

The Kirk Quair

June-July 2020



to the
Church

Pentecost Sunday 2020

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

From the Minister's Desk



During the recent lock down period, Spring has Sprung and we now need to prepare for the ‘new normal.’ What has been encouraging during the COVID 19 crisis is that it has brought people together to help, support and encourage one another. It has also given us time at home to tackle jobs which never quite seem to get to the top of the jobs to do list! In some places; gardens, garages and spare rooms have never looked so tidy. But it has also been a catalyst to bring the Churches, Nationally and Internationally closer together. The Church of Scotland has drawn upon work done by the Evangelical Church in Germany and the United Reformed Church in England to help prepare plans and guidance on how to reopen our churches and to prepare for the ‘new normal.’

Here, in Guernsey, the crisis has produced good ecumenical relations and a new spirit and willingness to work together. Perhaps believing we really are ‘better together’ will be one of the legacies of the coronavirus. We must try to look forward in hope as we reflect on the lock down and how strange things have been between Easter and Pentecost 2020, where like the first disciples, we are waiting to discover God’s new intention for us. It would be easy to look backwards at how things used to be. It would be easy to assume that we can get back to that state – and even make plans to “resume fishing on Galilee.” Having all experienced the pandemic differently, moving forwards will happen at different speeds and in different ways for each of us.

A discussion paper for the re-opening of Churches, prepared by the United Reformed Church, invites all Elders; Church Members and Congregations to reflect upon such questions as: “Where are the signs of hope? Where might we find the green shoots of new life? What shall we do differently, and how shall we live differently, as we work through the pandemic and emerge into this new season? How shall we relate positively to self, to neighbour and to God through and after this

pandemic?” To ponder and discuss as we prepare to emerge from lockdown is surely a good thing for us all to do.

The Reverend Carla Grosch-Miller from the URC encourages us to reflect that we are on a journey through a pandemic, not knowing our destination, but aware we follow in a line of saints of old, who have set off before us in the footsteps of Jesus, walking the way. Like those before us, we may travel with faith and doubt, hope and fear, and, perhaps, have a holy encounter along the way. That we travel at all will mean that we are changed. Pilgrimage is about taking and risking such a journey, faith is knowing that we are accompanied by God, hope is in a Kingdom destination, and love may be experienced with companions.

Let this reflection lead you into a time of prayer, thanking God for His close presence, and asking for courage to face the uncertainties, and wisdom to understand the direction ahead and the speed at which you should travel. Each week during the COVID 19 Crisis we have drawn strength from the Psalms and prayed:

May the Strength of God Pilot us
May the Power of God Preserve us
May the Wisdom of God Instruct us
May the Hand of God Protect us.

With all good wishes and every blessing David

Pause for thought

“This virus is infectious but a SMILE is much more so”



‘Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’ - *Joshua 1:9*



During the lockdown, bread making courses have been the in thing. Very calming and spiritual. For years my sourdough bread has resulted in inedible bricks. I have recently improved. If anyone would like to have a starter mixture and some instructions I would be delighted to send them on. Good luck. Contact me at paul@riley.org.gg

StAG News



It is encouraging that the restrictions of “lock down” are being eased and churches may now re-open for worship.

Well ... sort of! Unfortunately, it's not quite that simple because the number permitted at any one time is limited to 30 including the minister and organist. Social distancing has to be maintained, names, addresses and contact details of those attending will have to be recorded and there will be strict requirements for hand sanitising and cleaning of the church between services. As these procedures will have to be put in place over the coming days, it has been decided that this Sunday will be a virtual service only and will be different because it includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time “on air.”

All being well it is hoped to be able to reopen the building for worship on Sunday 7th June but

please be patient as the details are worked out. Because of the strict limitation on the number allowed to attend, the virtual services which have been so successful over the past few months, will be continuing for the time being. .

To tune in or catch up on Services you may have missed, go to YouTube, search for St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey and select the service you want to watch. It's as easy as that!

VE and Liberation Day



The celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe and the Liberation of our island could not proceed as planned but, at least, we were able to join up with The Royal British Legion for one of our special virtual services on VE day. At the last count, there had been 175 views and, bearing in mind that many of these views will have been by more than one person, that is a pretty impressive congregation in modern times.



From Ed's bubble

When Ed migrated from his bunker into his bubble, he was greatly heartened to hear of families who have opted to “bubble” with lonely neighbours and friends rather than their children and grandchildren. What a thoughtful, caring and generous gesture. Fortunately, as we go to “press”, we are entering “phase 4”, another step forward but not yet big enough to burst our bubbles entirely, it seems!

This time, we have an update from Ailsa on her foraging, Paul

tells of his new found vocation as a master baker and Heidi, one of Ed's granddaughters, who has found respite from essay writing in drawing, has kindly updated our image on page 2!

The media has focussed on one thing and one thing only in recent months but other things have been happening beyond our shores. Cyclone Amphan, for example, has swept through India and Bangladesh leaving at least 106 dead. and over 3 million evacuated. The relief work of churches and charities goes on though. (page 6&7)

Ed

Foraging update!

Since writing my last piece for the magazine, I have been a busy bee around St Andrews collecting plants and finding new recipes! I have even inspired some of my friends to start identifying flowers they see out on their walks.



So what have I been up to? Well, I took a long walk down by our beautiful cliffs and collected some gorse from the striking bushes along our coast. From the flowers I made gorse cordial - which created a bright, sweet, canary-yellow cordial which we added to our gin and tonics on Liberation day! I have made elderflower cordial - one of my favourite tastes. I have pickled rock samphire, roasted sea radish and pickled dandelion buds to add to new potatoes to create a rather yummy potato salad. My family and I went foraging for wild garlic and roasted it up with our roast chicken, this is now one of my firm favourites.

Foraging has made me feel very at peace and I now look at Guernsey with a renewed appreciation for our beautiful island. So, what will I be up to next? I am excited to make dandelion honey and someone has recommended I add wood sorrel to a salad as it creates a lovely taste. Wish me luck!

BEYOND OUR SHORES



Emergency Coronavirus Appeal Launch

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched an Emergency Coronavirus Appeal, to equip those living in some of the world's most vulnerable communities to combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Coronavirus poses a catastrophic threat to communities with weaker healthcare systems, or those who lack access to clean water and hand-washing facilities.

In Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya, staff are being provided with essential personal protective equipment. In Cameroon, internally displaced families are being provided with vital hand sanitiser to help protect themselves from the virus. In Uganda, families who would have no means of accessing markets following the banning of public transport are being lent sanitised bicycles.

In addition to this, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain are supporting Rohingya refugees living in the camps of Cox's Bazar, helping to maintain essential health services, deliver soap and hygiene items, and provide community healthcare education.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/emergency-coronavirus-appeal-launch/>

Nigeria – slaughter continues during time of lockdown

Fulani militants have continued to carry out attacks against Christians in Plateau State Nigeria, despite the coronavirus lockdown. In the latest attack, at a village near the capital of Jos, extremists murdered two five-year-old children and a three-year-old infant.

Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world, has again been calling on the Nigerian government to take urgent steps to protect its vulnerable Christian communities from attack – even as they face the new threat of the coronavirus.

A message from Christian Aid

Patrick Watt, Christian Aid's Director of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns, said: "Debt repayments falling due this year should be cancelled in full if we want African countries to have a fighting chance of limiting the spread of coronavirus, and surviving the hit to their economies.

“It is completely perverse that dozens of the world’s poorest countries are expected to pay debts to wealthy creditors in the midst of the biggest global health challenge in a generation and the worst economic downturn since the 1930s. At this moment, cancelling the debt is a matter of life and death.”

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

May is the month when the General Assembly meets in Edinburgh and the new Moderator is installed. No Assembly this year but the Installation of Rev Dr Martin Fair did go ahead although in a somewhat unusual format. A video of the event can be viewed on the church website (www.churchofscotland.org.uk) together with transcripts of the major speeches. A special edition of Heart and Soul was streamed live on 17th May and can also be viewed on the Church website.

On 31st May, Pentecost, the new Moderator will lead a service to mark the birthday of the Christian Church with contributions from many different places. The service will be streamed live on the Church of Scotland website and Facebook from 10-10.30 am



Seen on a church noticeboard!

The fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

Please put your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Pot luck supper Sunday at 5pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm. at the First Presbyterian Church Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

And elsewhere... At a towing company: “We don’t charge an arm and a leg. We want your tows.”

In a vet’s waiting room: “Back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

On the chiropodist’s door “Time wounds all heels!”

... and on the door of the Labour Ward.. “Push!”

31st May - Day of Pentecost: Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to

the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

Ascension and beyond...

No one could have predicted how Jesus would come into this world but neither could they have predicted how He would leave it. No one could have been more surprised than His friends when they witnessed His ascension. So it has been with God from the beginning of time. He constantly surprises us.

Jesus left the world for the benefit of those He was leaving behind, that is the way of God, always working for what is best.

The Ascension is, perhaps, not something we give a lot of thought to but for Jesus' first disciples, it must have been a momentous event, a final letting go of their Lord, their master and

their friend but the wrench led to a permanent link between God and His people.

The Coronavirus has left many terrified and most wondering what is going to happen next. What will the world look like after the virus, not only because of the disease but also economically?

No one can answer these questions with any degree of certainty but through God's gift of Himself, we can be held with a sense of calm when all around us is a life full of question marks.

The question marks aren't removed but we have the assurance that God is with us, and for us, whatever life may throw at us.

Smile lines ...

Every morning, a little girl would follow her mother into the bathroom to watch her putting on her makeup before going to work. During coronavirus, the mother stopped bothering with makeup, much to her daughter's confusion. "Mummy," she cried early on in the lockdown: "Come back! You forgot to kiss the toilet paper goodbye!"

Question: Why didn't they play cards on the ark?

Answer: Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

Question: What time of day was Adam created?

Answer: Just a little before Eve.

Question: Does God love everyone?

Answer: Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.



Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Church of Scotland: St Andrews in The Grange invites you on 31st May to take part in our “*Virtual Congregational Lunch*”.

We invite people:

- 1. To make a nice lunch at home,**
- 2. To take a photo of it (either with or without yourselves in the picture) and**
- 3. To share it with us through our Facebook page or website* by sending it to: standrewsinthe grange@gmail.com**
- 4. whilst at the same time making a donation to Christian Aid by one of the following methods:**
 - By sending a cheque to Christian Aid Guernsey’s treasurer Steve England BEM, Lucana, 7 Glebe Clos, St Peter Port, GY1 1SE**
 - Donating directly to Christian Aid Guernsey’s bank account: Christian Aid Gsy, sort code: 40-22-25, account 04359763 using their link via their website page <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give>**



[Thank You from Church of Scotland: St Andrews in The Grange](#)

*It will be assumed that if you provide a photograph, you consent for it to be published on our social media pages and/or website

SERVICE UPDATE

15 May 2020



Myself and the children cannot thank you enough, not enough words to say how truly grateful we are.

OMG thank you so much. There are no words for the gratitude of this massive kindness. Thank you. How do I repay you for this?

Received my delivery and it brought tears to my eyes. Couldn't have come at a better time as I'm left with zero funds until next week. Once again thank you so much!

Thank you so much. I've received the parcel and my kids went crazy over the sweets—I didn't expect so much, thank you!

Thank you so much for our food parcel, really appreciated. Thank you for all your hard work and helping lots of people in need.

GUERNSEY WELFARE

Trinity Church Centre

Trinity Square

St Peter Port

GY1 1LP

Phone:

07839 724300

Email:

guernseywelfare@cwgsy.net



We continue to send out around 75 food parcels to households each week, though the last couple of weeks have been a little busier. As you will see from the comments alongside, these are a generous size made up of store cupboard, fresh and frozen food together with items such as nappies, toilet rolls, toiletries, cleaning products etc when needed.

We want people to feel valued by what they receive and try to tailor them to meet their individual needs. It can be difficult sometimes for people to ask for help and we try hard to get the message out there that we are available to help all who are struggling at this time, even those who would normally never consider going to a foodbank for help. This can understandably be difficult and is still a barrier we are trying to break down in order to direct our help where it is most needed.

During this period Guernsey has celebrated Liberation Day and we joined in with that by sending out goody bags to families. These contained treats and flags to decorate. Courtesy of Jill Vaudin we also received 120 boxes of fudge which we sent out with our parcels to help celebrate this special day for our Island.

We continue to value all the support we receive—financial, food donations via Waitrose, Co-Op and Alliance collection points and a number of organisations who support us and, of course, our volunteers who help in a variety of ways. Thank you for your support and interest in what we do.

Sue Le Fricc, Guernsey Welfare Service Co-Ordinator
On behalf of all Directors, staff and volunteers

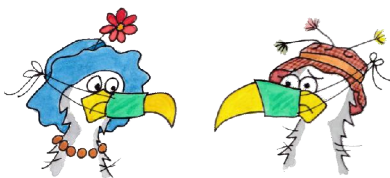
FLOCKDOWN!

Percy, Pip and Polly
Were not feeling very grand
A virus, worse than bird flu,
Was sweeping through the land.
It's not that they felt poorly,
They hadn't caught it yet
But they couldn't go out flying,
They were staying home instead.



They washed with soap and water,
Wore masks and took great care
Not to touch their faces
Or sneeze into the air.
They had to use a tissue
And throw it in the bin
They couldn't leave the nest for now
They were staying in.

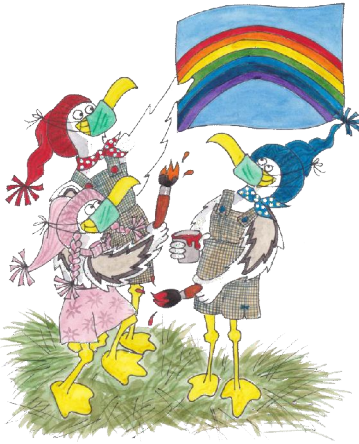
Mum and Dad had grounded them
'You cannot fly,' they said.
'You'll have to stay here in the nest.
Amuse yourselves instead.'



Percy started singing
To lift his spirits high
♪ 'Somewhere over the rainbow,
Seagulls fly...'
Pip joined in beside him,
'I like that song,' he grinned
I wish that we could fly up high
I don't like staying in.'

'We must, for now,' Mum added,
'We mustn't catch the germ
Or pass it on to others
It's safer here at home.
'I know!' said Polly, smiling,
'I have a great idea!
Let's paint ourselves a rainbow

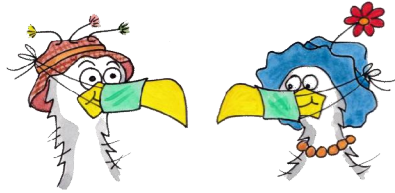




We'll put it over here.
Everyone can see it
It will cheer them up, you bet.
Rainbows are a sign of hope -
Stay positive, don't fret.'

They fetched their paints and brushes,
A piece of paper too
And soon the brightest rainbow
Started coming into view.
And then when it was painted
They dried it with their wings
For exercise is vital
For healthy living things.

They hung it on their grassy nest
It could be seen for miles
It sent a message loud and clear
Making others smile.
'Well done,' their parents praised them,
'You've started quite a trend
Look around, the other nests
Have rainbows just the same!'



They looked out here they looked out there
Across the grassy dunes
And they could hear gulls singing
The 'Over the Rainbow' tune.

And so while things are really tough
And you are stuck indoors
Do what Percy, Pip and Poll did
Make the rainbow yours.



Paint a rainbow big and bright
To make your neighbours smile
And hang it in your window
And spread the smiles for miles.

Reproduced by kind permission of Megs Bailey



Church Calendar



Sunday services should be starting shortly when the necessary arrangements are in place. The calendar is included as a guide but may well change as we progress out of lockdown. Evening services and Sunday School are on hold for the moment but will resume when appropriate.

June

Sunday	7	10.30	Trinity Sunday, Morning Worship
Sunday	14	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	21	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	28	10.30	Morning Worship
Tuesday	30	19.30	Kirk Session meets in the Hall

July

Saturday	4		Wedding
Sunday	5	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	12	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	19	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	26	10.30	Morning Worship

August

Sunday	2	10.30	Morning worship
Sunday	9	10.30	Morning Worship
Saturday	16	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	23	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	30	10.30	Morning Worship

Church Register

There have been no new entries in the Register.

With Trinity Sunday in mind

No wonder that the doctrine of the Trinity is inexplicable, seeing that the nature of God is incomprehensible. Our faith must assent to what our reason cannot comprehend, otherwise we can never be Christians. - *Francis Burkitt, theologian*

Virtual rotas!

As this is our bimonthly edition, the rotas are included as usual but will only apply when we reopen the building. Hopefully very soon.

If you are on the list of readers, you may be invited to join the small team who will still be recording the next “digital” service but please remember that there is no obligation to do so.

There are fresh flowers in church each week for our virtual services and if you would like to contribute please contact the flower convenor, Carolyn



Door Duty

As and when!

7 Christina & David
14 Edith & Paul
21 Sally & Stuart
28 Jo & Iain

5 Morna & Peter
12 Charmaine & George
19 Amanda & Steven
26 Ethel & Patricia

2 Avril & Christine

Flower Rota June-August



June
7 Christina
14 Leila
21 Patricia
28 Nancy
July
5 Liz
12 Jean
19 Amanda
26 Edith
August
2 Sally
9 Gay
16 Liz
23 Isobel
30 ?Herm?

Monthly Coordinator:

June Leila
July Amanda
August Liz

Sunday Readers



Stuart
Peter
Ethel
Iain

Grace
Hilary
Charmaine
Elizabeth Mc

August

Alan

Church of Scotland

St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey

The Minister

Rev Dr David Coulter

The Manse

Le Villocq, Castel GY5 7SB

Tel 257345

Website: cofsguernsey.org.gg

Email: dcoulter@churchofscotland.org.uk

Sunday service is usually 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 except at Eastertime when it is on Easter Sunday but not this year.

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	Dr Hilary Boyle theboyles@cwgsy.net	Tel 246153
Treasurer	Mr Steven Jones	Tel 720547
Freewill Offering	Mr David Lewis-Jones	Tel 726561
Safeguarding Officer	Mr George Taylor	Tel 07781 100132
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
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus billharcus@cwgsy.net	Tel 263688