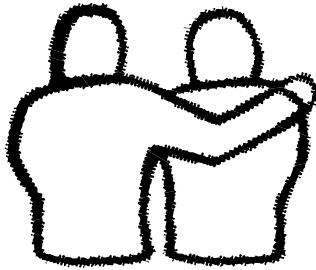


# The Kirk Quair

April-May 2020



Love one another as I have loved you  
*John 13 v34*

St Andrew's  
In the Grange  
Church of Scotland

# From the Minister's Desk



Many will have been saddened by the decision to suspend Church Services during the Coronavirus Crisis. Initially, I felt that, even in wartime, Churches remained open as places where people could gather, worship and pray together and to find some sacred space, peace and comfort in a time of need. I know this decision to close places of worship was not taken lightly nor in haste. It is for the good of all and, if nothing else, has caused many churches to think about new ways to engage with their members and the wider community in order to promote the Christian message that we are people of faith who worship and pray that God in his mercy will continue to guide and direct us on our life's journey.

It is perhaps significant to note that, while the services have been suspended, we as a Church are very much still in business. Our love and care for one another has not diminished in fact it is even more important to look after one another and to care for one another. I would like to thank all our Elders for taking a lead and for establishing firm communications with the members of their district. If you need help or support or simply a friendly voice to talk to then please do not hesitate to ask by picking up the phone or sending an email to arrange a time to chat. More than ever, we need to hold on to the premise that we really are a Church of “Open Hearts; Open Minds and Open Faiths”.

The world of Cecil B DeMille, let alone Steven Spielberg, eludes me but we are doing our best with a small and gallant band of determined folk to produce a weekly online service. I am most grateful to Neil for accompanying me on this journey of isolation and for Stephen's skill at editing the finished product. We do not have a hi-tech editing suite but we are doing our best and we hope you will forgive the human foibles and unforced errors. To protect the innocent, I must claim full responsibility for all and any errors on stage or screen!

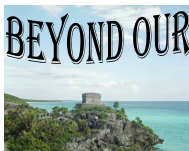
Last but not least, it goes without saying but please do continue to

think and pray for one another. If someone's face comes to mind say a prayer for them and, maybe, drop them a message, a note or just let them know they are not forgotten. After all, we all like to feel wanted.

Finally, for now we have decided to set aside the idea of a weekly newsletter. Our friends in St Columba's, Jersey have a great Newsletter and we aren't yet ready to take them on. We will, however, continue to send a weekly update to the Elders each Friday and hope that any vital information can be passed on. Meanwhile and for as long as this crisis lasts, I will continue to use the St Patrick's Prayer:

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  
AMEN

David



**BEYOND OUR SHORES** On 23rd February, Dick closed his reflection on recent trips to Kenya by telling us of a historical connection between St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Nairobi and St Andrew's in the Grange, the late Alan Langmaid having acted as Organist in both. It was only after the Service that Patricia told Dick of a further link. Some time ago, when we changed from CH2 to CH3, Alan was instrumental (pardon the pun!) in arranging for the old books to be sent to our namesake church in Kenya.

Recent television pictures have shown the distribution of soap to families living in Kibera on the outskirts of Nairobi. Kibera is widely regarded as the largest slum in the whole of Africa, so presents a massive challenge to those trying to contain the spread of the Coronavirus. And it is in desperate need of all the support it can get.

Happily, just as we are striving to support the Eleanor Foundation's work in neighbouring Tanzania, our friends at Forest Methodist Church have, over recent years, raised funds for the benefit of the children attending Kibera Academy and for equipment for the linked Kibera Farm Project. Most recently and very impressively they have managed to pay for a tractor. Without in any way distracting from our own efforts, we can surely all applaud this and pray for their continuing success and the wellbeing of all concerned.

# StAG News



Congratulations to the team who rallied round so quickly and have brought services to us in our own homes. They have been watched and appreciated not only by members of our own fellowship but others too. Thank you.

## *The Daffodil Tea*



The daffodil afternoon tea in the church hall on Saturday 29th February was very well attended. There were daffodils everywhere: in vases on the tables and even on the napkins. We are delighted to say that the event raised £200 for our local charity, Grow.



## *Lent Study Group*

### **Opening the scriptures: setting our hearts on fire**

What biblical text sets your heart on fire? This question is central to our Lent course for 2020.

This phrase is drawn from one of the most evocative and treasured New Testament episodes – the account of a mysterious stranger who meets two people journeying on the road to Emmaus, whose identity is eventually revealed as the three of them break bread together (Luke 24: 13-38). After the realisation dawns that their fellow traveller was none other than Jesus himself, the two disciples say to each other: ‘Were not our hearts burning within us...’

Taking this biblical story as its starting point, the course invited us to ‘open the scriptures’ and read them with both our hearts and our heads. We were really encouraged that up to 15 members of the Congregation attended this course which met each Monday during Lent that is, of course, until the COVID 19 measures were introduced and

we were forced to suspend Church services. We did have one meeting with strict social distancing but a subsequent plan to meet in the Church was abandoned due to the burden of responsibility to the direction and guidance given by the States and by the Church of Scotland. Also, we felt it would be a bad witness to ignore the rules and better to comply with good grace.

This was a really well written and informative course which you can find by simply Googling: CTBI Lent 2020

### *Dedication of the vestry*

Work on the creation of a new room by partitioning off part of the narthex has been completed and the new room was dedicated during the morning service on March 15th by the minister and some young helpers who released the Saltire covering the doorway. Although called “The Vestry”, it will be a multipurpose area.



### *Guernsey Welfare*

No lunches planned at the moment but watch this space!

### *An appeal for volunteers!*

It has been brought to our attention that the government is struggling to maintain an adequate supply of toilet tissue during these unprecedented times but, fortunately, an alternative method of production has been devised. (See above). We urgently need nimble fingered knitters, therefore, to join Leila’s craft group and come to the aid of the nation. Only kidding!



### *Churches Together*

Churches Together in England (CTE) is encouraging Christians across our nations to continue uniting in prayer, praying #PrayersOfHope in their homes at 7.00 pm each Sunday evening.

There is a candle poster for those who would like to place a permanent symbol of Christ’s light shining in the darkness in their front window. Visit [www.cte.org.uk/prayersofhope](http://www.cte.org.uk/prayersofhope)

The poster has been made available to avoid the potential fire risk of live candles on window-sills.

‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’ John 1:5



## *From Ed's bunker*

The image on the front cover is not intended to suggest that we contravene the present “social distancing” recommendations but merely to illustrate John’s words that we reach out to one another in these very difficult times. As David suggests (p3), there are many ways of so doing without physical contact..

The pandemic has no regard for geographical or national boundaries but we must not imagine that we are all in “the same boat.” Different countries are facing different challenges. In India, for example, vast numbers of people with no work and no food are walking back to their villages from the cities, elsewhere natural disasters are adding to the problems and some authoritarian regimes are seizing the opportunity to consolidate their power. Please keep those less fortunate than ourselves in your prayers.

We are probably all familiar with this poster produced by the British Government in 1939 in preparation for the Second World War. Sound advice but in the words of Robin Sarstedt’s old lyric “baby keep your distance, you know my re-



sistance is low.”

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of that war, the liberation of our islands from Occupation (P9) and also that of the concentration camps.

We recently read about “The Tartan Pimpernel” and, this time, it’s the turn of “Padre Mac” (p8), minister of St Georges West in my student days, renowned for his “war stories.” Had I known the part he played in the “Great Escape” from Stalag Luft III, I might have paid more attention to his sermons!

At the beginning of Easter week, it also seems relevant to include the story of a Polish Catholic Priest imprisoned in Auschwitz. who, like Jesus, gave his life that others might live. (p8)

Shortly after the end of the war, several ex RAF personnel formed a Christian charity to fly small aircraft to remote places. Now the largest humanitarian airline in the world, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is also celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and, if life has returned to normal by then, we are planning to hold a fund raising event in September in support of their amazing outreach.(p11).

**Ed**

## *A message from the Treasurer*

### **Church Finances during the Covid-19 suspension of Sunday Worship**

As we start this period without Sunday worship services, our first thoughts are for those self-isolating because they have been away, or are feeling unwell, or are in the more vulnerable age or health categories. Whilst we are not meeting together on Sundays, the work of the church is continuing. This means that we will still need to meet the normal expenses of running the church. In addition, there will likely be extra expenses as we look at ways of maintaining the links within the church family.

As treasurer, I am impressed by the generosity of the church family and I ask that you consider how you will be able to maintain support for the work of our church during this period. We will look at options for receiving the money offerings that would otherwise have been made through the services. I will provide an update in the next edition of the magazine.

At this time I want to consider the options of making those offerings by Standing Order or cheque. If you would like to use a standing order please contact me and I will send you details. If you would prefer to send a cheque from time to time please also contact me and I will send you further details.

If possible, please contact me by email at [smjones@guernsey.net](mailto:smjones@guernsey.net) and if that is not possible my telephone number is 720547.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe.

Steven Jones  
Congregational Treasurer

### *Seen on a church noticeboard!*

With the recent announcement that all church services, baptisms and weddings are to be postponed, the notice seen on a church notice board may be very relevant.



### **Baptisms: after Easter:**

**The North and South ends of the church will be utilised. Children will be baptised at both ends.**

## *The Great Escape'*

A Church of Scotland minister nicknamed 'Padre Mac,' chaplain for the men of Stalag Luft III, has been named as the inspiration behind the Great Escape.

The Revd Professor Murdo Ewen Macdonald's "fiery sermons" motivated the famous breakout from a German Prisoner of War camp in March 1944 according to author and historian, Dr Linda Parker, in her recently published book "Nearer My God to Thee: Airborne Chaplains in the Second World War" ISBN 9781912866120

While the Great Escape is often heralded as a plan masterminded by English officers and Padre Mac has only been credited with a minor role in hiding tunnel sand, the historian claims that his influence was possibly far more significant.

"Murdo Ewen Macdonald, known as Padre Mac, may have been the 'inspiration that led to many great escapes during the Second World War," she says. "He was moved to Stalag Luft III, where the Great Escape would take place in March 1944. Here, he befriended Roger Bushell, and Harry 'Wings' Day, both instigators and organisers of

the Great Escape."

The book tells the full story of padres who accompanied the airborne forces to all theatres of war between 1942-1945.

### **"Lest we forget"**

Each year we hear these familiar words around the time of Remembrance Day and in the 75th anniversary year of the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, it's appropriate to remember the story of an internee, Fr Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest.

When a prisoner escaped from the camp on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1941, the authorities selected ten men to die in the starvation bunker.

One of the men, Francis Gajinisdok, cried, *'My poor wife and my children. They'll never see me again!'*

Then, Kolbe stepped forward and said, *"I'm a Catholic priest. I don't have a wife and children and I am willing to die instead of this man."* and followed the other nine into the bunker. Remarkably, he got the prisoners praying and singing hymns and transformed the atmosphere in the bunker. He was the last person to die and after two weeks he was given a lethal injection and died at the age of 47.



# LIBERATION DAY

*75th Anniversary*

“...and our dear  
Channel Islands  
are also to be freed  
today”



On a recent visit to Yorkshire, Ed was somewhat surprised when leafing through the local newspaper, The Hull Daily Mail, to see a banner headline “Snow in Guernsey.” Well, there certainly wasn’t when he left home the previous day! He soon discovered that this was not a meteorological observation but a piece about a visit to our island by the historian and broadcaster, Dan Snow, who has been coming here since he was a child and recently filmed a documentary “The Islands of Guernsey - Secrets of Hitler’s Island Fortress.” This can be viewed online ([www.historyhit.com](http://www.historyhit.com)). Be warned, you can watch for free but have to register because it’s a subscription service! You can also listen to his half hour podcast in which he interviews four survivors of the Occupation. <https://podbay.fm/podcast/1042631089>.

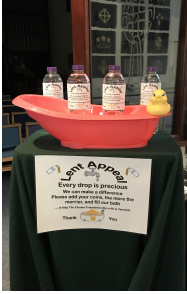
Ed had been alerted to an earlier article in the Daily Telegraph and then found yet another in the Express on 10th March. Both relate to Dan Snow’s visit and next month’s 75th Anniversary of Liberation day on Saturday 9th May. This year’s celebrations were to have begun at the beginning of April but events have overtaken us and parts of the programme are already being postponed. Details of the programme may be found at: [visitguernsey.com/see-and-do/events-festivals/heritage75](http://visitguernsey.com/see-and-do/events-festivals/heritage75) and, no doubt, further changes will be reported in the Guernsey Press.

Dan Snow said, “This will be a big one. It’s a big deal - freedom being restored after the Nazi tyranny.”

**Ed**

## **A reflective poem by Charmaine**

When our burdens get too heavy and our life is feeling grim  
Don't be sad, remember, sit down and talk to him  
Our Father he will listen, and guide you through the day  
For he is always with us in his very special way  
He is with us in the morning, in the afternoon and night  
He is with us when we're lonely, he is never far from sight  
You may not even notice, all the things for you he's doing  
But he's already working, if your spirit, he's renewing.  
Before you know it, all is well, and life is so much brighter  
That's because our Lord was there holding you, just that bit tighter!



## Our Big Lent Appeal



Our appeal for the Eleanor Foundation got off to a great start on the first Sunday in Lent and the bottles of water were flying out of the Narthex like loo rolls from a supermarket shelf! We hoped that the coins would be flying back just as quickly and the bath would soon be full but events have overtaken us.

There's still time to start collecting though and the Treasurer will find a way of banking your donations, be they coins, banknotes or cheques.

If you happen to have an 18" doll who could do with a bath from time to time, you might like to make Sally an offer for the one in the narthex complete with containers for baby lotion, shampoo and baby oil and, of course, the duck. The highest bidder wins the lot!

On the subject of fresh water, you may have seen an article in the March issue of Life and Work about the small team from the Grassmarket Project that went out to Zambia to help build a girl's school. Tommy Steel, the project leader, sent some money ahead of the visit and says "we were delighted to find, when we got there, that a new bore hole well with a pump was being installed and fresh water was available for the first time. It was great to see the women begin to fill their buckets from the well instead of the dirty hole"

We, too, can make a difference so keep collecting, your donations are going to support a really worthwhile cause.

### *Christian Aid Week and The World Aid Walk*

Most of the activities involved in Christian Aid Week. (10-16th May) have been cancelled. There will be no distribution of red envelopes and our planned retiring collection on 16th May will have to be re-scheduled. The World Aid Walk on 8th May which is organised by several charities has also been cancelled.

Christian Aid supports some of the World's poorest communities, working in more than 50 countries. This year the going will be tough. Our prayers are always needed and the collection in church later in the year will be more important than ever. You can easily make a donation online at [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk)



# StAG's got talent

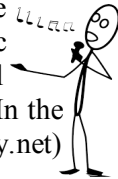
**StAG needs you**



Do you have hidden talent? Can you dance, sing, recite a favourite poem, play a musical instrument or do you, perhaps, have a trick or two up your sleeve? If so, we need you at our proposed “StAG’s got talent” evening in September to celebrate MAF’s 75th anniversary.



Unfortunately, we can’t start making definitive plans until we know how the present pandemic is going to play out but do put the provisional date of Friday 18th September in your diary. In the meantime, please let Sandy ([billharcus@cwgsy.net](mailto:billharcus@cwgsy.net)) or Sally know if you would like to contribute.



Don’t be shy, we would love to have as wide an age group and varied programme as possible. Simon Cowell will not be in attendance, there will be no fingers on the buzzer as you give the performance of a lifetime, it will just be a fun evening amongst friends.



## *Smile lines*

### **What God looks like**

An infants teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."

### **Packet?**

A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother’s explanation, he replied: ‘Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?’

## **Listening: a reflection by our Minister**

I wonder do you regard yourself as a good listener? Perhaps you know someone who is particularly good at listening, or more likely someone who has so much to say that they hardly listen to anything that anyone else has to say. From an early age, children are encouraged to “speak up,” “make your voice heard,” or “speak your mind.” But amid all these reminders of our right to speak, we must not forget the value of listening and that not everyone can be on the talking side all at once. Everyone has a right to speak but everyone also has the right to be heard.

Listening, however, seems to be in short supply these days. How many of us can find the time to just sit down and listen to our neighbours, our peers, the people we run into in the streets, or even our loved ones? And yet, listening is a priceless gift that goes a long way. It is an act of generosity and kindness. Listeners generously share their time, their presence, and their openness of mind and heart. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and pastor, once said that “people forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking.”

If we really want to solve problems in our world, in our families, and in our personal lives, we really must start with listening. True dialogue starts with listening. And it’s not just the physical act of listening but it’s genuinely mindful and attentive listening. This was what Saint Francis of Assisi prayed back in the 13th century: “Grant that I may not so much seek to be understood as to understand.”

It takes openness and humility to truly listen to others. As Saint Paul said: “In humility value others above yourself. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4). How do we love God and our neighbour? One good starting point is to simply listen. Paul Tillich, one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century, said that: “The first duty of love is to listen.” We need to learn to be fully present and listen to the voice of God speaking to our hearts.

During Lent I have been reading a book called “*I Thirst*” by Stephen Cottrell who is soon to become the new Archbishop of York. In the early chapters, Cottrell speaks about listening to God’s word but also listening to the world. “We should love the Bible more, and listen more attentively to the voice of God as it is spoken to us through the Scriptures.” The Bible is far more than a book; it tells the story of the un-

folding drama of God’s involvement with the world...it is a story we all need to listen to and hear for it is the voice of God speaking. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus responded to the disciples by listening to what they had to say. He let their questions and concerns set the agenda. (Luke 24:17) Perhaps we need to do the same today. We need to meet people where they are. We need to listen before we speak. We need to be good news, before we can speak good news.

In summary, Stephen Cottrell remarks that, all too often, the church’s proclamation of the gospel can be caricatured like this: “Jesus is the answer, now what was the question?” Like all caricatures it reveals an alarming truth. By listening carefully to Scripture, we discover that Jesus and the early disciples were different because they listened first. As the book of James reminds us: “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” (James 1:19). We may all wish to say ‘Amen’ to that!

### *Easter Word Search*

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ’s body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup might be removed from Him, but even more, that God’s will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.



Jesus, Ate, Last, Passover, Meal, Disciples, Warned, Betrayed, Bread, Blessed, Wine, Thanks, Drink, Covenant, Law, Old, New, Body, Blood, Gethsemane, Cup, Removed, Will, Easter, Approach, God,



# Church Calendar



We deeply regret that it has been necessary to suspend Sunday services until further notice. The information below in blue will only be applicable when you are advised that services are resuming but as long as our “recording team” remain virus free, services will be available to view on YouTube

## April

Thursday	9	Maundy Thursday
Friday	10	Good Friday
Sunday	12	Easter Day
Sunday	19	
Sunday	26	

*Services suspended*

## May

Sunday	3	10.30	Morning Worship with Communion, Sunday School
Tuesday	5	19.30	Kirk Session meets in the Hall
Sunday	10	10.30	Morning worship, Sunday School
Sunday	17	10.30	Morning Worship, Sunday School
Sunday	24	10.30	Morning Worship, Half term
Sunday	31	10.30	Morning Worship, Half term
		18.30	Evening Service led by the Worship Team

## June

Sunday	7	10.30	Trinity Sunday. Morning Worship with Communion,
Sunday	14	10.30	Morning worship, Sunday School
Saturday	20		Wedding
Sunday	21	10.30	Morning Worship, Sunday School
Sunday	28	10.30	Morning Worship, Sunday School
		18.30	Evening Service
		19.30	Kirk Session meets in the Hall

## Church Register

Baptism	2nd February 2020	Elsie-May Bell
Funeral	31st January 2020	Heather Sharman

## NB

It may seem academic to be publishing rotas when our regular Sunday Services have been suspended indefinitely but then, of course, when they resume, we will need to know who is doing what! A quick look at the back of the magazine could save everyone a lot of hassle with emails, phone calls, texts etc.

If you are on the list of readers, you may be invited to join the small team who are recording the next “digital” service. Please note, there is no obligation to do so if you are self isolating.



### Door Duty

12 Services suspended  
19 Services suspended  
26 Services suspended

3 **Morna and Peter**  
10 **Jo and Iain**  
17 **Edith & Paul**  
24 **Sally and Stuart**  
31 **Charmaine & George**

7 **Christina and David**

## Flower Rota April-June



April  
5 **Sue**  
19 **Norma**  
26 **Beth**  
  
May  
3 **Audrey**  
10 **Elizabeth Mc**  
17 **Beth**  
24 **Fiona**  
31 **Carolyn**  
June  
7 **Christina**  
14 **Leila**  
21 **Patricia**  
28 **Nancy**

*Monthly Coordinator:*

*April Sue*  
*May Audrey*  
*June Leila*

### Sunday Readers



April

Hilary  
George  
Sally

May

Alison  
Sally  
Sarah  
Neil  
Amanda

June

Stuart

# 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](http://cofsguernsey.org.gg)

Email: [dcoulter@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto: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 <a href="mailto:theboyles@cwgsy.net">theboyles@cwgsy.net</a>	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 <a href="mailto:amandajones.gsy@gmail.com">amandajones.gsy@gmail.com</a>	Tel 720547
Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781 132699
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus <a href="mailto:billharcus@cwgsy.net">billharcus@cwgsy.net</a>	Tel 263688