

The Kirk Quair

August-September 2021



bitterness patience selfishness
revenge generosity derision
abuse goodwill peace greed
scorn thoughtfulness love care hope grudge
avarice joy forgiveness enmity
malice consideration
hatred goodness loathing
disdain sympathy kindness sneering
contempt courtesy animosity
hostility politeness resentment
arrogance self-control prejudice
support

Shine as a light to the world Mt 5:16

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

A note from the Interim Moderator



I am often asked, “What is it like being back in Guernsey?” Is it the beaches, is it the cliff walks, is it the ice cream?”. The biggest impact that coming back to Guernsey has had on me, is that there has been singing in Church. That may seem a strange thing to say. However, for me in the UK, there has been no singing in Church since March 2020, 16 months ago. Strange times indeed. It was therefore very special when I conducted the service of communion on that first Sunday in July to hear and to join in the singing of those well known hymns. Only then did I appreciate what Augustine meant when he said “to sing is to pray twice.” It made me think why do we sing in Church and what have I missed by not having hymns on a Sunday.

Christians have sung throughout history. The earliest Christians put their community beliefs in songs, you will see in the hymn book many “chants” and early worship songs. Songs are recorded in scripture and other historical texts. The Book of Psalms in the Bible is a great resource for reading songs of believers that have gone before us. Songs can give us theology. As you may know, hymns and other Christian songs are full of rich, theological text.

Singing connects us emotionally. Songs of celebration have the power to lead us to dance. Songs of lament have the power to lead us to tears. Music has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul, that assists in our expression and response to God and to the church. As we gather on a Sunday in Church, we join together as one body, and praise God with one voice. We recognise that God gives each of us different gifts. But at the end of the day, we all are called, wanted, and even expected to sing.

My hope comes from the proclamation found in Psalm 96. “Sing to the

Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord!
Bless His name! Share the news of his saving work every single day!”
Lets keep raising the roof in Songs of Praise.

Your friend and Interim Moderator

Alistair Cumming

From the Editor

As we know from past experience, the road to calling a new minister and filling a vacancy can be long and tortuous and, this time, it is particularly difficult because new procedures have been introduced as a result of decisions taken at the General Assembly in May.

The Presbytery of England agreed that we may seek a minister to fill our vacancy and the final stamp of approval has just been received from the Faith Nurture Forum in Edinburgh. All systems go and the Nominating Committee will be elected on 15th August.

Much has been happening behind the scenes to ensure that everything is in place to begin our search for a new minister. The Parish Profile which will be given to potential applicants has been completed and the edicts regarding the Electoral Roll have been read so we can move forward without delay.



While we have been waiting for the decision, there has been plenty going on. We had our “Awayday” in June (p5), the manse was prepared for Alistair and, of course, there has been all the usual fund raising and charity work

Once again, in these pages, we are reminded of the depth and diversity of the work of so many charities and, as I am writing this, I have received an email update on a primary school in Kenya, funded by a tiny charity in Yorkshire. I quote from the headmistress’ letter, “On Wednesday we had our high schoolers Bursary programme. Beside the Bursary we were able to do stationery, toothpaste, masks, soap, tissue papers and sanitary towels. We also gave some flour for all the parents who attended the ceremony.”

Ed

StAG News

Vacancy Matters

We were delighted to welcome Alistair, our Interim Moderator, back to Guernsey and we are grateful to all those who helped to make sure that the manse was ready in time for his arrival.

Alistair has lead worship for us throughout July and will be with us again for the first two Sundays in August after which Rev John McMahon, Interim Moderator at Crown Court in London, will be with us for 3 weeks.

Sound system

Those of us whose auditory perception is getting a bit rusty and is, perhaps, not quite as good as it once was, will be pleased to know that Kirk Session have approved the purchase and installation of a new sound system. As the equipment has to be ordered and shipped from the UK, it will not be available instantly but should be fitted towards the end of the Summer.



Guernsey Welfare

No lunches planned at the moment.

Lent Appeal 2021



It is a pleasure to report that not only did our Lent Appeal reach its original target of £1000 for the Tumaini Fund to build a house in Tanzania but more than doubled it so that, even with inflation, there will be sufficient funds for the construction of two houses. Thank you to everyone who donated. It was a truly magnificent effort and we will be presenting the cheque at our morning services on August.15th.

World Aid Walk



Early results show that this year's World Aid Walk on Saturday 17th July raised more than £12,000. It was a blazing hot day

with more than 500 people taking part including a surprisingly large number of youngsters. The proceeds of this extremely well supported money raising event will be shared between Guernsey charities. (page 7) Two members of our congregation, Leila and Paul, braved the heat and helped as marshals.

“Away Day” 2021

Our “Away day” on 13th June was not on the delightful island of Herm as in previous years but somewhat closer to home in the manse

garden which was looking very neat and trim for the occasion. We were blessed with glorious sunshine and, thanks to Agriculture and Country Land Management Services, we were able to leave our cars in Home Farm Field and complete the journey by one of the buses courtesy of Age Concern and Guernsey Voluntary Service driven by Hunter or Ethel ... so no parking problems on Le Villocq!



The service was very well attended and had a horticultural theme. Our first hymn, “Morning has broken” was complemented

by a reading, “A blackbird singing.” We also sang about “The beauty of the earth” and “All things bright and beautiful.” Other readings included “God’s beauty all around us” and “The bright field” all very appropriate to the occasion. After the reading of “The Parable of the growing seed” from Mark’s gospel, there was a short reflection and we were invited to come forward to sow seeds of hate, forgiveness, anger, tolerance, deceit, hope, fear or compassion. The big question is what seeds will we be sowing week by week?



After the service, there was a fabulous spread and we were able to enjoy a superb buffet lunch and a time of fellowship. As we know, these events don’t just happen but a great deal of planning and hard work is required and it is thank you to all the volunteers who provided and presented the buffet, drove the buses, prepared the service, brought and set up the chairs, tables, umbrellas etc and ensured that the garden was at its best.



Olympic Gold

The Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, finally got under way just over a week ago on Friday 23rd July. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2).



The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side. Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race!

Church notices that didn't quite come out right ..

The preacher for next Sunday will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.



The Session Clerk was in a hurry to inform the congregation that their minister had recovered from an illness, so he put the following notice outside the church: *God is good. The minister is better.*

You may be wondering about the significance of the “graphic” on the cover. It has been chosen because it complements the reflection at our Awayday when we sowed seeds ... good seeds and bad seeds. Words, too can be good and bad ... words can destroy, words can encourage.



- There are:
- Words that heal and words that hurt
 - Words showing arrogance and words of humility
 - Words of abuse and words showing care
 - Words of scorn and words of goodwill
 - Words of disdain and words of thoughtfulness
 - Words of hatred and words of forgiveness
 - Words of bitterness and words of generosity
 - Words of hostility and words of peace
 - Words of derision and words of patience
 - Words of selfishness and words of love
 - Words of contempt and words of sympathy
 - Words of revenge and words of consideration

Difficult as it may be, can we just remember to use kind words rather than hurtful words. James’ letter reminded Christians of the importance of keeping our tongues on a tight rein. James 1 v26

World Aid Walk

The World Aid Walk is an annual 20 km walk along the West coast of the island and raised funds this year for the following Guernsey registered charities described on the website (www.worldaidwalk.org.gg) :

Action Aid works with 45 countries to achieve social justice and gender equality and, in recent years, has funded projects to rebuild a school in Nepal.

Christian Aid is a well known charity involved in world wide

projects to sustain life and develop better living conditions in areas of poverty.

The Tumaini Fund, the recipient of our Lent Appeal this year, supports orphans in North West Tanzania..

This is Epic empowers local organisations to implement and develop their own Village Savings and Loans Projects in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Eleanor Foundation also works in NW Tanzania to facilitate the provision of fresh water.



BEYOND OUR SHORES

In this column, as usual, we look beyond the confines of our Bailiwick bubble in search of news that has not featured prominently in the national media and, as to be expected, it may

be either good or bad.

Let's start with some good news. The Bible Society reports in the Summer edition of its magazine, *Word in Action*, that Albania, a small country lying to the East of the heel of Italy and North of Greece and not on everyone's bucket list of places to visit before they die etc., is celebrating the receipt of its first ever Bible translated into Albanian from the original languages of Greek and Hebrew, a task that has taken four native Albanian translators 20 years to complete, ten years each for the Old and New Testaments. This is a remarkable achievement bearing in mind that until 1990, Albania was a Communist atheist state "where religion was banned and schools taught that faith was wrong." One of the four translators, Altin Hysi, who leads Bible Society's work in Albania, reflects on their work, "In a relay, every runner has to not only run well, they have to pass the baton-otherwise the race cannot finish. We have run together as a team, and we have passed the baton of God's word to the Church and to the next generation."

Last year, the Lent Appeal reminded us that millions of our fellow humans have no access to clean, fresh water and, thanks to the generosity of our fellowship, we were able to fund the construction of a shallow well to provide the residents of Nyambale village in Tanzania with this precious commodity that we take for granted.

That's good news too but a recent thought provoking article in the *British Medical Journal* draws attention to a problem that few, if any of us, would ever have imagined. The clue is in the title, "Caring in wards without water." It is reported that "more than half the health facilities in Malawi lack handwashing facilities, almost two thirds have no decent toilets, and almost a fifth do not have clean water on site." Nihisi, a rural district with a population of 300,000 (many times that of Guernsey) has one hospital and three health centres, none of which have adequate water, sanitation or hygiene facilities. The article goes

on to say that researches from Water Aid which has teamed up with the Wimbledon Foundation, the charity of The All England Lawn Tennis Club and The Championship (and that has certainly been in the news recently!) heard that one assistant had to walk 300 metres to a community borehole four times a day to collect water, that the labour ward in a maternity unit delivering up to 60 babies a month, had just one working toilet which is often blocked and the supply of water across the site is so intermittent that doctors and nurses can't always wash their hands. Even more thought provoking is that it would take just 30 US cents (approx 22 pence) a year per head of population to ensure that every health centre and hospital in the 47 poorest countries has a reliable water supply and working toilets. Next time you type www, think of **Wards Without Water**

A piece of news that did hit the headlines on August 4th last year was the massive explosion of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate in a port warehouse in Beirut that sent shockwaves for 26 kilometres, displaced 300,000 people, injured 7,000 and killed more than 200 in a country already struggling to survive. Thanks to Barnabas Fund, 170 houses, apartments and businesses have been repaired, hygiene products and food provided for 1,000 and 3,400 families respectively, 112 families have received medical support and another 274 families have been supported financially. "Hope amongst the rubble" is their headline. A drop in the ocean perhaps but, as we all know, "mony a mickle maks a muckle."

... **AND CLOSER TO HOME**

As reported previously, "the organist's wife," (her description not ours!) is currently serving as Moderator of the Presbytery of England; not exactly the easiest of roles having to implement the sweeping structural changes approved by the General Assembly in May with no face to face meetings. In addition to this daunting task, she and our Interim Moderator have been working tirelessly in the negotiations for us to be able to call another minister.

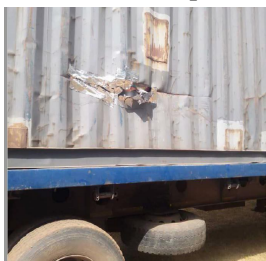
Easing of current restrictions here and in the UK mean that she should, at least, be able to represent the Moderator of General Assembly at a Christians Against Poverty Afternoon Reception and Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral in October and, possibility, dine with the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace later in the year.

The story of a container

This is the title of an article that caught my eye in the Summer Newsletter of Jacob's Well, a small charity in Yorkshire, that has been doing sterling work since 1982 collecting, sorting and distributing furniture, clothing, medicines and all sorts of equipment to poor countries in Eastern Europe and Africa (www.jacobswellappeal.org). By no means all plain sailing (or shipping)!



It's February 16th, I'm packed, sealed and ready for my journey to Zambia which should take until mid April. Long delays are threatening at the port of Immingham but I'm lucky and off on time. All well until I reach the Suez Canal and join a queue of 369 other vessels blocked by the grounded "Ever Green." After several weeks delay, I eventually make it to the port of Beira in Mozambique but, by then, I have sus-



tained a nasty gash in my side. Couldn't possibly be allowed to leave the port in that state and a fine is imposed on the charity even though they produce a photo to show that I was in perfect health when I left Yorkshire. No NHS here so another bill for £2350 to repair my side. By now, it is the end of May.

I am supposed to be entering Zambia through customs at Chanida (well that's what the documents say) but, for some reason best known to himself, my driver has opted for the customs post at Chirundu. where I am impounded because the paperwork is for Chanida. If that isn't bad enough, someone discovers that I have cough medicine on board which must be tested to make sure it's safe even though it's in date, licensed in the UK and has come straight from the manufacturer! Off with it and, when finally cleared for importation, there will be yet more expense to hire another truck to deliver it. While all this argy bargy is going on, transit fees are accruing and only after negotiations to reduce them from \$2000 to \$1000 am I allowed to go on my way, without the cough medicine, of course!

I finally arrive at my destination on 21st June and then it is discovered that during one of the "customs inspections" someone has helped them-

selves to laptops, photographic equipment, bikes and items from children's gift boxes. How sick is that?

This is but one example of the difficulties faced by charities day in and day out. Not only has the cost of containers risen by 75 percent since the beginning of the pandemic so that it now costs between £7,000 and £10,000 to ship one abroad but they are often delayed at docks, re-booked on to different ships, stuck in customs while corrupt officials search for an excuse to impose a fine which will most probably end up in their pockets or fall foul of a previously unknown new regulation such as "If an item is made of leather, it's not allowed to transit through our country." Every day stuck in customs waiting for clearance costs money, sometimes thousands of pounds.

It is not surprisingly, therefore, that charities find themselves wondering if it is worthwhile sending aid containers to places like Zambia but, knowing the desperate need, they just get on with their amazing work.

Spreading the word: How a vicar's TikTok meant for seven teenagers reached 1.7 million



What began as an amusing way to keep up with the seven teenagers in her congregation is now serious outreach for the Revd Anne Beverley of Christ Church in Wesham, Lancashire.

When the coronavirus pandemic struck, the first lockdown brought with it a need to stay in touch with the teenagers in her congregation, so Revd Anne Beverley filmed on the social media platform, TikTok – but she did not expect what happened next.

Her video on her TikTok account @ChristChurchWesham was seen not just by the seven local teenagers but, within three days, by 1.7 million people around the world.

"We just sat at home watching the numbers go up every time we refreshed our phones," said Revd Beverley, "it was ridiculous."

Today, five or six videos are posted each week, which range from dances and singing, to short sermons while walking the dog.

The church has more than 66,000 followers and receives around a thousand comments and questions about God each week.

How's that for outreach?

‘On Holiday with Jesus’



August is the month when schools are off and many of us go on holiday. This year will be very different, with many opting for a ‘staycation’! The good news is that Jesus offers us a true rest:

‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’ (Matthew 11: 28-29). Are you feeling tired or burdened and in need of a holiday? Jesus invites you to spend it with Him!

The Invitation: Our holiday destination is Jesus Himself: ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened.’ We can come just as we are, with all the burdens and sadness we carry from the last 18 months. Jesus doesn’t offer a ‘quick fix’ to deal with our issues; He simply offers Himself!

The Promise: Jesus promises us the gift of refreshing, sustaining and everlasting rest. When we go on holiday, we usually look forward to doing very little and yet this is not the kind of rest Jesus offers. His rest involves taking

up His yoke and learning from Him! A yoke was the wooden collar that ran across the shoulders of a pair of oxen to enable them to work the fields. Jesus says: ‘My yokes fit well. They do not rub your neck and shoulders. Come to Me and get yoked to Me. Make an act of loyal obedience and trust in Me. And you will find a deep peace and satisfaction that you could never find anywhere else. I have come for you!’

What’s so amazing about this holiday is that you can get rest by simply staying at home!

Holiday wisdom!

Going camping this month? Take along a tuba or a drum and carefully place it beside your tent. It will keep the spaces on either side of your tent well and truly vacant.



While flying home from holiday, my mother was sitting across the aisle from a woman and her eight-year-old son.

Mum couldn't help laughing as they neared their destination and she heard the mother say to the boy, "Now remember - run to Dad first, then the dog."



Did you know that...

The first recorded ascent of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles at 1345 metres (4411 ft), was made 250 years ago, on 7th August 1771 by botanist and artist James



Robertson. Hill climbing was not popular in those days, but the poet John Keats also made the ascent almost half a century later in 1818 and, now, some 100,000 people trudge up and down each year! The meaning of the mountain's name is uncertain. Some associate it with the Gaelic word for "venomous," but it seems at least equally likely that "Nevis" relates to snow or clouds.

It is also 250 years ago, on 15th August 1771, that Sir Walter Scott, the historical novelist, poet, and playwright was born. Often considered to be both the inventor and the greatest writer of historical novels, he was inspired by a stay with his grandparents in the borders during his early childhood, when he was recovering from polio. From them, he heard stories and ballads about the area and became fascinated by the history and culture of Scotland, where all his early work was set – often published anonymously. Scott was widely admired for both his novels and poetry and was



once offered the post of Poet Laureate which he declined. He was plagued during later life by financial problems, largely brought about by taking on the debts of friends and colleagues, but also by expenses incurred from his Abbotsford estate, near Galashiels.

We have recently been appalled to read about and see the devastation wrought by the floods in Germany and its neighbouring countries but 90 years ago, on 19th August 1931, in one of the worst natural disasters of the 20th century, the Yangtze and Huai Rivers broke their banks flooding an area equivalent to the size of England and half of Scotland.

In the floods that lasted from July to November, up to four million people died, fifteen times more than in the Indonesian tsunamis of 2004. A key figure in raising funds for reconstruction and relief efforts was an American Presbyterian missionary, Thomas Harnsberger, whose family home was a houseboat on the Grand Canal.



A message from the lost property Department!



Do you own, recognise or know the owner of any of these coats, umbrellas, gloves or hats that have been left in church. If so, please have a word with Leila because, unfortunately, if they are not claimed soon, they will be heading to a charity shop and there will then be a charge to redeem them! Please have a look next time you are in church.



H ..E ..L ..P

We are fortunate to have a very loyal band of volunteers who make sure that everything is as it should be when it should be, inside and outside church, but it will come as no surprise that additional helpers are always needed and welcomed!

With the horticultural theme of our Awayday in the manse garden still in mind, Carolyn would be delighted to have one or two

more names on the flower rota and Leila would be pleased to have some more help with the maintenance of the floral displays outside church. (e.g. dead heading etc.) Neither task is particularly onerous but the more the merrier and a little less pressure for the stalwarts!

Time to relax with a nice cup of coffee after all that effort! Ah yes, Amanda would appreciate one or two more names on the coffee rota too!



Flower Rota August - October



August
8 Carolyn
15 Liz
22 Gay
29 Isobel

September
5 Betty
12 Avril
19 Carolyn
26 Harvest

October
3 Carolyn
10 Niall
17 Andrea
24 Sue
31 Edith

Monthly Coordinator:

Liz

Avril

Andrea



Church Calendar



August

Sunday	8	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	15	10.30	Morning Worship with presentation to Tu-maini Fund
Sunday	22	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	29	10.30	Morning Worship

September

Sunday	5	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	12	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	19	10.30	Morning Worship
	26	10.30	Morning Worship, Harvest Festival
		18.30	Evening Service

October

Sunday	3	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
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Church Register

No entries



Meet & Greet

Sunday Readers



August

8	Paul and Edith	Patricia
15	Iain and Jo	Fiona
22	Andrea and Robert	Sally
29	Ethel and Patricia	Stuart

September

5	Beth and Emily	Neil
12	Morna and Peter	Iain
19	Sally and Stuart	George
26	Charmaine and George	Alan

October

3	Gay and Peter	Hilary
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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 except at Eastertime when it is on Easter Sunday.

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 .

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Freewill Offering	Mr David Lewis-Jones	Tel 726561
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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