

The Kirk Quair

April-May 2021



St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

From the Minister's Desk



The sign at the Nature Reserve read: “Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints.” It is an interesting play on words but the message is clear. When I think of the pictures, we have taken during the past two years in Guernsey, I immediately think of yet another beautiful sunset going down over Cobo or the splendour and pride Grace took in the flowers she grew in the Manse Garden. Especially the array she created around the 'bothy' which we built during the first lockdown, thanks to help from George and Hunter despite extreme social distancing. I think of the many footprints we may have left with our daily walks through the park and along the shore, sometimes accompanied by Sheba (Hunter's black Labrador) who was always glad to see us as she knew it meant another walk and a pocket full of treats.

We remember with great fondness my service of Induction when the Very Revd Dr Susan Brown, the Moderator of the General Assembly preached in the presence of Sir Richard Collas the Bailiff and the Very Revd Dr John Cairns KCVO. We remember being surrounded by family and friends from the Presbytery of England who had come to Guernsey specially for the service and how we felt so warmly welcomed and embraced by the congregation of St Andrew's in the Grange.

In turn, I vividly remember the first Monday after the Induction. The guests had all left and the work now had to begin. I got up early, as I always do, and put on a clerical collar, which after thirty years in the Army was, if you like, my uniform. I sat at my desk in the Manse window and switched on my computer. I looked outside and said to myself “Now what!” I really wasn't sure where to begin and I hadn't yet found my feet as a parish minister. I suddenly realised it can be a lonely occupation and it is a hard job that requires knowledge, skill and experience but it ultimately comes down to being prepared to start by listening to God. I was reminded of Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know

that I am God!”

It was from listening and being still that I sensed we were in a good place and that we had been privileged to be Called to be your Minister. The task now was to get to know one another. Throughout our time here, I have relied heavily upon Hilary and Neil as Session Clerk. I could not have hoped for better support and advice. I have really valued the ability to have open conversations, to share confidences and to know that we both trust and respect one another and for that I want to publicly say ‘thank you.’ At a farewell dinner the Elders kindly gave us recently, I said that in the same way that the Legionnaires were the backbone of the Roman Army and the Sergeant’s Mess the backbone of the British Army, it is the Elders who are the backbone of the Church of Scotland and we have been blessed by a great team of Elders. I was delighted to Ordain five new Elders during our time here and to admit new members by Confirmation and Admission by Profession of Faith. We are all indelibly marked by the people we meet and the places we have been and so I will look back and remember those whose baptism, wedding and funeral I had the privilege to conduct.

In the past couple of weeks people have frequently asked us; what will you miss most about Guernsey and what will you take away? These are really difficult questions because we had never planned to leave so soon and never imagined we would be returning to St Andrew’s and the new challenge of becoming the Presbytery Clerk of Fife. We have had a great time and met some lovely people across the island. What will we miss? Guernsey weather; swimming in the sea or walking the cliffs; the flowers and the bird life; the manse kitchen and garden; the warmth and support of the Elders; Members and Congregation. We could not have hoped for more. Yes, we will miss you!

What will we take away? The sign at the Nature Reserve read: “Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints.” Perhaps I would want to add to that the satisfaction of knowing that for a short time we have journeyed together and that by the grace of God we will remember one another in our prayers.

With all good wishes and every blessing

David and Grace

StAG News ... Lent and Easter

As we tucked into our pancakes on Shrove Tuesday in preparation for the beginning of Lent the next day, 17th February, we were well and truly locked down and, with the church building closed for worship, we had to revert to “virtual services.”

Fortunately, restrictions were being eased by the middle of March and services with a limited attendance were resumed on the fourth and fifth Sundays in Lent. Palm Sunday heralded the return of normality and a busy time ahead as we celebrated Easter and prepared to say farewell to David and Grace.

Session Dinner

Elders, past and present, gathered at Les Cotils on Tuesday 30th March, not to discuss matters of great moment, but to enjoy an informal meal together, to thank David and Grace for their time with us and to wish them well in the future.



Maundy Thursday



The short reflection on page 12 describes the “Last Supper” in the Upper Room when Jesus commanded His disciples “to love one another,” washed their feet and instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We were reminded of Jesus’ words and actions at our evening service on Maundy Thursday as we came forward to have our hands washed and then received the bread and the wine.

Good Friday



On Good Friday evening, we gathered again for a very memorable reflective service with hymns prayers and readings to commemorate our Lord’s Passion.

Easter Sunday



There was a really good turn out on Easter Day for Morning Worship with Holy Communion, David's valedictory service, and, knowing that there were those who would not be able to attend, an abridged version was pre-recorded for viewing on YouTube which we are told was appreciated both "Beyond our Shores" and "Closer to Home." Neil's solo "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" was very special. After the service, parting gifts were presented to both David and Grace as a token of our appreciation for all that they have done for us.

Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday 11th April and will be reported in the next edition.

Guernsey Welfare

No lunches planned at the moment.

Lent Appeal 2021



No sooner had we launched the Lent Appeal for the Tumaini Fund than lockdown struck again! We don't give up easily at St A's, though, and our appeal will continue with the aim of collecting sufficient funds to build at least one house in Tanzania.

Now that the church building is open once more, you can find a model of the typical house we will be funding and lots of information about Tumaini's work on the display board in the Narthex.

"Sally's Boxes" (on the right in the photograph below) were originally intended to be used for the collection of cash for the General Charity Fund but please feel free to take a box and fill it with loose change for the Lent Appeal. Who knows we might be able to "build" more than one house ... a terrace even?



From the Editor



Publication of this edition of the Quair has been delayed by a week so that we can include the events of Holy Week and the farewell functions for David and Grace. As we “went to press” last week, it was exactly two years since David’s induction on 4th April 2019, a memorable occasion long before we had ever even heard of terms such as lockdown, social distancing or self isolation and we were all looking forward to the next phase of our journey. Little could any of us have foreseen how bizarre that journey would be but, despite everything, our fellowship seems to have grown stronger and closer. Now, as David moves on to his challenging new Call in Scotland, we are once again facing an uncertain future.

Unfortunately, there is no quick fix, no locum waiting in the wings to preach us into the vacancy this time but, as our Interim Moderator reminds us on the next page, we must look to the future, not dwell on the past and seize the opportunity to move forward. The process of calling a new minister is far from simple but, rest assured, the process has begun and will gain momentum as we receive the “green light” from Presbytery. It is also worth reminding readers that the work of the Nominating Committee, once appointed, has to be carried out confidentially to avoid the possibility of compromising relationships between applicants and their current congregations so do, please, be understanding and support them in your prayers as they set about finding a new minister. Every effort will be made to keep you in the picture within the constraints of confidentiality.

Not a lot in the diary as we head into the vacancy but Spring is here to cheer us on our way with all its wonderful flowers and blossom and, no doubt, the diary will begin to fill up as we slowly return to “the new normal!”

In conclusion, here is a pertinent quotation I have just come across:

“Thank God for what you have, TRUST GOD for what you need.”

Anon

Ed

A message from the Interim Moderator

Often when an interim Moderator is appointed to a vacancy, the first task is to get to know people and for members of the congregation to get to know them. Fortunately for both me and the members of Guernsey St Andrews in the Grange, that initial getting to know you is probably not necessary as it seems no time at all since I was with you as your locum Minister during the previous vacancy. I am obviously delighted to take up this role and once again play a part in the life of St Andrews in the Grange.

Some of you may be thinking “not another vacancy” and, I am sure that in 2019 when David was inducted, we all thought that it would be a few years before we were seeking to “Call” another Minister. We need to reflect on that word CALL. David was Called by God to be your Minister, just as God called him to be the Presbytery Clerk of Fife. God clearly has a pathway in mind for Guernsey St Andrews in the Grange and also for David. I am certain that His light will shine like a beacon and will point the way forward. Be assured that David was the right person at the right time for you. That is why he was Called. I am sure that he leaves behind some wonderful achievements as he has moved forward with you. Now is not a time for looking back, it is a time for building and moving forward. It is an opportunity to build on what David started and seek a new minister who will bring his or her own mark to St Andrews in the Grange.

The season of Easter is often heralded as a time of new beginnings and new life. So it is for you today. Move forward in Faith.

There are set procedures that a church has to go through in a vacancy and my job as Interim Moderator is to make sure that they are done correctly. If you are unsure about any aspect of the vacancy, please don't hesitate to speak to me and I will answer any questions that you might have. I know that I have/will provide great support from/to your office bearers and Kirk Session, who are at the end of a telephone and/or an email. I hope that it will not be too long before I can once again see you in person. Until then, please stay safe and keep David and Grace in your prayers as I am sure you are all in theirs.

You friend and Interim Moderator
Alistair Cumming



Easter Day

Farewell Lunch

After the service, Neil, our Session Clerk, thanked the members of the congregation for their ministry to us, saying how blessed we have been to have Andrew's in the Grange for the past two years and how much we have enjoyed his ministry. He reminded us, as our Interim Moderator has been a minister to us, He has now called him on to a very important role as Session Clerk of the newly formed Presbytery of Fifeshire. A young lady whose only comment when she heard the news was 'Neil is going to be a minister'.



A young lady from Sunday School then stepped forward to present a gift as a token of our appreciation .. a necklace (the necklace was a gift from one rescued from the beach). Neil's turn next to present a video of a local scene to remind him of his time on the island.

Then, it was off down The Grange to Les Coteaux for a relaxed family occasion and an opportunity to



Service and at Les Cotils

paid tribute to and thanked both David and
blessed we had been to have them at St An-
and how sorry we are to be saying “goodbye.”
as done, that just as God called David to min-
y demanding and challenging new ministry as
. In his response, David told us of an elderly
e news of his departure, was “You’re daft!”

ped forward and presented Grace with a part-
ecklace in the form of an ormer shell (but not
t to unveil our parting gift to David, a picture
the island and his many swims!.

otils for a farewell buffet lunch which was a
o say our personal goodbyes.



BEYOND OUR SHORES



Famine may be on the way

That is the stark warning of the Disasters Emergency Committee coalition of UK aid agencies, who say that the economic devastation caused by the pandemic is leading to increasing hunger in poorer countries.

Thousands are likely to die this year as the knock-on effect of Covid-19 worldwide has left millions less able to afford food. South Sudan and Yemen are already on the brink of famine, and Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are also in deep trouble.

Just at a time when Covid-19 and wars have crippled the economic and health systems of many countries, humanitarian funding has dropped as donor countries also struggle.

Saleh Saeed, the committee's chief executive, explained: "People living in places made perilous by conflict, violence and climate disasters are coping as best they can, but the odds are stacked against them. The knock-on effects of the pandemic have crippled economies, making the world's poorest people even poorer."



Give Thanks appeal raises funds for vulnerable people

Christian Aid's latest appeal, which enables people to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world, has raised £130,000. Many people in the UK are feeling a sense of relief as loved ones receive their vaccines. Christian Aid's Give Thanks appeal encourages people to pass the blessing on, by helping others who have little protection from the pandemic.

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information as Covid-19 continues to destroy lives and livelihoods. Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries. A donation page has been set up where people can give to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal.

... AND CLOSER TO HOME



100 years of the British Legion

Until last week end, David, our minister, was chaplain to the Royal British Legion in Guernsey, an organisation with which we have shared a number of memorable services such as Remembrance Sunday last November when we were welcomed at church by an armoured car!

The British Legion was founded one hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who had given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year and sold nine million poppies. Now some 40,000 volunteers distribute 40 million poppies. It seems the demand was so great that few poppies reached Scotland and, in 1926, Lady Dorothy Haig established a factory in Edinburgh which now produces over five million poppies a year. These differ from those in the rest of the UK because they have four petals and no leaf.

The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first, membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel but was expanded in 1981 to include serving members of the Forces.

Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ. Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Out of the mouths etc ...

Lot's wife: A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.' His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

Divine Intervention?: A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in. When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.' Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, since you're out there already, please will you pass me the broom?'

EASTER HOPE

“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.” These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. *‘But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’* (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: *“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.”* (Justin Welby).



Expensive boat

A minister was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when she found it would cost her £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. She protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. ‘That might be true,’ replied the travel agent, ‘but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked.’



‘Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,’ she replied, ‘I am not surprised!’



Church Calendar



April

Sunday 18 10.30 Morning Worship
 Sunday 25 10.30 Morning Worship
 18.30 Evening Service

May

Sunday 2 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion
 Sunday 9 10.30 Liberation Day Service
 Sunday 16 10.30 Morning Worship
 23 10.30 Morning Worship. Pentecost
 30 10.30 Morning Worship. Trinity Sunday
 18.30 Evening Service

June

Sunday 6 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Church Register

Death: 17th March 2021 David Robert (Bob) McIntosh

Baptism: 28th March 2021 Hamish Benjamin Otto Carpenter



David Robert (Bob) McIntosh

Bob was born and raised in South Africa but later moved to Rhodesia where he rose to be “Chief Finance Officer.” of Rhodesian Breweries. He and his family left Rhodesia at the time of independence in 1978 and lived in England before finally settling in Guernsey in 1992. Bob was an Elder of the Highlands Presbyterian church in Rhodesia and served St Andrews in the Grange faithfully as an Elder and Treasurer. He was also an active member of the Samaritans.



Shortly after his death, a neighbour wrote: “*Bob was a real gentleman and many friends will have very happy memories of times they shared with Bob. He will be remembered for his kindness; generosity of spirit and his great good humour we’ll all miss. He was always direct and forthright not one to suffer fools but a man who always saw the best in others and always the first willing to lend a hand.*”

SPRING (*Acrostic Poem*)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,

Petals of every colour and hue,

Rain and sun caressing the earth

Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view

Now is the time of new beginnings

Giving us pleasure all season through.

Mention of Spring blossoms comes with a gentle reminder that the flower rota is somewhat depleted at present and, if you feel you could help, please do have a word with Carolyn who would welcome some more names on the list.

**Flower Rota
April - June**



April

- 18 Bunty
- 25 Carolyn

May

- 2 Audrey
- 9 Carolyn
- 16 Andrea
- 23 Fiona

- 30 Carolyn

June

- 6 Leila
- 13 Carolyn
- 20 Patricia
- 27 Nancy

Monthly Coordinator:

April Sue

May Audrey

June Leila



Meet & Greet

- 18 Amanda and Steven
- 25 Charmaine and George

April

Sunday Readers

- Neil
- Patricia



May

- 2 Avril and Christine
- 9 Sally and Stuart
- 16 Hilary and Sue O
- 23 Beth and Emily
- 30 Andrea & Robert

- Stuart
- Fiona
- Alan
- George
- Gay

June

- 6 Gay and Peter

- Elizabeth Mc

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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