



St Matthews News

No. 88 April 2025

Rev. Fiona reflects

Friends, this year, I am inspired by the theme of 'gathering in.' There are times when God puts a vision in our hearts and minds and it simply cannot be ignored. This cannot be ignored. I believe at St Matthew's Church this year, we are in the process of 'gathering in': gathering in those who have been seeking meaning; gathering in those who want to get back to church; gathering in those who are visiting and need a place to belong during their travels; gathering in a wide variety of personalities, beliefs and skills; gathering us in to learn together, to worship God together, to support one another; gathering us in as family. Once we've been gathered in, we move onto the next step, sending out.

Each Sunday, we are gathered together and through this we are blessed. It provides the spiritual sustenance that will help us through the week. Then we are sent out into the extraordinariness of our ordinary lives, as messengers ready to share care, compassion, generosity and acceptance with as many people as possible in the name of our faith. We may be broken vessels, as we sung a few weeks ago in church, but we offer ourselves just as we are so that God might fill us up in preparation for us to pour out God's love once more. This is the living faith to which we are called. Always learning, always stretching our minds and our hearts more, always growing in faith. Of course, we still have doubts and questions but we trust that we can explore these together. As we gather in new members of the church family we've been waiting to meet, we increase our sense of belonging too. We are both guests and hosts; those being disciplined and disciples ourselves; and we are all God's beloved children.

On Sunday 16th March, it was a delight to welcome members of the John Buchan Society to our worship, gathering in new friends from all over the UK as well as Canada and Australia. We were blessed to hear about the author, poet and politician, John Buchan, from one of his grandchildren, Ursula Buchan, who spoke passionately and with great love about his life, his achievements and his strong faith. I'd like to thank the members of the John Buchan Society for blessing us with their presence and to all of our church family for offering such a warm welcome to them and to all. I pray that God will give us opportunities in the future to connect with these friends again.



Over the course of Lent, we have been exploring hope through our weekly worship. A separate invitation to our Holy Week and Easter reflections and services will be sent out shortly. As we approach this special time in the Christian calendar, I pray that you will

discover hope peeping through like sunny daffodils through a prickly hedge. May you find joy in unexpected places and find kindred spirits in unexpected people. May you experience the transformation you need in your life. May you be comforted to know God gathering you in, holding you close and surrounding you with God's love. May you come to know the place that is just for you in the church family which welcomes everyone in love. Then may we all take that love out into our world, where there is great need, in our own unique ways. Thank you for being you!

Every blessing, your Minister, Fiona

An Old Flower Garden by John Buchan

I

When the fairy-footed Spring,
Rising like a maiden,
Cometh swift on airy wing,
With the bounties laden;
When her dainty lips have kissed
Darkness from the hollow —
Clothed in mist of amethyst —
Rise and let me follow.

II

In my garden by the heath,
Near the moorlands hilly,
Where from out her grassy sheath
Riseth up the lily,
By the green, old, border ring,
'Neath the elm-trees shady,
Let us sing unto the Spring,
"Welcome thou, my Lady."

III

Sparrows chatter in the eaves;
Linnets sing in hedges;
Blackbirds pipe among the leaves,
Warblers in the sedges.
Snowdrop shy and crocus bright
Glimmer in the border.
Daffodillies stand upright,
Gay in gallant order.

IV

Mazed like pale Persephone
'Mid Sicilian bowers,
Droops the white anemone
'Mong the ruddy flowers.
Clouds of blossom, pink and white,
Iris-stately warden —
Springtide flowers, a goodly sight,
In my shadowed garden.

Buchan, John. Delphi Complete Works of John Buchan (Illustrated) (pp. 8576-8577). Delphi Classics. Kindle Edition.

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/@stmatthewsp Perth

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

Guild News Lorna Morrison, Convener

We are coming to the end of the Guild session with our AGM on Monday 7th April. There will be Flower Arranging with Norma Wright and a home baked afternoon tea. Hope to see as many members as possible to round off the season.

Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Delivery
April 6th	Lorna Gray	Alastair & Carolyn Byers
April 13th	Freda Stewart	Lesley Mackie
April 20th	Cathy Gray	Marjorie Clark
April 27th	Alison Fulton	Evelyn McLaren

Can you help? Many thanks to all our volunteers who deliver the flowers after the service each Sunday; we know from comments made and cards received how much the recipients appreciate being remembered by the church. We could do with a few more volunteers, though; if you regularly come to church by car and would be willing to deliver the flowers (once every three or four months), please let Marjorie Clark know (Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com), and we can add you to the rota- you do get a choice of dates!



Walk of Witness

Good Friday
18th April

Walk, Worship and Witness
through the streets of Perth

Gather for a 10:30a.m. start at **St.
John's Kirk**

Easter Dawn Service

Easter Sunday
20th April

**7am at
Quarrymill**

Followed by breakfast at
Scone (Old) Church

*You may wish to park at
Scone Church and walk
down through Quarrymill
to the Service.*



Perth Action of Churches Together

The **Walk of Witness** on Good Friday (18th April) will be led this year by Rev Gordon Campbell from the Congregational Church; this is when we follow the Cross through the pedestrianised area of the City Centre, with readings, prayers and songs; gather for a 10.30a.m. start at St John's Kirk. The Walk usually lasts about 45 minutes, and St John's Kirk welcomes us back for some refreshments. If anyone would like to volunteer to do a reading or help with the stewarding for this event, please let Marjorie Clark know (Marjorie.clark@btinternet.com)

Our ecumenical Easter Morning Dawn service will be led by Major David Wing (Salvation Army) at Quarrymill Park at 7a.m. on Sunday 20th April; the short outdoor service is followed by breakfast (bacon rolls) in Scone Old Church Hall – all welcome! Marjorie Clark

Lent and Easter

Lent is the 40-day period leading to Easter, mirroring the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Sundays are not included. Lent is a time for all of us to reflect on our Christian lives, repent for our sins and to pray and prepare for Easter, when we celebrate the Risen Christ.

The prayers and Bible readings below are suggestions for the remaining weeks in Lent. These are followed by Bible Readings for each day during Holy Week.

Week beginning 30th March

for she believed you to be her Saviour.

Bible Reading Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

Prayer

God of goodness

So often we journey along our own paths
and not yours.

No matter how far we wander from you,
You are always there, awaiting our return,
Loving us unconditionally.

May we be ready to serve you,
to trust you, to thank you, to love you.
Let us journey back to you.

Amen

Help us to make the right choices.

Let us be extravagant in sharing your love.

Amen

Palm Sunday 13th April

Bible Reading Luke 19:28-49

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ

You came to earth as a humble child
And you rode to Jerusalem on a colt,
knowing the sacrifice you would make.

Your life and love have shown us how
to live and love, in humility.

Let us choose to act justly,
to love mercy and to walk humbly with you,
as we continue our journey of faith.

Amen

Week beginning 6th April

Bible Reading John 12:1-8

Prayer

Compassionate God

We make choices every day
and we choose whether we are
extravagant in our love for you.

As Mary anointed you,
she ignored conventions of the time,

Holy Week Bible Readings

Holy Monday 14 th April	John 12:1-11
Holy Tuesday 15 th April	John 12:20-36
Holy Wednesday 16 th April	John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday 17 th April	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday 18 th April	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday 19 th April	John 19: 38-42
Easter Day 20 th April	Luke 24:1-12

There are other readings suggested for each day from the Old Testament, Psalms and Letters. These can be found at various online locations and at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

Maggie Roderick

A Thank You from John Dewar:

I would like to thank everyone for the most generous gifts which Helen and I received in Church a few Sundays ago as a thank you for my ten plus years as Treasurer and Helen's tolerance and patience during this time.

It has been a pleasure (mostly) and a privilege to serve as your treasurer for this period. May I take this opportunity to wish the very best to my successor(s). John H Dewar

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

The Kirk Session met on 24th March. This is the meeting when the Kirk Session as Charity Trustees reviews the last year - including considering and then approving the Annual Accounts and Report, an update on the condition of our buildings, and gets reports on other activities for which the Session is ultimately responsible. This was all duty completed for the last year and will form the basis of the Stated Annual Meeting for the congregation which will take place after Easter.

There were other updates as usual. One such update involved how we provide hospitality in St Matthew's. The Session received a letter from Joan Lackie retiring from the post of Hospitality Coordinator from 31st March 2025. For years, Joan has been looking after the planning, purchasing, arranging volunteers, and delivering a teas, coffees, and food service not only to church groups, but to groups which use our spaces and look for hospitality as part of their booking. This has been a quiet but essential ministry of providing a welcome to those who enter the church and halls. The Session expressed its gratitude for her years of service and wished her well for a happy retirement when she can enjoy hospitality in the church without having to do anything to make it happen!

However, this means that there is yet another important vacancy within the church. And again, would you be interested in helping to ensure that St Mathew's continues to provide a welcome and hospitality to those who cross our threshold? Please pray and think about this and chat to Rev Fiona or me about what you could do to help.

Who's in the pews?

Betty Lindores



Where were you born/brought up? I was born in Brechin in a cottage on the South Esk river, where my father was an estate worker.

What is/or was your occupation? I had a brief spell as a nanny when I was young, however I decided that wasn't for me! I was a receptionist, for a few years at the George Hotel. Latterly, I worked in retail and was employed in McEwan's department store for 32 years before retiring.

What brought you to St Matthew's? My husband Willie and I were members of the Middle Church. I think we were the last couple to be married there in 1962. It then merged with the 3 other churches to become St Matthew's.

Are you involved in any groups/or volunteering at St Matthew's or anywhere else? I am a member of the Guild

and part of the door welcome team. Though I am not so able now, I have always enjoyed volunteering at the coffee mornings, the flower rota and baking for events. It all brings about good fellowship.

Tell us about any hobbies you enjoy? In years gone by, Willie and I used to enjoy a game of golf, but now my hobbies are more sedentary in the form of knitting and baking.

What is the most surprising thing about you that we might not yet know? Everyone knows me as Betty, but in fact I was christened Beatrice. I was amazed to receive first prize every year in my cookery class at school!

Janet's Jottings

Cherish

I was walking down memory lane a couple of weeks ago. One of my Australian friends was chatting on the phone about being a Donny Osmond fan in her early teens. "Not me, I reminded her!" My teenage heart throb was David Cassidy. Despite her passion for Donny, she began to sing David's song 'Cherish', which was one of my favourites; causing us both to launch into song together, as we tried to remember the lyrics.

Cherish isn't a word that you hear used much these days, it does though, have a lovely sound to it – as if a warm glow surrounds it. According to my dictionary, it means "to show great tenderness for, to nurse, protect and care for. One can also treasure someone, something, or some special place. Or it can also mean to hold on to a hope or an ambition." Though sounding a bit like love, it appears to be an exalted form of love.

A lady called Jo Ann Larsen stated that it is "the highest, noblest, strongest feeling one person can have for another. Cherishing is a love for the other that has come to maturity, to fruition. It is a bonding not only of the physical, but of spiritual, emotional and intellectual



dimensions shared in common, with the other. Cherishing requires the sharing of time and space together” Though sounding a bit like love, it appears to be an exalted form of love. “I love you” can be easy words to say, but if we really love someone, we will cherish them. To cherish, validates the love of God, for in order to cherish someone, we also need to empathise with them.

In Romans 12:10 (NIV), I found some words that reflect what it means to cherish. *“Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Brotherly love is an excellent way to treat others. If we operate with kindness and affection and treat those around us as though we deeply care, we can be living out exactly what Jesus Christ called us to do.”*

Cherish those we love and those we struggle to love - and celebrate our differences. Cherish your memories, as well as cherishing those who are no longer able to remember –



for one day we may walk in their shoes. Live in the moment and cherish all your life experiences. We learn from the good, as well as the not so good, times.

Remember to tell those around that you cherish them and show them you are there for them.

Try not to carry regrets, as expressed in David Cassidy’s song “.....You don’t know how many times I wished that I had told you - I cherish you.”

Dream on Janet, dream on...!

Thank you from Kurabachew Tekleo (**Kura**)



Kura has been coming to worship at Matthew’s since August 2024. He has come here from Ethiopia as an Asylum seeker and has now been granted leave to remain. Kura has fitted in well at St Matthew’s and says he enjoys St Matthew’s hospitality. He has already volunteered to be part of the team doing odd jobs around the church.

Kura grew up as a Christian in Ethiopia in the Orthodox Church. He was delighted to find St Matthew’s Church to worship God. He is fascinated by the different style of worship but appreciates it very much. He is pleased to be accepted and supported by the St Matthew’s Church Family and would like to say ‘thank you’ to everyone.

St Matthew's **Walking group** meets on the first Saturday of each month, and April's walk (on April 5th) will be led by Fiona Bruce, Alan and Andrew Davies and will be around 4 miles on level ground in the Invergowrie area. Please contact Fiona (fmbruce6@googlemail.com) if you'd like to know more; new walkers are always welcome

RETIRAL OFFERING The retiral offering for Churches Action For The Homeless (CATH) raised £308.00. The Church Christmas card raised £121.00. £368.50 has been sent to CATH and £60.50 has been sent to the Christian Aid Gaza Appeal.

Sunday Morning Rotas for April

April Rota	Welcome	Beadle	Readers	Tea / Coffee	AV Desk
6th	Bridgend: Alastair Byers	Tom Morrison	Carolyn Byers	Marjorie Clark	Peter Barrett John Paton
13th	Gannochy: Wendy Burnett	Bill Chalmers	Lesley Mackie	Isobel Sinclair	Nicola Macnee Raymond Young
20th	Muirton: Janet Martin	Andy Turnbull	Chrissie Dodds	Joyce Thom	John Paton Andrew Davies
27th	Perth City: John Dewar	Malcolm Thom	Charlotte Proby	Wendy Burnett	Peter Barrett Alastair Byers

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 is due out on Friday 25th April. All contributions by Monday 21st April please to the Editor

David.roderick2@btinternet.com



'Publish the date of the jumble sale, but not the US bombing plans. Those were sent to us by mistake'