

The Kirk Quair

June-July 2020

Supplement



St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

From the Minister's Desk



In the 1680's, whispers about a mysterious prisoner began to spread through France. Details were hazy, but the tale was arresting: An anonymous man had been locked up on the express orders of the French King Louis XIV. His identity was unknown, and his face could not be seen because he was forced to wear an iron mask.

In 1998 Leonardo Di Caprio starred in a dual role as the title character and villain in the American action drama film which focuses upon four musketeers, Athos, Porthos, Aramis, and D'Artagnan, and attempts to explain the mystery of the Man in the Iron Mask.

From Highwaymen, to the Masked Ball or the Phantom of the Opera, the wearing of masks has managed to both intrigue; frighten and to capture the imagination of an audience. Today, however, the wearing of masks in some parts of the world has taken on a completely new meaning.

As a result of COVID 19 and the precaution of spreading or possibly catching the deadly virus, many people now feel compelled or are required to wear a facemask if they are travelling by air or by public transport. What was once the preserve of the Asian Tourist has now become common place. I am reliably informed that the *Scotland Shop* can supply any number of masks in your family tartan. Before, during and after the lock down, the wearing of surgical masks in the hospital or care home was quite normal but, perhaps, less so while sun bathing on the beach.

Wearing a mask at work or at leisure may well become a feature of everyday life. It is not for everyone not least because it can feel hot, restricting and even a little claustrophobic. It is even more off putting in that the mask hides most of the face of the wearer. We judge so much from each other's facial expressions. It is said that the eyes are the window to the soul but it is the face that brings light to a new born

baby's eyes and it is the face of a loved one that brings glimmers of recognition to the elderly. We can all put on a mask, use make up, put on a cheerful face when we don't feel cheerful; put on a sad face when that is what is expected, hide our anger when we are fizzing with rage, try to be optimistic when all around are pessimistic. As Burns writes: "To A Louse, On Seeing One on a Lady's Bonnet at Church": "*O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us To see oursels as ithers see us!*"

In the first chapter of the New Testament Book of James there is a passage headed "Listening and doing" – where at verses 23 ff we read: "Those who listen to the word but do not do what it says are like people who look at their faces in a mirror and, after looking at themselves, go away and immediately forget what they look like." (James 1: 23ff)

Some go away and try to forget what they see in the mirror because they don't like what they see or what they see is not what they would like to be and so they put on a mask. The Apostle Paul writing to the Church in Corinth speaks of how when we: "with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (2 Cor 3: 18). When we come before God, we do so with an unveiled face, for there is no need for any reason, least of all for health or safety, to contemplate wearing a mask.

With all good wishes and every blessing

David

Pause for thought

Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week. – *Anon*

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. - *Anon*

Life is a journey that no one makes alone. The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time. - *Anon*

We forget that we do not inherit the earth from our parents, but we borrow it from our children. This world is not ours to despoil and destroy. It is the gift of God, and through its fecundity and beauty, is one of the chief ways in which God speaks to all nations. -*Andrew Dotchin*



StAG News

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN FAITH and OPEN DOORS!

It was definitely a step in the right direction when we were permitted to open the building once again for worship at the beginning of June subject to stringent restrictions on numbers and hygiene procedures.

Then, the move from Phase 4 to Phase 5 of the long "Lockdown" probably came much sooner than most of us expected and it was good to be back for a "normal" service on Sunday 21st June. Well, not quite normal because we had to wait until we got home for tea or coffee!



During the service David held an "Oscar" ceremony to say thank you to all the members of the team who have worked so tirelessly to produce our digital services each week and presented

Stephen with a Golden Oscar as a special "thank you" for all the time he has spent editing and uploading to YouTube,

Later in the service, Neil sang "Morning has broken," a poignant reminder of the "new beginnings" we face as we move into what is being called "The New Normal," and there was a spontaneous, warm and appreciative round of applause.

Normality was restored last Sunday, 28th June, when we were once again invited into the hall after the service for tea, coffee and a time of fellowship. In the sermon, we were reminded of Dame Vera Lynn, the Forces Sweetheart, and Neil's solo of one of her best loved songs, "We'll meet again," brought a lump to many a throat.



Life after lockdown

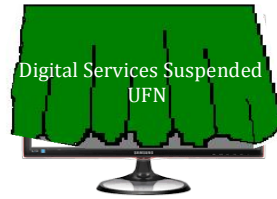
We keep hearing the buzz words “Life after lockdown” and the “New Normal,” so what does this mean for St Andrews in the Grange?

Many of us have watched and been grateful for the digital services over the past few months but the number of views has been dropping quite quickly since normal services resumed and Session have decided, therefore, to suspend the recordings for the time being.

It is likely, too, that this will be the last purely “digital” magazine and that we will be returning to the usual printed format and frequency at the beginning of August. It will, of course, continue to be available on the website as usual.

Another change will be the way in which we take up the weekly offering. During the transition period, it was not permissible to pass round the plates and so a plate was put in the Narthex for us to use on the way into or out of church. This practice will continue but the plate will be brought up for the prayer of dedication during the service.

Unfortunately, it has been de-



ecided to cancel two forthcoming events owing to uncertainties about the possibility of a “second wave” and travel restrictions.

We will not now be going to Herm in August for our annual “away day” as planned, nor will we be gathering at the Cotils for the “StAG’s Got Talent” night in September. As the latter was to have been a fund raising event to celebrate MAF’s 75 years, we hope to have an afternoon tea in the garden on 15th August instead. More details later but please put the date in your diary.

We have an invitation to drinks at the Manse on Saturday 18th July and there will be the Annual Sunday School Prize Giving at an All Age Service on Sunday 19th September.

An invitation from David and Grace



.... to join them for drinks at Manse on Saturday 18th July from 16.00 - 18.00.

All are welcome.

THE POEM

When Demic changed his given name, from Epi into Pan
A plague appeared across the world, unknown before to man.
Each country tried to find a way to fight this vicious beast.
Each discovered this was bad, from greatest down to least.

Now Guernsey is a tiny Isle, as most observers think;
But Guernsey had a secret friend -- we straight went to the Brink
Who told us this was not a game and guided us the way;
So we can share, with grateful thanks, the way we are today.

Across the water, Captain Tom was walking to his fame
And funds beyond the wildest dreams were given in his name
The story sped around the world, as it was true and right
Sir Captain Tom he is to be, a modest, worthy Knight.

That good can sometimes come from bad is true- and pretty rare.
But in this case it seems to us, that it is only fair
That we should recognise with thanks, another worthy name
For surely Guernsey's Doctor Brink deserves to be a Dame.

Alastair

Spot the deliberate mistake!

Last time, we reported a series of “howlers” spotted on church notice boards and this time we have an entry that appeared a couple of weeks ago in the Family Notices of a local newspaper in the North of England . Only the names have been changed!



Addison

Gillian

(Jill)

**A lovely lady and
dead friend who will
be sadly missed.**

Sara, George and Families

Charities Update

Lent Appeal for Eleanor Foundation



Unfortunately, our Lent Appeal was only just getting under way when everything shut down and we had few coins to put in our bottles because we were all flashing the card and not the cash! It has been decided, therefore, that the appeal should continue until Harvest so please keep filling your bottles and see if we can change a dribble into a downpour! We are also exploring the possibility of a representative of the charity coming to talk to us about how the proceeds of our appeal might be used.



Like most charities, large and small, the fund raising activities of Christian Aid this year have been greatly reduced. Door to door delivery of red envelopes and the World Aid Walk have been cancelled. The world wide programmes of aid have consequently been cut back.

Nevertheless the charity will continue to operate in 27 countries alongside local operators of all faiths and none.

Michelle Champion has joined in our church services and has given us presentations. Her post as the Guernsey coordinator has been axed, but she will continue to work on the Guernsey committee who are all volunteers.

Several members of our congregation have helped with delivery of red envelopes, and as “lollipop ladies” for the World Aid Walk. There will be considerable need of such voluntary work in the future and I will keep you updated.

Paul Riley C.A. representative



Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

As mentioned on page 5, our proposed get together for a talent evening has been cancelled but plans are now afoot for “An Afternoon in the Garden” on Saturday 15th August. More details will be available in the next magazine and on the weekly service sheets but please do put the date in your diary. Volunteers, etc welcome, please have a word with Sandy or Sally.

ALL LIFE MATTERS

I wander, dreaming, by the Tay which winds and
ripples through the Strath
Where, young, I'd fished with old Tom Hay, the
ghillie who knew every path
And every bird and flower and tree, his knowledge
such a joy for me.



He showed me by the water's edge: Marsh Marigolds, wild Orchids,
Clover Blackthorn and Rowan, Common Sedge, a Woodcock and a
Golden Plover

Red Throated Divers, Geese in flocks; an Oystercatcher on the rocks

Fast forward fifty years till now: the paths remain, the trees, the birds
I marvel, standing, wondering how to put these marvels into words
A carpet new across the ground: the miracle of Nature's round

But scourges come in turns to these flora and fauna, fish and beast
Ash dieback, foot and mouth disease, arriving when expected least
And once again man has been sent a virus, viral, virulent

Meanwhile a guardian of the law can show contempt for human life
By kneeling on a black man's craw, provoking global hate and strife
While carers through this Covid crisis have shamed these worst of hu-
man vices

Man's inhumanity to man is ten times worse than any virus
Benevolence and kindness can, and do, continue to inspire us
Past months have seen the worst and best whereby we've been both
cursed and blessed

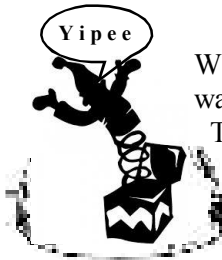
Again along the Tay I stroll and see how greatly all life matters
Racists and virus take their toll and try to rend our world in tatters
But, be it human, tree or flower, Life has amazing staying power



Old Tom has gone and soon must I; till then I'll
stroll along these banks

Rapt by the river and the sky and daily raise a
prayer of thanks

Amidst a world on fire with strife this world re-
mains ablaze with life.



We were still in our bubbles when the last magazine was “published” but much has happened since then. The bubbles have burst, we have escaped from our bunkers and we have been liberated from the constraints of social distancing. We might be forgiven, therefore, for thinking that the pandemic is behind us but, sadly, it is very far from over “Beyond our

Shores.” (p 10)

It is a delight to be able to include two poems in this issue, one on the opposite page written by Stuart’s chum in Perthshire based on William Wordsworth’s “Daffodils,” the other, a splendid piece of doggerel from our own Alastair which neatly sums up how many of us feel about the sterling work of our MOH.

Not such a delight is to report that three of our staunch workers have indicated their intention to stand down. Hilary who has served as Treasurer and then Session Clerk for some 17 years feels that the time has come to hand over the reins so that she can spend more time with her family while Charmaine and George have also decided to step aside from the Friendship and Fellowship Group. We are enormously indebted to all three who have done such amazing work on behalf of the fellowship.

In our service last week, we remembered Dame Vera Lynn, the Forces Sweetheart, and, in July, we celebrate the lives of two other very well known people ... a physician from Edinburgh, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who died 90 years ago in July 1930 and a gentleman who has always been styled “Dr” although not medically qualified. Thomas Barnado. was born 175 years ago, on 4th July 1845 but his name lives on in the charitable work that he began in 1866 (p 14)

On page 16, we have a tale of two windows; rose windows in fact. A fire at York Minster in 1984 cracked the 7,000 pieces of glass into 40,000 pieces and the rose window in Reims Cathedral was blown out by a bomb blast in WWII. Both windows have been lovingly and meticulously restored.

Our cover graphic says it all,. We have much for which to be grateful.

BEYOND OUR SHORES



In the previous edition, we reported on the work of All We Can and The Methodist Church in Kenya, Cameroon, Uganda and North East India and, also, about Release International in Nigeria.

Since then, Ed has had updates from two smaller charities, one that runs schools in Kenya and the other, Scottish Love in Action (SLA), that supports a home for girls rescued from the streets of Hyderabad.

Neither letter makes for comfortable reading. SLA reports that in January there were 36,000 street children in Hyderabad and that migrant child labourers who have been working in hotels, sweatshops and factories are just being abandoned with no food and no way to get back home. They have become totally invisible, many being trafficked into child labour.

The other charity in Kenya whose mission is to empower children by providing them with an education has had to close the school and the headmistress writes: *“The hard economic situation has hit hard. I can only say that the stories of how families are hurting due to tough economic times are worse than the Covid story here. Many lives are lost to crime, suicide and other manageable disease for lack of access to healthcare. Sad stories about how children are being abused and taken advantage of are a constant in the media. A recent report showed that more than 3,000 teen pregnancies had been reported in Nairobi amongst girls aged 11-17 yrs since the beginning of Covid school break. We are constantly concerned about our pupils but there is very little we can do. We pray that God will keep them and at the end of this we will all meet once again in one piece.”*

Lebanese Christians suffering from lockdown

Even before coronavirus, Lebanon has been suffering in recent times. The country is riven with conflict, and its economy is shattered. Nearly a quarter of its population are refugees.

With the arrival of coronavirus, the situation has become desperate. As a senior Lebanese church leader explains: “Lebanon is passing

through the most difficult times in its history. Not even at the time of the Lebanese war in 1975-1990 did people feel as much hardship as nowadays.” With their working hours cut, many poor people have been tipped into poverty. They can no longer earn enough even for food and necessary medicines.

And so it is that the Barnabas Fund is appealing for aid for poor Lebanese Christians who are suffering from the Covid-19 lockdown. The charity says that £20 could provide a food parcel for families who are going hungry.

If you would like to help, please go to: <https://barnabasfund.org>

... AND CLOSER TO HOME **Update from the Treasurer**

I am sure we are all pleased that, as a Bailiwick, we are now fully out of lockdown and able to meet in church without any restrictions. The last few weeks of lockdown have been difficult weeks for some but we can now look forward to the future.

As Treasurer, I have been pleased to see the support from the Church Family over this period. Some of you have set up new standing orders, others have sent cheques and others have saved up their offerings and brought them along when we were able to resume services. I am grateful for all the ways in which you have supported the work of the church as, of course, the costs of running the church have continued during this period.

Whilst the levels of offerings have fluctuated month by month, I have now been able to compare the total of the offerings received over the six months to the end of June with the Budget for 2020 and the corresponding six months from last year. I am pleased to see that the offerings received over the first half of 2020 are very close to the 2020 Budget figure for that period and also the total for the first half of 2019.

This is a very encouraging position and is due solely to the generous support from the Church Family. Thank you for this support.

As we are in this encouraging position, we are able to continue to apply our resources where they are needed to support God’s work through our church in Guernsey.

Thank you for your continued support.

Steven

The reasons for going to church

Strange times we are living through. The future consequences of coronavirus are going to be challenging, to say the least. How will our churches fare now that our buildings are open?

One could say that the reasons for churchgoing can be put into three slots, 'Culture', 'Faith' and 'Community'. Many churchgoers would probably recognise in themselves elements of more than one.

***Culture** is for those who feel comfortable in church. They like the history, the language, the buildings, the liturgy and the music, which have probably been a part of their lives since they were children. All hold comforting memories.*

***Faith** is a link with the meaning of life and its eternal promise, somewhere to seek guidance through worship and sacrament, and on which to lean in times of trouble. A belief in the words of Jesus that they are not on their own, even if sometimes it feels like it in this world.*

***Community** is for those who like coming to church or being associated with it as a flying buttress (a phrase of Winston Churchill, who described himself as someone who supports the church from the outside). They don't have to have a commitment to the faith of the Church but are sympathetic and don't mind being with those who do.*

It is likely that the 'old normality' will not be the 'new normality' and this provokes a few thoughts:

** How many people, now out of the habit of regular community worship, will wish to return to it?*

** How many people on the periphery of church life, will come back to it, at least in the short term?*

As church people, we must consider where we go from here. The Church, everywhere in the infected world, will need to know our answer to its call. To thrive, it needs us back.

New Archbishop of York to be confirmed

Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York this month and the service, at 11 am on Thursday 9th July, will be broadcast on the Church of England website entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions.



There will be a legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music and a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell says: "I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world".

"These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who, while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online. Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north."



As we are still celebrating the end of the Second World War in Europe, 75 years ago, it seems appropriate to include the following piece.

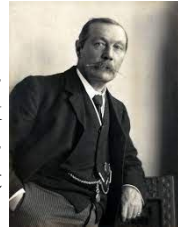
During the war, the rose window in the great Rheims Cathedral was shattered into bits by an indirect hit. The parishioners lovingly got down onto their hands and knees to gather together all the tiny pieces of broken glass. When the war was over, they hired the most skilled workmen available to rebuild it, piece by piece, from the gathered fragments. Today's rose window in Rheims is more beautiful than it ever was. So God can take our broken lives and reshape them as we pray, 'Lord, please forgive my mistakes of this day.' - *Reuben Youngdahl*



The man who created Sherlock Holmes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the multi-talented writer who created Sherlock Holmes, the world's most famous detective, died 90 years ago, on 7th July 1930 at

his home in Sussex, probably of a heart attack aged 71.



He had been born in Edinburgh to a prosperous Irish-Catholic family with a dysfunctional father and a loving mother who had a talent for inventing stories. He spent seven years in a Jesuit boarding school in England, which he loathed, and qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Edinburgh. He added 'Conan' to his name at that stage.

He wrote the first Sherlock Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, in 1887. In all, he wrote nearly 60 novels or short stories involving Holmes and his sidekick, Dr Watson. He did not regard them as his best work – he wrote prolifically on many subjects – but their characterisation and ingenious plotting made them by far the most popular.

He was married twice – first to “gentle and amiable” Louisa Hawkins, the sister of one of his patients, and then, after she died of tuberculosis in 1906, to the “strikingly beautiful” and talented Jean Leckie. Towards the end of his life he developed a strong interest in the occult and spiritualism. He was knighted in 1902.

Remembering the man who founded Barnardo's

It was 175 years ago, on 4th July 1845, that Thomas Barnardo, the humanitarian and philanthropist, was born in Dublin. He founded Barnardo's, a charity which continues to care for vulnerable children and young people.



The son of a furrier, he worked as a clerk until converted to evangelical Christianity in 1862. He moved to London, intending to study medicine and become a missionary in China. He never qualified as a doctor – despite being known as Dr Barnardo – and soon decided that his real calling was to help poor children living on the streets of London, where one in five children died before their fifth birthday.

He opened his first home for boys in 1870 and soon vowed never to turn a child away. Most Victorians saw poverty as shameful, associat-

ing it with poor morals and laziness, but Barnardo refused to discriminate. He made sure boys were trained and found them apprenticeships.

When Barnardo died in 1905, he left 96 homes caring for more than 8,500 vulnerable children, including those with learning difficulties. Because he believed that children should ideally grow up in a family setting, in 1887 he introduced an early form of fostering – boarding out children to host families.

In 2018/19, Barnardo's reached, helped and transformed the lives of around 300,000 children with the help of some 23,000 volunteers, 8,000 employees and 705 shops. What a truly amazing legacy.

Smile lines



What would have been the holiday season will once again be upon us very soon and in the June/July magazine last year, we had a series of daft questions asked of a Cruise Director by his passengers. This year we have a number of equally daft complaints made by various holidaymakers.

Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)



On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food

We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.

The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.

One in 20 starts praying since Coronavirus began



Is the nation turning to God in prayer? Well, not quite yet, but recent research from Tearfund has shown that prayer is more common than many would think, with just under half (44%) of UK adults saying that they pray, and one in twenty (5%) saying they have started praying during the lockdown.

In addition, a quarter (24%) of UK adults say they have watched or listened to a religious service since lockdown, 5% of whom say they have never been to church before. Some churches are seeing double, sometimes triple, the number of people watching their Sunday meetings online that would normally attend in person.

I am struck by Augustine’s prayer, ‘You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you’. Could it be that as the noise and busyness of normal life have subsided, restlessness has started to surface and, faced with new fears and uncertainties, hearts have started to turn to God?

Let this research give you a new courage to offer to pray for people you know who are struggling, or invite them to watch an online service. And let’s also turn our prayers and actions beyond our immediate horizons to remember that we are part of a global community.



Online ‘Talking Jesus’ course
HOPE Together has made the hugely popular Talking Jesus course available, rent free, to watch online during the Covid19 crisis.

The Talking Jesus course includes six video-based teaching sessions with inspirational testimonies. To access the course free until end of August visit: www.hopetogether.org.uk/talkingjesus



Roy Crowne, executive director of HOPE Together, said: “There seems to be an increased interest from non-Christians in spiritual issues. People are searching for hope. We want to help equip Christians to tell their story and to talk about the hope we have because of Jesus.



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.