



**St. Matthew's Church**  
**Perth**  
**e-Newsletter No. 64**  
**November 2022**

*As this newsletter goes to print, we send our very best wishes to our minister Fiona, who has been signed off sick; we wish her well and assure her that our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family.*

While Rev. Fiona and her family were on holiday recently, she invited a couple of our former ministers to lead services, and we welcomed back both Rev. Scott Burton and Rev. Ewen Gilchrist. Below is a beautiful prayer with which Ewen opened the service he was leading. We think it is worth reprinting in the newsletter, with his permission.

PRAYER of ADORATION & CONFESSION

Lord of sunrise and sunset, Lord of waking worlds and burnt out stars,

Lord whose signature is found in stardust and morning mists,

our mortal days may be numbered and written in the Book of Heaven, but that Book is closed to us.

But if we did know, if we knew how many days were left to us,

Lord, surely we would spend them differently?

There would be urgency in our actions and kindness in our voice. There would be mercy in our judgements and wonder in our eyes.....wonder at all that is beautiful and should never be taken for granted.

There would be pauses, there would be gasps, at seeing afresh life's routine miracles.

We lose that wonder so easily Lord, because we **presume** tomorrow.

For tomorrow is when wrongs will be made right, tomorrow is when pride says sorry, tomorrow is when adventure conquers caution, tomorrow is when the broken bridges of our clumsy conquests will be rebuilt.....and friends too long apart, family too long neglected, strangers too long ignored.....

will be heard and held and helped.

Tomorrow is when our head-down, clenched-fist charge through life will stop.

Tomorrow is when we will disconnect from our diaries and reconnect to our loved ones.

Tomorrow,

in traffic jam and supermarket queue,

in school run and team meeting,

in parking space lottery and heart-felt ache for all that isn't,

tomorrow is when we will remember "to be still, for the presence of the Lord is in this place."

Lord, we do not know the length of our days, but in our best days we know that each one is a gift beyond price.

And this one, today, this Resurrection Day, this is the only one that matters,

because it is the only one we have, the only one we can live well.

It is now - and we are creatures of now.

You have placed it in our hands to do with as we wish.

So help us to treat today as if it were tomorrow.....

the day when we begin to set things right,

the day when we rejoice in love's many gifts,

the day when we drink fully and thankfully of its many beauties and tiny graces.

That we may sleep in peace when the day is done.

AMEN



*Autumn colours - Norie-Miller Walk in Riverside Park*

## NOTICES

### MINISTER'S UPDATE

We have been informed that our minister, Fiona, will be on sick leave until 17th November. Should you require pastoral care during this time please contact Marjorie Clark from our Pastoral Care Team in the first instance.

### KIRK SESSION will meet in St Matthew's on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm

Could all Elders please note the above date and let me have any Reports by 9<sup>th</sup> November? Thanks

Fiona Bruce *Session Clerk*

### Important information from our AV team regarding ZOOM services

We have been broadcasting Zoom services for over 2 years now and this has been a very successful way of keeping the congregation together. Now that we are fully back in church and are broadcasting on YouTube as well, it is proposed to stop broadcasting on ZOOM. This will reduce the workload on the AV desk.

However, Zoom will still be opened before and after the service to facilitate conversation with others. But, come 11am you will have to "click" over to "YOUTUBE" to watch the live church service. At the end of the service just go back to your ZOOM meeting for a chat.

A full list of YOUTUBE links is published in the Newsletter and on the church Facebook pages.

**All the links for upcoming services are on the back page of this newsletter.**

**Wednesday Morning meditations** continue to be held every week at 9a.m. on Zoom; joining details on the back page of this newsletter.

### We continue to need your help!

From now until the end of the year, we have various large events happening in our Church and we would very much appreciate any help with staffing the building, catering, setting up rooms etc. If you can offer any help for even an hour, please let Beverly know. (Contact details on back page of newsletter.) Thanks.

### BADMINTON CLUB

This takes place on a Thursday through to 15 December 2022 at 7.30pm in the Main Hall. All welcome.

Please contact John Dewar for further details if required.

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A service to mark the end of our 150th anniversary celebrations will take place on Sunday 20th November and we are delighted that former Moderator, Very Rev Dr Martin Fair, will preach for us that day.

The service will be followed by a lunch in the church hall, provided by Lang's Caterers. Tickets for lunch cost £6 each and are available from Tom and Janet on a Sunday, or from the office. (For catering purposes, we need to confirm final numbers by Sunday 13th November.)

### St Matthews Guild

The Guild meetings through November continue with our own Nicola Macnee guiding us through our theme with "Wee seeds with Strategies" on 7<sup>th</sup> November.



The next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November is Rosie Campbell talking about our Guild Project for this year "Home for Good".

Following this the Guilds Together group are having an Advent Praise service in North Church on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30 pm.

Our December meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> will be a Christmas lunch; details are being discussed as this goes to press.

All meetings are held in the Sanctuary at St Matthews on Monday afternoons 2-4 pm.

### Lorna Morrison

**Some observations about life and faith** (as submitted by Jack Rough)

God doesn't want our success. He wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements. He demands our obedience - *Charles Colson*

What is the use of travelling at a fast speed when you are going in the wrong direction? – *Bernhard Langer*

Men and women give advice: God gives guidance. – *Leonard Ravenhill*

It is dangerous to try to be number one. It is next to nothing! – *Anon*

## FIFE PILGRIM WAY WALK

### CRAIGTOUN PARK TO ST ANDREWS

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October we completed our long-distance walk, the Fife Pilgrim Way, from Culross to St Andrews which we started almost a year ago as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

It was a very special day culminating in a Communion Service conducted by Rev Anne Brennan by the East Sands and followed by a lunch together - a very meaningful ending to a walk enjoyed by all who participated.



On **Saturday 10 December** there will be a local walk ending at St Matthew's where we will enjoy a meal together. Please let me know if you intend to join us. All welcome.

Fiona Bruce ([FMBruce6@googlemail.com](mailto:FMBruce6@googlemail.com))



## St. Matthew's and the MOD

ON Friday 21st October the Sanctuary was filled by the voices and sounds of the BBC Radio Nan Gael Ceilidh celebrating as the MOD 2022 in Perth neared its conclusion

From 10.00 on Friday morning there was a constant coming and going of audience and MOD competitors letting their hair down and enjoying the best of the week's performers.

St Matthew's had been hosting Mod competitions during the whole week, and our volunteers with the Catering Team did a tremendous job in keeping judges, volunteers and competitors well fed and watered. We were also delighted to host a wonderful evening of Celtic Praise on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>; this was well attended by Gaels from all over Scotland (many of whom commented on the warmth of the welcome and the facilities of St Matthew's.) It was a privilege to be able to enjoy the friendly and happy atmosphere created.

The Mod was one of the biggest events that St. Matthew's has been involved in, and thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped out on our behalf; particular thanks is due to our Facilities and Outreach manager, Beverly, who pulled it all together so successfully.

*Don't forget: **St Andrew's Night celebration***

**Friday 25th November 7-8.30p.m.**

St Matthew's Scouts celebrate St Andrew's Night with song and entertainment—£5 per ticket, for tea/coffee/cake and a raffle ticket.

This is part of their fundraising effort to enable Scouts to attend the World Jamboree next year in South Korea—so all support is appreciated.

**And some advance notice of December events:**  
**Sun. 4th—Edinburgh Bohemians Concert at 3p.m.**  
**Wed. 14th—Rock Choir Xmas Concert at 7p.m.**  
**Fri. 23rd—PACT Carol service at St Leonard's at 7p.m.**





**Starter Packs**  
Perth

On behalf of all the volunteers at Starter Packs in Perth I would like to say a huge

Thank You to those of you who have previously supported us those and who continue to do so.

Starter Packs is a charity run solely by volunteers; it provides packs containing basic household items such as pots, pans, crockery, cutlery, towels, toiletries, bedding etc to low income and previously homeless individuals and families who have been given a new tenancy in the Perth and Kinross area.

We also provide kettles, toasters and slow cookers when they are donated or when funding allows.

Most of the contents of our packs are good quality used items which are donated by members of the local community.

Cash donations are used to supplement our packs when there is a shortfall and to pay for the running of our unit where we store the goods and make up the packs.

If you wish to donate to Starter Packs, St Matthew's has a collection box in our café area where goods can be left on a Sunday, Or, our unit (address below) is open between 10am and 12noon Tuesday and Friday, (though arrangements can be made to receive donations at another time.)

Please contact numbers 0756 577 4619, 0776 113 4776 or 0790 039 4532.

Please also check out our Facebook page.

Last but not least, if you are looking for a volunteering opportunity we would be delighted to hear from you. *Janette Millar*

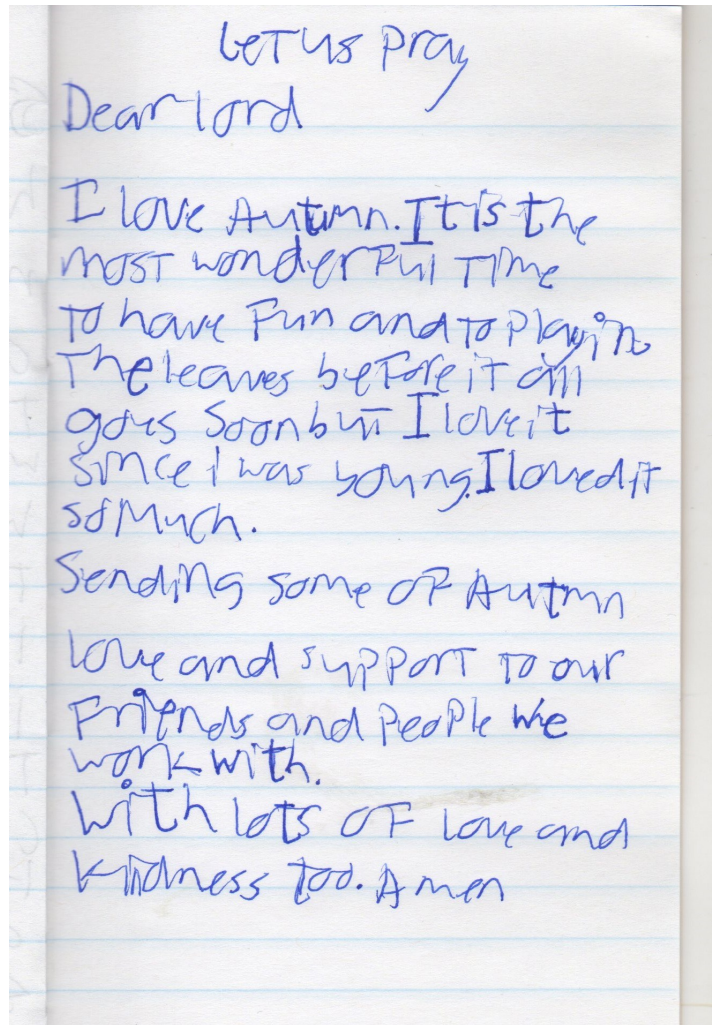
Unit 22, Riverview Business Park,  
Friarton Road, Perth PH2 8DF



### CROSSREACH CALENDARS

These are available for sale again this year- at the same price of £5- a bargain! Please see Fiona Bruce if you'd like to buy one and raise funds for this worthwhile cause. Thanks.

### Andrew's Prayer



Many thanks to Roy and Marie Nicoll and Ronnie Soreide for the wonderful display in the sanctuary for our Harvest Thanksgiving service in October.



Many thanks to all who contributed to the retiring collection at which £460 was raised for the local Foodbank. They send their grateful thanks and appreciation.



With Remembrance Day approaching, I was reminded that back in September, St Matthew's had the privilege of hosting a 'world premiere' film launch. The film 'PERTH ACADEMY REMEMBERS' commemorates 79 former pupils of Perth Academy who lost their lives in the Second World War. With grants from Culture Perth & Kinross, Living Communities Participation Fund and the Gannochy Trust, the school pupils, led by their retired teacher Dave Dykes honoured their sacrifice by producing a film.



The film included contributions from current students, friends of the school and interviews with descendants of the fallen. A tremendous amount of research went into the making of the film. It was very moving to hear the stories of young men who went to war and never returned. It was particularly interesting to hear the background stories from their relations, who laid poppies at the graves of their loved ones. Many of these former pupils also appear on St Matthew's War Memorials. We express our grateful thanks to the current pupils for working so hard to learn the stories of our church family. They brought the names on the memorials to life. We are also grateful to Dave who, in his quest to unearth these stories, has burned many hours of midnight oil. This project enabled today's pupils to understand the consequences and the futility of war. In leading them in this research and his efforts to tell the stories of our own fallen members, Dave has himself become something of an adopted member of our St Matthew's family.



Recently, I was leafing through Carol Ann Duffy's collection of Armistice poems and saw this poem by Sara Teasdale, which gives food for thought about war.

### There Will Come Soft Rains

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,  
And swallows calling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,  
And wild plum trees in tremulous white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire  
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And not one will know of the war, not one  
Will care at last when it is done.

No one would mind, neither bird nor tree,  
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,  
Would scarcely know that we were gone

### Happy Birthday Calum!



## Christmas is coming! Do you or your family buy online? Remember Easyfundraising.org.uk

One of the easiest and painless ways of raising money for the church is to purchase goods on line through the website above. If you have not already done so, please go to the website above, create an account, follow the instructions and opt for 'Perth St Matthew's Church of Scotland' when asked for your favourite cause. Then, when you shop on line, go through Easyfundraising.org.uk and search for your retailer. Every time you make a purchase a proportion of what you spend comes to the church—at no extra cost to yourself. As fundraising ideas go, this is a simple and effective way to support St Matthew's.

Fiona Bruce comments "it occurred to me that it's my grown-up children who order online, so I have passed this information on to them too!"



**Perth: St. Matthew's Church  
Sunday worship at 11.am**

**Address: Tay Street, Perth, PH1 5LQ**

**Church Tel: 01738 636757**

**Minister: Rev. Fiona C Bullock**

**(Manse) 01738 570241**

**(Mobile) 07587 281344**

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**Session Clerk: Fiona Bruce**

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**Registered Scottish Charity NO. SCO16829**

## **CHURCH ROTAS**

### **Door Duty For November/December**

Nov. 6th Oakbank (Donald Stewart)  
13th Burghmuir (Isobel Sinclair)  
20th Bridgend (Alistair Byers)  
27th Gannochy (Jean McIntyre)  
Dec. 4th Muirton (Janet Martin)  
11th Perth City (John Dewar)  
18th Perth South (Malcolm Thom)  
25th Oakbank (Donald Stewart)

### **Readers for November**

Nov. 6th Joan Nicoll  
13th tbc  
20th Marjorie Clark  
27th Fiona Bruce

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Donated by</b>	<b>Delivered by</b>
<b>6th</b>	Marjorie Clark	Evelyn McLaren
<b>13th</b>	Helen/John Dewar	Tom and Lorna Morrison
<b>20th</b>	Sheena Beange	Alastair and Carolyn Byers
<b>27th</b>	Alison Ford	Fiona Bruce

### **Links to You Tube and Zoom**

(see article on page 2)

#### **Sunday morning Zoom (from 10.45)**

ID 953 7532 1288 Pass Code 058724

**Here are links for the next few YouTube services up until 4<sup>th</sup> of December:**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. <https://youtu.be/dfkeV32WRVw>

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. [https://youtu.be/C\\_AzDI4h9sA](https://youtu.be/C_AzDI4h9sA)

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. [https://youtu.be/ax\\_y6bgy38o](https://youtu.be/ax_y6bgy38o)

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. <https://youtu.be/0va8FQPitH4>

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. <https://youtu.be/oQFzMpmJJxc>

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. <https://youtu.be/77nlmksrISU>

For those who would like to join the weekly  
**Wednesday morning meditations**

**On Zoom at 9a.m.**

ID: 818 8897 1376 Passcode: 905980

**All welcome**

The next issue of the newsletter is due out on Friday 25th November. This edition will cover both December and January. All contributions **by Sunday 20th November please** to [Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com](mailto:Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com)

Please support our Traidcraft stall, open after every Sunday morning service. Christmas cards and gifts available, and orders taken—pick up a catalogue or visit [www.traidcraft.org.uk](http://www.traidcraft.org.uk). Thank you to all our loyal customers - you know who you are!



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