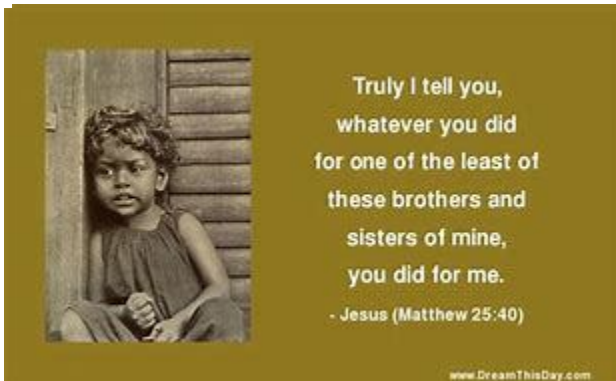


The Kirk Quair

June-July 2021



St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

A note from the Interim Moderator



The other evening I was watching an old episode of the TV programme “All creatures Great and small”. The first thing that struck me was the telephone in the hallway. I wondered if my daughters would know what it was, my grand daughter certainly wouldn’t. How things have changed! Another evening I watched the programme “The Yorkshire Vet” (There is a theme developing here). They were being called out on mobile phones and e-mails, looking up medication on the internet while on the move. Whatever would James Herriot have thought. How times have changed!

In both programmes the vet was delivering a lamb from a ewe that was having a very difficult birth. Both James Herriot and the Yorkshire vet were delivering the lamb using their hands and ropes and brute force. Despite the upgrade of equipment, really nothing has changed!

And so it is for us in our Church, I have now held two Kirk Session meetings where the Session were in the Upper Room and I was in my kitchen in London, it seemed to work well. Could we have done that 10 years ago or even 3 years ago. Probably not. How times have changed!

We were discussing Session business and Vacancy business. We were discerning the new Ministry that we would embark on for Guernsey St Andrews in the Grange. We were going through the same process and getting the same outcomes as in times before. Nothing has changed!

But it has changed, we have grown together in our Faith and in fellowship with each other, we have been thrown curved balls, we have dealt with disappointment and we have shed tears of pain and tears of joy, and we have come through it all because the Love of God through Jesus changes lives and changes us. We just need to be open to the changes that He will bring. We should not be impatient as God has his timetable and all will be revealed in His time.

A time of vacancy is a time of change but it is a time to move forward, learning the lessons of the past and building for a brighter future. In the words of the hymn “Through the Love of God, our Saviour, all will be well. Free and changeless is his favour; all, all is well.” “We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well. Faith can sing through days of sorrow; All, all is well. On our Father’s love relying, Jesus every need supplying, in our living and our dying. All must be well.”

Until we can meet in person, may the Love of God support and hold you all

Alistair

From the Editor

We are constantly hearing about the plight of hospitality and travel businesses and the dire consequences of not being able to pop into the pub on the way home after work, yet millions of our fellow humans have no work, no homes to return to and the only opportunity for travel for them will be on foot across a border into a refugee camp. A salutary thought. We know that charities committed to helping these poor, disadvantaged people have been facing their own challenges during the pandemic and, in this edition, we reflect on Matthew’s words and focus on some of the charities we support. It is also an opportunity to say a very big thank you to everyone for your generosity.



By now, most of us will, at least, have heard of the Indian variant but it was an email from a minister friend in Andhra Pradesh with the news that his daughter in law was in hospital with Covid which made Ed sit up and take notice. Fortunately, the lady concerned has been discharged and is recovering. The article (p10) from The Barnabas Fund helps to put the Indian crisis into perspective. Why Barnabas? Who was Barnabas? You can read about this very generous and encouraging Cypriot. on page 8. We have a message from our Charities Convenor (p6), our Christian Aid Rep (p7), an update on the Lent Appeal and an introduction to the newly launched Grow Appeal. With permission, we have also reproduced an article that appeared in MAF’s Apr-Jun edition of Flying for Life acknowledging our fund raising “Afternoon in the Garden” last year.

Ed

StAG News

Vacancy Matters

Not a great deal to report as yet because, as we know from past experience, replacing a minister can be a slow process. Our Interim Moderator reminded us in the last magazine that “Now is not a time for looking back, it is a time for building and moving forward”. Revision of our “Parish Profile” is in hand and Session are now awaiting the go ahead from Presbytery. All being well, there will be something more to report next time.

Service at the Manse

In recent years, we have enjoyed an “away day” on Herm with a service at St Tugals but the pandemic stopped us in our tracks and as the road up to St Tugals seems to be getting steeper each time, we will have a morning service in the Manse garden on Sunday 13th June, this year. A minibus transfer will be available. More details soon.

Guernsey Welfare

No lunches planned at the moment.

Liberation Day

Liberation Day, May 9th, was on a Sunday this year and we had a very special service led by the worship team who reminded us of the challenges faced by St Andrew’s in the Grange Presbyterian church in those days long ago. Their minister died in 1940, the Clerk to the Board then held prayer meetings in people’s homes four times a week but he was sent to a concentration camp in 1942 and, in 1944, the Church Officer was jailed. Despite all this adversity, the church survived and, next year, we will be remembering the 50th anniversary of the hand over to the Church of Scotland..



The service was followed by a festive buffet lunch in the hall and, as ever, it’s a very big thank you to the team of willing helpers who made it happen.

Stated Annual Meeting

The postponed Stated Annual Meeting was held on Sunday 11th April.

Grow Ltd

A number of the congregation joined the Ecumenical Service at GROW on Sunday 16th May. The service, led by the Dean of Guernsey, the Very Rev Tim Barker, was held to support GROW in its project to build a new centre for the wonderful work undertaken there that includes an education centre, catering facilities and spaces for outreach meetings as well as new greenhouses for the continuing horticultural experiences.

Representatives from a number of churches, including St. Andrew's in the Grange, participated in the service with music provided by the band of the Salvation Army. GROW is one of a number of charities which we support.

Fathers Day

However young or old you may be, if you have a Dad, don't forget that Sunday 20th June is Fathers Day this year. A couple of thoughts on the subject!

A father is a banker provided by nature. – *French proverb*

The child had every toy his father wanted – *Robert C. Whitten*
Perhaps, a chance to buy Dad a toy you would like!

General Assembly

As you may, or may not be, aware, it is that time of year when the General Assembly gathers to review past events and to plan for the future. This year, like last, it was a “digital” gathering and around 670 ministers, deacons and elders, including our own Commissioner, Ethel, were expected to be logging on to the proceedings by Zoom..

Draft legislation to allow ministers to conduct same sex marriages was approved by Assembly and will now be passed to presbyteries for further consideration by 31st December.

The Kirk is facing hard times and difficult decisions with a 5% decline in membership since 2019, falling revenue (20% in 2020), and impending retirements and low recruitment of ministers. In the circumstances, Assembly agreed overwhelmingly to reduce the number of ministers from 800 to 600 by 2025 with an allowance for 60 vacancies to permit movement. The number of presbyteries will also be drastically reduced.

The good news! 84% of congregations offered online worship during the pandemic and reached almost 95,000 households

A message from our Charities Convenor

As this magazine has a special focus on Charities, it is a timely opportunity to remind you all of the operational procedure of the Charities Committee.

The Charities Committee represents YOU, the members and adherents of St Andrews in the Grange, and we do our best to organise charitable giving opportunities and charity support in accordance with how we think you would like it to be done. Accordingly, we are always open to your feedback, ideas and suggestions.

We recognise that there are huge needs for aid both at home and overseas, and whilst ‘every little helps’ we cannot solve everyone’s problems, but we can potentially make a huge difference to some people. We generally focus on smaller charities where the recipients will experience a relatively greater benefit from a small donation.

When the Charities Committee was formed back in 2014, we spoke to members of the congregation about the charities they would like to be supported on a regular basis. These have changed in the years since and are always changeable at the will of the congregation. The current list is:

Christian Aid Crossreach Grow Limited
Guernsey Caring for Ex-Offenders
Guernsey Voluntary Service Court Cafe
Guernsey Welfare (food bank all year and biscuits and chocolates for Christmas)
Leprosy Mission Mission Aviation Fellowship
Priaulx Premature Baby Foundation
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Salvation Army (at Christmas) Tumaini Fund

Some of these charities have a congregational representative and we try to do some fund raising activity for each charity at least once every two years.

We aim to strike a balance between funds donated to local charities and those for the benefit of individuals outside the Bailiwick.

Our ‘Lent’ appeals last year and this year (the timing rather scuppered by Covid lockdowns) in aid of the Eleanor Foundation clean water well and the Tumaini House Appeal were both for the benefit of people outside the Bailiwick and with a desperate need for facilities we would

consider to be basic necessities and could not manage without. It would be good to be able to find similar projects for future Lent Appeals where our fund raising can make such a huge difference to people living without basic essentials which we take for granted.

The Covid pandemic has given us a chance to re-think our priorities and appreciate our good fortune in living in Guernsey, whilst not forgetting that there have been people badly affected in our community.

The Charities Committee are extremely grateful for your amazing generosity and always happy to hear your suggestions for future projects.

Sally



The Fun Quiz

During Christian Aid Week in May, the red banners flew from our railings in the Grange, and a fun quiz on Zoom went down well. Alan's photos of Guernsey buildings and bays proved more fun than Paul's questions about Jimmy Shand, garden plants and South American hats. Seven good sports gave their all, and Katherine won the prize with 21 correct answers out of a total of approximately 36. The Zoom experience worked well for a small group. Alan's technology performed smoothly and the event was over in less than an hour. The Charity Team might like to add this to their list of future possibilities, but I suggest that Jimmy Shand questions be banned along with pop music and football!

We raised £300 towards the island total from individual donations and our retiring collection on 16th May. Understandably, the traditional door to door red envelopes have been less used but Flag Days at the Forest Stores and the St Martin's CoOp were very well supported.

Guernsey's World Aid Walk this year will take place on Saturday 17th July and if anyone fancies being a lollipop lady or man for two hours do contact Paul Riley. It is surprisingly good fun.

Christian Aid continues to work with local agencies and churches in approximately fifty developing countries. This has been a very tough year for struggling communities and one of our priorities is the provision of clean water, still a scarcity around the world.

A very big "Thank You" to all our supporters.

Paul

Barnabas the Encourager

Barnabas whose real name was Joseph, was a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he is known by his nickname '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion, and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is still crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond and will we strengthen people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Be prepared to ask the following questions: '*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*' and '*How can we be encouragers to others?*'

The Good Samaritan

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

Lent Appeal 2021

“Tumaini” is Swahili for hope and a local Guernsey charity, the Tumaini Fund formed in 2003, works to bring hope to widows and orphans of Kagera in the North West of Tanzania where there are estimated to be 100,000 orphans. Help is provided in many ways such as education, clean water and field irrigation, vocational training, house building, malaria prevention and transportation for students and social and parish workers. A mammoth undertaking.

It was decided that the aim of our Lent Appeal this year would be to raise £1,000 towards the cost of building a house of weather-resistant fired bricks and a corrugated iron roof as seen in the model in the photograph and, despite the lock down in which we found ourselves, the appeal went ahead although the target was quickly raised to £1300 to account for inflation in Tanzania.

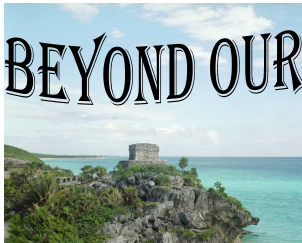
The “Lego” brick tower in the photograph was used as an indicator of progress and it is immensely pleasing to be able to report that, not only, have we reached our £1,300 target but surpassed it by almost £650 which means, of course, that we



are well on the way to the construction of two houses. What a truly generous and magnificent effort. Although a closing date for the appeal has not yet been decided, it will probably be fairly soon. If you have been saving your loose change or would still like to make a contribution, it would be helpful if you would pass it on to the Treasurer or Sally as soon as possible.

Although “Sally’s Boxes” were originally intended to be used for collecting loose change for the general charitable fund, some folks have found them useful for the specific appeal. The message from the Charities Committee, however, is that they don’t mind how you use the boxes just so long as you keep filling them up! When handing them to the Treasurer, please indicate your preferred use if you have a preference.

BEYOND OUR SHORES



India - engulfed by a tsunami of grief

Covid-19 has been overwhelming India in recent weeks, bringing its health services and institutions to their knees. Hospitals have run out of oxygen, medical staff cannot help the queues of desperate patients, and bodies are piling up as people die in vast numbers.

The Indian Christian community, like their compatriots, have also been suffering. Reports speak of many church leaders contracting the virus and some even dying. Their congregations, also sick and dying, are left without pastoral care.

Indian Christians report that more than 50-60 senior church leaders have died. One pastor said: “in the last seven days we have lost four pastors to Covid19.” Another organisation lost three missionaries within a week. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg.

The lockdown is causing severe suffering to the poorest, the day-labourers, who now have no work and no income. Barnabas Fund is working with Indian Christian leaders to provide assistance, both food and medical help, for our brothers and sisters. If you would like to help support them, please go to:<https://barnabasfund.org>

Africa: Covid, volcanic eruptions and floods

While still on the subject of Covid-19, the World Health Organisation has indicated that Africa needs at least 20 million doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine by early July to ensure a second dose in the recommended timescale. Another 200 million doses of any vaccine are needed to achieve vaccination of 10% of the population by September. To date, 28 million doses of vaccine have been given in Africa so there is a long way to go.

Meanwhile, Save the Children have been working to reunite children separated from their families since the deadly eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 22nd May which destroyed about 1000 homes in four villages and six schools, cutting off power and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people. A Humanitarian worker for Save the Children has said that earthquakes

are continuing in the region with half a million people without water and the risk of cholera.

Elsewhere in Africa, Oxfam are reporting that families in South Sudan are facing extreme hunger as recurrent flooding is causing food shortages and inter-communal violence is displacing vulnerable people and restricting movement of humanitarian workers.

The problems are by no means limited to the continent of Africa and sub-continent of India because there are also reports of floods in Sri Lanka displacing over 43,000 people and contaminating water sources and floods in Tajikistan disrupting the livelihoods of some 25,000 people.

In Iraq, more than 6 million people fled ISIS and some 250,000 were still living in refugee camps with basic but essential services such as shelter, schools, and health care provided by UNHR and its partners when the authorities announced the sudden, unexpected closure of 14 sites in October last year. This meant that many had to return to their villages, only to discover widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure.

These are but a few of the emergencies being confronted by charitable endeavour “Beyond our Shores.”

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

Church leaders in the UK have reported that isolation, loneliness and mental health difficulties, food poverty, unemployment and debt are more widespread in their communities as a result of the pandemic and that volunteers have delivered food, shopped, walked dogs and collected prescriptions as well as doing gardening projects, been ‘phone buddies’, aided with job-hunting, and helped people to get online.

Nearly 80% of C of E churches have provided food and pastoral support, running or supporting a food bank or similar service and many have opened food banks for the first time.

Church Urban Fund Chief Executive, Rachel Whittington, said: “2020 was a year like no other, and yet churches across the UK rose ... with undeterred compassion, displaying the love in action which lies at the heart of the Christian gospel.”

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh

It is hard to believe that it is two months since 9th April when Prince Philip, who would have been celebrating his 100th birthday on 10th June, died at Windsor Castle.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said of him "His genuine and deep sense of humility and his service came from the same place, which was his faith... He had a sincere Christian faith absolutely untainted by false piety... He understood deeply how important faith is for the vast majority of the world's population. He engaged the rich diversity of faiths within the UK and the Commonwealth. He was a pioneer in recognising the crucial role that faith leaders play in advocating for creation care. He was literally half a century ahead of his time in this area."

The Ven John Barton writes that he "was someone who listened intently to sermons, thought through what was being said, and then asked questions." At Sandringham, the Duke grilled the preacher which shows that he "wanted to be intellectually and spiritually engaged". That's a polite way of saying he wasn't prepared to swallow what came out of the pulpit if he wasn't convinced by it. So, if you wake up one morning questioning everything you have believed, take it as a spur to dig deeper and ask questions. Be encouraged by Philip, who shunned a second-hand faith because he wanted to know the truth for himself. The next time you hear a sermon which you can't understand or disagree with, don't let the preacher get away with it. And if, in your private conversations with God, you find yourself praying, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief,' you won't be the first. See Mark 9, verse 24."



Curate

As the enthusiastic curate was preparing to move on to his first church as a vicar, a parishioner asked him what he thought had been his main contribution to the life of the church. He replied: "People here didn't know what sin was until I came."

Egyptian this and that

A group of tourists was watching the re-enactment of an ancient Egyptian religious ritual. One pointed to the statue that was being praised, and asked a nearby local for the name of the god. "Why do you ask?" the local man replied.

The tourist shrugged. "Oh, just idol curiosity!"



Love lifts us up

MAF Partnership Manager Simon Dunsmore explains why loving ‘in deed and in truth’ is as important to our mission as any aviation principle

This apparent jumble of letters and numbers is the equation for calculating ‘lift’: $L = (1/2) d v^2 s CL$

As an aviation enthusiast, the principles of flight have always fascinated me. However, it was not until I started working for MAF that I became aware of a much more powerful force at work.

Love.

It is love that motivates our supporters and staff alike. It enables us to overcome the barriers that seek to exclude those in deepest need.

‘Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth,’ says 1 John 3:18. It’s that active love and compassion which puts fuel in the tanks and keeps hope in the air.

In 2020, when the UK had to limit its fundraising efforts to the realm of social media and direct mail, long-time MAF supporters Bill and Sandy Marcus were able to continue traditional community fundraising.

The couple from Guernsey took full advantage of their island’s relaxed restrictions in the face of very low coronavirus infection rates.

Together with a team of helpers from St Andrew’s in the Grange, Church of Scotland, they pulled out all the stops and held a summer fete in their garden! The money raised went towards the refurbishment of MAF’s *Millennium Messenger* — an aircraft which had operated in Mongolia for many years — in preparation for its new role serving remote communities in western Africa.

This piece is based on page 14 in “Flying for Life” Apr-Jun 2021 and has been reproduced by kind permission of MAF.

Joan Campsie Lugton

Joan moved to Glasgow from Perth, her birthplace, aged six, and lived there until 1952 when she travelled to Southern Rhodesia with her widowed mother and younger sister to join her three elder siblings. Joan loved life in Bulawayo but returned to Glasgow in 1954 for health reasons. In 1955, she met her husband to be, Rev. George Lugton, when he was inducted as the Minister of Blanefield Parish Church and they married in Edinburgh in 1957.

In that first year, Joan learned of a family whose mother died prematurely leaving three young children and immediately offered to support the children as caregiver which became a lifelong relationship. Joan had her own children, Mary and John, in 1960 and 1966 respectively. In 1969, the family moved to Dumbarton and, then, in 1973, to Edinburgh where Joan worked as a secretarial administrator in the NHS.

In 1987, they moved to Guernsey when George was called to ministry at St Andrews in the Grange. Again, Joan embraced and thrived in her role as “Minister’s Wife,” giving her all and was there for anyone who needed a helping hand. She worked at the College of Further Education and, in retirement, she invigilated for the Guernsey Training Agency and chaired the Friends of Les Cotils.

Whatever Joan did, whether in any of these various activities or simply tending to plants in her garden, she did it with love. Her instinct was always to provide support and offer love, understanding so well that there are times when all we need is an encouraging smile, a welcoming hand or loving hug, and she was invariably quick to spot when that need arose. That was very much her approach to dealing with people.



Flower Rota



June
13 Carolyn
20 Patricia
27 Nancy

July
4 Liz
11 Carolyn
18 Amanda
25 Hilary

August
1 Sally
8 Carolyn
15 Liz
22 Gay
29 Isobel

Monthly Coordinator:

Leila

Amanda

Liz



Church Calendar



June

- Sunday 13 10.30 Morning Worship at the Manse with buffet lunch. Details to be confirmed
- Sunday 20 10.30 Morning Worship
- Sunday 27 10.30 Morning Worship
18.30 Evening Service

July

- Sunday 4 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion
- Sunday 11 10.30 Morning Worship
- Sunday 18 10.30 Morning Worship
- 25 10.30 Morning Worship
18.30 Evening Service

August

- Sunday 6 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Church Register

Death: 28th March 2021 Norman Brian Crabb
17th April 2021 Joan Campsie Lugton



Meet & Greet

Sunday Readers



June

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 13 Paul and Edith | John |
| 20 Iain and Jo | Ethel |
| 27 Ethel and Patricia | Alison |

July

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| 4 Morna and Peter | Peter |
| 11 Christina and David | Sarah |
| 18 Sally and Stuart | Hunter |
| 25 Charmaine and George | David H |

August

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 Avril and Christine | Amanda |
|-----------------------|--------|

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 .

Session Clerk	Mr Neil Houston	Tel 07810
	Neil.Houston2812@gmail.com	000727
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	Tel 720547
	amandajones.gsy@gmail.com	
Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781 132699
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus	Tel 263688
	billharcus@cwgsy.net	