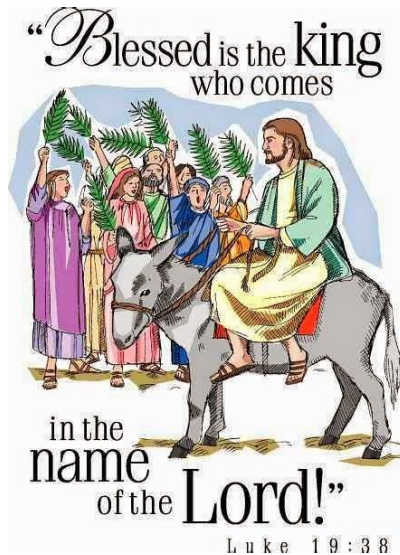


# The Kirk Quair

April — May 2023



St Andrew's  
In the Grange  
Church of Scotland

# Musings from the Minister



Since moving down to Guernsey, I have noticed that the seasons seem to have moved. Winter ended earlier, and spring started sooner. After all the rain and darkness of winter, it was lovely to have the sun warming our backs again, the sound of birds singing and buds blooming on the trees. It is just marvellous.

This time of year always reminds me of change. Growing up in South Africa, Easter coincides with the onset of Autumn, whilst in Guernsey/UK, it coincides with Spring. Nature seems to be putting on new clothes and readying herself for what is to come. Change is never easy because, if we are honest, it comes with a significant degree of uncertainty. But as I watch the environment, I am reminded that change is constant but there is a season that always follows the one before.

The Christian calendar is deeply rooted in the rhythms of nature and the seasons. Holy week is no different, as it serves as a reminder of the death and life of Jesus but also invites us into the same pattern. The whole experience of letting go and trusting God must have been harrowing for Jesus, so for many of us, letting go to embrace the unknown is vexing.

Change can feel like seeds planted in the darkness which have to wait in faith to see what grows. In this cycle of death and life, we find ourselves and, whilst it is harrowing, we trust in God that we are being made once more into something new. It is often in letting go that we find ourselves.

Recently, at the Stated Annual Meeting, I spoke about the Church of Scotland's need to embrace change. Part of that change means letting go of old structures, habits, culture, etc., and allowing God to resurrect us into something new. For too long, we have been in denial of the need for change and, now, the Kirk is firmly in the grip of what feels like death.

For some context, The Church is moving from over 1000 full-time workers (including ministers, deacons, and specialist congregation workers) to 660 full-time workers. In Edinburgh, there were 78 full-time posts available in 2021; this has been cut by 40% to 48.5 workers employed by the church by 2025. In Kirkcaldy, in 1983, the year I was born, the Church of Scotland had 17 churches; in 2018, the year I was ordained, the church had 9 churches; by the end of this restructuring process, it will have 3 churches.

It is easy to say this does not affect us because we are in Guernsey. However, that is not true, as St Andrew's in the Grange will be up for review in just over six years. The situation in Scotland is fluid, and the rules and regulations could change substantially in the next few years. So our foundation is on shaky ground.

I am sure that this might come as a shock to many of you.

We need to embrace this new season as soon as possible because we have work to do. Digging our heads into the sand is no longer an option but I believe our wee church has much to offer the Church of Scotland. We could become a beacon of light but it will take some dying, waiting, and faith that we will be resurrected into a church shaped by God. The next couple of years will be hard for many of us, tough decisions will have to be made but I am excited about the future. To see what God is doing in us and how God will use us in the future.

I only ask one favour of us all, that we participate in working this out. Let us build together a house where all can dwell. God Bless

*Justin*

## **The Coronation of King Charles III**

Not long now until the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and the Queen Consort by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, 6th May. According to a statement from the Palace earlier this year, "The Coronation will reflect the monarch's role today and look towards the future while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry." King Charles will be crowned with the 400 year old solid gold St Edward's Crown weighing a mere 4lbs 12ozs! We will be enjoying a long weekend with consecutive public holidays on Monday and Tuesday!



# StAG News

## From Kirk Session

### Monthly Evening Service


As attendance at the monthly evening services has been falling, it was proposed and agreed that they should be suspended. There will not be an Evening Service in April.

### Lent Appeal

Consideration was given to the Lent Appeal which had been overtaken this year by our immediate response to the urgent need for help in the wake of the devastating events in Turkey. (p10).

It was agreed that the Charities Committee would give further consideration to an appeal later in the Summer.

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

 Session is aware that our current website has not been updated for quite some time and approved a quotation for it to be redesigned and brought up to date professionally. This is in hand

## Six Nations Fantasy League

The winner was Sue. Congratulations and enjoy your prize!

## Prayer Workshop



Feedback on the Prayer workshop “Discovering Prayer” held on Saturday 11th March has been very positive and described as “fantastic” by one participant. Discussion was interspersed with three videos and the speaker, in all three videos, was so good as to evoke spontaneous applause at the end. Let us hope that some will now feel more confident and willing to lead prayers in worship

## Setting up

### Communion



We are grateful to those members of the congregation who have responded to our appeal for volunteers to help with setting up for Communion. Your support is greatly appreciated



## Heat Hub



The air temperature rose just as our heat hub initiative was getting under way at the beginning of the year which, of course, meant that a “warm space” was no longer needed. At least we tried!

## *Soup and Sweet Lunch*



A reminder that between 200 and 300 thousand people worldwide are diagnosed with leprosy each year and two to three million people are disabled by it.

It is encouraging to be able to report, therefore, that our Soup and Sweet Lunch and cake stall on 26th February was very successful and raised £447.50 for The Leprosy Mission. A great achievement and thank you to all those who contributed and also to the organisers.

Wellesley Bailey first saw the devastating effects of Leprosy when visiting India in 1869 and, subsequently, with his wife, started The Mission to Lepers. The rest, as they say, is history. See [www.leprosymission.org.uk/about/our history](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk/about/our%20history) for details



## *Stated Annual Meeting*

The Moderator told the meeting about the challenges facing the Kirk and the effect these challenges might have on congregations outside Scotland.

In order to secure our future, we need to embrace change and be proactive. To start the process, we are going to be guided by an initiative called Future Focus which is described on the next page.

## *Surplus Pew Cushions*

### *Sharing is caring*

We all like to see preloved items having a second chance at being useful. St Andrews has passed on to Tumaini, a box of Bibles which were surplus to requirements and the hand stitched cushions that once graced our old wooden pews. They have been gratefully received and will be put to good use when they reach Tanzania.

## *Other diary dates*

It may seem somewhat premature but the date for the Christmas lunch has already been reserved. It is Sunday, 10th December.

## **WHAT IS FUTURE FOCUS?**

Future Focus is an initiative designed by the Church of Scotland to help congregations to look afresh at their community, to examine their congregational life and to discern what it is that God wants them to be and to do in the next phase of their life and witness.

It does this by:

- Allowing us to be honest about our strengths and challenges.
- Helping us to create a clear profile of our community.
- Stimulating theological reflection.
- Asking searching questions about our life together.
- Helping us to discern God's calling on our congregation.
- Delivering clear goals and plans of action for the future.
- Encouraging teamwork around these goals and plans.

The Future Focus initiative is designed to be used by external facilitators working alongside a congregation or grouping, often exploring the life and future of the church in considerable depth.

## **WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM USING 'FUTURE FOCUS'?**

- Does your congregation need to clarify directions and priorities?
- Have there been significant changes in your community?
- Are you at the beginning of a new ministry – or entering a new grouping?
- Are you facing the retirement of your minister?
- Are you concerned about groups in your community that are missing from church today?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then Future Focus can help you to explore the issues and to discern a shared vision for the future.

## **IS YOUR CHURCH READY FOR FUTURE FOCUS?**

Experience has shown that 'Future Focus: The Way Ahead' can have a positive and even transformational impact on a congregation. However, for this to be the case, certain conditions are necessary.

Firstly, and most importantly, the whole process needs to be embedded within a season of concerted **prayer**.

Secondly, wide **participation** from the whole congregation is vital.

Thirdly and crucially, there must be **openness within the church's leadership to embrace and implement change**. This will never be change for its own sake, of course, but change that is agreed to be important and necessary.

As part of our move to reshape the future of our church, we will be led through Future Focus by Rob Rowson from the Church of Scotland head office. The discussion and visioning for the future will take place from 13:15 – 16:15 after worship on Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June. Lunch will be provided after the service, and we encourage anyone who wants to have a say in our future to join us.

### *From the Editor*

If you can't bear to watch or read the news, you're not alone. A recent survey found that more and more people are turning away from the news because it's just too difficult to take. Does this widespread 'news avoidance' have any messages for the Church and Christians generally?

It's tempting to press the off switch but important for Christians to be aware of events and trends across the globe, to enable us to pray intelligently and to be able to support organisations and people working to make the world a better place. We may be turning away from bad news but there is plenty of good news. We just don't hear about it.

At first glance, this magazine may seem to be all doom and gloom but on a second reading there is much that is reassuring

and encouraging.

I am reminded of the swan that appeared in a previous magazine with the caption, "sometimes on the surface there does not seem to be much activity but below the surface ...."

Not many of our congregation would be able to drive a truck to Ukraine, build houses in Tanzania or erect tents in Turkey but we have contributed so that others can. The article on page 10 by Peter, Chairman of Carers Guernsey, reminds us that many of us, too many to list here, are "working to make the world a better place," perhaps by driving a minibus, organising a collection or an event, helping in a charity shop or volunteering at the hospice, etc. etc. There is more going on beneath the surface than meets the eye.

*Ed*



## *Lent Study Group: The Divine Conspiracy*

This year's Lent Course was based on a book called "The Divine Conspiracy" by Dallas Willard, an American theologian and philosopher, well known for his Christian spiritual formative writings. Over the six weeks, we have watched a series of conversations between Dallas and John Ortbert, an American Evangelical Christian author and minister. John asks searching questions about Dallas' views on the Bible's teachings in today's world. and wow! His insight is remarkable. Listening to his views, you begin to see clearly and you come alive.

Initially, John and Dallas discussed the title of his book 'The Divine Conspiracy.' The word "conspiracy" is not as grim as it sounds and, in Dallas' own words, it is 'when a group of likeminded people gather and speak together.' So you see, not as corrupt as you may first think.

Dallas is asked who does he think is "Blessed" and, in response, he speaks about beatitudes, another word for blessed or beautifications. His perception is truly wonderful and not what we would imagine. Other questions have addressed how we think about the world as being a safe place when we walk in the Kingdom of God and the coming of God again to our earth. We came to realise that we have not got to wait for His coming as He is here NOW! He is within us, and it's about how we conduct ourselves through the situations we encounter. Dallas tells us how 'He lives through us' now today and tomorrow, as we follow His teachings.

A very thought provoking question was, "what do we think makes a good person?" This stimulated much discussion, as this is what we all try to be, and it's not always as easy as it sounds!. I am the first to admit this is what I strive for but, sadly, sometimes fail.

As Dallas said, we are all on a journey of faith, no one knows the answer to what we are searching for through our Christian faith but we know we have to follow. People are called by the Lord for reasons which will remain unclear to us but clear only to Him for now. There is an answer awaiting us but this is at the end of our journey when the fog will clear and all will become clear to us.

Charmaine.



## *An Easter Meditation*

In the New Testament, the resurrection of Jesus is presented as a simple historical fact. He rose from the grave on that first Easter morning. The four evangelists, and Paul, carefully lay out the evidence, record for us the details of the empty tomb, the names of those who visited it, the various appearances of the risen Jesus and how He was seen by more than five hundred witnesses. The New Testament tells us more. It tells us, not only of the power of God that raised Jesus from the grave (eg. Romans 1:4) but also of that same power being invested in the Church. Christians are new people! We are ‘made alive’ in our Risen Head (Ephesians 1:1). His victory has become our victory! As Jesus promised: ‘Because I live, you will also live’ (John 14:19).

Until our Lord returns, Christians will die physically but their victory over death is guaranteed. As Paul demonstrates in 1 Corinthians 15, death is ‘swallowed up in victory’! Death’s sting is abolished! And so Paul proclaims our victory anthem. ‘Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ’ (vv.55-57)!

For 2,000 years, Christ’s people have lived in that glorious victory. One example was Donald Cargill (1619-1681), a Presbyterian minister and a Covenanter in the years known in Scotland’s history as ‘the killing times.’ The Covenanters opposed all attempts by the English parliament to impose Episcopacy on Scotland. Cargill strongly denounced the immorality and irreligion of the court of King Charles II. Hundreds of Covenanters were imprisoned at this time, and many were executed, both men and women. Cargill’s fearless itinerant preaching made him a marked man. He moved from place to place, preaching in cottages, fields, and town squares, protected by loyal friends. Then in July 1681 he was arrested and imprisoned. The outcome of his trial was never in question. The government of the day was determined to silence this influential ‘rebel’ and he was sentenced for execution on July 27<sup>th</sup>

On the scaffold, he declared, “I climb this ladder,” “with less fear than ever I entered a pulpit to preach.” Then, raising his eyes to a blue July sky, he cried out: “I have gotten me Christ and Christ has gotten me the victory.” The blade fell and the brave soul of Donald Cargill joined the martyrs who lived and died in the victory of the Risen Christ. Thanks be to God indeed! That glorious victory is not only for all the brave martyrs, but for all of us who belong to Christ. Death is defeated.

# BEYOND OUR SHORES



The day after our last magazine was published, Turkey and North West Syria were hit by the worst earthquake in a century. More than 53,000 people lost their lives and it is likely that, even now, almost three months later, there are others who just disappeared and may yet be buried beneath the rubble. Although we saw many dramatic and harrowing pictures of ruined buildings on television, it is difficult to even begin to imagine the scale of devastation to property and infrastructure with a quarter of a million buildings damaged or destroyed.

It is estimated that around 16 million people have been affected in one way or another and 9.1 million directly, a figure almost equivalent to the entire population of London. Altogether, 2,786,000 people have been displaced in Turkey and Syria with 1.6 million now living in tents. To add to their woes, just five weeks later, there was deadly flooding with even more deaths and people being driven from their temporary displacement settlements.

International aid agencies and charities face an enormous challenge and, aware that every little helps, we had an appeal in support of ShelterBox ([www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org)), a charity providing shelter, essential items and technical assistance to help vulnerable people recover and rebuild their homes after disaster. An amazing response and we sent **£3583** to ShelterBox. What this will buy is difficult to predict because the contents of each box vary according to circumstances. The average cost of a ShelterBox which always includes a tent, is £590 which means that as many as six families will benefit from our donation and have a roof, albeit a canvas one, over their heads.

## ... AND CLOSER TO HOME

It is estimated that between four and six thousand people within the Bailiwick of Guernsey are providing informal and unpaid support for a loved one, often at considerable emotional and financial cost to themselves. Many do not recognise themselves as “carers”, merely as carrying out their duty to the loved one. The care provided by such individuals is saving the Island many millions of pounds that would other-

wise have to be spent through social care services.

Carers Guernsey was established as a Charity in 2018 in order to support that vast body of carers, primarily, in the form of a one-to-one outreach service provided by our team, Fiona and Debbie who meet face-to-face or speak with a carer over the telephone. Often, they will be the first contact that the carer has when the realisation of the responsibilities, practicalities and difficulties associated with caring for a loved one first strikes home.

They are available to discuss issues facing the carer, often for the first time; explore what help or assistance is needed; connect the carer with people and services who can provide practical support; assist the carer to access services and help; and, generally, support carers in their role.

For example, Fiona and Debbie recently helped a couple, one of whom had just been diagnosed with dementia, and Fiona was able to provide nursing advice on the outcome of the diagnosis. They also assisted the couple to access financial support through applications for Severe Disability and Carers Allowances, referred them to the local Alzheimer's support groups and the GVS meals on wheels service, and helped in the process of applying for a Blue Badge for parking. In addition, they continue to provide emotional support to the carer through one-to-one meetings as well as initiating conversations looking towards the longer term and contingency planning for the provision of care for the loved one if the carer is unable to continue to provide care through accident or ill-health.

Even if a loved one eventually needs to be moved into a residential or nursing home, Fiona and Debbie can support the carer through that difficult transition. It is frequently said that caring for a loved one can be a lonely role. By maintaining regular contact with the carer, Fiona and Debbie can help break that sense of isolation and, where possible, can put the carer in touch with other carers with similar experiences through an informal network of contacts.

If any of this sounds familiar, please contact our outreach team at Carers Guernsey by telephone – 07781 44 44 88 or through [info@carers.gg](mailto:info@carers.gg). We are there to support you in your role as one of the many informal and unpaid carers within the Bailiwick.

## *SIX NATIONS CUP*

**WALES v ENGLAND, Cardiff,  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023**



As reported in the last magazine, three of our members travelled to Cardiff with the Guernsey Welsh Choir to entertain the crowd before the Wales/England rugby international in February and they have described the experience as follows:

One might have been forgiven for believing that the Fates were conspiring against the Guernsey Welsh Male Voice Choir's attempts to appear at a Six Nations fixture at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff.

In February 2020, just 24 hours before the Choir was due to sing at the Wales v Scotland match, the Welsh Rugby Union cancelled the match due to the sudden COVID 19 outbreak.

The Choir was rescheduled to sing at the 2023, Wales v England match. What could possibly go wrong this time! The threat of a strike by the Welsh rugby team meant that the fixture was in doubt until 6 pm on the Wednesday before the match. Having overcome that difficulty the last element of fate was a minor earth-quake in the Rhonda Valley on the eve of the match!

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, the Guernsey Welsh Male Voice Choir, together with the much larger choir of Cor Meibion-Pendyrus and the Regimental Band of the Royal Welsh Corps, finally got the opportunity to march through the Dragon's Mouth onto the pitch at the Principality Stadium to entertain the crowds in the build up to the match.



The memorable moments; undoubtedly the sound when we first rehearsed with the combined choirs and

the band earlier that afternoon in the cavern below the stands at the Dragon's Mouth, a spine chilling experience; and then again when the crowd of over seventy thousand in the Stadium joined with the choirs in singing the National Anthem and the Welsh Anthem, a vast cauldron of sound.

A further bonus was being in the front row of the choir standing behind Katherine Jenkins while she sang "World in Union" as a tribute to the people of Ukraine.



### *Christian Aid update*

Christian Aid continues to be busy here in Guernsey and overseas.

Our first bucket collection of the season at Forest Stores in March raised £380. The next collection will be at M&S on Easter Saturday, 8th April. When Capelles Methodist Church will be on duty at the l'Islet branch and I will be seeking volunteers from our own church to help at the St Martins branch. Christian Aid Week this year will be 14th - 20th May.

And now to the overseas work of the charity. We continue to be heavily involved in Ukraine, in refugee camps and hospital supplies as requested by the Ukraine Health Department. In Malawi we are supporting farmers who grow pigeon peas, a nutritious, high protein, soil revitalising crop. Lots more information on the charity website: [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)



And finally a photo from the Forest Store bucket collection.

The caption is, "You're supposed to put money in, not take it out!" Thank you for your continuing support.

Paul



### **Violets?**

When my husband was six years old, he thought the creed included the line: "He suffered under a bunch of violets." It took him years before he realised he should have been saying: "under Pontius Pilate."



# Church Calendar



## April

Thursday	6	19.00	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	7	10.30	Good Friday: Morning Worship. Joint service <b>at</b> Bordeaux Methodist Church*
Saturday	8	9 - 10	Church open for reflection
Sunday	9	10.30	Easter Day: Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	16	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	23	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	30	10.30	Morning Worship

## May

Sunday	7	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	14	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	21	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	28	10.30	Morning Worship

## June

Sunday	4	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
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**NB** We are joining Bordeaux Methodist Church for our Good Friday Morning Service which will be in their church at Les Grippios, Vale. (Perrys Guide 7G5) See [www.methodist.org.gg/Churches/Bordeaux](http://www.methodist.org.gg/Churches/Bordeaux) for Car Parking details. Those attending services are asked not to park in the Alma Park Complex



### The Bible according to children

*Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).*

- ~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- ~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pairs.
- ~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- ~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- ~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.



### Meet & Greet

#### April

- 9 Andrea & Robert
- 16 Beth & Emily
- 23 Jo & Iain
- 30 Amanda & Steven

#### May

- 7 Morna & Peter
- 14 Edith & Pail
- 21 Sally & Stuart
- 28 Charmaine & George

#### 4 June

- 2 Gay & Pete

### Flower Rota

#### April

- 9 Easter
- 16 Carolyn
- 23 Andrea
- 30 Edith

#### May

- 7 Audrey
- 14 Liz
- 21 Fiona N
- 28 Leila

#### June

- 4 Andrea

#### Monthly Coordinator:

April Sue

May Audrey

June Leila



### Sunday Readers

#### April

- 6 George
- 7 Gay
- 9 Iain
- 16 Peter H
- 23 Ethel
- 30 John V

#### May

- 7 Andrea
- 14 Sally
- 21 Gay
- 28 Robert

#### June

- 4 Elizabeth Mc



### Signs found outside churches.

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!



Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.



A teenager was always asking his father if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit, the father asked his son why he thought that God had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied, "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

## Church Register

No changes

# Church of Scotland

## St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

### **The Minister**

Rev Justin Taylor

Tel 257345

Website: [cofsguernsey.org.gg](http://cofsguernsey.org.gg)

Email: [jtaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jtaylor@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	Ms Sally Wilkinson	Tel 263991
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 <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