

Church of Scotland
St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

The Minister
Rev Justin Taylor
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Sunday service is held at 10.30 am each week with a creche available for the very young.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and there is also a short reflective Communion at 9.00 am on the second Sunday of the 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
Pastoral Care	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 252267
Creche Organiser	Mrs Amanda Jones amandajones.gsy@gmail.com	Tel 720547
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus billharcus@duck.com	Tel 263688



“Come ye thankful people, come”

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

Message from the Manse



How was your Summer?

This is a question I have asked (and been asked) many times over the last couple of months. I started to notice that in every answer was a comment about the weather. This summer apparently has not been a good one, as the weather has been wet, windy, and not as hot. It is always fascinating to me that summer is judged as terrible if it rains a lot.

In South Africa, every summer was filled with glorious sunshine, and summer was judged by what you did rather than the weather. I am not sure whether this is a British thing or a general northern hemisphere thing, but I only encountered it when I moved to Scotland and now in Guernsey.

So, how was your summer? Was it a good one or a bad one? What was it that made it good/bad?

As we start our journey into Autumn, I have been reflecting on what kind of summer we had as a kirk. I think we had a great summer and we felt its effects. We started the summer with a café style church with Marc Winn; we had a baptism, a wedding, a D-day celebration, a royal visit, a manse summer service, a couple of café style services (one attended by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor), and two services which were led so beautifully by the worship team. It has been a summer of laughter, fellowship, and incredible joy.

One of the most heartwarming developments over the past few months has been the growth of our Kenyan congregation. Their presence has enriched our church community in ways we couldn't have imagined. We are truly blessed to have them as part of our family.

As many of you are aware, our church is on a journey towards sustainability. In the midst of our busy lives, it's easy to overlook the small moments that make up our days, weeks, and months. But it's these mo-



Meet & Greet

October

- 6 Grace & Linda
- 13 Liz B & Rose
- 20 Beth & Emily
- 27 John K and Victor

3 November

- 10 Morna & Peter
- 17 Patricia & Steve W
- 24 Andrea & Robert
Iain & Jo

December

- 1 Grace & Linda



Sunday Readers

October

- 6 Alan
- 13 Gay
- 20 Victor
- 27 Alison

November

- 3 Robert
- 10 Iain
- 17 Elizabeth
- 24 Ethel

December

- 1 John K

Prayer Rota



October

- 6 Hilary
- 13 Paul
- 20 Gay
- 27 Elizabeth



November

- 3 Hilary
- 10 Stuart
- 17 Ethel
- 24 Paul

December

- 6 Sally

Flower Coordinator

Andrea
07781122816



Church Calendar

October

- Sunday 6 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion
14.00 Pet Blessing Service
- Sunday 13 09.00 Reflective Communion
10.30 Morning Worship. Harvest followed by
Congregational lunch in the Hall
- Sunday 20 10.30 Morning Worship
- Sunday 27 10.30 Morning Worship
BST ends. Clocks go back

November

- Sunday 3 10.30 Morning Worship
- Sunday 10 10.50 Remembrance Sunday: Morning Wor-
ship with Holy Communion and wreath
laying*
- Sunday 17 09.00 Reflective Communion
10.30 Morning Worship
- Sunday 24 10.30 Morning Worship
- Saturday 30 10.30 Bereavement Service

December

- Sunday 1 10.30 Morning Worship with Holy Communion

MB After the Morning Service on Remembrance Sunday, members of the congregation are invited to the Scottish Soldier's grave at the Odeon Car Park where we will lay a wreath.

Church Register

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|-----------|------------------|---|
| Deaths | 10th July 2024 | Dennis James Poole |
| | 27th August 2024 | Audrey Mary McIntosh |
| | 29th August 2024 | Rachel Boyd Briggs |
| Marriages | 17th August 2024 | Helen Sinclair to Thomas Roy
Le Poidevin at St Tugal's
Church, Herm |

ments that we should pause to celebrate and give thanks, for they are a testament to God's goodness and the strength of our community. Your continued support and involvement are what makes our church sustainable and thriving.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to every one of you who made this summer so special. Whether you were involved in the preparations, the services, or simply attended. Your presence and efforts were deeply appreciated. It's your contributions, big or small, that make our community so vibrant and unique. If you couldn't join us this summer, we look forward to your return with open arms.

Blessings to you

Justin



StAG News

Safeguarding

Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to organise Robert's training as Safeguarding Coordinator but it will be arranged as soon as possible so that the hand-over of responsibilities can be completed.

Silver Sunday

Did you know that 6th October is Age UK's Silver Sunday, a national day when people of all generations can come together and celebrate older people.

www.silversunday.org.uk

Womblers thwarted!

Bad weather meant that, much to the disappointment of our canine friends, the beach cleaning at Chouet planned for 8th September had to be postponed until next Spring.

For at least 450 years, it has been said that "Every dog has its day" and our pets can now look forward to their very own service on 6th October (see calendar. (p 15)

PS Owners welcome!



Service en plein air & Café Style Church

On Sunday 4th August, we gathered in the Manse garden for morning worship followed by a congregational lunch. Attendance passed all expectations because, although only 21 had put their names down for lunch, 37 actually turned up. Fortunately, there was enough food for everyone but cling film and plastic boxes brought in readiness for the leftovers were redundant!

On the next two Sundays, 11th and 18th August the services were café style and we were very pleased to be joined by the Lt Governor on the 11th.



Joint Service with St Saviours URC

On Sunday, 22nd September, we headed down to the wild West where we were made welcome by the congregation of the URC church. We shared worship with them and enjoyed "coffee" fellowship together in the hall after the service.

The latest report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) warns that China's crackdown on Christians has extended to Hong Kong and beyond China's national borders.

According to USCIRF, increased political pressure, including the draconian National Security Law, "has led to self-censorship among Hong Kong's religious leaders and closures of some religious groups." New legislation, passed in March 2024, could force Catholic priests to reveal the secrets of the confessional. Under Article 23, priests could face a 14-year jail sentence if they refuse to reveal so-called 'crimes of treason' shared during confession.

Meanwhile, in mainland China, Release International reports that thousands of churches have been demolished and crosses destroyed. Pastors have been imprisoned, and collecting tithes and offerings has been criminalised as financial fraud.

In consequence, a recent report by the British and Foreign Bible Society has found that several thousand Hong Kong Christians have fled to the UK, establishing some 30 new churches. As a result, the study finds the Chinese Church is now – by far – the fastest growing church in Britain.

Audrey Mary McIntosh

We were shocked and saddened by the news of Audrey's sudden, unexpected death in August and she will be greatly missed at St Andrews where she was a regular, active and loyal member of the congregation.

Born in Salisbury, Rhodesia, now Harare, Zimbabwe, she moved to study nursing in Port Elizabeth in South Africa. where she met Bob, her husband of 63 years. When the opportunity arose for him to set up offices in London for his employers in August 1978, the family emigrated to the UK and settled in Guildford. In 1992, they relocated yet again, this time to Guernsey to set up more offices

They loved Guernsey and didn't ever want to leave. They both embraced island life and the community within which they lived. They were active members of St Andrew's Church for the whole of their time on the island, Audrey polished the church brasses every Saturday! They both volunteered for the Guernsey Samaritans, manning calls from troubled and potentially suicidal people from across the UK.

And whatever you do!

In the church today, we sometimes assume that discipleship is more about the *sacred* part of our life, rather than the *secular as well*. Are we aware of what God is doing in our school, workplace, with friends and family, on our street or in our leisure time? Whole life disciples spend every day with an awareness of the presence of Jesus in their lives. As the apostle Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17)

SO - we do ordinary things in the name or character of Jesus, i.e. *acting in the same way that Jesus would do if He were in our place*.

It's helpful to think in terms of *frontlines*, the places where we spend most of our week:

Everyone has a frontline: young or old, working or not, sick or well. This could be our workplace, home, college, community or club.

This is *where God has called us!* God is at work on our frontline to shape and use us, making it a place where we can grow as a disciple and make a difference to those around.

As churches we need to be *committed to helping each other* see the significance of our frontlines in God's purposes. Are we supporting one another, especially in prayer? As one teacher put it: *"I spend an hour a week teaching Sunday school and they haul me up to the front of the church to pray for me. The rest of the week I'm a full-time teacher and the church has never prayed for me. That says it all."*

With less than 6% of the UK population now going to church, God wants to use us as salt and light *wherever* we spend time. Christians are exactly where they need to be to serve Him, so that others might see what a disciple of Jesus looks like, as we grow as disciples ourselves.

Legacy of Tiananmen Square, 35 years on

This summer it is 35 years since China crushed the Tiananmen Square democracy protests (4th June). And since then, China has also progressively stepped up its persecution of Christians.



Update on the wheelchair ramp

The Fabric Convenor reports that submissions for the provision of the disabled access ramp have been received from the three building firms invited to tender for the work. The tender analysis has been completed and Stuart is, now, in discussions with the preferred contractor. He hopes to have a contract agreed later in the year..

We are incredibly grateful to The Saffery Rotary Walk for their donation of £10,500 towards the cost of buying and installing the new disabled lift and a very big thank you to Justin who won the prize for collecting the most donations.

Bible study/Book group

You are warmly welcome to our trial book group meetings on 6th, 13th, 27th November and 4th and 18th December at Lrs Cotils Café Bar from 9.30 -11.00 am. We will be exploring "Finding our voice: Searching for Renewal in the Mainline Church" by Rev Neil Glover. Come for a chat, bring your questions and enjoy some good company. All are welcome.



Mission Team initiatives

Notice boards

The notice boards in the hall and outside poster case have had a revamp with new blue linings. Please take a moment to check any updates.

Magazine exchange



Don't forget to help yourself to a magazine from the varied selection in the magazine rack. Replacements welcome!

Response to the recent UK riots

After the recent riots in the UK and hostility to our own police force, the Mission Team decided to show our appreciation for everything they do for our community and delivered a selection of chocolates and biscuits with a "Thank You" card from all at St Andrews. Our gift was received with great appreciation and thanks.

Church aprons

For some time, we have had church tabards for our volunteers to wear to raise our profile when working in the community. We now have church aprons for indoor events.



Thousands of Church of Scotland records go online

The moment the Church of Scotland defied King Charles I is among a vast number of historical documents now available to view on the ScotlandsPeople website. (www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk)

As part of a wider release of almost 4,000 volumes of church court records, National Records of Scotland (NRS) has added papers from the church's governing court, the General Assembly, for the first time.

This includes the minutes of the meeting held in Glasgow in November 1638 when delegates representing Scotland rejected the monarch's rules for worship.

NRS archivist Jessica Evershed said: "The 1638 meeting of the General Assembly is a turning point in Scottish history. It sees the ministers disobey the King to remove the bishops and the new common prayer book he had introduced.

"As part of the wider Covenanters' movement, this led to 50 years of war and upheaval.

"This is just one item among the church court records available on ScotlandsPeople. The latest release includes approximately 300,000 digitised images of mostly handwritten historical records dating from the 1500s to 1900.

"These records are a treasure trove for professional historians and amateurs working on their family tree. The records of local church courts contain details of parish work such as grants for the poor, mediating family disputes, payments for services and issuing punishments for minor offences."

The Revd Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "I am delighted that National Records of Scotland are making further Church of Scotland records available in a digitised format, providing a unique window into the history of Scotland itself, as well as aspects of daily life in our parishes, unfolding over the course of hundreds of years.

ScotlandsPeople is run by National Records of Scotland. It offers access to a wide range of official records including births, deaths, marriages and census records from the 16th century to modern times. Modern records are restricted but older records can be searched free of charge and viewed online on payment of a fee. Church court records are among those available to search and view free of charge.

How are you? I hope you are well?

Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Titus 3:15

We sometimes receive emails from complete strangers who ask us how we are, and sometimes they add that they hope we are well. The person adds a '?' although it is not a question (and I suspect they are not at all interested in our well-being, but in our money!)

'How are you?' is normally just a way of saying 'hello'. No-one really wants an answer and definitely not a long, detailed answer! It is curious that we sometimes start a conversation with a question we do not want answered, and other times when we *do* want to know how a person is, we never quite get through to them.

It is easier to say, "Yes, fine thanks, how are you?"- when we are not fine. Or we can throw the question straight back: "I am ok, what about you?." But sometimes, we all need to be able to say, "I am *not* doing ok. I need to talk," when we need to have someone to talk to.

I like it that nowadays you can say a key phrase that sounds out a distress call. For example, victims of abuse can ask "Is *so and so in?*", in a pub or café and the staff will immediately know that that person needs help. There is also a silent hand signal that people in trouble can give, to alert others that they are in danger. This is also excellent, and may have saved many lives.

Perhaps, in church, we also need a way of being honest in our replies, whether it is: "I am not doing well and I want to have a rant" or "I am worried but I am not ready to chat now."

If you're facing life's challenges, seeking guidance, or simply needing a listening ear, our dedicated pastoral care team is here to offer support.

Whether you're struggling with personal matters, navigating difficult transitions, or just feeling overwhelmed, we want to reach out and offer assistance.

To connect with pastoral care:

Call the Minister at 257345 or Carolyn Oxburgh at 252267

Or email jtaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk or oxburghc@gmail.com

Let's run with perseverance

From the Editor

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us.' (Hebrews 12:1)

With the Paris Olympics still so recent, this imagery can really speak to us. The Christian is like a highly trained athlete, and the surrounding 'stadium' is filled with champions and heroes of the past; they watch *US* - and we draw inspiration from *THEM*.

Because we are in training spiritually, it is obvious that every 'sin' is to be treated in the same way as by a modern athlete - for whom drug-taking, indeed any form of cheating or breaking the rules, is out!

But Christ's athletes are also to be careful to shun 'everything that hinders.' The wrong running shoes? A faulty diet? In the Christian's case, if the problem area is not an actual sin, what is it? Why, it is anything that, while in itself may be legitimate, but which nevertheless is a weak point, and 'hinders' progress.

The artist Rubens in the 17th century created a painting of Thetis - the mother of Achilles in Greek mythology - dipping her son into the supposedly protective waters of the river Styx. But, because she held him by his heel, this single part of him was untouched by the water. Achilles grew to be a mighty warrior; yet, during a fateful battle, an arrow that pierced his vulnerable heel was the means of his downfall.

The Achilles heel factor affects every single one of us. There comes a moment when those who mean business with Jesus Christ become aware that the Holy Spirit is quietly speaking within: "You're blocking the blessing in your life at this weak spot of yours.... by holding onto this object... by entertaining this objective... by persisting in this relationship... by continuing this activity. *Let it go.*"

What is this 'thing'? No one else can spell it out for us. It is between us and Christ alone. There need be no sudden crisis, no emotional surge. But the thing that 'hinders' is firmly - deliberately - to be discarded; no longer to have any part in our Christian living. And the sunshine of heaven smiles down upon us as we run on....

Signing off.

Ed

Beyond our shores ..



“Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink.” Words from the Ancient Mariner written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge in 1798, are probably familiar to most of us and it was encouraging to read in the Press last month that the congregation of Forest Methodist Church have raised enough money in a year to fund the construction of a well to provide 1200 people in Kigura, Tanzania with drinking water this Autumn.



We seem to have either too much or too little water on planet earth with flooding in Cameroon, Nigeria, Libya, Southern China, Vietnam and the Philippines in August and September alone and drought in some 19 countries so far this year. How utterly devastating it must be to watch your home being swept away and your crops ruined by flood waters or, on the other hand, your family wasting away with dehydration as a consequence of drought..

These are natural disasters but a brutal civil war in Sudan has pushed the country to the brink of famine. Even food given by humanitarian agencies is being used as a weapon in the conflict.

The South Sudanese RC Bishop of Yei, the Rt Revd Alex Loding Sakor Eyobo, says that both sides of the war are harassing the humanitarian agencies. “And when humanitarian agencies are harassed, they stop delivering food because they also have to protect their own lives.”

World Vision Sudan’s interim national director, John Makoni, said: “The biggest challenge aid agencies are facing is humanitarian access. We need unhindered access to reach the people most in need with life-saving assistance. Any further delays can be catastrophic and will result in deaths. At present, more than 1000 children die each day from diseases caused by unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene.

The Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops’ Conference warns that the very fabric of Sudanese society has been torn apart. Millions of people are shocked and traumatised, disbelieving the level of violence and hatred. UNICEF has warned that more than 700,000 children under five are at risk from dying. One mother has cooked up dirt in water, “just to put *something* in her children’s stomachs.”

... and on a more cheerful note: Refugees find hope through music charity supported by MAF

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is partnering with an unusual programme which reaches out to traumatised refugees in Bidibidi, in northern Uganda, the world’s second largest refugee settlement.



‘Brass for Africa’ is a music programme that visits the settlement twice a week, bringing joy to hundreds of stranded people who have barely survived the horrors of war.

The Bidibidi Settlement is ‘home’ to at least 272,000 South Sudanese refugees who have fled South Sudan’s six-year civil war. They are haunted by graphic memories of the murders they have witnessed, and many are in the grip of depression.

According to Brass for Africa, the refugees have responded well to the music programme, and the suicide rate among them has significantly dropped. What has helped them especially has been the chance to learn to play brass instruments themselves. This helps them relax, and also to learn a new skill which may one day help them earn a living.

Brass for Africa supports many other vulnerable people across Uganda, Rwanda and Liberia.

... and closer to home ...

We, thankful people will be gathering to “Bring the Harvest Home,” on Sunday 13th October and hope there will be a really good attendance to mark the occasion.

