone you didn't know before.

### ***Price?***

£8 per person, including refreshments,  
payable on the night.

### ***Bring-and-buy plants / produce***

For further information contact Perth Christian Aid Group,  
c/o Gill Kaye Mob 07801818535; [gill\\_kaye@hotmail.com](mailto:gill_kaye@hotmail.com)

## 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/@stmatthewspertth](https://youtube.com/@stmatthewspertth)

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

## Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Delivery
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Alison Sweeney	Lorna & Tom Morrison
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Fiona Bruce	Janet Martin
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Lillian Donaldson	Janette Millar
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Evelyn McLaren	Alison Sweeney

## Sunday Morning Rotas for September

Sept	Welcome	Beadle	Readers	Tea / Coffee	AV Desk
7 <sup>th</sup>	Burghmuir Isobel Sinclair	Andy Turnbull	Debbie Cannon	Joyce Thom	Peter Barrett Raymond Young
14 <sup>th</sup>	Bridgend Alastair Byers	Malcolm Thom	Guild Reader	Wendy Burnett	Nicola Macnee Alastair Byers
21 <sup>st</sup>	Gannochy Wendy Burnett	Raymond Young	Chrissie Dodds	Frances Turnbull	Gillian Heath Peter Barrett
28 <sup>th</sup>	Muirton Janet Martin	Tom Morrison	Jeanette Taylor	Marjorie Clark	John Paton Alastair Byers

## Summer Music

I would like to thank the musicians and all those who have come along and supported the Summer Music Evenings: a happy mix of light jazz, classics, folk and vocal ensembles culminating in an entertaining finale from our friends in the B Sharps Barbershop Quartet. What an array of talent we have in Perth with performers happy to perform in and for St Matthew's.

Particular thanks go to John on A/V, sound and lights, to Wendy on front of "house" (and Tom when needed) to the amazing coffee team of Frances, Anne and Jeanette (and Fiona Bruce who also helped as necessary). They all contributed greatly to the feel-good nature of the evenings. Andy Turnbull

**Dinah McAleese** - To all those who helped me celebrate my 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, I should like to say how much I enjoyed your company.

Most of you have known me for many years and have been there for me at difficult times, like the best families.

I did not expect to be showered with presents, funny cards, beautiful flowers and my favourite wines. It was a very special day. Thank you, Dinah

**Gardens Open Days** - A big Thank You to Chrissie and Chris Dodds who donated the sum of £700 to St Matthews from the sale of refreshments at their garden open days earlier in the summer.

**Irene Lamond** would like to say hello to all in St Matthew's - particularly, all her friends whom she misses at the back, left hand, corner table in the sanctuary – you know who you are! Irene recently moved into Louisbrae care home and is unable to attend church now but is happy to receive visitors.

**Jenny Fraser** is now living in Ochil nursing home. She too misses coming to church but enjoys visitors and receiving the church newsletter. She says hello to all who remember her.

From **Roy and Marie Nicoll**, who are organising the trip to **Pitlochry Festival Theatre** on 6th December to see the **Sound of Music** - would all those who have booked to join this outing please ensure that they have paid the balance of their tickets to Roy and Marie by mid-September, to enable them to secure the tickets. The tickets cost £22.50, though most people have already paid a deposit of £7.50, so owe £15. Thank you





## Doors Open Days and 'Homespun' art exhibition

13<sup>th</sup> September 10.00 – 4.00

14<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Exhibition 10.00 – 10.50      Worship 11.00

Exhibition 12.15-4.00

We are delighted to open our church doors to all as part of Doors Open Days 2025.

As the title says, the church is open to all, to come along, see our beautiful building, have a tea, coffee and chat, then even have an opportunity for a quiet time of prayer with our prayer table.

This year, we have added a new dimension with our 'Homespun' art exhibition.

We have so much creativity and talent in our church family and it is often hidden away, maybe shown only to family and close friends.

We have decided to showcase this talent; not from external art professionals, but from within our St Matthew's church family, hence 'Homespun'. The fact that we're now all professional artists selling our work does not detract from its beauty. The art will range from painting, drawings, embroidery, stained glass, photography, and lots of inspiring goods, made by us. Our creativity knows no end.

**All are welcome.** If you want to know more or to participate in the exhibition, please contact Maggie Roderick, [revmaggieroderick@gmail.com](mailto:revmaggieroderick@gmail.com)



**Guild News** - The new session of St Matthews Church Guild will begin in September, with the Annual Gathering of the Guild nationally. This will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September in Perth North Church. The meeting begins at 11 am and should finish around 4 pm. This is a ticketed event, if you would like to go, please speak to Lorna about this.

On the following day, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the morning Service in St Matthews will celebrate Guild Sunday.

The first routine meeting of the Guild will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September, in the Sanctuary at 2 pm. This will be an informal meeting for members to meet, collect their syllabus for the new session, pay the membership fee of £20 and enjoy some fellowship together. New members and anyone wanting to find out about the Guild will be very welcome on that day.

This will be followed on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September by our first speaker meeting when the Minister, Rev Fiona Bullock, will be our speaker.

Lorna Morrison. Guild Convener

### **Bibles for Bairns - a Bible for Every Child born in Scotland**

Scottish Bible Society would like to make contact with as many young families in Scotland - Bibles for Bairns offers every baby born in Scotland a free Share a Story toddler Bible on their first birthday. Every birthday after that, until the age of 5, the Scottish Bible Society will send a Bible-related gift. On their 5th birthday they will receive an early reader Bible to take them through their primary school years. They hope that this will encourage parents to read the Bible stories to their children from an early age.

Do you know a child and family who would be blessed by this gift? Register the family, at [bible.scot/bfb](http://bible.scot/bfb) from 1st October.

The Church of Scotland Guild has adopted Bibles for Bairns as one of their projects this year to help fund this forward-looking cause.

## Who's in the pews?

This month we introduce **Wolfgang & Angela Kannenberg** who live in Germany but are very much part of the St Matthew's family. They have worship with us in person every summer and join us for worship every Sunday from Germany on Zoom.

### Where were you born/brought up?

Angela – I was born in Essenkray & brought up in Duisburg, West Germany

Wolfgang – I was born in Troisdorf & brought up in Dortmund, also in W Germany. We both now live in Osnabrueck and have been married since 1983.



### What is/or was your occupation?

Angela – I taught children with learning disabilities and speech issues. My main subject being German.

Wolfgang – I was a teacher, but for children with motor co-ordination and learning disabilities. I taught RE and I was also a counsellor focusing on those on the Autistic Spectrum and inclusion.

We both taught in the Anne Frank Schule (for pupils with Additional Support Needs) and retired from teaching in 2018

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

In 1995 we were staying across the river. The nearest church we found was Kinnoull, but we missed the service, as it started at 10am and the door was closed. Angela spotted St Matthew's across the river still had its door open. We rushed across the bridge and have been returning like bad pennies every summer since!

**Are you involved in any groups/or volunteering at St Matthew's or anywhere else?** When we are here Angela enjoys the 'Knit & Natter' and I enjoy the 'Boy's Breakfast blether', which is nattering without the knitting! Also, we enjoy the faith natters group. Angela has provided art & craftwork for the 'lockdown' display and we both enjoy being part of the AV Team, by providing virtual support and fellowship to other members or new folks who are coming on to Zoom if they are unable to make it to the church service – even more 'nattering'!

### Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy?

Angela – needlework, reading, Suduko and Crosswords

Wolfgang – computer technology (mastering the web pages of 2 churches!), I am involved in the Creative Café in Maruskirche & Osnabruck. We also enjoy playing cards with friends and watching BBC comedies and antiques programmes.

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

We have been coming to Perth every summer since 1991, with the exception of 20/21, which we missed due to Covid restrictions. 2025 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year of us coming to St Matthew's, which makes us one of the longest returning out of town members of the church family.

## Who's in the pews?

### David & Jean Sawyer

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

Jean – Northampton

David – Hampstead in London

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

Jean – I was a primary school teacher

David – I worked in advertising and marketing. I was Director in charge of advertising & sponsorship for Bell's, which involved working with American companies and promoting international golf tournaments etc.



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

Our grandson died suddenly at the age of 25 in 2016. Scott Burton kindly took his funeral. We found comfort in coming to St Matthew's where we made new friends and have been part of the church family ever since.

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

We both used to be members of the singing group which we enjoyed before it folded. Sadly, Jean's health means she is no longer able to join in activities anymore.

David – I enjoy the Boy's Breakfast blether and have helped with welcoming people and guiding when 'Kirk sitting' over the summer. I have also been involved in putting on concerts with Michael Ellacott.

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

Jean- I used to play the piano and am very keen on Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

David – I enjoy classical music, reading and teasing Michael Ellacott when I get the chance!

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

I was in the Magdala Tavern in Hampstead on Easter Sunday 1955 when Ruth Ellis shot David Blakeley. I met Jean when she 'fell off the back of a lorry'! That was the start of a wonderful relationship and we recently celebrated 65 years of marriage

---

### **Janet's Jottings**

#### **The beacon of light**

I have not long returned from my annual holiday to the Isle of Islay. As always, I had an enjoyable time relaxing, walking, watching wildlife and catching up with a few friends. It happened that my visit coincided with the 200-year celebration to commemorate the building of the lighthouse, which sits on Orsay, on the Rhinns of Islay.

The lighthouse was established in 1825 and engineered by Robert Stevenson. It stands 29 metres tall and there are 131 steps to the top of tower. This I can

testify to, as I have climbed them all! When I was young, the lighthouse was still manned and the lighthouse keepers welcomed visitors, especially children. We were encouraged to count the steps as we climbed upwards. Every year, I got frustrated as I began to lose count as I neared the top. The jovial lighthouse keeper would say "Och, well, you'll just have to come back next year and count them all again!" Sadly, it is now automated and so I can no longer go and recount the steps.

The bright light is a fascination for me, but a necessity for locals and seafarers. This was evident during the celebrations, which lasted a whole weekend. It started with a ceilidh on the Friday night, then a family gala day, lighthouse exhibition and a story telling session on Saturday. Sunday began with a special ecumenical church service and culminated in a massive street party with stalls, entertainment, fresh seafood, live music and dancing. It was clear that the lighthouse has played a major role in the lives of the island people. It is a permanent fixture, a living being, a neighbour and of course a saviour. Knowing that its presence has brought many of their own fishermen home safely and helped others to navigate through stormy waters, they wanted to show their appreciation and love for it.

In the church service, we sang several appropriate hymns, including 'Shine Jesus shine, Christ be our light, also one that wasn't familiar to me called 'My lighthouse' written by Rend Collective. I found the words very comforting and so would like to share them with you here.

*In my wrestling and in my doubts,  
In my failures You won't walk out.  
Your great love will lead me through;  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.*

*In the silence you won't let go.  
In the questions your truth will hold.  
Your great love will lead me through;  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.*





The different preachers focused on the verse **John 8:12** in which Jesus states "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life". What a reassuring thought. No matter how tough things get, how dark and despairing our days may be, or if we are feeling adrift in our lives, there **is** a light to guide us to safety. Jesus is our personal lighthouse, very much needed in this world of darkness, uncertainty, war and division. So, in the words of Graham Kendrick's hymn let us ask the light of the world to "Shine Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire....."

### Jam Jar challenge



A big thank you to all who took part in the challenge to see how many coins could be squeezed into a miniature jam jar. From the feedback, I know that although it was fun, it was also frustrating. Especially if like me, you were so intent on squashing in so many coins that you had forgotten the total amount by the time you put the lid on, therefore having to count them all over again! The jam jars were due to be returned on Sun 24<sup>th</sup> August. If you forgot your jar, just pop it into the offering plate next time you are in church. The total amount raised for church funds will be announced in next month's newsletter, along with the winner of the prize for squeezing in the most money into the jar. Janet Martin.

---

### HOWMORE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SOUTH UIST

On a recent holiday visit to South Uist we came across this church which is reputed to have the longest central Communion table in Scotland and which effectively splits the church lengthways in two!

Howmore Church is one of two churches serving the Church of Scotland's South Uist Parish.

It was built in 1858, the latest in a long series of churches and chapels to have stood in Howmore. The remains of most of the others stand a little to the east, beyond the crofters' hostel. These include the largest, St Mary's or Teampull Mor.



Though not obvious from the Ordnance Survey map, Howmore Church stands on slightly higher ground than its immediate surroundings. Combined with its white harled exterior, this makes it visible from a considerable distance away, especially from the south. It has also traditionally been used as a landmark by fishermen off the west coast of South Uist.

**Fiona Bruce**

**The Boys' Breakfast Blether** meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in Wetherspoons next door to the church—all (males) welcome.

---



## Prayer for the month

### Eternal God

You are our creator, our redeemer and our sustainer.

In your creation, we know we are loved.

In your redemption, we know we are loved.

As you sustain us, we know we are loved.

We are loved whoever we are,  
regardless of our skin shade

regardless of our diversity

regardless of our sexuality

We are loved because of who we are,

each of us is a unique human part of your creation.

Let us know your love, embrace your love and share  
your love

As you love us, whoever we are.

**Amen**

**St Matthew's walkers.** In August, we much enjoyed a meditative walk from Dunkeld Cathedral, led by their minister Rev Fraser Penny- we received a warm welcome, a thoughtful guided walk, good weather, and refreshments and fellowship at the end of the walk. Thank you, Dunkeld Cathedral!

Our next walk, on Saturday 6th September, will be led by Marjorie, and is an exploration of the Falkland Estate. A relatively short walk (3 miles) but undulating with gentle inclines there are interesting things to see en-route, including a dry stane dyke extolling the benefits of walking! Meet as usual at Broxden Park and Ride at 9.30, from where we will share cars. Following the walk, there are a number of options close by if folk wish to go for lunch, or you can bring a picnic; the historic village of Falkland is also nearby. It would be helpful if you let Marjorie know that you are coming on the walk.

[marjorie.clark@btinternet.com](mailto:marjorie.clark@btinternet.com)



**The songs of  
Michael Flanders & Donald Swann**



presented by Michael Ellacott  
& David Sawyer

**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 7.30pm**

**Tickets £15**

available from church office 01738 636757

**St. Matthew's Church,  
Tay Street, Perth**

Refreshments available & raffle

### Andrew's Prayer

let us pray  
Dear Lord  
I feel very colourfully, brightly, cheery,  
and happy. I pray for everyone in  
my church, marriage, joy, bright stars,  
hope, faith and love also last days  
of summer and let the wonderful  
and nice days of it. I pray  
for everyone in my ways of thinking  
who need our help and advice.  
I send my compassion and love  
to the church family, friends  
and family. Take care  
Amen.



## AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Please let Beverly know of any movies  
you would like to see.



## Calling all you Quizzers!

Join us for a fun Quiz Night to raise funds for **Ruaridh Macnee's** trip to Tanzania with the Vine Trust. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm at Luncarty FC Social Club, Brownlands Park, PH1 3EP. Raffle and prize for the best team name. Teams of 4, £5 per head. See you there!

## Pride Service

28 members of St Matthew's Church family participated in our contribution to the Perthshire PRIDE event on 9th August and our PRIDE Service on 10th August. In the three weeks leading up to the event, many volunteers helped to make a variety of friendship bracelets and then fill 100 bags with them, bubbles, sweets hearts and an invitation to our Service.



On the Saturday, we turned up bright and early to accurate forecasts of severe winds. Still, we erected our borrowed gazebo and filled our table with our goodies gift bags, pocket hug discs, little prayer crosses and lots of sweets. Everything was gifted by people from St Matthew's Church.

We spoke to many people who were so happy to see that a Christian church truly welcomes them unconditionally and shares God's love freely at a PRIDE event.

Our Sunday Service was interactive with 13 people participating directly on the worship. The interactive Service included members of the congregation lighting candles representative of the PRIDE flag, learning of the reason behind these rainbow coloured candles being chosen,

making a heart shape with coloured mosaic pieces and drafting prayers.... Oh, and there were bubbles too.

In the midst of all of this activity, we worshipped God and shared God's love. Our thanks go to everyone who helped on the day and all who work tirelessly behind the scenes.



### Contact Details

### Perth St. Matthew's Church

### Sunday worship at 11.00 a.m.

Address: Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ

Tel: 01738 636757

Minister: Rev Fiona C Bullock

[fbullock@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:fbullock@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Tel: 01738 570241

Session Clerk: Marjorie Clark

[Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com](mailto:Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com)

[Clerk@stmatthews.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@stmatthews.org.uk)

Church Office: Beverley Skene

[office@perthstmatthews.org.uk](mailto:office@perthstmatthews.org.uk)

News Editor: Dave Roderick

[david.roderick2@btinternet.com](mailto:david.roderick2@btinternet.com)

**Registered Scottish Charity No. SCO16829**

The next issue of St. Matthews News for October is due out on Friday 26th September. All contributions by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September please to the Editor: [david.roderick2@btinternet.com](mailto:david.roderick2@btinternet.com)