



St Matthew's News

No 93 October 2025

Rev. Fiona reflects

Friends, during worship earlier this month, I was reflecting on birthday parties and who to invite. Specifically, I was talking about Calum's birthday and whether or not to invite his whole class – the big dilemma! A few folks have asked for an update, so here it is. Yes, Calum had a whole class party with a few extra friends besides. He had a bouncy castle, a Nerf wall, temporary tattoos, and colouring in, along with a whole range of party food and a delicious cake his Dad baked (Ian is an amazing baker as well as an amazing artist!). For two hours, I lived on my nerves in a noisy hall full of happy children. The whole time I was thinking how lovely it was that Calum didn't want to leave anyone out. But I also noticed something else



Loads of people offered their help in the lead up to his party and on the day itself. As I looked around the hall, I saw friends and family who had helped make sandwiches, who were tattoo artists, who offered to be the 'bouncer' on the disco dome bouncy castle, who set up and tidied up, and kept me going with cups of coffee. I saw family members who had made a special trip to help. When I was making the initial plans, there were times when I'll admit I felt quite lonely – it seemed like I had to do it all by myself. I was so busy being busy that I forgot to ask others for help along the way. The party was a great reminder that it feels good to accept help and to share the load. We need each other, we can all help one another, and we can do so much more together.

In this day and age, we are often sold the idea that we should be self-sufficient. Society misinforms us that it is a sign of weakness to ask for help. Poppycock! We are all made in the image of God but we all reflect God in different ways. We are all part of the body of Christ but we each represent different parts. We all have different spiritual gifts and when we share them, we can accomplish more together. We need each other, as we support, encourage, teach and learn from one another.

At our Kirk Session meeting last week, we began our time together by sharing Communion. It served as a reminder that we are all one and that we both serve and are served. We put God's vision at the centre of all our discussions and decision-making and we will continue to do so. In this season, we'll have lots of opportunities to gather and share as a congregation too. On Sunday 5th October, we're going to ordain and admit new Elders to our Kirk Session, as well as taking the chance to reflect on 2024 in our Stated Annual Meeting. On the following Sunday 12th October, we're going to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving along with Communion. I invite you to come and take your place to give thanks and to share. Let's show our love for God, for one another and for our neighbours in all that we do. At St Matthew's Church, all are invited and all are welcome – no-one will be left out and everyone can get involved.

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/@stmatthewspertth

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

Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Delivery
5 th October	Joyce Thom	Evelyn McLaren
12 th October	Betty Lindores	Chrissie Dobbs
19 th October	Nicola Macnee	Alastair & Carolyn Byers
26 th October	Norma Wright	Nicola Macnee

Sunday Morning Rotas for September

Oct	Welcome	Beadle	Readers	Tea / Coffee	AV Desk
5 th	Perth City John Dewar	Bill Chalmers	Ann Attridge	Isobel Sinclair	Gillian Heath Raymond Young
12 th	Perth South Malcolm Thom	Andy Turnbull	Joan Read	Joyce Thom	Nicola Macnee John Paton
19 th	Oakbank Donald Stewart	Malcolm Thom	Carolyn Byers	Wendy Burnett	Andrew Davies John Paton
26 th	Burghmuir Isobel Sinclair	Raymond Young	Joyce Thom	Frances Turnbull	Raymond Young Alastair Byers

CHURCH WALK

Our next walk, on Saturday 4th October, will be led by Fiona, Alan and Andrew, and is the Bogle Burn circuit at Longforgan, passing Castle Huntly. A relatively short walk (3 miles and fairly flat) this would be a good walk for those whose agility is not as it once was!

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. It would be helpful if you let Fiona Bruce know that you are coming on the walk. FMBruce6@gmail.com

Celebrating new Elders

On Sunday 5th October, we have an exciting service as we ordain and admit six new Elders to our Kirk Session. Margaret Chalmers, Michael Ellacott, John Paton and Malcolm Thom are going to be ordained, as they have not been Elders before. Eric Duff and Dave Roderick will be admitted to the Kirk Session, as they have already been Elders at other churches. As they take on this calling, I ask you to support them in prayer and to support them at this special service. This is only part one – we will be ordaining and admitting other new Elders soon.

Rev. Fiona



This year's appeal has begun ! !

Our boxes this year will be sent to Ukraine. Filling a small shoebox with gifts for a child or adult can let those living in difficult circumstances know that we care.

The boxes give a little light in an otherwise grey world.

The video from Blythswood shows more of where the boxes are going and the difference they can make.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftlfu7FY0_8

If you don't have a box, please pick one up with a leaflet from the church doorway.

The leaflet lets you know what items can be included in the box and suggested ages of the recipient.

If you are unable to fill a shoebox, please consider contributing a small financial donation which will be used to purchase essential items and to help cover the cost of transportation. (Details for this can be found in the leaflet)

Please return the boxes to the church before Friday 31st October.

Thank you all for your support.



The Gardening Team have been busy filling these planters at the front of the Church between the main entrance and the car park. They aim to keep seasonal colour in the pots all year round.



Guild Dates for your Diary

2.00pm in the Sanctuary

13th October Aid for Ukraine – Kenny Simpson

27th October Scams and a Safer Community –
Melanie Smith

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.

Session Clerk's Round-up

We are delighted to welcome Craig Robson as our new Treasurer. Craig and Norma recently joined us from Mid Strathearn Church, and he responded to appeal in the Church Family News one Sunday morning; discussions ensued with John Dewar, and now John can properly enjoy his retirement. We thank both of them, and we look forward to working with Craig. We also welcome Rae Simmonds as our new Safeguarding Officer, with thanks to Andy Turnbull who has diligently performed that role for the last number of years.

We look forward also to welcoming new elders to our Kirk Session; six of them will be ordained and admitted at our service on Sunday 5th October, and we know they will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our Kirk Session. (And there are more in the pipeline!)

As our congregation continues to grow, it is good to welcome new faces. Remembering names can be a challenge though. So, prompted by our Pastoral Care Team, we will be inviting those attending worship to wear name badges on occasional Sundays. You may already have noticed that the Welcome Teams are already wearing them. Hopefully, this will help all of us to put names to faces which we already know well, but whose names escape us!

Looking after our church building is always on the agenda of Kirk Session meetings. We are relieved that all the scaffolding is now away, with remedial work on our stonework and roof now successfully completed. This was a massive piece of work, and huge thanks to Raymond Young who not only supervised it all, and negotiated contracts, but also secured grants to cover the not insignificant costs. We are very grateful to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland for their grant of £170,000, and to the Listed Places of Worship for their grant of £30,000. However, there is still a shortfall of nearly £8000, and the Session has agreed that approaches will be made to regular users of our facilities, as well as to local grant-making bodies to help us raise the amount needed.

A welcome approach has been made by the Scouts who are keen to raise money for a defibrillator for St Matthew's; Eric Duff is working with them, and our hope is that a defibrillator can be located outside so that it is a community asset.

The Kirk Session is also currently working on the final report from the Local Church Review for Presbytery, and there are early discussions regarding the revised Presbytery Mission Plan, which would have implications for St Matthew's – watch this space!

Marjorie Clark, Session Clerk

Prayer for October

God of creation,

As the leaves turn brown and orange and yellow
and red,

we see beauty all around us.

We see the beauty of your creation.

Lord, Jesus Christ,

As the leaves fall from the trees and branches lay
bare,

we remember you, lying in a tomb.

As you rose again and the seasons keep changing,

we know we will see new growth,

though we must be patient.

Holy Spirit,

Comfort all in need, guide us to provide, lead us
into action,

steer us to promote love, justice and peace

Amen

Who's in the pews?

Isobel Sinclair

Where were you born/brought up?

I was born and brought up in Perth, then left in my teens.

What is/or was your occupation?

I was a private secretary and then a Civil Service employee.

What brought you to St Matthew's? Later in life when I moved back to Perth, I met the Rev. Ewen Gilchrist (one of our previous ministers) and so came to St Matthew's. I have been attending ever since.

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

I am an elder, as well as on the Pastoral Care Team, the door duty and coffee teams. For many years I was in the gardening team. I now enjoy welcoming visitors while keeping the church open in the summer and with Warm Spaces over the winter. I help in the café or with catering for events, when required. I am a member of both the badminton and walking groups. Outside church, I am a Street and School Pastor.

Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy?

I played hockey in my teens. I still play badminton and attend the gym and go hill walking. Gardening, knitting and crochet keep me active at other times.

What is the most surprising thing about you that we might not yet know? My grandfather played for St Johnstone when it was a relatively new club.



Who's in the pews?

John Robertson

Where were you born/brought up?

I was born and brought up in London. I spent my early years in Scotland, as I was evacuated during WW2 to Rannoch to stay with my grandparents. I returned to London to finish my schooling, Scotland has always been 'home' as my parents brought me back every summer. I eventually returned to live here.

What is/or was your occupation?

I was a GP and then went into Occupational health. My late wife Elaine and I set up our own Occ. Health Company with 2 other GPs in Glasgow.

What brought you to St Matthew's?

I moved to Scone in 1996 and tried both the Scone churches. There was a change of minister, and I didn't feel comfortable with the new style of worship. Janet told me about St Matthew's, so I came along one



Sunday and felt really welcome. The Rev Scott Burton came to visit me at home and then I became a member.

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

I come to Warm Spaces and also enjoy 'Kirk sitting', when I welcome visitors in the summer. In the past when I was more able, I used to help to tidy up and do the dishes after various events, such as the Burns' Suppers etc. I also help to count the offering as part of the door duty team.

Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy?

I was a very keen golfer and was a member of Prestwick Golf Club, until my health declined. I also used to go pheasant and grouse shooting. I enjoy reading books, doing crosswords & Sudoku and gardening.

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

In my early working years, I was a doctor in Harley St in London. I had a number of pop stars as patients. My 2 young daughters used to ask me if I had their autographs. My response was always "The only place I want to see their autograph is on a cheque!"

The Jam Jar Challenge



What an exciting challenge this turned out to be! So many people have told me what fun they had trying to squash as much money as possible into a miniature jam jar. It even caused great competition between families and households. A total of 60 jam jars were returned to me. I was also given 2 donations of £20 and 1 of £10, which I am grateful for, however they could not be included in the prize list, as they weren't coins, as stipulated in the rules of the challenge.

I can now reveal that the amount I managed to squeeze into my jar was £22.40, so that was the total to beat. I thought that was pretty good and wouldn't be beaten by much. I was very surprised when other folks managed to squeeze quite a bit more into their jars. The jar containing the most money was handed in by Sandy & Kai Streling, who successfully squeezed exactly £25 into their jar – I am convinced they must have melted some of the coins down first! They won the first prize of a £20 theatre/Horsecross voucher. Second place was a draw between Ronnie Soreide, Alison Sweeney & Joan Lackie, who all got over £24 into their jars. They received a £5 M&S voucher each.

The grand total raised for church funds was £622.73. This was a delightful surprise and well exceeded my expectation of maybe making a couple of hundred pounds. A very BIG thank you to all who took part in the fun and for all your donations large and small. As the old Scots saying goes.... *"Mony a mickle maks a muckle!"*



I also owe thanks to my friend Julia and to wee Rosie (my neighbour's 4 year old granddaughter) for helping me to count all the money. **Janet Martin**

Doors Open Days and Art Exhibition

Visitors were welcomed to our beautiful church and a stunning display of artistic talent from St Matthew's Church Family on 13th and 14th September, as we participated in Doors Open Days with our Art Exhibition.



Whilst the footfall was less than expected, possibly due to the wet and windy weather on the Saturday, anyone visiting received a warm welcome from the team.

The art displays demonstrated the breadth of talent around.



Thanks go to all who participated and the team who welcomed visitors and provided refreshments.

The aim of the exhibition was to showcase talent from our Church family and to encourage fellowship and involvement by many who may not otherwise be involved.



all

It was also an opportunity for Mission, by inviting people into our building to have an opportunity to chat to us. Artists also gave contributions to St Matthew's Church, for which we are grateful.



Exhibitors were:

Tom Morrison with photos
Lorna Morrison with embroidery
Joan Reed with quilting
Julie Pearson with handbags
Maggie Roderick with drawings
Ian Bulloch with paintings
Kai Streling with leatherwork and marquetry
Ann Harvey with jewellery, tables and paintings
Anne Urquhart with stained glass
Minta Thomson with paintings
Norma Wright with paintings



Thanks also go to Marjorie Clark and the welcome team as well as our Caretaker, Jimmy.



Crossreach Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards and Calendars

Oh no – so early but just to advise that I will be taking orders for the above at the October services!

For those who don't know, the Church of Scotland's [Social Care Council](#) is accountable for the work of CrossReach. Its remit is to provide social care services and specialist resources in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in challenging circumstances. It also helps to identify areas of need and guides the Church in new approaches to relevant problems in society as well as responding on issues arising in the Council's areas of concern.

Today Crossreach is one of the largest care providers in Scotland, with experience across a broad range of services.

They aim to show the practical side of our Christian faith by reflecting Christian love to those we support, through our leadership, management and working relationships.

It's a very worthwhile charity so please support it with your orders. I'll bring catalogues with me in October!

Thanks,
Fiona Bruce

Celebrating the baptism of Evie Jane McKenzie-Frampton



It was an exciting day on Sunday 21st when we celebrated Evie's baptism. welcome Evie, big sister, Blaire, and t Adele and Lindsay, along with family Evie, thank you for joining in with the was the most moving prayer I've hea blessings upon your gorgeous family.

Rev. Fiona



Are you ready to make a commitment?

At St Matthew's Church, we love to welcome new members of the church family. We do that each time someone engages in the life of the church, whether through our services of worship or our events, and that's great. However, did you know that you can make a further commitment? We sometimes call this 'becoming a member' or confirmation by profession of faith. Some people think of this step as choosing to sign the blank cheque that was written at the time of your infant baptism (if that was the case) – instead of parents/grandparents making vows about beliefs and commitment, you have the opportunity to do this for yourself. It is an incredibly moving moment. It also results in your details being held in our membership roll and it allows you the right to vote on particular church matters, like when it comes to appointing a new Minister (hopefully not any time soon!).

To find out more about the church and making such a commitment, I have scheduled four sessions based on the 'ABC of Discipleship' materials from Thursday 30th October at 19.00 and meeting weekly. These sessions will explore what it means to be a disciple and to 'join the church' as well as covering the vows which will be made. There is no requirement to attend the full course, and they will be open to anyone who is interested. Following the 'membership classes,' participants will have the opportunity to be confirmed by

public confession of faith during worship on the first Sunday of Advent, 30th November, when we reflect on hope.

For more information or to sign up for the sessions, please contact Rev. Fiona at FBullock@churchofscotland.org.uk or at 01738 570241. It is worth noting that those who are already church members elsewhere can choose to join by transference of membership certificate at any time they wish.

Rev. Fiona

**BINGO AFTERNOON
TEA**

**Saturday 25th Oct
2-4pm**

**St Matthews Church
Tay St, Perth.**

We are raising funds for Ruaridh to go to Tanzania with Perth Grammar School. They will be helping vulnerable communities and building new homes.

Tickets £10
(Tickets will be for sale on Sundays at Church they include Bingo cards plus afternoon Tea)

Donations of raffle prizes or baking gratefully received!

www.vinetrust.org



Contact Details Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland Sunday worship at 11.00.

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The next issue of St. Matthews News for November is due out on Friday 31st October. All contributions by Monday 27th October please to the Editor:
david.roderick2@btinternet.com