

# The Kirk Quair

June-July 2022



St Andrew's  
In the Grange  
Church of Scotland

# From the Interim Moderator



Please forgive me if, once again, I use the Epsom racecourse metaphor. I cannot see any difference as I look out across the garden at the Grandstands of the Epsom race course, but, as I walk the dogs across the down to the course, I see that preparations are well underway for the Derby taking place during the jubilee weekend in June. The extra stands have been erected, the marquees are also there and the golf-course has been turned into a car park. Some 250,000 people will go to the Downs on the Saturday to watch the Derby and experience the unique atmosphere. As I said before all the preparations have been made, the horses have been trained, all the obstacles overcome and they will be running round Tattenham Corner and down the home straight and across the finish line.

Well in our search for a new Minister so are we. We have been marshalled into the starting gates, negotiated all the hurdles placed in our way, started the race and, indeed, rounded the last bend and headed for home. Now, I am delighted to say that we have crossed the finish line. St Andrews in the Grange have elected a new Minister. Revd Justin Taylor was overwhelmingly elected following the service in May when he preached as Sole Nominee. That was crossing the finishing line which for so long has been deemed unattainable.

All that awaits is going into the winning enclosure and receiving the accolade of the waiting crowds and receiving the trophy. Justin will be inducted as your new minister, in this special anniversary year, at a service in August. (The exact date will be confirmed).

At times during the vacancy process, we have all been worried and concerned about what will happen. I know many of you have prayed for a successful outcome and those prayers have been answered,. By the Grace of God, Justin has heard and answered His Call and now will be your Minister. I wish him well. I am sure his Ministry in Guernsey

will be rewarding for everyone, both in the Church and in the community, as he brings in new ideas and different perspectives but the same Faith in God through Jesus that we all share.

I would like to thank Dr Alan Boyle and the Nominating Committee who have diligently applied themselves in the selection process. There were many meetings and discussions which have led to a successful outcome. I look forward to the service of induction, when we can finally enter the winner's enclosure and give thanks.

Your friend and Interim Moderator

Alistair Cumming

### *From the Editor*

As mentioned on page 5, the Liberation Day celebration featured the Red Cross food parcels. This reminded Ed of his school days when the "sweetie boy" gathered up our sweet coupons, headed off to R S McColl's (recently in the national news) and, on his return, carefully counted out our share! No choice, take what we were given and be grateful!

On Liberation Day itself, there were lots of celebrations. Many of us turned out to watch the cavalcade as it drove past and Their Royal Highnesses, The Earl and Countess of Wessex visited the island on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. Their itinerary included a Tea Dance at Beau Sejour where they met some of the occupation and evacuation generation and there was another event that didn't find its way into

the headlines. The Cotils (p8), was privileged to be chosen as the venue for the Bailiff's Dinner and members of staff were honoured to be presented to the Royal couple during the evening. After dinner, the 90 guests were in the ideal place to watch the firework display at the harbour.

While there has been so much celebration going on "Close to Home," it is easy to overlook and forget about the millions, even billions, of people elsewhere in the World who awaken each morning to face conflict, persecution, starvation or drought and we are reminded on page 10 of some of those affected. Let us remember them in our prayers.

*Ed*



# StAG News

## Vacancy matters

The vote after Morning Service on May 15th was overwhelmingly in favour of calling Rev Justin Taylor to be our minister and we were delighted to be told that he had accepted the call. We look forward to welcoming Justin and his family to St Andrew's and our island. Plans are afoot already for his induction.

We are very grateful to Alan and the Nominating Committee for their hard work and clandestine, behind the scenes endeavours on our behalf.

## *A very big thank you to . .*

.... Ethel and the Friends and Fellowship Team who have "pulled out all the stops" and "worked their socks off" to arrange a whole series of events for us in the past two months, many of which feature in the following pages. Their work is not yet over though and June has begun with a celebratory afternoon tea and a ceremonial cake cutting, alas too late for inclusion in this edition. A service in Gay and Pete's garden with lunch is also being planned..

*Holy*



*Week*

There's been a great deal happening at St Andrew's in the past two months beginning on Sunday 3rd April with Hilary leading Morning Worship followed by a Congregational Lunch at the Cotils.



On Maundy Thursday evening, our Interim Moderator, Alistair, joined us for a "re-enactment" of the Last Supper with Holy Communion and also took the services on Good Friday and Easter Day when he was able to tell us the good news that a Sole Nominnee had accepted our invitation to preach at St Andrew's in the Grange in May.

Next, came Liberation Day and World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on May 8th which we celebrated with a special service focussing on the arrival of the

Red Cross Ship, SS Vega, carrying food parcels for the starving population.



Members of the congregation were encouraged to create dishes from the ingredients listed in these parcels for lunch in the hall after the service. Amazing what can be done with just a few simple ingredients.



The next Sunday, we welcomed Rev Justin Taylor and the rest, as they say, is history! The Nominating Committee can now put their feet up and take a well deserved rest!

On Sunday, 22nd May, we were pleased to have Rev Linda Le Vasseur back with us to lead worship once again and, then, on Saturday 4th June, after this magazine had been sent to the printer, there was a special afternoon tea in the hall with a Celebratory Drink to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

On 5th June, the Day of Pentecost, or Whit Sunday as it used to be called, we welcome a special guest, Rev Dr George Whyte, one of the ten Chaplains in Ordi-

nary to Her Majesty's Household in Scotland and immediate past Principal Clerk to the General Assembly. How fitting to have a guest preacher with us from "North of the Border" because, after the service, we cut a cake and toasted 50 years of St Andrews in the Grange being affiliated to the Church of Scotland. Just one of several events being planned to mark this special year.

### *Lent Appeal 2022*

Last year, we supported a local charity working "Beyond Our Shores" in Tanzania for our Lent Appeal but this year we chose a local charity working much "Closer To Home" and raised £1,000 to help Grow Ltd with the ongoing redevelopment of their Les Petits Quartiers site. More information about this major project can be found on their website [www.grow.gg](http://www.grow.gg)



### *Looking ahead ....*

.... well, a very long way ahead really but why not make a note of the date in your diary. We have just been given advance notice that this year's Christmas Lunch has already been booked and will be held at Les Cotils on Sunday 11th December.

# From the General Assembly



## Reflection from the Mound

It seemed a bit strange returning to Edinburgh for the first “in person” General assembly since 2019. What had changed? Well I am sure that the hill from Princes Street to the Assembly Hall on The Mound has become much steeper and the steps past the Statue of John Knox have increased in number. The first thing I noticed was that the statue of John Knox was covered behind wooden planks, effectively putting him in a box. Was this a sign of things to come given some of the topics to be discussed!

Once again, it was a hybrid Assembly with some delegates and Commissioners actually attending the proceedings while others, such as Hilary, participated online. There were concerns on the first day about online votes not being counted and then, later in the week, the technology failed twice bringing on some well deserved relief and a chance to stretch the legs!

The Moderator this year is Revd. Ian Greenshields, or as he was known at school “Stamps”. Do you know why???

This was truly an historic General Assembly for three reasons.

After debating and voting for over a decade, the Church of Scotland has accepted that its Ministers can conduct same sex weddings, the vote being carried by a two thirds majority. This means that a minister can now, if he or she wishes, legally carry out a same sex wedding. In finalising the decision, there was further debate with very passionate speeches on both sides but what struck me was how respectful all the speakers were, no triumphalism and no name calling or labelling as has happened occasionally in the past. It was a time to respect our differences and allow those ministers who wanted to, to conduct the

wedding of any couple who were in love and wanted to show their commitment of love to each other with the blessing of God on their marriage vows.

The second historic agenda item was what was named the St Margaret Agreement; a declaration of friendship between the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church. After many dark years and issues which have divided the Churches, this was a declaration admitting that the behaviour of both denominations had fallen short and now was a time to move forward together in friendship. The theological differences would still exist but there is a willingness and a desire to work closely together. We were reminded that, as Christians, it does not matter what denomination we are from, we all still worship God through his Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This was seen as a positive step to tackling the pockets of bigotry that still exist in Scotland.

The third historic thing was that I actually won a vote in the Assembly and had my argument accepted. The point I raised was not trivial but one of fairness in funding the Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands. Essentially, each Presbytery in Scotland would have received £120,000 from the central funds of the Church, funds which include contributions from churches in the Presbytery of England but who were excluded from this funding. It was heartening that The Assembly accepted that our Presbytery should receive funding and that the Assembly Trustees would engage with us to determine how much and the mechanism for receiving it.

Sadly, my second speech to the Assembly was not so successful. In an attempt to have a review of the number of Ministers in the Presbytery, I fell short by just over 100 votes. This means that our fight to ensure that Jersey will have permission to call a minister will continue. I am delighted, however, that the Assembly accepted another motion to congratulate both Guernsey St Andrew's and Jersey St Columba's on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Finally it is always a great time to meet with old friends, I was able to have dinner with David and Grace Coulter and I am pleased to report that they are both doing well and send their best wishes to everyone.

Your friend and Interim Moderator

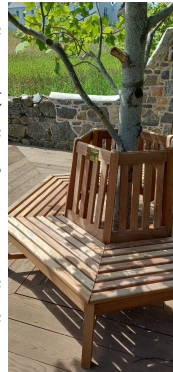
Alistair

## *The Peace Garden at Les Cotils*

The Cotils is in the process of completing a Peace Garden in its grounds within the walled area of the gardens. The concept is to provide a restorative outdoor space which will provide a peaceful sanctuary for contemplation, prayer or just spending time to stop and think. The location, topography and enclosing walls mean that the garden is secluded from its immediate surroundings with a sheltered, tranquil atmosphere. There are magnificent sea views and access takes into account wheelchair users.

One of the features is a viewing platform, with a huge tulip tree. Surrounding the tree is a bench dedicated to the memory of George Lugton, a former minister of St Andrew's, and his wife, Joan, who did so much for the Cotils. From this bench, you can see the other islands as well as the harbour and, of course, the grounds of the Cotils.

The Peace Garden, designed by Andrew Dyke and Steve Welch, will be officially opened this month and is there for the people of Guernsey and visitors alike to enjoy.



## *MAF update*



It's almost two years since our Afternoon in the Garden in support of MAF's aircraft refurbishment project and we have had an update to tell us that the Cessna Grand Caravan has now been deployed for service in Guinea.

After the first phase of refurbishment in the Netherlands, it had a long journey to Uganda last July for the next phase when the engine and propeller were replaced. Then, after flight training to comply with regulations in Guinea, it finally set out on the last leg of its journey on 26th January arriving at Conakry five days later on 30th January.

Roy, the pilot, was in Mongolia in 2000 when the plane was first delivered to MAF, he flew it to Holland two years ago and, once again, he was at the controls as it returned to service.

He reflects, "Let us pray that the aircraft will continue to be a blessing



to people living and serving in Guinea. We will use it to bring hope, help and healing in many ways; transporting passengers, supplies and medical patients needing urgent care — continuing to serve those who are in need in Guinea.”

## *Christian Aid*

### **What we are**

Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency for 41 Protestant and Catholic Churches across The British Isles and Ireland. Founded in 1945, Christian Aid is a founder member of the Disasters Emergency Committee and a major member of the Fairtrade Foundation. We work with hundreds of local partners in some of the world’s most vulnerable communities, presently in 24 countries.

### **What we are doing in Ukraine**

We are working with partner churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Romania to provide shelter, food, sanitation, baby incubators and health support to refugees and those caught up in the fighting. In Ukraine itself, we work directly with the Health Ministry.

### **What our own church is doing**

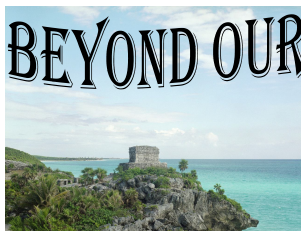
Our Christian Aid Week retiring collections this year raised £230. We also helped to staff the World Aid Walk on May 2, a big fundraiser and community event, the income being shared by ourselves and three other charities.

We have taken an active part in supermarket bucket collections this year and provided most of the volunteers for the M&S event on 28 May. These events are much like old fashioned “flag days”, raising several hundred pounds on each occasion and are gradually replacing the traditional red envelopes. In addition to cash, donors can use credit cards or phones to tap a card reader. We raised further £720.

Our new minister, Rev Justin Taylor, conducted our church service at the beginning of Christian Aid Week in May. His prayers included a Christian Aid prayer for both Russia and Ukraine, and he made clear his support for the charity.

Please contact Paul, our Christian Aid representative, if you can give an hour for future bucket collections.

# BEYOND OUR SHORES



The huge outpouring of support for Ukraine is now eclipsing other crises around the world, which in turn are threatening millions with starvation.

So warn a number of charities and other humanitarian organisations. The UN reports that the situation in Somalia, where 4.5 million people are at risk of starvation owing to the worst drought in a decade, is deteriorating quickly. Somalia urgently needs some £1.1 billion in aid, of which only three per cent has been secured.

The International Director of Tearfund, Veena O’Sullivan, said: “While the eyes of the world have been fixed on Ukraine, other horrors have been taking place.”

These range from a “hunger crisis of massive proportions” in the Horn of Africa, which includes Somalia, and the ongoing violence and famine in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, as well as humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria.

The director of CAFOD, Christine Allen, said: “It is right that we support a response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, in whatever way we can, but this cannot be at the expense of vital funds meant for tackling the root causes of global poverty.”

As if all this isn’t bad enough, there is a growing threat of Christian persecution in Nigeria, India and Afghanistan. Other countries on the list of the world’s worst violators of religious freedom are: China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Myanmar (Burma), Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, Syria and Vietnam.

Afghans who converted to Christianity from Islam over the past 20 years are considered ‘apostates’, a crime punishable by death. Converts, who already faced ostracism and the threat of honour killings by family and village members, are at heightened risk following the Taliban takeover.

Religious persecution in India has also taken a significant turn for the worse with Uttar Pradesh, being one of the worst offending states.

# ... AND CLOSER TO HOME **70**

## PLATINUM JUBILEE

*Celebration of Faith & Service*

As a nation, in April, we celebrated the Queen's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history (70 years compared with Victoria's 63 years). Up until recently, she attended church every week and did a full week's work!

It is her commitment to serving God and the nation which stands out in her life. Even before she became Queen, she made a promise, which she has kept for over 75 years: *'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'* (21<sup>st</sup> birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

What is the secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service? In 2002, she said this: *'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.'* Here are wise words from somebody who draws her strength from the Christian Faith and inspiration for those of us who want to make our lives count!

The Queen has been an example of joyful, wise, and generous service on behalf of others all her life. Six months before her coronation, she asked the nation and commonwealth to *'pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.'* Clearly, God has answered those prayers!!

This year we celebrate her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Over 50 countries lit beacons on 2nd June to start four days of events: a spectacular pageant, a live concert at Buckingham Palace, Jubilee lunches and street parties across the nation, plus a nationwide bake-off competition to create a new 'platinum pudding'.

From the northernmost tip of Scotland to the Channel Islands and beyond, 848 public events were planned, plus 1,171 parties or private events. This month we shall sing, 'God save the Queen' with more gusto than ever.

## 19<sup>th</sup> June Father' Day

Fans of the popular *Star Wars* films were surprised when Darth Vader said to Luke Skywalker "I am your father." This unexpected disclosure paved the way for future surprises in the episodes that followed.



Many times, Jesus surprised His hearers with parables that had unexpected twists and turns. No doubt He astonished the disciples when He first called God 'Father' and went on to instruct them to pray saying "Our Father in heaven...". No one had called God 'Father' before!

Shortly before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus talked to His disciples about God the Father. He said: "In my Father's house are many rooms." This prompted Philip to ask: "Show us the Father, that is all we need." Jesus replied: "Whoever has seen Me *has* seen the Father."

Jesus knew this concept would be hard to grasp and so had to frequently speak about God as His Father. For three years, the disciples had listened to profound teaching and witnessed miracles. They knew Jesus was different but, as His ministry drew to a close, they were learning more about the special relationship that God had with Jesus.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June, it will be Father's Day. This is an occasion to remember the role our dads are playing now or have played in our lives. Hopefully, we have good memories and recall times of loving care they showed to us.

Unfortunately, some people do not know their fathers, or they have been absent for long periods or may be neglectful, deceitful, or abusive. Sadly, some children and adults would rather not remember their fathers, having suffered some trauma or family breakdown.

It is good to know that God is not like this. Jesus came to reveal God as our Heavenly Father, who is loving, compassionate, merciful, forgiving, and caring. God is the model father who knows what is good for us and wants the best for us.

So, Father's Day can be a reminder that we are God's children, and that we can possess the blessings He has kept for us. In the story of our lives God has revealed Himself in a surprising way. He says to each one of us 'I am your Father'. Now that is something to celebrate!

## 5<sup>th</sup> June: Pentecost

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.



Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians, Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church. Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’.

The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

### *With Father’s Day in mind*

What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard by posterity. – *Richter*

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

The child had every toy his father wanted. – *Robert C. Whitten*



# Church Calendar



## June

Sunday 12 10.30 Service at Uplands, Uplands Road\*\*  
 Sunday 19 10.30 Morning Worship with Baptism  
 Sunday 26 10.30 Morning Worship

## July

Sunday 3 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion  
 Sunday 10 10.30 Morning Worship  
 Sunday 17 10.30 Morning Worship  
 Sunday 24 10.30 Morning Worship  
 Sunday 31 18.30 Morning Worship

## August

Sunday 7 10.30 Morning Worship

**NB:** The Church building will be closed on 12th June when we take to the outdoors for our Morning Worship as we did last year. This year there will be no need for minibuses because there is plenty of parking space for everyone “on street” and in the Odeon car park close by. There will be lunch in the garden after the service.

*Time for a smile ....*

### Notices outside a church:

Worn out? Come in for a Service!

This church is not just four weddings and a funeral.



### As borders open up again and we head off on holiday:

I haven't been abroad in so long that I almost speak English without an accent. - *Robert Benchley*

I dislike feeling at home when I am abroad. - *George Bernard Shaw*

### A child's definition:

'Ecclesiastic': material used to fasten a minister's robes

### Judgement

The poster read: Where will you be on judgement day?

The graffiti below read: Still waiting for the bus to town.



## Meet & Greet

### June

- 12 Service in the Garden
- 19 Jo & Iain
- 26 Charmaine & George

### July

- 3 Avril & Christine
- 10 Edith & Paul
- 17 Morna & Peter
- 24 Sally & Stuart
- 31 Amanda & Steven

### August

- 7 Beth & Emily

## Sunday Readers

### June

- 12 Gay
- 19 Elizabeth Mc
- 26 Charmaine

### July

- 3 George
- 10 Andrea
- 17 Robert
- 24 Amanda
- 31 Stuart

### August

- 5 Sally



## Flower Rota



### June

- 12 Service in the Garden
- 19 Charmaine
- 26 Nancy

### July

- 3 Liz
- 10 Andrea
- 17 Sally
- 24 Edith
- 31 Carolyn

### August

- 7 Gay

### Monthly Coordinator:

- June Leila
- July Amanda
- August Liz

When looking at the flowers on a Sunday morning remember that “Nature is the art of God.” (*Thomas Browne*) and *Catherine Bramwell-Booth’s* words “I think that God’s works are so beautiful that I am amazed that people can admire them but deny that they have a Maker”



# Church Register

## Deaths

17th April 2022 **Dulcie Annie Orchard Mack**

Dulcie was one of the “occupation and evacuation generation” mentioned on page 3 and was evacuated to Glasgow with her siblings in 1940. On her return to her homeland after the war, she worked as a telephonist, met and married a fellow telephonist, a Scot, and they became staunch members of St Andrews.

# Church of Scotland

## St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey

### **Interim Moderator**

Rev Alistair Cumming

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

Email: [acumming@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto: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.

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
	<a href="mailto:Neil.Houston2812@gmail.com">Neil.Houston2812@gmail.com</a>	000727
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	Tel 720547
	<a href="mailto:amandajones.gsy@gmail.com">amandajones.gsy@gmail.com</a>	
Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781
		132699
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus	Tel 263688
	<a href="mailto:billharcus@cwgsy.net">billharcus@cwgsy.net</a>	