



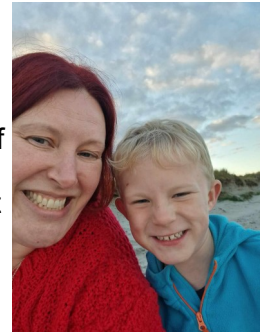
St. Matthew's Church, Perth

e-Newsletter No. 84

November 2024

Letter from the Manse

Friends, at the beginning of October we were blessed to return to Berneray in the Outer Hebrides for a holiday. I always wax lyrical about it so you'll already know how much we love it there. For me, it is a place of connections. As a family we carve out this precious holiday time, when I can be fully present with my husband, son and our wee doggy as well. We recharge our batteries by taking a break from other parts of life and connecting with each other. I feel really close to my Mum in Berneray because it was a place she loved too. I feel connected to our extended family with whom we get to share quality time. With so many memories made there, it is a place where I feel connected to the past as well as the present with a view to the future. I feel close to God there and I love worshipping there, as it shows the real breadth of worship across the Church of Scotland. You get it – I love it there!



There's so much we do in the church that is about connections and relationships. I put a big emphasis on us being a church family, because over the years, the church has been a place where I have found belonging when I was away from my family. There are so many people now who do not live near their families and there can be a sense of homecoming in a welcoming, inclusive congregation. There's also the opportunity to mix with other generations, to value and learn from one another. We all have gifts to bring and to share.

November is our Gift Month and yes, we will be appealing for you to review your financial giving to St Matthew's. It is a good practice to review our finances each year – certainly that's what my bank manager says! Our offerings should be no different. However, our Gift Month is also an opportunity to think about all that we have to offer: our time, talents and money. Do you have time that you'd like to offer to volunteer with hospitality or opening the church for Warm Spaces? Maybe you have time in which you could make some pastoral phone calls or visits. Or are you inspired to take time to pray for St Matthew's and particular situations of need? How would you like to contribute to the work, worship and outreach of the church? We are looking for a Treasurer to take over from John Dewar at the end of the year – could this be you? Do you have a particular set of skills in the use of social media that you would like to offer? Perhaps you have ideas about the newsletter, or you'd like to be involved in a card ministry? Our Gift Month is a chance to give thanks for all the talents that are shared across the church family and a chance to explore those we have yet to discover. As we connect all of our gifts, we pray that God will multiply them and put us all to good use to further our Gospel mission to share God's unconditional love.

As we think about connections and relationships, November brings opportunities to stand alongside others. On Sunday 10th November, we will host our Remembrance Sunday service at St Matthew's. Worship will begin at 10.45am (please note the change of time) to allow us to mark the two-minute silence at 11.00 and we look forward to some of our uniformed organisations and their families joining us that day. On Sunday 24th November, a Pulpit Exchange has been planned for the Church of Scotland city centre churches. I'll be leading worship at St John's Kirk (an early jump!), Rev Craig Dobney will be at Perth: North Church on behalf of St John's, and I am certain that Rev Kenneth Stott will be made to feel at home as he takes our service at St Matthew's. This is part of our work to get to know one another across the churches and I'm looking forward to the relationships that will be built. On Saturday 30th November, we'll have our Christmas coffee morning. Along with Christmas shopping options, there will be time to share a hot drink and some fellowship as we talk about our Christmas plans. You are assured of a warm welcome at these and all upcoming events and services at St Matthew's.

I hope to see you soon at St Matthew's Church: a place that's like Berneray in several regards. It's a place where we connect and build relationships. It's a place that joins together past, present and future; that brings us closer to God; that connects us with our neighbouring churches, the Presbytery and the wider Church of Scotland. More than all of that, it's a place where we are all welcomed, accepted and loved as a church family. May the sharing of all our gifts help us to continue this offering for many years to come.

With blessings, Your Minister, Fiona

CHURCH NEWS

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. The same number can be used to call in to the Midweek Musings Zoom call (see below) 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/@stmatthewsp Perth

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

Midweek Musings

Wednesday at 9 a.m. Zoom at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89813870441...>

Meeting ID: **898 1387 0441** Passcode: **077305**

Or phone 0131 460 1196

A short time of reflection and discussion led by various church members - open to all—please feel free to join us!

GUILD NEWS It has been lovely to welcome a few new members this session, as well as welcoming back previous members; there is still room for anyone else who would like to join us. Our next meeting is on Monday 28th October at 2 pm, when there is a change from the programmed speaker, Carol Carson MBE will be telling us about her work in Africa. On 11th November we have a talk about the work of the RSPB at Vane Farm.

Following this we are having a visit to the new Perth Museum and the Stone of Destiny. Details will follow. And then we have our Christmas lunch at the George Hotel on Monday 9th December.

We are still collecting small toys for the Tayside NHS Sunshine Boxes. Toys, colouring books, crayons and story books will be welcome, the only stipulation is that these should be new, and only cost a few pounds each. Thank you for supporting this project. *Lorna Morrison*

A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of John Spence will take place in St Matthew's Church on **Saturday 9th November** at 1.30p.m. All welcome.

<https://youtube.com/live/2Al624NWnCG?feature=share>

Our **Remembrance Sunday service on 10th November** will begin at **10.45 a.m.**, to enable us to observe the 2 minutes' silence.



Thanks to Andrew Davies for this photo from last year's service, taken from the AV desk.

NOVEMBER IS GIFT MONTH

Look out for the special appeal coming your way soon



Thank you to everyone who donated food at our recent Harvest Thanksgiving service. We delivered over 30 full bags to the local Foodbank, as well as £230 from the retiral collection. Special thanks once again to Roy, Ronnie and Rhona for creating the beautiful display in the sanctuary.

Our recent collection for **Christian Aid's Gaza Appeal** raised £404. In the letter of thanks received, we were assured that *“your support will help our trusted partners to provide meals, shelter, sanitation, medical relief and psychological support to women, men and children who are living through this crisis.”*

*Let us pray Dear God
I can't believe it is
coming into the winter
time and the leaves are
starting to fall on
me. Please support
and show kindness to all
who hasn't got shelter,
Food and any heating.
We are so lucky to
have that. Amen.*

**Andrew's
prayer**

There's a lot going on in November...

On **Saturday 2nd November**, the Walking Group will be doing a 3 mile walk by Loch Leven, led by Bill and Margaret Chalmers, followed by lunch. Please meet as usual at Broxden Park and Ride at 9.30a.m.; from there we share cars down to Kinross. Please let Bill or Margaret know if you are coming, and if you wish to stay for lunch. Tel. 07791 507628 or e-mail Bill.chalmers@yahoo.co.uk



Our October walk on a beautiful autumn day near Errol

On **Wednesday 13th November** "The Boys" meet for their Breakfast Blether at 10a.m. in Weatherspoons, next to the church—all (males) welcome.

St. Matthew's Church
An evening with Michael Ellacott & friends

Friday 22nd November
7.30pm
(Doors 7.10pm)
Tickets £10
Available on a Sunday or from the office
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
St. Matthew's Church,
Tay Street, Perth. PH15LQ

On **Sunday 24th November**, the annual PACT Advent Lantern Parade will make its way from St Ninian's Cathedral to St John's Kirk, where the nativity scene will be lit and carols sung. Meet at St Ninian's from 4.45p.m.—more details from Marjorie Clark

Diving and raising Henry VIII's Warship
The Mary Rose

An evening presentation by diving archaeologist
CHRISTOPHER DOBBS
St. Matthew's Church, Tay Street,
Perth. PH15LQ

FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER 7.30 - 9.30pm
TICKETS FROM EVENTBRITE - £10

www.perthstmatthews.org.uk PROCEEDS TO ST. MATTHEW'S

This promises to be a fascinating evening, with refreshments available to purchase. Tickets are also available from the church office or Tom Morrison.

CHRISTMAS
Coffee Morning

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
10AM - 12 NOON

Join us for warm mince pies,
stalls, raffle & delicious
home-baking.

Refreshments & cakes
will be available.

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

And December dates for your diary:

Sunday 8th December—3p.m. The Bohemians Christmas Concert—see Andy Turnbull

Friday 20th December at 7p.m.—PACT Annual Carol service in the Congregational Church, Mill Street.

Janet's Jottings The Power of Hope

Recently in our Wednesday morning 'Musings', we discussed 'hope'. We wondered how folks caught up in the wars in the Middle East can retain any hope whatsoever. We, who do not have bombs raining down on us, cannot begin to understand what they, or others in Ukraine, or wars elsewhere, are going through and how their hopes must be dashed on a daily basis. November is a time for contemplation with the commemoration of Armistice Day. A time when we remember folks lost fighting in past wars, for the sake of their country; people who, in their efforts, *hoped* to change the world.



We think of all our service men and women who went off to war full of hope that it would be over quickly. Their loved ones waited at home, simultaneously hoping and praying they would return safely. We know the people named on our WW1 war memorials were full of hope, as they were convinced that it was the war to end all wars. Even the songs that they sang, such as 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile..' or 'Keep the home fires burning' reflected hope and boosted morale. Similarly, in WW2 'We'll meet again' or 'There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover...' offered a sense of hope that all would be well and peace would return one day soon. I wonder if they had known, that less than a lifetime later, the world would still be at war, if they would have lost all hope, determination and courage to complete their campaign?

Despite being a very small word, hope holds such a lot of meaning. Desmond Tutu said "Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all of the darkness". Dostoevsky stated that "to live without hope is to cease to live" and Helen Keller, who was blind deaf and unable to talk, who, once enabled to communicate, expressed that "Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible". Anne Frank felt that "where there was hope, there was life".

It seems to me that hope is commonly used to mean a wish: its strength reflects the strength of the person's desire. In the Bible, hope is often described as the confident expectation of what God has promised. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". *Jeremiah 29 v 11*

On Remembrance Day as we think of those who never came home, we owe it to all those lost in previous battles, or caught up in present ones, never to lose hope. Therefore, I leave you with the words of Albert Einstein, who encouraged folks to "Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow."

Janet Martin

Kirk Session update - from our Session Clerk, Raymond Young.

We had an extra Kirk Session meeting on Monday October 21 with one item only on the agenda. This was to look at the new Teams that we are setting to improve the way the church is run. And how more people can get involved.

Last month I mentioned the new Faith and Worship Team. We've now agreed to have Teams dealing with Care, Community, Communication, Facilities Management, and Finance and Admin alongside the existing Property Maintenance. And we will start to populate them between now and Christmas. And this will be your opportunity to get involved. On Sunday December 1 (first Sunday in Advent – a good day for looking forward and getting involved) there will be a church fellowship lunch at which we will explain what each Team does and hopefully you will want to get involved. And an important point – we are not asking folks to sign up for ever – maybe for a couple of years?

PRAYER from Rev. Maggie Roderick

Lord Jesus Christ
We are called to walk in light and not darkness
and we know that light comes from you.
Let us bring light to others,
and put their needs before our own.
Let us think before we speak,
and let others know they matter.
Let us put our faith into action,
and express it through how we treat others.
Let us shine as a lamp on a hill,
And let your love shine through us,
Letting all walk in light and not darkness.



Who's in the pews? (or who's there on the chairs?)

This month we introduce you to three more of our members:

Ann Attridge

Where were you born/brought up? I started life in Glasgow. My father, who was originally from Skye, was made redundant and so relocated us there, to a croft near Portree. As an outdoor - loving 11 year old, it was paradise and I could have a dog!

What is/or was your occupation? After university I unintentionally became a teacher. I had a few moves, from a Cambridge language school (full of wonderfully eccentric people including a Booker prize winner and a former Jesuit priest) to in FE and University, teaching wealthy oil wives in Aberdeen and training teachers. I now run an educational software company.

What brought you to St Matthew's? The website in the first instance. It came across as a welcoming, inclusive church that had a unique place in the community. I tried a few churches, but St. Matts stood out as a friendly community, not afraid to do things differently.

Are you involved in any groups/or volunteering at St Matthew's or anywhere else? I'm an elder and also take a turn giving people lifts to church and serving coffee. I help to keep an eye on the church flat and have recently joined the Faith and Worship team. This is an exciting time to be part of this.

Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy? Moving to Skye introduced me to mountains which I've loved ever since, whether on foot, bike or skis. I love music, whether playing or listening – everything from folk festivals, to queuing for tickets to see Bob Dylan. My claim to fame, as a promoter, is being probably the only person who has ever organised a concert on Skye featuring Graham Kendrick.

What is the most surprising thing about you that we might not yet know? I was once rescued off a Welsh mountain in the early hours of a winter morning by the RAF. I was looking after an injured climbing partner, who had foolishly decided to use a home-made ice axe. It broke - so did his ankle. We were pleased to see them!



Ronnie & Ina Soriede



Where were you born/brought up? *Ronnie:* I was born in Bergan in Norway. I relocated to Scotland at seven years of age. *Ina:* I was born and brought up in London and moved to Scotland when I was 16.

What is/or was your occupation? *Ronnie:* I was an electrician, serving my time with Scott's in Perth. *Ina:* I worked as a shorthand typist with the GA when it was at the bottom of the High St.

What brought you to St Matthew's? *Ronnie:* I was introduced to St Matthew's by both my grandparents, who were members. *Ina:* I became a member in 1963 when I moved to Perth.

Are you involved in any groups/or volunteering at St Matthew's or anywhere else? *Ronnie:* I am an elder and was Session Clerk for 3 years a while back. I go to the Guild and help with decorating the church for harvest etc. when my health permits. *Ina:* I used to do the coffee mornings and help with the flowers, sadly I am not quite able to do so much now.

Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy? *Ronnie:* I am a keen gardener and have enjoyed exhibiting dahlias over the years. *Ina:* I love reading, knitting and baking.

What is the most surprising thing about you that we might not yet know? *Ronnie:* I used to box and do a bit of wrestling in my youth. I also used to play the accordion and gained a licence to be a glider pilot. *Ina:* I used to deliver newspapers to my friends Benny Hill and Dick Emery in London. Dick was always saying "Oh you are awful, but I like you!" and that became his catchphrase. I also learned that Dinah McAleese and I grew up a couple of streets away from each other – small world!

Perth: St. Matthew's Church Sunday worship at 11 a.m.

Address: Tay Street, Perth, PH1 5LQ

Church Tel: 01738 636757

Minister: Rev. Fiona C Bullock

Tel: 01738 570241

fbullock@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk: Raymond Young

rky@btinternet.com

Clerk@perthstmatthews.org.uk

Church Office: Beverly Skene

office@perthstmatthews.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Marjorie Clark

Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com

Treasurer: John Dewar

Dewar34@hotmail.com

Registered Scottish Charity N0. SCO16829

From our Presbytery Elder

Our November Presbytery meeting is being held in Kinross Parish Church on Saturday 2nd November. The afternoon session is focusing on the **Assisted Dying debate** and is open to anyone who wishes to attend; it starts at 1.30p.m.

Crossreach Sunday is the following day, Sunday 3rd November, and there are fascinating stories on their website about the vital social work they carry out in the church's name—www.crossreach.org.uk.

Prisoners' Week will be launched in Letham St Mark's Church on Sunday November 17th at 3p.m. with a special service to which all are welcome. Prisoners' Week is an opportunity to remember all those affected—prisoners, their families, and the staff of the prisons.

Finally, if you want to find out more about what the Church of Scotland is doing in response to the Middle East conflict, please visit the website www.churchofscotland.org.uk and search "Israel and Palestine."

Marjorie Clark

Sunday morning rotas for November

Welcome Teams

- 3rd Perth South (Malcolm Thom)
- 10th Oakbank (Donald Stewart)
- 17th Burghmuir (Isobel Sinclair)
- 24th Bridgend (Alastair Byers)

Beadle Duty

- 3rd Malcolm Thom
- 10th Raymond Young
- 17th Tom Morrison
- 24th Bill Chalmers

READERS

- 3rd Liz Munro
- 10th Gillian Heath
- 17th Raymond Young
- 24th Nicola Macnee

TEA/COFFEE TEAMS

- 3rd Marjorie Clark
- 10th Isobel Sinclair
- 17th Joyce Thom
- 24th Wendy Burnett

AV Desk

- 3rd Peter Barrett and John Paton
- 10th Nicola Macnee and Raymond Young
- 17th John Paton and Andrew Davies
- 24th Andrew Davies and Peter Barrett

The next issue of the newsletter is due out on Friday 29th November, and will cover both December and January. All contributions by **Sunday 24th November please** to the editor: Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com

