

The Kirk Quair

April- May 2022

Good News



New Life

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

From the Interim Moderator



Dear Friends,

It is once again a pleasure to write a few notes from the Interim Moderator. As I write, I am listening to yet more news of the invasion of Ukraine and the plight of the millions of people displaced either within the country or into Europe. I cannot even begin to imagine how they must feel. Families being torn apart, women and children leaving husbands, brothers, and fathers behind. Not knowing when, or if, they will meet again, Not knowing what will become of their towns and their homes.

The response from the rest of Europe and most of the rest of the world has been to throw open the doors and welcome the refugees into their countries and, for many, into their homes.

Governments have donated money and humanitarian aid and churches have reached out with assistance. Who could fail to be moved by the mountains of clothing being collected in Church halls to be transported to the Ukraine border.

In my sermon a few weeks ago, I told the story of a church in Strasbourg, France, which during the Second World War was destroyed. Little remained but rubble. When the rubble was cleared, a statue of Christ, standing erect, was found. It was unbroken except for the two hands, which were missing. In time, the church was rebuilt. A sculptor, noticing the missing hands on the statue of Christ, said, "Let me carve a new statue of Christ, with hands." Church officials met to consider the sculptor's proposal. His offer was rejected. A spokesman for the church said, "Our broken statue will serve to remind us that Christ touches the hearts of men but he has not a hand to minister to the needy or feed the hungry or enrich the poor except our hands."

As well as offering material aid, People of Faith are offering prayer. Prayer is powerful. I offer a prayer for Ukraine.

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.
Today, we weep over Ukraine.
We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.
We weep for those cowering in basements.
We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.
We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.
We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.
We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.
We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.
We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.
May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.
May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Your friend,

Alistair.

Why the Cross?

The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;
a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;
a picture of death, yet the key to life;
a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;
a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;
a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.



The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of love and peace. On the cross, Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

StAG News

Vacancy matters

As the closing date for applications was the 28th of February, the Nominating Committee are now working hard to find a new minister for us. Nothing more to report at the moment but, perhaps, there will be more news in time for the next magazine

Lent Appeal 2022

Last year we raised money for Tumaini's houses in Tanzania, this year we are fund raising for a local project - Guernsey's Rural Occupational Workshop's redevelopment project. The new premises will allow people with disabilities to be tutored and mentored in transferable skills in horticulture, wood and metal work, retail and hospitality with a retail space for the sale of plants grown and items manufactured on site and a cafe serving dishes made with their home grown fruit and vegetables.

Looking ahead

A committee has now been formed to plan and make arrangements for our anniversary celebrations later this year.



Soup & Sweet Lunch With Cake and Book Stalls



Morning Service on Sunday 13th February took the form of a thought provoking Songs of Praise and was led by our organist, Alan Boyle. Each of the hymns celebrated a hymn writer who had conquered adversity. Hymns 182 and 552, for example, were written respectively by a deaf composer and a blind minister.

The Soup and Sweet Lunch with cake and book stalls in the hall after the service was well attended and raised £444.80 for The Leprosy Mission.

Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting was held after morning service on Sunday 27th February



BEYOND OUR SHORES



When our last magazine was published at the beginning of February, Russian forces were amassing steadily on the Borders of Ukraine but little did some of us imagine that, in a matter of weeks, we would be seeing such harrowing pictures of destruction and desperation and that neighbouring European nations would be coping with a major influx of refugees.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine saying in a joint statement that: “The horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil. Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces. We call for a public decision to choose the way of peace and an international conference to secure long term agreements for stability and lasting peace.” They are urging Christians to keep praying for Ukraine, for Russia, and for peace.

A retiring collection for the Bailiffs Disaster Relief Fund for the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis on 13th March raised £1553 which will be passed on by the Bailiff to the Disasters Emergency Committee, a joint effort by 15 leading UK charities who work together at times of crisis

The following prayer of St Augustine may be of help when we pray for the people of the Ukraine, all who are drawn into this horrific conflict and all around the world who live their lives in places of war.

Watch now, dear Lord
With those who wake or watch or weep tonight
And give your angels charge
Over those who sleep

Tend your wounded ones, O Christ
Rest your weary ones
Bless your dying ones
Soothe your suffering ones
Shield your joyous ones
And all for your love's sake AMEN

From the Editor

This is undoubtedly the most difficult magazine I have had to produce in my ten year tenure of the editorial hot seat.. While events unfolding daily in Ukraine dominate the news and threaten to overshadow everything else, it is important to try to maintain perspective and to remember that, in just a few days, it will be Holy Week once again. Perhaps, it is worth repeating a story which has appeared in a previous edition linking Ukraine and Easter.

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end, there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: ‘Christ is risen!’

At once, the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, ‘He is risen indeed!’ It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no an-

swer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy.



He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?

Moving on to Easter, we have a reflection by Canon David Winter and a miscellany of serious and humorous thoughts on the subject! There are also the usual updates on some of the charities we support and an opportunity for the intrepid to spend time with Operation Mobilisation this coming summer. The downside is, of course, that anyone willing to have a go will have to write up their experience for us on their return!

It remains to wish you all a very happy Easter and I leave you with some wise words from Octavious Winslow, the prominent 19th-century evangelical preacher.

“Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy; but the Father, for love”

Ed

Christian aid

Christian aid was set up in 1945 by churches in Britain and Ireland in response to the post-war refugee crisis. On the Guernsey committee, we work alongside congregations from several other denominations.

It is no surprise to find that the charity is involved in Eastern Europe helping refugees, fleeing the present war in Ukraine. There is a lot of information online if you type in “Christian Aid and Ukraine.”

Christian Aid week will be from 9th-16th May and we have arranged bucket collections at several supermarkets during the year. On Saturday 28th May, St. Andrews in the Grange is manning the rota of volunteers at two M&S branches on the island. I am very grateful for those of you who have already added your names to the list in the Narthex at church. There are five slots still unfilled if you would like to give up an hour for a good cause.

There will be a retiring collection in May and I plan to hold another small Zoom quiz. Thank you for all your help, particularly when there are so many other deserving causes in need of support.

Stated Annual Meeting

As reported on page 4, the Stated Annual Meeting was held at the end of February and the following lines may provide some food for thought.

Dem Bones, dem bones!

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the Wishbones – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the Jawbones – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the Knucklebones – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the Backbones who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type of bone are you?

An Easter reflection by Canon David Winter.

“When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.” That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain. Still, it seemed to make sense.

After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died - but didn’t stay dead - in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about Easter, Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again?

Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days.

After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone rolled across the doorway. Yet the following Sunday, the third day after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.

So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn’t deny His resurrection, because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn’t have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn’t do it, because it

couldn't be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of 'ordinary' men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians and because, in many cases, their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn't make sense if He were dead! Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in someone who is alive and active in their own lives and in the world. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.

An Easter Miscellany

a	l	i	v	e	j	e	s	u	s	v	j
s	p	i	c	e	s	u	n	d	a	y	o
o	j	q	d	l	w	s	p	t	p	y	h
y	u	g	n	i	o	r	t	o	m	b	n
u	n	d	e	r	s	t	a	n	d	e	k
e	m	p	t	y	o	c	h	p	f	l	d
s	a	e	a	c	m	i	s	p	i	b	
d	r	t	k	r	e	m	q	p	a	e	o
s	y	e	e	y	o	d	o	r	l	v	d
m	o	r	n	i	n	g	f	v	f	e	y
t	s	t	o	n	e	a	n	g	e	l	s
r	e	c	o	g	n	i	s	e	d	d	y

John	Peter	empty
taken	stone	believe
understand	afraid	Jesus
moved	alive	morning
crying	cloths	body
tomb	someone	disciples
wrapped	Mary	angels
recognised	spices	Sunday

April showers

The rain, though raining every day upon the just and unjust fella, falls chiefly on the just, because the unjust has the just's umbrella.



Two donkeys



were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."



Why was the Easter bunny upset? He was having a bad hare day.

What is Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? Hip-hop, of course!

What do you call a rabbit that can tell a good joke? A funny bunny.





Prayer for the children



Can you hear the prayer of the children?
On bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room
Empty eyes with no more tears to cry
Turning heavenward toward the light

Crying Jesus, help me
To see the morning light-of one more day
But if I should die before I wake,
I pray my soul to take

Can you feel the hearts of the children?
Aching for home, for something of their very own
Reaching hands, with nothing to hold on to,
But hope for a better day, a better day

Crying Jesus, help me
To feel the love again in my own land
But if unknown roads lead away from home,
Give me loving arms, away from harm

Can you hear the voice of the children?
Softly pleading for silence in a shattered world?
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,
Blood of the innocent on their hands

Crying Jesus, help me
To feel the sun again upon my face,
For when darkness clears I know you're near,
Bringing peace again



“Over the years, I've written many songs with melodies more memorable, lyrics more poetic, and harmonies richer. But none of my compositions has had the kind of reach and emotional effect of *Prayer of the Children*. Ironically, I never intended to publish the song at all. I wrote it out of frustration over the horrendous civil war and ethnic cleansing taking place in the former country of Yugoslavia.” K Bestor

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

We might expect the time between Christmas and Easter to be relatively quiet but that has not been the case this year.

One particularly noteworthy event was the swearing in of our new Lt-Governor, Lt-General Richard Cripwell on Tuesday, 15th February. Our organist and Session Clerk were invited to attend the ceremony at



St James. Did you spot the photo in the Guernsey Press of the latter, resplendent in his scarlet academic robe.

Then, last month the Eisteddfod resumed at Beau Sejour, St A's being well represented with participants, stewards and spectators! The Welsh

Choir in which David and Peter sing were outstanding with a score of 90 for their performance and the adjudicator commenting that, for the first time ever, he was lost for words.

Before the competition started, permission was granted for the choir to sing a song unaccompanied in support of Ukraine. This was "Prayer of the Children" (opposite page), a prayer written by Kurt Bestor.

Something on the lighter side . . . Sunday school



A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his anxious mother, he explained: "This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"



Another little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and told his mother that the teacher was Jesus' grannie. Astonished, his mother asked: "Whatever makes you think that?"

Well, it's pretty obvious," said her son. "She never stopped talking about Him all morning. She told us Jesus is smarter and stronger and better-behaved than anyone else she knows. She even showed us a picture of Him. Who but a grannie would do that?"



Operation Mobilisation

Fancy a holiday with a difference this year? Have you ever heard of Operation Mobilisation (OM). Want to do something meaningful with them, then, why not consider going on an Operation Mobilisation short-term outreach?

OM gives two good reasons as to why you might want to go:

Firstly, short-term outreaches “push you out of your comfort zone, meaning you’re compelled to trust Him in ways you might not usually have to. “It could be trusting Him practically with travel plans, or spiritually to give you the right words to say through the Holy Spirit at a particular moment. As you witness in word and action, you also allow God to work through you. Offering to pray for someone, or just sitting and listening to them, can create space for people to encounter Jesus.”

Secondly, short-term teams increase the capacity of long-term teams. OM only ever sends short-term teams to places where long-term teams are already established. This means that short-termers can increase the capacity of existing ministries.

For example, in Adaševci refugee camp in Serbia, short-term volunteers go to serve hot drinks, do laundry and chat to refugees in the tea tent run by OM. This frees up the long-term team to engage in the more strategic, logistical or administrative work that needs doing.

OM offers a variety of short-term outreach opportunities: 1 week trips up to 6 months; Christian gap years; mission outreaches in the UK; overseas outreaches all around the world; and finally, mission trips for church groups, families, individuals and couples. For more details, please visit: <https://www.uk.om.org>

Bible Reading Fellowship celebrates its first 100 years

The work of BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) recently featured in BBC One’s long-running programme Songs of Praise. Presented by Kate Bottley, the programme explored the power of the Bible to transform lives. It included features highlighting BRF’s ministries Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith and MessyChurch, along with interviews with chief executive Richard Fisher, Anna Chaplaincy founder Debbie Thrower and BRF author Amy Boucher Pye.

BRF has its roots in St Matthew’s Church in Brixton, south London,

where, towards the end of 1921, the vicar, the Revd Leslie Mannering, was talking with a member of the congregation about the spiritual needs of the church. What could be done to help people ‘get a move on’ spiritually?’

In January 1922, the Fellowship of St Matthew was launched, with the aim of encouraging spiritual growth through prayer, Bible reading and communion. Leslie Mannering produced a leaflet of daily Bible readings, reflections and prayers which, as Richard Fisher explains in the programme, “had such a transforming effect on his congregation that before long other churches in the area started asking if they could have copies for their own congregations.”

In the years following 1922, the BRF work grew into a worldwide ministry. Even today, the encouragement and resourcing of daily Bible reading remains at the heart of BRF’s Living Faith ministry, alongside newer initiatives such as Anna Chaplaincy, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith.

Richard (Dick) William McIntosh

Dick, known as Richard to his side of the family, was born in Glasgow on the 3rd September 1945. He was a happy child and won a bursary to Hutcheson’s Boys Grammar School. He developed a love of sport and was a lifelong supporter of Celtic Football Club. From school, he went to St Andrew’s University where, instead of applying himself to his studies, he played golf! After a year, he returned to Glasgow to train as a chartered accountant and, in his spare time, took up tennis. That is where he met Elizabeth, his wife of 51 years, and much to their delight, they were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Emma.

In 1981, he saw a job advertised in Guernsey, moved here with his family and loved island life so much that, when he completed his 15 years under licence, he threatened to change his name to Le McIntosh!

He was an active member of this Congregation and served as an elder, treasurer, session clerk and a worship team member. He loved church life and was always willing to help anyone at any time. In retirement, he took an Open University course and graduated from Edinburgh University with a First Class Honours Degree

He treasured friendships he made through the Church and, particularly, that with George Lugton, a former minister, with whom he and Elizabeth shared many holidays. He will be sadly missed



Church Calendar



April

Sunday	10	10.30	Palm Sunday. Morning Worship followed by lunch at Les Cotils (Covid permitting)
Thursday	14	19.00	Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion and supper (Covid permitting)
Friday	15	19.00	Good Friday. Evening Service
Sunday	17	10.30	Easter Day. Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	24	10.30	Morning Worship
		18.30	Evening Service

May

Sunday	1	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	8	10.30	Morning Worship. Liberation Day
Sunday	15	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	22	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	29	10.30	Morning Worship

June

Sunday	5	10.30	Morning Worship
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NB: The Rev Alistair Cumming, our Interim Moderator, will be leading our Easter services and, then, on Sunday, 5th June, we will be welcoming Rev. Dr George Whyte who is one of the 10 Chaplains in Ordinary to Her Majesty's Household in Scotland. Since 2017, he has been Principal Clerk to the General Assembly but will be stepping down in May and we understand that the service at St Andrew's will be the last before his retirement



Attribution.

The editor is grateful to Chris George Photography for providing us with the photograph from the Guernsey Press and permission to reproduce it and also to Kurt Bestor for so readily permitting us to reproduce his Prayer of the Children



Meet & Greet

April

- 10 Edith & Paul
- 17 Jo & Iain
- 24 Charmaine & George

May

- 1 Eleanor & Niall
- 8 Avril & Christine
- 15 Sally & Stuart
- 22 Norma & Peter
- 29 Amanda & Steven

June

- 5 Beth & Emily

Sunday Readers

April

- 10 Sally
- 14 Stuart
- 15 Fiona
- 17 Neil
- 24 To be chosen

May

- 1 Alan
- 8 John
- 15 Peter
- 22 Amanda
- 29 Iain

June

- 5 Sarah



Flower Rota

April

- 10 Isobel
- 17 Easter
- 24 Carolyn

May

- 1 Bunty
- 8 Hilary
- 15 Liz
- 22 Fiona
- 29 Audrey

June

- 5 Hilary

Monthly Coordinator:

- April Sue
- May Audrey
- June Leila



Would you believe it?

It was 175 years ago, on 3rd March 1847 that Alexander Graham Bell, Scottish-born American engineer, and scientist, was born. He was credited with inventing the first practical telephone. Just imagine life today if he hadn't!



Church Register

Deaths

6th March 2022 Richard William McIntosh

Church of Scotland

St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey

Interim Moderator
Rev Alistair Cumming

Website: cofsguernsey.org.gg
Email: acumming@churchofscotland.org.uk

Sunday service is held at 10.30 am each week with a creche available for the very young. Details of activities for older children are given in the Church Calendar.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

Car parking is available, by courtesy of the States of Guernsey at the Lukis House car park, 80 yards down the Grange and also at Healthspan (windscreen stickers must be displayed at the latter). Both car parks are on the same side of the road as the Church .

Session Clerk	Mr Neil Houston Neil.Houston2812@gmail.com	Tel 07810 000727
Treasurer	Mr Steven Jones	Tel 720547
Freewill Offering	Mr David Lewis-Jones	Tel 726561
Safeguarding Officer	Ms Ethel Robb	Tel 264559
Church Organist	Jurat Dr Alan Boyle	Tel 246153
Creche Organiser	Mrs Amanda Jones amandajones.gsy@gmail.com	Tel 720547
Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781 132699
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