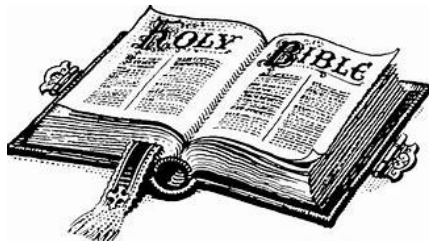


The Kirk Quair

Oct — Nov 2023



“The word of the Lord endures forever”
1 Peter 1.25

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

Musings from the Manse



A year on...

Can you believe it has been a year since we arrived on the island? And what a year it has been.

On a personal note, it has been a lot harder than I/we could have imagined; moving with kids away from our support structure and at least one of our family members being sick from December to April meant it has been a difficult transition. However, the children have settled in and we are starting to feel more settled as a family.

On a ministerial level, it has also been challenging. With all that is going on in the Church of Scotland regarding local church restructuring, there has been an urgency in my work which I did not foresee - my time this year at the General Assembly brought home the fragility of the tenability of St Andrew's in the Grange and this has meant I have had to do things far quicker than I would have wanted. Much of my time, along with the elders, has been spent making sure that our policies and procedures are current, that we comply with what the Church and the States want and that our Church works towards a missional outlook.

To say that this has been a challenge is an understatement.

However, I am really proud of our church! Look how far we have come in the year. We have tried new forms of worship, worked at placing mission at the centre of all we do and opened new avenues of connecting with the community. We participated in Future Focus and are starting to see the fruits of this.

One area of growth has been amongst the Elders. They have been a source of inspiration and have looked at the Kirk's challenges with honesty, integrity and a sense of humour. If you see an Elder, thank them for their hard work.

This year has pushed me, as I am sure it has pushed you. I know I have made mistakes but I am humbled by what God does in and through us. Yes, we have a long way to go and, yes, we still have not fixed the significant issues facing our congregation but God has been busy and it is lovely to see.

I want to thank every person for being a gift to this church, for those who have offered me words of encouragement and for those who challenged me. I know this place matters to you and it matters to me, too.

I look forward to seeing how God uses us in the following years.

Blessings

Justin

From the Editor

Two themes seem to dominate this issue, namely dates and statistics.

Dates because, in October and November, we will be celebrating several special days in the church calendar: Silver Sunday for us oldies as this edition is distributed {p7}, Bible Sunday (p12), Remembrance Day (p11) and a visit from the Moderator {p14}.

Hallowe'en or All Saint's Eve with its witches and evil spirits is now a secular celebration but, in Western churches, it was originally a vigil before All Saint's Day, a time of prayer for all saints. There is a reflection on the unseen world of evil and the occult on page 10.

Statistics also feature because it

can be difficult to put things into perspective without some idea of what the numbers involved actually mean. When I was but a lad, 50 pence (10 shillings in those far off days) would buy me a high quality three course dinner! A million was an unimaginable number but now it seems to be, dare I say it, commonplace and, according to the BBC, some sportsmen are earning in excess of £100 million a year. To take account of this inflationary trend, we have had to add a lot of zeros and now talk, instead, in billions (p9).

Just enough room for another piece on service and "our unsung heroes," pigeon peas and a little humour to lighten the tone.

Ed



StAG News

Café Church

August is the month when we do something a little different each year; a trip to Herm with a service at St Tugal's or a service in the garden, perhaps. This year was different again because, when we arrived at church each week, we were greeted, not in the vestibule with the usual welcome handshake and an order of service but, outside, with a broad smile and a freshly cooked bacon butty!



Gone were the neat rows of chairs, and, instead, we sat “café style” in small groups around tables with refreshments to hand.

The service, however, was not unfamiliar with hymns, prayers and a reflection as usual but there was also an opportunity for group discussion of a specific topic. As might be expected with any change from the ac-

cepted norm, some loved it, others didn't!



In September, we reverted to our usual format with the tables gone and the chairs back in line. We are grateful to Sandy, Hilary and Elizabeth who have led our Sunday morning worship while our minister has been on holiday.

Church Hall

After some eight years, John has stepped down from his role as “letting agent” for the church hall and we would like to take the opportunity to thank him for all his work on our behalf.

George will be taking over once certain logistical problems have been resolved but, in the meantime, if you wish to make a booking, please contact Sally, our Session Clerk.

New Church Website

Redevelopment of our website is progressing.



Harvest Service and Congregation Lunch



We welcomed Justin back from his holiday to lead our Harvest Service on Sunday 24th September and, as usual, there was an opportunity during the service to bring forward gifts of food or money for distribution by Guernsey Welfare. Lots of packets and tins and a very big thank you from Ethel to all who contributed!



A buffet lunch was served in the hall after the service but, unfortunately, it was not as well attended as it might have been as many people were still off island on holiday.



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows

Leprosy Mission Big Quiz



We were delighted to have a team of six stalwarts taking part in the Leprosy Mission Big Quiz at the St Martin's Community Centre on Saturday 16th September and, even more delighted, that they achieved second place because we were able to share their prize, a large tin of sweets, with our coffee after the morning service the next day!

Safeguarding Training

A training session, was held for members of the Safeguarding Panel, Elders and Creche Volunteers on Saturday 16th September. The session was led by Sheena Clark.

Induction of minister at St Columba's, Jersey

Rev Carolann Birnie who is currently Ministerial Assistant at Murrayfield Parish Church in Edinburgh has accepted the call to St Columba's in Jersey and will be inducted on Friday 20th October. We wish her well in her new charge.

Our Unsung Heroes Continued



'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.' (John 13: 14-15).

We are all familiar with requests for more people to *'serve on a team'* at church, whether on the coffee rota, with creche or washing up!

The discipline of service involves learning from Jesus' example when He washed the disciples' feet. Like His disciples, we are all called to take the place of a servant and be willing to serve those around us. Richard Foster in *'Celebration of Discipline'* contrasts *'self-righteous service'*, human effort wanting to impress others and be rewarded, with *'true service'*, which is rooted in our relationship with Jesus and delights in the service itself. He highlights the value of small, everyday sacrificial acts of service which flow from the place of being a servant: *"service is not a list of things to do, though in it we discover things to do. It is not a code of ethics, but a way of living."*

He goes on to highlight a number of acts of service, including: hiddenness (working behind the scenes); small acts of service; guarding the reputation of others; being willing to be served ourselves; practising hospitality; listening and bearing the burdens of each other. We do need to pray for wisdom and discernment though, so that we know when to say *'yes'* and *'no'* to serving. If we say *'yes'* too much, we can easily find ourselves becoming bitter or burned out!

We have already looked at three local charities for which members of our congregation work as volunteers and, this time, the focus moves to small everyday acts of service which can make an enormous difference to the lives of others.

Grace tells us, "Over 25 years ago, after reading in the Press that St John's Ambulance Service required drivers to deliver books to residential homes, I volunteered. Since then, I have advised the Library about the type of books my readers enjoy and, each month, a new selection is available for me to collect and deliver. I get equal pleasure from stewarding at St James

Concert Hall and, also, selling programs for GADOCno commission but I do get to attend the performances! I also do reception duties at Les Bourgs Hospice each week and that is very special for me. So do I enjoy volunteering....I sure do!"

Liz has been volunteering since she was 16 years old and writes, " My first organisation was the Scout Movement. I held almost every position at Group level until I retired as Group Scout Leader in 2009 with over 40 years service (with a few breaks in services for training and family commitments) The highlights of my scouting life were visits to Windsor Castle to attend the Queen Scouts St George's Day parade. and attending the Church service in St. George's Chapel.

Since retiring I have continued to volunteer, with Health Exchange (for a short time) the Guernsey Blind Association every Thursday afternoon for activities, tea and cake and the Guernsey Voluntary Services' Russell Social club for older members of the community, on a Friday.

Fridays are very satisfying but exhausting, when I get home I have only the energy to just sit. If I have learnt one skill since volunteering at the Russell's, it is portion control so there is sufficient food for everyone!"

And last but by no means least, Elizabeth tells us. "I have been a voluntary car driver for over 21 years. It has been a very varied and enjoyable experience and I have been happy to have met a wide number of "customers" over the years. I still take David to a Day Centre twice a week after 17 years and I am looking forward to continuing my driver role for a while longer.

Helping the older people in church

'Silver Sunday' is 1st October - the 'national day for older people' and, with an aging population, it is, perhaps, a good time to think about how we as churches can support older people. For all the best reasons, many churches are focussed on children and young people but the needs of the older generation should not be neglected in terms of resources.

The Bible presents a wonderful vision of the fruit of later years and longer life. Psalm 92 says: 'In old age they will still bear fruit; healthy and green they will remain, to proclaim, "The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and in Him there is no unrighteousness."'

BEYOND OUR SHORES



Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal: Christian Aid thanks supporters

Eight months on from the devastating earthquakes which struck southern Turkey and northwest Syria in the early hours of the morning on February 6th when many people were asleep, Christian Aid has thanked the generosity of their supporters for raising over £3.4m to help “tens of thousands of people who lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones.” At least 58,000 people were killed and those who survived have faced torrential rains and flooding and, then, the extreme summer heat affecting much of southern Europe,

In northwest Syria, working through local partners and with funding from several donors, Christian Aid has been able to reach more than 60,000 people badly affected by the earthquake and another 5,000 people in Southern Turkey.

The view “Beyond our shores” continues to be grim as it was at this time last year. In the past three months alone, there have been reports of floods in Bangladesh, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Slovenia, Viet Nam, Mauritania and Guatemala, drought in Sri Lanka, outbreaks of deadly diseases such as measles and rubella in Kyrgyzstan, dengue fever in Bangladesh and Honduras, cholera in Uganda and the Republic of Congo, wild fires in Hawaii, Typhoon Doksuri and, more recently, the horrendous earthquake in Morocco which has now claimed more than 2000 lives, injured more than 2000 and wreaked utter devastation on many more. No sooner were we coming to terms with this, than Libya was hit by massive floods which have left 4,000 dead and over 10,000 missing.

The list is never ending but there is at least one piece of good news to add to the generosity of Christian Aid supporters described above. WaterAid has recently reported that, for the first time in history, nine out of ten people in the world have clean water to drink. An amazing achievement but, needless to say, there is no room for complacency because another statistic they quote is that 800 children under the age of five are dying every day from diseases caused by dirty water and

poor sanitation. Ernest Randriarimalala who works for WaterAid in Madagascar writes that when he was little, he and his sister used to walk miles to fetch dirty water from a pond and, sometimes, they would go days without a drink. He has seen girls as young as three years old walking miles to collect water, water that is often full of bacteria, and that 73 billion hours are spent globally on this task each year. How much is a billion? Apparently, it can be defined as 1,000,000,000,000 or 1,000,000,000 but, to put it in context, whichever is correct, 73 billion represents at least 800,000 years. Food for thought.

... AND CLOSER TO HOME ... **and on a lighter note**

It was 65 years ago, on 14th October 1958, that Michael Bond's children's book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was published, the original story being inspired by the author witnessing Jewish and British evacuee children passing through Reading station.

Many people have found Christian characteristics in the bespectacled, kind, red-hatted, innocent Paddington, who always tries to do the right thing but often gets into trouble as a result. He is invariably polite, but has a "hard stare" for those who behave badly. The two hugely successful films, with Ben Whishaw voicing Paddington and household names in other roles, established the bear in the national psyche as a natural successor to Winnie the Pooh.

The books have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies.



Paddington has also reached the very top of society. Comedian and later President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky dubbed him in the Ukrainian version of the films, and to cap everything, Paddington joined the late Queen in one of her last public appearances – a brilliant comedy segment in the Platinum Party at the Palace on 4th June 2022, in which the Queen 'revealed' that she always carried a marmalade sandwich – Paddington's favourite food – in her handbag.

As Halloween approaches...



Have you ever wondered what a Christian is to make of the unseen world of evil and the occult? Where do evil spirits come from, anyway? The Bible takes the unseen world of evil spirits very seriously indeed. It tells us clearly that evil spirits were once part of the created angelic order (Genesis 6). They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's original creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible relates how a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan, who disguised himself as the serpent in Eden, is leader of the fallen angels and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal! Thus, the idea of 'dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

So, what is the world of the occult, then? The word 'occult' comes from the Latin: *occultus*, 'secret', 'hidden', and is our intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall one day is promised us through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world: no wonder the hostile, and violent, reaction of the demons! (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

But Jesus had no fear of demons, and neither should you, if you are a Christian. Further, it is important not to become obsessed with the unseen world – don't let it intimidate or fascinate you. Occult films can have deeply disturbing after-effects on people. Avoid them. A Christian has better things to think about.

The kingdom of spirits is real but so too is Christ's authority. Before Christ, the spirits shrink and retreat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence) for "the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4) So – be confident in Christ, but not complacent in your everyday life. Satan's kingdom is alive and well in this present world and it will still not admit its defeat at the Cross. The final destruction of all things occult will not come until the return of Christ.

Sunday 12th November Remembrance Day

The Two Minutes Silence

In the month when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the Two Minutes Silence is a significant act of remembrance. The silence provides an opportunity to remember those who have suffered in war and how we can work for a peaceful world. However, we can also find ourselves thinking about lunch or whether we've switched off our phone?



Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger but lack of meaning. The two minutes of silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). When observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love as we call to mind those who have laid down their lives.

In our busy lives, where so much clamours for our attention, silence gives us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. This is not just for Remembrance Sunday, as Jesus often withdrew to find silence to seek God (eg: Luke 5:16). Let's use silence in our lives as space to seek God's will and offer ourselves to Him, just as those who gave themselves in conflict through the years.

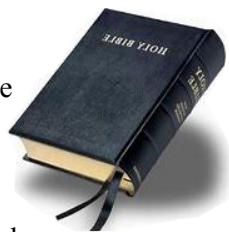
'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'



"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below."

29th October - Bible Sunday

At the recent Coronation, the King was given a Bible with the words *'the most valuable thing that this world affords'*. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?



The Bible isn't a single book but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: *'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

When we read the Bible, let's consider the following guidelines:

Right time: We need a regular routine which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

Right Place: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (the lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen for example).

Right Version: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

Right Help: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Let's get reading!!

According to "The World's Greatest Book" by Schiffman & Patten-gale, the British and Foreign Bible Society gave away 180 million Bibles worldwide in the 20th century but Old and New Testaments are still only available in 550 of the 7,000 languages spoken on earth.

The war in Ukraine has led to a dramatic rise in the demand for Bibles,

as people ask existential questions about life and death. The Ukrainian Bible Society reports that, in the last 15 months, some 700,000 Bibles have been distributed across this war-torn country, a five-fold increase on numbers handed out before the war. In 2020, some 136,767 Bibles were distributed in Ukraine.

Anatoliy Raychynets, deputy general secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society explains, “The experience of this time is that so many people are looking for Bibles and churches. We are doing everything possible to reach all the needs but more Bibles are needed. With the help of the Word of God, we can bring the love of God to those who need it.”

Bibles are distributed around the country, including to soldiers and civilian communities on the front line, and to hospitals. “Wherever the Bible is taken, it is very much appreciated,” said Anatoliy.



Pigeon Peas

This year an important project for Christian Aid has been the Pigeon Peas Initiative. Barns have been built in Malawi in order to dry and preserve the crop after harvesting. Why the fuss about pigeon peas?

It is probable that cultivation of pigeon peas originated in India, then spread to several tropical and subtropical countries including the Caribbean, South Africa and East Africa. Peas are legumes which means that they can grow with little irrigation. They leave the soil richer than before the peas were sown and they produce a versatile highly nutritious food. They can be incorporated into all sorts of soups and stews, even ground into flour to make bread. In West Indian countries, they are eaten mixed with chicken and rice.

I have found no importers of these peas in Guernsey but they are cheap and easy to buy on line. I made them into pea and ham soup but the result was not very tasty and much more successful was my effort at making patties (frittatas) which some of you may have sampled when I handed them round at Café Church in August. They are really easy to make.

If you would like to have a go, I will be pleased to give you a copy of the recipe or just search for “Christian Aid and pigeon peas”.

Paul



Church Calendar



October

Sunday	8	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	15	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	22	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	29	10.30	Morning Worship

British Summer Time ends. Clocks go back.

November

Sunday	5	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	12	10.50	Morning Worship Remembrance Day Sofi Noakes, (Humanitarian Aid, Guernsey)
Sunday	19	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	26	10.30	Morning Worship Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

December

Sunday	3	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
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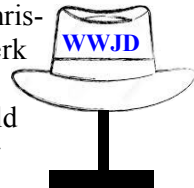


We are pleased to be welcoming two special visitors in November.

At our Remembrance Day service on Sunday 12th, Sofi Noakes, secretary of Humanitarian Aid Guernsey, will be with us and, a fortnight later, on 26th November, the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid in Scotland and Moderator of the General Assembly will be leading worship.



While I was waiting in the queue to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for ‘What would Jesus do?’, and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.



The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think He'd pay £17.99 for that hat."



Meet & Greet

October

- 8 Jo & Iain
- 15 Edith & Paul
- 22 Alison & Hilary
- 29 Ethel & Leila

November

- 5 Andrea & Robert
- 12 Carolyn & Elizabeth
- 19 Beth & Emily
- 26 Charmaine & George

December

- 3 Gay & Pete

Sunday Readers

October

- 8 Robert
- 15 Ethel
- 22 Elizabeth
- 29 Amanda

November

- 5 Charmaine
- 12 Graham
- 19 Sarah
- 26 Peter

December

- 3 Iain



Flower Coordinator

Andrea



A reminder that if you wish to put flowers in church on a Sunday to commemorate an anniversary, or for any other reason, please put your name on the list in the Narthex and have a word with Andrea.



Church Register

Weddings

**7th August 2023 Alexander James Johnston Eddie to
Katelyn Elizabeth Temple**



More church bulletin notices that didn't turn out quite right....

The sermon this morning: "Jesus walks on the water."

The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"



Miss Charlotte Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation!

The Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals

Church of Scotland

St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

The Minister

Rev Justin Taylor

Tel 257345

Website: cofsguernsey.org.gg

Email: jtaylor@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	Ms Sally Wilkinson	Tel 263991
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 amandajones.gsy@gmail.com	Tel 720547
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus billharcus@duck.com	Tel 263688