

# The Kirk Quair

February- March 2022



St Andrew's  
In the Grange  
Church of Scotland

# From the Interim Moderator



Dear friends,

If I can carry on the analogy from the last issue with regards to the vacancy process, the starting gates have opened and the race is now on. We are approaching the “home straight.”

I am delighted to tell you that, after much lobbying and discussion, Faith Nurture Forum have agreed with the decision of the Presbytery of England and have given Guernsey St Andrews in the Grange permission to Call a minister. The Nominating Committee have continued their diligence and have met on several occasions to discuss the process they will undertake in order to bring the name of one candidate to you as Sole Nominee at some time in the future. Please respect the private nature of those discussions but, be assured, you will be kept up to date as that winning post gets closer.

Many of you will know that our planned Holiday to the USA did not get off the ground because, unfortunately, one of my daughters tested positive for Covid 2 days before we were due to leave, so we had Christmas at home this year.

It gave me an opportunity to reflect on the year just gone and how many “life events” had occurred, not only for my family but for many other families as well. We often cry out, “Why God, why me and why now?” Questions which I certainly don’t have the answer to but I do have faith. It is that faith which I and many others have turned to in difficult times and it is that faith that keeps me strong. It is that faith that will support you too. In these troubled times, I often think of the poem Footsteps. How accurate it is. But above all, how reassuring it is

to know that, when the road gets tough, we have a God that we can take our troubles and burdens to and who carries us and makes our load lighter.

Your friend and Interim Moderator

Alistair

**One night I dreamed a dream.  
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.**

**When the last scene of my life shot before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
There was only one set of footprints.  
I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life.  
This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.**

**"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You,  
You would walk and talk with me all the way.  
But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life,  
there is only one set of footprints.  
I just don't understand why, when I need You most,  
You leave me."**

**He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave  
you,  
never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
it was then that I carried you."**



# StAG News

## *Vacancy matters*

Glad tidings! Just four days before Christmas, on 22nd December, our Interim Moderator passed on the good news that we had been given permission to call a new minister and we have an update from Dr Alan Boyle, Convenor of the Nominating Committee. "After prolonged representation to the Faith Nurture Forum by our Interim Moderator, Rev Alistair Cumming, assisted by the Moderator of the Presbytery of England, Dr Hilary Boyle, our notice of vacancy is listed on the Vacant Charges on the Church of Scotland website. We are one of only three churches to be allowed to call so far in 2022. The Nominating Committee is now focused on finding the right minister for St Andrews in the Grange."

Please keep the Convenor and Committee in your prayers as they begin the search.

## *Stated Annual Meeting*

This year's Stated Annual Meeting will be held after Morning Worship on Sunday 27th February

## *.... and money matters*

It is not intended to pre-empt the Treasurer's Report to the Stated Annual Meeting but it may be of interest that the following charitable donations were made in 2021:

Christian Aid	£214
Guernsey Welfare	£785
Home Start Guernsey	£471
Les Bourgs	£258
Parkinsons Guernsey	£346
Samaritans	£435
The Leprosy Mission	£113
The Poppy Appeal	£250
The Salvation Army	£252
Tumaini Fund	<u>£2,600</u>
Total	£5724

## *A message from the Property Convenor*

We have three Fire Doors in the building, all are in the hall extension and they all have mechanical door closers attached. One is at the top of the stairs, one to the left and one to the right at the bottom of the stairs.



These doors must be kept **closed at all times** unless passing through from one area to another. They should **never be propped open**.

Stuart

## *Lent Appeal 2022*

Our Lent Appeal this year will be for Grow Limited, a local charity providing support and work opportunities for people with learning difficulties (p11). We want to fund the purchase of a specific item or piece of equipment but do not have details at present. In the meantime, please do start collecting your spare cash and, by all means, take one of the “money boxes” that are available in the Narthex.

## *Looking ahead*

One hundred and twenty five years ago, in 1897, a Presbyterian church was built on the Grange and, then, 75 years later, in 1972 when the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches amalgamated to become the United Reformed Church, their building was transferred to the care of the Church of Scotland.



Two anniversaries worthy of celebration and, if you would like to be part of a team planning the celebrations, please contact our Session Clerk whose details can be found on the back cover. He will be delighted to hear from you.

The Charity Committee also hope to mark the occasion by publishing a cookery book of recipes contributed by the congregation and a calendar for 2023. We would welcome the congregation’s favourite recipes and any photographs you have taken which may be suitable for a calendar, such as photographs of Guernsey through the year. We hope to publish these before Christmas because they will make excellent presents. Please send your contributions as soon as available to Sally Wilkinson at [lesbottesgsy@gmail.com](mailto:lesbottesgsy@gmail.com).

*They're off ...*



No, not Alistair’s favourites at Epsom but masks in Guernsey. Tea and coffee fellowship after Sunday morning’s service has now resumed and the Soup and Sweet lunch (see below) can go ahead as planned.



*13th February 2022*

There will be a “Soup and Sweet” lunch after morning service on Sunday 13th February with book and cake stalls in Aid of The Leprosy Mission (p 10). Donations of cakes and books will be greatly appreciated.

## *From the Editor*

Each of the words on the cover, Faith, Hope and Charity, appears in this edition of The Quair but the dominant theme throughout is charity and spans two thousand years from the charity shown by the innkeeper and his wife to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem of which we were reminded in our Nativity to the forthcoming Lent Appeal.

When the word charity is used in the Bible, it usually means love but it also means giving to help the needy; an act of kind-

ness and generosity to others. Whether it is our time, our skill or our money that we give, by serving others, we are serving Jesus.



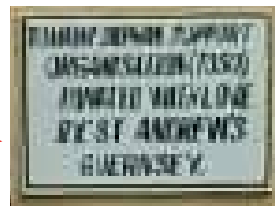
It may seem that the appeals are never ending as, indeed, they are and we may wonder what difference we can possibly make but ask the two families featured below or those in NW Tanzania who now have fresh water from a shallow well and we have the answer ... we can and do make a difference.

*Ed*

## *Update from Tumaini on the houses in Tanzania.*

I am delighted to be able to bring you an update on the two houses built in Tanzania by Tumaini with the proceeds of our 2021 Lent Appeal. There was some urgency to have them completed before the start of the rainy season but before building could begin, land searches were needed and plots had to be bought.

Sue Wilson has sent us photos and news of the two families. The first family are Alice, an Aids widow, and her four children, whose last house was in imminent danger of collapse. Here they are in front of their new home with proper foundations, corrugated roof, sturdy door, mosquito nets and shutters on the windows. What a difference!



The plaque by the front door thanks the congregation of St Andrews, Guernsey for building the house with support and love.

Tumaini were alerted to the plight of the second family, 8 year old Aids orphan, Alphonse, and his grandmother, Monica, who has had a stroke, when they were found living in a makeshift shelter of twigs and branches.



Their situation was desperate as their tiny dwelling offered no protection against weather or wild animals. Whilst waiting for funds and land on which to build, Tumaini visited them, bringing new clothes, food and most of all, Hope. The sad little boy living in rags and poverty now has a huge smile and is the proud owner of a Ninja T-shirt and much loved trainers! And they are the proud owners of a brand new home!



With foresight Tumaini have placed ownership of the house in Alphonse's name as a precaution against his grandmother dying and distant relatives trying to take over the property. Alphonse's future is secure, he can now go to school and return to a safe weatherproof home. The plaque by the door reads: "With love donated from St Andrews, Guernsey."

Tumaini will continue to support these families and wish to pass on their grateful thanks to everyone who donated towards the houses. There are really no words to describe how much each house will transform lives but, perhaps, the smiles say it all.

Alison

# Christmas and



Our last magazine, published on December 5th, the first Sunday in Advent, predicted a busy time ahead and so it was. The next Sunday, we lit the second Advent Candle to launch our Christmas Nativity Service, placed gifts for Guernsey Welfare at the foot of the tree, performed the Nativity “play” and then, after the service, headed off to Driftwood for an enjoyable Congregational Christmas Lunch.

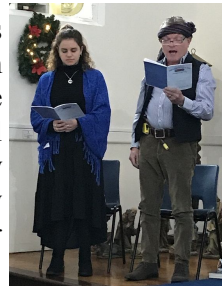
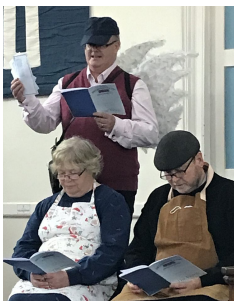
This year’s Nativity was somewhat different because an adult only cast presented Graham Clarke’s “Joe Carpenter and Son,” An English Nativity written in verse with a modern slant! It did, however, feature all the usual characters.



The Playmaster, at the lectern, made the introductions followed by two shepherds, Old Jack and Young Jack.

Next, came Mary and Joseph wrestling with the news they had just received that Mary was pregnant.

Time for a carol and, then, it was the Angel Gabriel resplendent in flat cap and wings, claiming to be a postman by day and an archangel by night, who took up the story warning the young couple that they must return home to Bethlehem for the census without delay.





# Advent 2021



An angel with shining halo appeared in the pulpit next and, shortly afterwards, the three wise men, Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar, came on to the scene. Last, but by no means least, we heard from the landlady and landlord of the inn who so kindly put their barn at the disposal of Mary and Joseph.



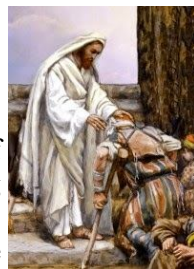
That, of course, was just the start because, the following Sunday, we had the Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmastide which included solos sung by Neil. Two services on Christmas Eve. The Sweet Story of Christmas in the afternoon was really well attended and 100 pieces of confectionery i.e, sweets, were distributed at the door as folks in assorted attire arrived at church. Sadly, there was a slight hiccup with the Watchnight with Bethlehem Service in the evening because a link with the Church of Scotland in Jerusalem had been planned but their minister was stranded in Glasgow and there were problems with the wifi so it didn't happen! A Family Service on Christmas Morning and then a Service of Readings and Carols on Boxing Day.

As we know, these events don't just happen without a great deal of hard work so it is a very big "thank you" to everyone who contributed to the decoration of the Sanctuary, the organisation of the lunch, the preparation and presentation of the services, the music and, of course, the tidying up afterwards!

# BEYOND OUR SHORES



We read in Luke 5:12-16 “While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he



fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.”

Leprosy is not an affliction of the past. It is a 21st-century disease which is still devastating the lives of men, women and children around the globe 2,000 years after Jesus healed the leper.

Many people ask, “what is leprosy?” It is a disease caused by the bacillus *mycobacterium leprae* that can take up to 20 years to develop. If treated early, it’s unlikely the disease will cause permanent disability but if left untreated, it progresses and the nerve damage spreads. Lacking sensation in their hands and feet, people with leprosy can injure themselves and these injuries can lead to ulcers, infection and permanent disability. Some people experience reactions to the leprosy bacteria in their body, even when the bacteria are no longer active and treatment is underway. These reactions can cause pain, sickness, swelling of the skin and fever. They are hard to treat, making it necessary for people to stay in hospital for a long time.

A cure for leprosy has been available since 1982. Multidrug therapy (MDT) is a combination of three drugs taken daily for six or 12 months, depending on the severity of the disease but, while treatment stops leprosy progressing, it can’t reverse disability. This is why the specialist services provided by The Leprosy Mission are vital. A clawed hand, dropped foot or damaged eyelids can be restored with surgery. Custom-made protective footwear can reduce the chances of injury and stop ulcers developing.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people

to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness working with people of all faiths and none to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

No one should suffer because of a preventable and treatable disease. The Leprosy Mission's Global Fellowship works in 28 countries but focuses on ten countries in Africa and Asia - Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Sudan. These places have high rates of leprosy or lack the services or opportunities needed by people affected. As well as supporting people living with leprosy today, the Mission serves future generations by working to end the transmission of the disease so they may be born into a world free from leprosy. They partner with governments, churches and other organisations but, most importantly, work with people affected by leprosy to achieve their vision - leprosy defeated, lives transformed.

## ... AND CLOSER TO HOME

GROW (Guernsey Rural Occupational Workshop) which provides work opportunities in horticulture for people with learning disabilities is redeveloping its site at Les Petits Quartiers after 37 years there. The new development will have purpose built facilities to enable first class training and mentoring in a wider range of sectors whilst retaining traditional horticultural tutoring for which they are currently known.

Crew members will learn transferable skills in retail and hospitality in the training cafe which will, in time, be open to the public and has been designed to welcome people with disabilities. Here, crew members will learn to prepare and serve fresh fruit and vegetables grown on site. Expanded indoor and outdoor plant sales areas will provide skills and experience in retail as well as delivering a more significant revenue stream. The new facilities will include a workshop providing wood and metal working, a paint shop and craft area to manufacture a wide range of products for sale in the retail space.

Building self confidence, interpersonal and life skills are an important part of GROW's training and mentoring, and a wellness and fitness studio will help crew members build a healthy lifestyle. Within the facilities centre there will be opportunities for other like-minded charities to share the facilities.

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## Extracts from the diary of the Moderator of the Presbytery of England (Part 2)

The final two months of 2021 proved to be very busy. First, there was a Local Church Review at the beginning of November, a review that had been held over from the previous year due to lockdowns. In fact, it was two reviews, St Columba's: Pont St and Newcastle: St Andrews, held over two weekends. Fortunately, I was spared trips over to the mainland and was able to take part by Zoom whilst the others on the Review Panel were there in person. One of the more positive aspects of the pandemic and travel restrictions has been that we have become more comfortable with online meetings. It seemed to work well and I enjoyed hearing how other congregations have coped during this period.

Thursday, November 18th, saw me heading to London to attend a Churches Together in England dinner and meeting at Lambeth Palace, hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby. Fifty three of us sat down to dinner; I was one of seven women invited. I represented the Presbytery of England and there were representatives from all the denominations in England, together with many of the overseas representatives who had been attending the Church of England Synod earlier in the week. There were numerous Archbishops, mainly from various Eastern European Orthodox Churches but also further afield from Africa and the Caribbean. If anyone can tell me what is the collective noun for a group of Archbishops, I would like to know. Bishops come under a Rookery, I think.

The meeting was billed as an *'opportunity to engage in conversations about our relationship, ministry and mission as CTE, to build on friendships already made and to take counsel together as leaders of national churches. We hope too that this will stimulate thinking about how we can work together more effectively in God's mission in our country and beyond'*. There certainly were lively discussions at all the



tables during the delicious dinner, especially after the pre-dinner drinks in the Grand Hall. I am not sure what I contributed to the evening but many of the guests found it difficult to understand that I represented the Church of Scotland in England but hailed from

Guernsey. It was a talking point at least.

While the original residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury was in his Episcopal See at Canterbury, a site, originally called the Manor of Lambeth, was acquired by the Diocese around AD 1200 and has since served as the Archbishop's London residence. The oldest remaining part of the original palace dates back to the fifteenth century. I approached Lambeth Palace via the early Tudor brick gatehouse, built by Cardinal John Morton and completed in 1495. I was instructed to knock on the smaller of the two huge wooden doors in Morton's Tower as it is called. The door opened to a huge central courtyard flanked by buildings on all sides. In the centre of the Courtyard was a large fig tree, reputed to be an offshoot of the original fig tree planted by Cardinal Pole in 1786. It was dark but the buildings looked beautiful in the subtle lighting. Walking across the courtyard, I reached the grand staircase and it definitely was grand! There was a feeling of déjà vu because so many of the paintings were of Kings and Queens that I recognised, amongst numerous Cardinals and Archbishops. Among the portraits in the Palace are works by Hans Holbein, Anthony van Dyck, William Hogarth and Sir Joshua Reynolds.



Over drinks before dinner, I could hardly converse because I was dumbstruck at the beauty of the Grand Hall and surroundings. In particular, there was a lovely small painting of a Tudor lady who turned out to be Catherine of Aragon who had spent some time at the Palace before her marriage to Henry VIII.

I had been invited to join the Archbishop of Canterbury at Compline in the Chapel after the meeting but, unfortunately, the dinner and meeting were late finishing and my taxi was waiting. I was sad about that. I had been apprehensive about attending such a prestigious event on my own, especially not knowing anyone but, looking back, I am so glad I did.

Four days later, I was back in London at Pont Street for a meeting with the Rev Dr George Whyte, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly. Since then, there have been further Zoom Meetings with 121, regarding St Andrew's in the Grange's request for 'Permission to Call.'

Getting the written confirmation, just before Christmas was the best Christmas Present of all.

Hilary



# Church Calendar



## February

Sunday	13	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	20	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	27	10.30	Morning Worship
		18.30	Evening Service

## March

Sunday	6	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion (First Sunday in Lent)
Sunday	13	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	20	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	27	10.30	Morning Worship (Mothering Sunday)
		18.30	Evening Service

## April

Sunday	3	10.30	Morning Worship
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**NB:** The service on Sunday 20th February will be led by Rev Howard Stringer, Methodist Circuit Superintendent Minister, Guernsey, Holy Communion on Sunday 6th March by Rev Sandy Harcus and Morning Worship on Sunday 13th March by Rev Alistair Cumming.

*Time for a smile ....*

### Knock knock

The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the car, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!"

The passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 15 years."



### Meet & Greet

#### February

- 13 Avril & Christine
- 20 Jo & Iain
- 27 Sally & Stuart

#### March

- 6 Morna & Peter
- 13 Ethel & Patricia
- 20 Amanda & Steven
- 27 Audrey & Paul

#### April

- 3 Andrea & Pete

### Flower Rota

#### February

- 13 Edith
- 20 Elizabeth J
- 27 Isobel

#### March

- 6 Dulcie
- 13 Carolyn
- 20 Edith
- 27 Andrea

#### April

- 3 Sue



### Sunday Readers

#### February

- 13 Elizabeth Mc
- 20 George
- 27 John

#### March

- 6 Alison
- 13 Gay
- 20 Hilary
- 27 Sarah

#### April

- 3 Amanda



#### Monthly Coordinator:

February Carolyn

March Morna

April Sue

### Seen on a church noticeboard

Has Covid-19 forced you to wear a mask and glasses at the same time?

If so, you may be entitled to con-  
densation.



## Church Register

### Baptism

12th December 2021 Xander Raefe Jeffrey William Rey

### Deaths

10th December 2021 Simon Peter Davidson

# Church of Scotland

## St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey

### **Interim Moderator**

Rev Alistair Cumming

Website: [cofsguernsey.org.gg](http://cofsguernsey.org.gg)

Email: [acumming@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:acumming@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	Mr Neil Houston	Tel 07810
	<a href="mailto:Neil.Houston2812@gmail.com">Neil.Houston2812@gmail.com</a>	000727
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	Tel 720547
	<a href="mailto:amandajones.gsy@gmail.com">amandajones.gsy@gmail.com</a>	
Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781
		132699
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus	Tel 263688
	<a href="mailto:billharcus@cwgsy.net">billharcus@cwgsy.net</a>	