

The Kirk Quair

February-March 2021



St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

StAG News

When we retired to bed on Friday 22nd January, little did we think we would be waking up in lockdown the very next morning. The immediate imposition of strict restrictions once more means that a printed version of the magazine can no longer be distributed and we have had to go “digital.”

Although the church building is closed at present, the rotas and details of forthcoming events which “were prepared before the current restrictions,” as we keep hearing on radio and television, have been included as they cover the next two months and will be needed as soon as restrictions are eased.

Unfortunately, a number of photographs relating to our Advent and Christmas events have had to be removed because the file, although suitable for printing, would be much too big to email. We hope, however, that it has still been possible to give a flavour of a very successful time.

The period between publication of the last magazine at the beginning of December and the next one at the beginning of April is always a busy one in the church

calendar and this year is no exception. There is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Candlemas, Mother’s Day and Ash Wednesday but Shrove Tuesday and St Valentine’s Day have been singled out for special mention with a slightly different slant on the latter. It has also provided material for “Smile Lines,” which may be a little too close for comfort for some of us!

In December, David ventured out onto the streets of town late at night with a member of our congregation. He describes this experience on page 6 and, on page 13, there is a review of a book about the charity with which they were working.

The launch of this year’s Lent Appeal, (p6,) will not be as planned but it is for a very worthy cause and we hope it will be well supported.

It is disappointing that we have not been able to resume the weekly services on YouTube that proved so popular during the last Lockdown but, all being well, they will be reintroduced as soon as restrictions are eased. Rest assured, preparations are in hand. In the meantime, “Stay Safe.”

Ed

Diary Dates

Lent Study Group 2021

What direction next?

In the midst of Lent 2020 we had to cancel our Church Lent Study Group due to the COVID 19 Restrictions and the first lockdown period. With thanksgiving, here in Guernsey, we are in a better place and therefore able to hold a Lent Study Group which will meet each Monday during Lent commencing at 7 pm on Monday 22 February. ALL WELCOME

Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held after Morning Worship on Sunday 21st March.

Guernsey Welfare

The next Guernsey Welfare Lunch will be held at the Cotils on Sunday 7th March. Please contact Ethel for further details.



Soup & Sweet Lunch



The Soup and Sweet Lunch after Morning Worship on Sunday 24th January had to be cancelled at very short notice!

The Lent Appeal 2020

No sooner was our Lent Appeal for the Eleanor Foundation launched last year than we went into “lockdown” but, despite that, cash continued to find its way into our water bottles and when the appeal was eventually closed in September, somewhat later than intended, we had raised enough to fund the construction of a well in Nyambale village in Tanzania.



This year, we are already in lockdown but, nevertheless, we are looking towards another worthwhile cause in Tanzania for our Lent Appeal. You can read more about this on page 6.

Sally's boxes



A gentle reminder that these boxes have been put out in the Narthex for you to take when the building reopens. Please collect spare cash which will be added to our Charities Fund.

From the Minister's Desk



Hymn: 544 (CH4) Verse 4

“When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there? When I needed a healer, were you there....”

This month marks the 30th anniversary of the First Gulf War and Britain's involvement in Operation Granby. The Gulf War had started when Iraq's President Saddam Hussein ordered his troops to invade oil-rich Kuwait on 2 August 1990. His action was immediately condemned by the UN and sanctions were imposed on Iraq to pressure them into withdrawing. US President George H W Bush ordered the build-up of forces in the region under Operation Desert Shield. When diplomacy failed, Operation Desert Storm commenced on 16 January 1991. I had deployed from Germany with the Queen's Own Highlanders Battlegroup just after Christmas in 1990 when Andrew was three months old. It was to be the largest deployment of British Forces since the Second World War. My other Regiment 2nd Field Regiment Royal Artillery deployed at the same time and I went forward with the Guns to the border of Kuwait prior to the invasion into Southern Iraq. The air campaign was to rage for several months but, mercifully, the ground offensive was short lived and the Iraqi Forces quickly surrendered.

There are many things I remember about the First Gulf War not least about going to war and leaving your family at home, not knowing when you might see them again. Seeing, at first hand, the cost of the fighting and the real depth of service and sacrifice our armed forces are prepared to make. I was reminded of that time recently when the news reported on the choices people are faced with as whether or not to receive the Coronavirus Vaccine. There seems to me to be clear evidence that getting the vaccine is a good thing. The Church of Scotland has joined other faith communities saying: “We faith leaders in Scotland understand the difficulty that our communities are facing during this

pandemic. We urge all faith communities to take measures that will ensure their safety and the safety of others. Furthermore, we support the COVID-19 vaccination programme across the community and we encourage people to be vaccinated so that they keep themselves and their neighbours safe.” During the Gulf War, we set up a vaccination reception at the entrance to the tent we used as a cook house and dining hall. The deal was if you didn’t get a jab, you didn’t get lunch!

The other thing I remember about Operation Granby was the great generosity of the British public who, stirred on by a national newspaper, would send letters; cards and parcels to the Gulf simply addressed to: “A BRITISH SOLDIER; OP GRANBY, BFPO.” On a daily basis we received lots of letters and what we called ‘Red Cross’ Parcels continuing everything from drawings by school children; poems and prayers from church members; letters and books from Grannies and more sweets, biscuits and toiletries than we could ever use. There was never any danger of running out of shaving foam; toothpaste or deodorant. We put them in the cookhouse tent and everyone helped themselves.

In the midst of the current COVID 19 Pandemic, there are countless examples of friends and neighbours in the UK leaving ‘Red Cross’ parcels for those who are housebound and who are forced to self-isolate and to stay at home. Now that we are under stricter COVID 19 restrictions, we too may yet have to rely upon the generosity of friend and stranger here in Guernsey today. It is perhaps a reminder that during the WW2 occupation, Islanders were kept alive by Red Cross parcels.

On a more positive note, it is good that a number of our congregation have now received their first vaccination against coronavirus and that there is a plan to vaccinate others. As we wait for our time to come and we continue to enjoy the relative liberty and freedom we have here in Guernsey, why not send a letter, a card, maybe a ‘Red Cross’ parcel to someone in lockdown, as together we continue to fight the dreaded virus.

With all good wishes and every blessing

David

BEYOND OUR SHORES

There can be few people, if any, in Guernsey who have not heard of the Tumannu Fund, a local charity that seeks to alleviate the terrible suffering of AIDS widows and orphans in Kagera (Tanzania). According to Dr Sue Wilson, Chairman of the Fund, there are estimated to be 100,000 orphans, many of whom will go to sleep tonight, on the ground, with no food in their stomachs, no decent shelter and no chance of education.

“Houses are often made from sticks, clay or mud, with a roof of grass or banana leaves that cannot withstand the heavy rains that occur twice a year” and, in the rainy seasons, there is the risk of the roof falling in and killing the family. As if that’s



It was an offer I could not refuse when, just before Christmas, Edith asked me to join her and a few friends for a night out in St Peter Port. Now who could refuse such an offer! The plan was to meet at 10.30 pm at the Town Church, well wrapped up because we would be out until at least three in the morning. The invitation was to join the Street Life Pastors on a Friday evening as they wandered the streets providing a visible presence of help and support to mostly young partygoers, offering reassurance, safety and support through caring, listening and helping. They work together with other partners especially the police and ambulance service to make communities safer.

not bad enough, these basic



structures offer no protection against snakes or other wild animals.

Unimaginable in Guernsey but just £1,000 will build a three roomed house with weather resistant fired bricks and a corrugated iron sheet roof and that’s



our target for this year’s Lent Appeal.

“Together, we can do it.” The challenge is to raise enough to build a Tumannu Fund house.

We intended to launch our appeal with a special display. No longer possible but we can begin to save. For more info see: www.tumannufund.org.uk

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

Originally pioneered in London in 2003, Street Pastors are an ecumenical group who go out night after night in many UK Cities and Towns to provide the good Samaritan level of support to anyone who needs help.

Guernsey Street Life Pastors are a team of volunteers from churches across the island whose purpose is to transform the environment in Town at weekends. According to their Facebook page the Street Life Pastors: “aim to help create a peaceful, safe environment that is free from aggression and crime. We do not fight crime but we'd hope to help to prevent it. We give pastoral support to people between the hours of 11pm and 3am. Our teams of volunteers are on hand to look after, listen to, and talk with people who are in any kind of need. Starting from our base in town, our teams of pastors walk the streets giving out bottled water, flip flops, lollies, clearing up broken glass etc.”

After a prayer in the Town Church, four of us set off carrying essential supplies and our first customer was a young lady whose new Christmas Party Shoes were in her hand as she ran up to us in bare feet asking for flip flops so she could carry on dancing in the night club. Others came to us asking for lollies or water but what was noticeable on that cold, damp evening was the warm reception the Street Life Pastors received from the majority of Christmas revellers. They are seen as a trusted friend, a help in time of need, a friendly face, a real support to the community, a great Christian witness.

After a few hours on the streets where Edith took me down some dark alley's to places, I have never been before or will again, we had a break at the Town Church. Time for a tea, chocolate and a comfort break before round two by which stage the night clubs and bars were closing and the streets bustling with people. The police were out in force and we witnessed only one arrest of a young lady who seemed to be a serial offender as she didn't complain too much about being handcuffed.

This eventful evening ended just before 3 am. I drove home and getting into bed could not sleep having spent five hours hyper vigilant watching the best of Guernsey's party animals at play. It was a real experience and a bit of an eye opener. St Peter Port is not the wild West, even on the Friday before Christmas, but it is a safer place thanks to the Street Life Pastors.

Thanks, Edith, for the invite, we must do it again!

David



Advent and Christmas at St Andrews in the Grange

It has to be said that Christmas this year was different in many ways. Requirements of self isolation and limited travel opportunities have meant that some of us were unable to spend time with family and friends as we would have wished but, on the other hand, we were richly blessed in that we were probably the only Church of Scotland congregation in the British Isles to be able to gather, celebrate and worship without restriction. We took full advantage of this and had a very busy programme which also embraced a certain amount of change. Our Nativity scene at the front of church began as a simple crib, then figures of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, a shepherd and three wise men, very kindly given to us by Father Rutledge of St Josephs Church, were added.

Celebrations really got under way on the Third Sunday in Advent (December 13th.) with a “Musical Christmas” instead of the customary Nativity. On arrival, we were able to place our gifts for Guernsey Welfare at the foot of the Christmas tree which was at the back of the sanctuary this year and has attracted positive comment from many people who could see it when passing up and down The Grange. In addition to the tree gifts, £760 was donated for fuel vouchers. The service, a miscellany of reflections and readings, congregational songs, solos and a duet sung by Laura and Neil, was narrated by Alison. During the service, various symbols, e.g, a star, an innkeeper’s mug, a blue shawl, a pair of old boots, a set square and satchel, a crook and fleece and gifts from the Wise Men, were added to the Nativity tableau to remind us of those less fortunate than ourselves.

No coffee in the hall afterwards but straight off to the Congregational Christmas Lunch at the Driftwood Inn. An excellent turn out, an excellent meal and, of course, a visit from Mr and Mrs Claus. Not good news for everyone though because Edith and Ed were picked out for special mention and presented with certificates to certify that they had officially been placed on the “Naughty List” for Christmas 2020. They both vehemently deny any mischievous behaviour whatsoever and

claim that Santa has fallen victim to fake news! The good news, and certainly not fake, is that the raffle raised £400 for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

The next Sunday we had a well attended service of lessons and carols with contributions from our choir and a solo by Laura. Afterwards, there was an equally well attended time for coffee and mince pies in the hall!

And so to Christmas Eve when we gathered in the afternoon for our Christingle Service, a service first introduced to the Church of England by the Children's Society in 1968. On arrival at church, we were given an orange and an envelope containing the other elements necessary for making our Christingles and, then, during the service a bossy chef (Edith) and her submissive husband (David) demonstrated how to put them together. The task completed, the lights were dimmed and we sang a carol by "Christinglelight." The youngest member of the congregation on this occasion was just four months old and the photograph below is a very poignant reminder of what Christmas is all about ... a baby who brought light into our world.

In the evening, we gathered again for the "Watch Night with Bethlehem Service" timed, of course, to coincide with midnight in Bethlehem and then on Christmas Day, we met in the morning at the usual time for a Family Service.

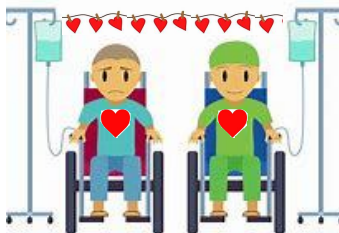
It's a very big thank you to everyone for your generosity over the festive period because, in addition to the donations already mentioned, we raised £307 for The Children's Society and £686.53 for the Priaulx Pre-mature Baby Foundation which brought the grand total to £2153.53.



*A reflection by The Revd Peter Crumpler,
a Church of England priest*

Taking a mature look at Valentine's Day

You do not see many Zimmer frames, wheelchairs or hearing aids on Valentine's Day cards. They mostly seem to be full of young love, hearts and roses.



Young love is wonderful and beautiful, full of optimism, and plans and hopes for the future.

But love in later life is precious too. It is a love that has been forged through years of shared experiences and joy, maybe raising children together, perhaps enjoying grandchildren.

It's a love that's stood the test of time, and deeper, much deeper, than any shop-bought Valentine's Day card can describe.

That long-term love can also be shown by the devoted wife or husband who visits their spouse in a Care Home each day, gently talking with them when they are, perhaps, deep into dementia. Or sitting for long hours by a hospital bed. Or dutifully caring for them at home.

Love is a marathon, not a sprint. It starts with white lace and promises and grows over the years.

Mature love is about the commitment that spans decades and is seldom shown on the cards on sale in the High Street this Valentine's Day.

As a priest, when I marry a couple and take them through their wedding vows, I hear them make their lifelong commitment "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part..."

It's so wonderful to see the bride and groom smiling, and enjoying this precious moment, making vows that will, hopefully, span the rest of their lives. I love taking weddings - it's an immense privilege to be part of a couple's special day.

And I find myself pondering what the future will hold for them. I wonder what shape that lifelong commitment will take, as I pray a blessing on their marriage.

How much wealth or poverty will come their way? Will it be sickness or health that will accompany them through the years? How will they support each other as the years go by?

‘Love is patient. Love is kind.’ These are familiar words from the popular wedding reading in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. That patience, that kindness are qualities that can develop over years of marriage. Just how much patience will be needed in the years ahead cannot usually be known on the wedding day.

So, this year, as I look at rows of red or pink Valentine’s Day cards on sale in the shops, I shall look out for cards that have a deeper message.



16th Feb: Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting. So, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be ‘shriven’, or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their

last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today’s pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she’d be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil’s Palin in 1619 runs: “And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.”

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

What happened to your New Year's resolution?

If you are already struggling to keep it, here is something that might help you.

Psychologists advise that it is useless to say you are going to quit anything. Instead, make your resolution to change into something positive. For example, instead of "I will give up sweets," say "I will eat fruit twice a day."

It seems that people with an 'approach goal' score greater success than those who see themselves quitting something they still like. As one Swedish doctor explained: "You cannot erase a behaviour, but you can replace it with something else."

The most popular resolutions regard physical health, weight loss and change of eating habits. The research was done at Stockholm University.



Hymns for seasoned citizens

The Old Rugged Face
Just a Slower Walk With Thee
Blessed Insurance

Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One by One
Amazing Grace, Considering My Age
Go Tell It On The Mountain, But Speak Up

The British Church in 2021

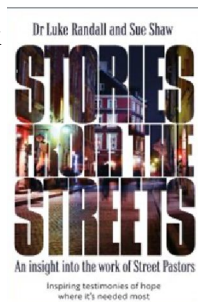
The fourth edition of *UK Church Statistics*, No 4, 2021 Edition, has now been published. Although this is a pre-Covid-19 assessment, the findings will still be of interest.

The book looks at the 228 denominations in the UK. Although 39% of the denominations (which are responsible for 82% of the total membership) are declining, still some 50% of all the denominations were showing some, if small, growth.

That so many groups of Christian churches are growing amidst general decline is significant. What is helping that growth? It was found to have been caused by the enormous numbers of immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, students coming into the country. Some of these come from countries with Christian traditions or backgrounds. These 'Diaspora churches' include Iranian Latvian, Romanian, Sri Lankan, Syrian and Turkish churches, made up of immigrants to the UK.

Stories from the Streets – an insight into the work of Street Pastors

By Luke Randall and Sue Shaw, Instant Apostle, £9.99



This book celebrates the excellent work done by the formidable army of ‘Street Pastors’, Christian volunteers who have become a welcome presence in their various towns and cities across the nation.

Founded on the streets of Brixton by the Revd Les Isaac, OBE, in 2003 as a response to critical social issues, there are now 270 Street Pastor groups across the UK and seven internationally. More than 12,000 volunteers have been trained to serve as Street Pastors, not only on the streets but in many other public spheres as well, such as schools and after terrorist attacks.

Whether offering a listening ear to a vulnerable clubber, mentoring a troubled teen, giving food to a homeless person or responding to a national emergency, Street Pastors have been credited with saving police and NHS time and money, reducing crime and improving neighbourhoods. The work is supported by churches of every denomination

Fairtrade Fortnight: 22nd February – 7th March

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.

In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heat waves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them. So this month, why not visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and see how you can send some support.

More Hymns for seasoned citizens!

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
It is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt
Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
Give Me That Old Timers' Religion



Church Calendar



February

Sunday 14 10.30 Morning Worship
 Sunday 21 10.30 Morning Worship
 Sunday 28 10.30 Morning Worship
 18.30 Evening Service

March

Tuesday 2 19.30 Session meets in Upper Room
 Sunday 7 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion
 Sunday 14 10.30 Morning Worship Mother's Day
 Sunday 21 10.30 Morning Worship
 11.30 **Stated Annual Meeting**
 Sunday 28 10.30 Morning Worship Palm Sunday
 18.30 Evening Service
BST begins Clocks go forward 1 hour

April

Thursday 1 19.00 Service for Maunday Thursday
 Friday 2 19.00 Service for Good Friday
 Sunday 4 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion
 Easter Day

Church Register

No entries for December or January



Miscellaneous observations on Christian and daily life

The way some people love to find fault, you'd think there was a reward.

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail and not his tongue.

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not cover you. - *Anon*

God must work in you before God can work on you.

Did you know that ...

150 years ago, on 27th March 1871, the first international rugby union football match was held in Edinburgh shortly after the founding of the Rugby Football Union. Scotland beat England 1–0. It seems that the game, as we know it, was in its infancy in those far off days and the two teams were playing according to different rules! The match raised the grand sum of £200 from a crowd of 4,000, each of whom paid one shilling to attend! The fascinating story of this match can be found on The Rugby Magazine website www.therugbymagazine.com.



Flower Rota February – April



- February**
14 Carolyn
21 Elizabeth
28 Edith
March
7 Dulcie
14 Nieil
21 Morna
28 Carolyn
April
4 Easter
11 Sue
18 Bunty
25 Carolyn

Monthly Coordinator:
February Edith
March Morna
April Sue



Meet & Greet

- 14 Amanda and Steven
21 Charmaine and George
28 Hilary and Sue O

February

Sunday Readers

- Gay
Elizabeth Mc
John



March

- 7 Beth and Emily
14 Ethel and Patricia
21 Eleanor & Niall
28 Andrea & Robert

- Ethel
Alison
Peter
Amanda

April

- 4 Gay and Peter

- Grace C

Church of Scotland

St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey

The Minister

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The Manse

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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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