

The Kirk Quair

August-September 2020



A farmer went out to sow his seed

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

From the Minister's Desk



We were married on 21st August 1981 in Helen's Bay Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland. It was the Church in which Grace grew up and where her parents still attend. I was at University and lived in the same halls of residence as the current Minister who has been there since he graduated and was Ordained into the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. During our time at University, I was an Army Cadetship Officer reading History and he was a Theological Student. We often discussed the possibility of my dropping out of History and applying to study Divinity – “but why would you do something as daft as that?” – my Army friends counselled.

For the previous six weeks prior to our wedding, I had been on the prairies of Canada as the Commander of 8 Platoon in the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rangers. It was my first major overseas exercise where we spent long days field firing across the wide-open spaces. We converted thousands of live rounds into empty cases! It was great fun and I loved every minute of it. Not least, I expect because I was spared from too much wedding planning!

In the early 1980's, the Northern Ireland Troubles were at their height. Almost every day there were bombings and shootings across the province. Cross community tensions were heightened in the Spring of 1981 when a number of political prisoners went on hunger strike. On the 5th May 1981, the first of the hunger strikers died in prison. The daily cycle of violence continued over the Summer including on Wednesday 5th August 1981 when the Irish Republican Army (IRA) carried out a series of car bomb and incendiary bomb attacks in seven areas of Northern Ireland including Belfast, Londonderry and Lisburn. The attacks caused serious damage to property and minor injuries to a number of people. One of the properties most severely damaged in Lisburn was the 1st Presbyterian Church.

Ten years later I was back in Northern Ireland as Chaplain to the Queen's Own Highlanders and I met the Revd Dr Gordon Gray who was then minister of 1st Lisburn and who told me about living through the bombing and the dark days of the troubles. He made a point of taking me into the Church to see 'The Resurrection Window' that was constructed from fragments of the old windows that had been extensively destroyed in the car bomb on 5th August 1981. Gordon gave me a postcard with a picture of the Resurrection Window, which I still carry in my sermon case and which recalls that: "In the centre is the orb of the earth surrounded by the red of human suffering, injury, sin and sorrow. But overcoming this are shafts of light radiating outwards like a great cosmic explosion symbolising the Resurrection of our Lord. Around it are woven palm branches of victory and of peace. Triangles of light may be seen as splinters of flying glass or the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit. This window is a memorial of this episode (a car bomb) in the congregation's 300-year history and a witness to its faith."

Thirty-nine years later, we are still happily married and 1st Lisburn Presbyterian Church is still standing, alive and well. The Resurrection Window is still there allowing light to shine through fragments of coloured glass reminding people inside and outside the Church that the "earth is still surrounded by the red of human suffering, injury, sin and sorrow." But also, that the light which shines new every morning is a "great cosmic symbol of the Resurrection of our Lord."

With all good wishes and every blessing

David

Smile lines!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!

Please don't walk on our church lawn. Grass grows by the inch but is worn down by the foot! - Anon

A babysitter is a teenager acting like an adult while the adults are out acting like teen-agers.

Success is relative - the greater the success, the more relatives.

StAG News

Cosy Prize Giving

Our CoSY Prize Giving service this year was a service with a difference because, just before our minister presented the youngsters with their prizes, a very scary gentleman in great-coat and bowler hat strode up to the lectern. He was it seems a doorkeeper and saw it as his duty to permit entry to church only to the most devout. Children definitely not allowed!

Moments later, Jesus miraculously appeared at his side and gently proceeded to debunk all



the claims and everything that Mr Grumpy said pointing out that everyone is welcome, including children.

The message is that we are all welcome, "Just as we are," young and old, rich and poor, good or bad.



Annual Herm Visit



Diary Dates

We are sorry that we have had to cancel the Annual Trip to Herm this year but there are one or two other events coming up.

The first is the Afternoon in the Garden planned for Saturday 15th August in support of Mission Aviation Fellowship and then, at the end of September, on Sunday 27th, we have our All Age Harvest Thanksgiving service which is to be followed by a buffet lunch in the Hall.

We are pleased, too, that Les Co-tils is "back in business" and that the Friends will be having an Afternoon Cream Tea (£5.50) on Wednesday 12th August at 3.00pm in the Reading Room and a lunch (£14.50) in the Harry Bound Room on Wednesday 9th September after which David will give a talk entitled "God and the gun." You don't have to be a member of the Friends to attend these events and reservations can be made at Reception or by telephone on 727793.

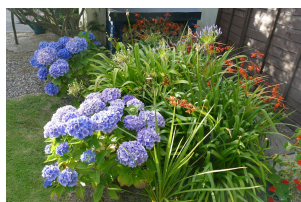
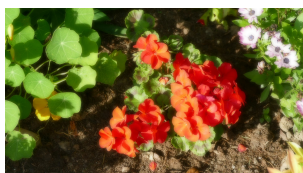
Drinks at the Manse



Can it really be a year since we gathered at the Manse for drinks and nibbles. How time flies when you are enjoying yourself!

David and Grace kindly invited us all to join them again for drinks and tasty bites in their lovely garden on Saturday 18th July. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us and there was an excellent turnout. Needless to say their hospitality was greatly appreciated. Thank you.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words so let the photos speak for themselves!



Street Life Pastors

Street Life Pastors was set up by Church on the Rock (now The Rock Community Church) about 10 years ago. When the police were first approached with the proposal it was not well received. Basically they were concerned that, as non-professionals, we would create more work for them not less. However, investigations in the UK revealed that those cities that had Street Pastors walking the streets at the weekends had seen a decrease in crime rate. So it was agreed that Street Life Pastors could be set up in Guernsey but, as we are not affiliated to the UK pastors, “Life” was added to our title.

From that less than welcoming start, we now find that the police really appreciate our work to such an extent that we regularly receive the Crime Prevention Panel Award. In the week leading up to the clubs reopening after lockdown Liz, the current co-ordinator, had a visit from a police officer who asked if a team would be out that night. When told “yes”, he said how pleased the chief would be to hear that.

I was part of the team that went out on the first Saturday. It was a warm evening and town was much busier than usual. Every youngster (and some not so young) wanted to be part of that first night on the town after such a long close down. The atmosphere was happy and everyone one was in high spirits. As on most Saturday evenings, the majority had a great night and we were there for those who needed some help.

Since lockdown, there has been a serious drop in the number of volunteers so if your Saturday evenings are less than stimulating, you might consider joining us. We meet at 10.30pm in the Town Church, check our backpacks and say a prayer before heading out at 11pm. We carry bottles of water, flipflops, dustpan & brush (to sweep up broken glass), first aid kit, foil blanket and hair ties (useful to keep long hair out of sick). At 12.30am we return to the church for a hot drink before heading out again at 1am. Foliés closes at 2am but there is a reluctance to go home especially on a dry night. So I usually get home about 3am.

What a great sell! I expect most of you are now keen to come out with us. You would be very welcome. . Speak to me – I’ll be happy to tell you more and arrange to take you out. Edith



The caption on last year's August/September cover 50 years after the Apollo 11 landing on the moon was "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

We don't claim that our return to a printed format is a "giant leap" but it is, at least, another "small step" back to normality! How fortunate we are compared with our friends and families across the channel who are still subject to so many restrictions.

It does seem that there has been "a giant leap" in the field of digital technology though because it is estimated that the use of Zoom in the UK soared from 659,000 to 13 million in the three months from January with 70% of people making video calls at least once a week. Unfortunately, our increased reliance on digital communication has come at a cost and is a scammers paradise. Caution is needed (p 13)

In the last magazine, reference was made to two remarkable rose windows, one in Rheims, the other in York and the Min-

ister's letter tells of another remarkable window in Lisburn. It has not been possible to source a copyright free picture of this but just type "resurrection window, lisburn" in the address bar and select the "artandtheology" link.

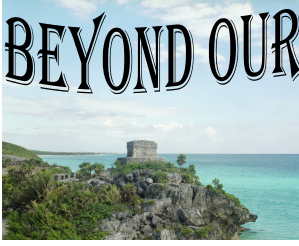
We were reminded of the "Parable of the Sower" in our morning service on July 12th, when we were told about two young men, one from a housing estate in Glasgow, the other from the Highlands who now care for millions of trees for the Forestry Commission. There is a reflection on this parable on page 11.

Every time we have opened a newspaper or turned on the television in the past few months, we have been bombarded with doom and gloom about the economic outlook and, on p14, our business correspondent, Amanda, brings us sad news of a number of failing organisations.

With the planned Afternoon in the Garden in a couple of weeks, this edition has a slightly horticultural theme and, finally, I am sure you will all join me in wishing Grace and David a very happy anniversary on the 21st. Time for David to start saving up for their Ruby anniversary next year?

Ed

BEYOND OUR SHORES



There is so much going on “Beyond our shores” that it is often difficult to know what to include and what not to include in this column. Our news so far this year has been dominated almost exclusively by the coronavirus pandemic but persecution, poverty and disasters both natural and man made haven’t gone away. Far from it.

In just two weeks, we will be having our “Afternoon in the Garden” to support Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), a charity that has been providing a lifeline to the world’s remotest communities for 75 years but has been denied the opportunity to celebrate its anniversary as planned.

Our specific aim is to contribute to the £57,000 refurbishment of a Cessna Grand Caravan aircraft, “The Millenium Messenger.” which will then be deployed from Mongolia to West Africa and based at Spriggs Payne Airport in Liberia, a country ravaged by civil war, poverty and disease, where MAF has been working with aid agencies since 2015 to access im-

poverished and isolated communities hampered by appalling roads and extreme rainfall.

Earlier this year, a new office was opened in neighbouring Guinea from which it is hoped to improve the lives of thousands more people living in isolation.

Essential workers such as teachers, health workers and engineers will be transported to where they are needed in a country still reeling from the devastating Ebola epidemic in 2013. There is so much to be done.

Our ongoing appeal for the Eleanor Foundation is a constant reminder of the need for fresh water. It is estimated that one third of the population of Guinea have no access to clean water, there are only three hospital beds per thousand people and the literacy rate is approximately 40%.

Some good news for a change: The government of Sudan passed a law in April criminalising FGM with perpetrators facing three years in prison but the real challenge will be to change the minds of the community who view the practice as necessary to have their daughter married off. They will be reluctant to comply.

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

Most of us in Guernsey are familiar with the Little Chapel at Les Vauxbelets but, perhaps, not so familiar with another little chapel hidden away in the lanes of St Andrews.



The Monnaie Chapel was built in 1957 by Rev Frank Drake in the grounds of his family home as a focal point for peace and healing. Frank whose elder son was critically ill at the time found great inspiration in “The Living Touch”, a book written by Dorothy Kerin, the founder of Burrswood Christian Healing Centre in Kent and when she visited Guernsey, she wholeheartedly endorsed and encouraged Frank’s vision to bring comfort and strength to those with medical problems and their families.

Frank conducted weekly healing services in the chapel for over twenty years until his death in 1987 when the role became the remit of St Andrews Church rectors. In 2015, the trustees decided it was time to widen the ministry and to become more ecumenical and, so, clergy from other Christian churches were invited to join a rota. The chapel now has a ministerial team of 14 including our own minister, David, and each Wednesday morning at 10.30, there is a short communion service with laying on of hands for healing and also prayers for individuals who are unable to attend. There is a time for tea and coffee fellowship after the service and the chapel is open daily throughout the year for private prayer.

Responsibility for the chapel eventually passed to Frank’s younger son who has worked tirelessly with his wife for the last 33 years to maintain its ministry but, unfortunately, they, like many of us, are no longer in the first flush of youth (speak for yourself, Ed, I hear you mutter) and, quite naturally, are concerned about the future. They are supported by a strong team of clergy but help with the burden of day to day maintenance and administration would be greatly appreciated.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in helping, no matter how, do please do have a word with Ed who will pass on your interest. Alternatively, you will be most welcome at a weekly service.

HYMN: The story behind ... JUST AS I AM

The hymn ‘Just As I Am’ has been sung by tens of millions of Christians at Billy Graham Crusades the world over. Yet it was not written by a professional who was ‘aiming’ at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today. It was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: “Did she have peace with God?” Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business!

But after he left, his question haunted her. *Did* she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So, she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: “Come just as you are.” The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and He would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bids't me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, tho tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel presented at many great Billy Graham crusades, and made their way forward to do just as the hymn describes - to come to Jesus Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come ‘just as I am.’

Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of a stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.



St Andrews in the Grange

invite

You and your friends

to

An Afternoon in the Garden

At La Lague, Rue du Gains,
Torteval



On Saturday 15th August from 2.30pm

In support of

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Help us to refurbish "The Millenium Messenger"

**Who am I baby
Competition?**



Afternoon Tea

to the sweet sound

of

The Organics

Grand Raffle



**Mini Croquet
Competition**



Donations of books, bottles, dvds, jigsaws, plants and raffle prizes may be left in the hall. Please have a word with Leila about cakes. Photos of you as a baby should be put in an envelope with your name on and given to Eleanor.

**Welly Wanging
Competition**



Please help us with the catering by signing up as soon as possible if you intend to come along



CBYC



No this doesn't stand for Channel Boat and Yacht Club but "Check Before You Click." Sound advice.

Your editor has had a love hate relationship with computers since windows were made of glass, chips with salt and vinegar were wrapped in newspaper and mice scuttled across the kitchen floor but he has been lucky to have had mentors who have instilled in him an awareness of "cyber security" ... to the point of paranoia his family might say!

Have you noticed that almost every communication or conversation recently has ended with the mantra "Keep Safe" which applies to our health but might apply equally to our wealth. As mentioned in the editorial, digital technology has been a life saver for many during lockdown but has also been the fraudster's dream come true with three routes into our purses: the telephone, email and fake websites.

We are told never to give bank details on the phone but there's the ever so nice policeman who needs them as part of a fraud investigation, the lovely lady from the bank, public utility or our internet provider who just needs to check etc and, of course, the tax inspector who will talk us through the form to claim the refund we are owed. The one thing they all have in common is that they are extremely convincing.

Email scams have been around for ever and it is estimated that more than one in three people have been targeted during the coronavirus pandemic and over £5m stolen. The UK National Cyber Security Centre's Suspicious Email Reporting Service has received over a million emails from the public since its launch in April and taken down 4,590 scams and 11,543 web addresses. To report a suspicious email, just forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Couldn't be simpler.

Cocooned in our bubbles, many of us have resorted to websites for our shopping. Here again, the fraudsters are at work reproducing extremely convincing copies of reputable sites such as supermarkets and well known retailers. It's easy to type the name of the store in "Google" and then click on the site that comes up but much safer, even if a bit tedious, to type the company's full web address in the address box. Even then, care is needed. A few weeks ago, I mistyped one letter in the address of a site that I use a lot and was horrified by what appeared on the screen! Keep safe!



Church Calendar



August

Sunday	9	10.30	Morning Worship with Worship Team
Sunday	16	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	23	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	30	10.30	Morning Worship

September

Sunday	6	10.30	Morning Worship with Communion **
Tuesday	8	19.30	Kirk Session meets in the Hall
Sunday	13	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	20	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	27	10.30	Harvest Service with buffet in the hall afterwards. Donations in aid of the Eleanor Foundation
		18.30	Evening Service

October

Saturday	3		Wedding
Sunday	4	10.30	Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday	11	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	18	10.30	Morning Worship
Saturday	24		Wedding
Sunday	25	10.30	Morning Worship
		8.30	Evening Service
Saturday	31		Wedding

Church Register

Wedding 4th July 2020 Marc David Le Page to Elena Peka

PS Sad news from our Business Editor

It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few local businesses as a result of COVID-19. A local bra manufacturer has gone bust, a submarine company has gone under, a manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation, a dog kennel has had to call in the retrievers and a company supplying paper for origami enthusiasts has folded. A garden centre is cutting back its business and the latest news, just in, is that a company of painters and decorators has gone to the wall

**** NB Sunday School resumes on Sunday 6th September and will be available weekly except on 27th September. This will be an All Age Service and buffet lunch at which we hope to have a representative from the Eleanor Foundation.**

Save the Date Advance warning ... The next Guernsey Welfare Service lunch will be at Les Cotils on Wednesday 7th October at 12 noon for 12.30



Door Duty

If you would like to join the team that welcomes everyone to St. Andrews on a Sunday morning, John will be delighted to hear from you. Please have a word with him. No reasonable offer refused!

9 Ethel and Patricia
 16 Edith and Paul
 23 Gay and Peter
 30 Jo and Iain

6 Beth & Emma
 13 Morna and Peter
 20 Charmaine & George
 27 Sally and Stuart

4 Avril & Christine

Flower Rota August - October



August
 9 Gay
 16 Liz
 23 Isobel
 30 Carolyn
September
 6 Betty
 13 Avril
 20 Joan
 27 Harvest
October
 4 Carolyn
 11 Niall
 18 Andrea
 25 Sue

Monthly Coordinator:
August Liz
September Avril
October Andrea

Sunday Readers



August

Sally
 Stuart
 Peter
 David

September

George
 John
 Neil
 Sarah

October

Alison

Church of Scotland

St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey

The Minister

Rev Dr David Coulter

The Manse

Le Villocq, Castel GY5 7SB

Tel 257345

Website: cofsguernsey.org.gg

Email: dcoulter@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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