

# The Kirk Quair

October-November 2022



**Unless the Lord builds the house,  
Those who build it labour in vain.**  
Psalm 127

St Andrew's  
In the Grange  
Church of Scotland

# Musings from the Manse



Dear Friends

Moving into a new house is always an adventure.

You start by looking at the outside but when you open the door you are not sure what treasures await you. When you move in, you need to learn very quickly the quirks of the house. What key fits which lock, what light switch does what, and the most important one of all, if I push this button what does it do?

Then, there are the bigger things like arranging the bills, where are the shops, and finding out what needs to be done and when.

You also start to unpack your boxes. If you are lucky, you will unpack an object out of the box and discover that where you place it is the perfect place. However, I am sure most of us have discovered that once you have lived in a place for a while it causes you to rethink where you originally put things.

It is a steep learning curve, moving from one house to another and, slowly but surely, you start to move to the rhythm of this house.

The same could be said about moving from one church to another. At face value, churches might look the same, but each church has its own quirks and ways of doing things. Whether it be the way people give of themselves, the traditions they hold important, or the emphasis they place on the buildings, each church has its own personality. The first part of any move as a minister is getting to know the place you inhabit.

I have now been inducted for over a month and I am starting to live in the house of St Andrew's in the Grange. Like all churches, this one is unique, and it is going to take some time to get to know it. For the first wee while, I have to decide what makes this church so unique. I am doing this by visiting members of the congregation as well as office

bearers. I really want to listen to your stories and why you love this church so much. The people whom I have met so far have been lovely, hospitable, and passionate about this place.

If I have not yet popped around, be warned, you are on my list. I am really looking forward to getting to know you, hearing your story, and putting a name to the face. Do not worry I am not coming to ask you to volunteer for anything. This is a simple hello.

So far, I see this kirk has tremendous promise and it is such a privilege to be sharing this time and space with you. I look forward to all we will share in the future.

Love from the Manse Family.

### *From the Editor*

Inevitably, in this issue, we are focussing on the events surrounding Justin's move to the island and his Induction Service (p8&9). After the service, there was a time of fellowship with light refreshments in the hall and, then, there were some short(ish!) speeches to round off the occasion! The Rev Ken Froude, speaking humorously (p9) and seriously (p5) about his friend, provided us with an insight into what we might expect in the coming months and years but also reminded us that, contrary to popular opinion, our clergy don't only work on Sundays and do need a little "me time" which in Justin's case is usually a Friday.



No sooner had Justin taken his first service as our minister than we heard the sad and unexpected news of the Queen's death (p7). Although it may seem forever ago, it is only two months since we were reporting on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and, believe it or not, the first magazine I edited described our celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee. Whatever happened to those ten years!?

As usual we look "Beyond our shores" at some of the work being undertaken for those less fortunate than ourselves. We mark two significant days in the Church calendar this month (p12&13) and also have a reflection on Harvest (p13). Last but not least we are bidding farewell to Neil, our Session Clerk. We thank him for all he has done for us and wish him well.

*Ed*

# *StAG News*

## *Vacancy matters*

Vacancy .. what vacancy? After a great deal of hard work, we are no longer in vacancy and our new minister was inducted on Friday 26th August. (p8&9). We are very grateful to members of the Nominating Committee, Alistair, our Interim Moderator and Members of Presbytery who worked so hard to reach a successful conclusion in such challenging circumstances. Thank you all.

## *Hail ... and farewell!*

No sooner had one vacancy been filled, than we were confronted with another when Neil, our Session Clerk, told us of his imminent relocation from Guernsey to Edinburgh and that he would be standing down.

Neil has worked tirelessly for us throughout the last two years and, when he took on the role of Session Clerk, not an easy task at the best of times, little could he have known that he would soon be guiding us through a vacancy with all the extra work entailed. Thank you, Neil. The quest for his successor has begun!

## *NB Diary date*

### **Congregational Lunch**

#### **Sunday 16th October**

Details of the Congregational Lunch which is to be held at Les Cotils to celebrate 50 years of our affiliation to the Church of Scotland and the 125th anniversary of our church building are now available and we hope there will be a really good turn out to ensure a truly successful and memorable event.

Please encourage your friends and families to join us for this special occasion but don't forget to sign up on the form in the Narthex or to let Ethel Robb know of your intention to attend. The cost will be £25 for adults and £14 for children under 12. Pre ordering is not necessary and there will be a good choice.

## *Harvest*

Our Harvest service this year was a little different because, instead of the usual rows of chairs, the Table was in the middle of the Sanctuary and we sat around it in a large circle. After the service, we enjoyed a typical, splendid St Andrew's in the Grange buffet lunch.



## *An introduction to the Minister by Rev Ken Froude*

We first met in 2018 at Justin's induction to Abbotshall. We got along well together as neighbouring ministers and soon became good friends, enjoying many walks, chats and cups of coffee and exchanging numerous warmly felt insults.

Justin has the ability to connect with and care for people so if you are looking for someone to look after the membership of the congregation, you have the right person. If you are looking for someone who will look after **only** the membership, you have got the wrong person for Justin has a passion for the community and for community issues, just as it should be in a healthy church.

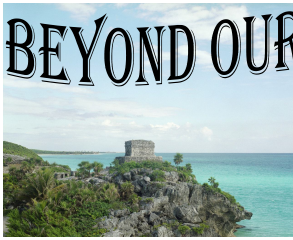
Growing up in post-apartheid SA, he has a passion to speak out against injustice, within a society or for a group or individual, through gender, sexuality, skin colour, race or religion. Where he sees an injustice or disadvantage, Justin will be roused over it and he will expect you to be roused over it too. He is sensitive to and about relationships, individuals, social situations. He is self-reflective and aware, has a great love for people and a desire to help. He has an openness and courage to face and share himself, his experiences, ups and downs in a way that congregations seldom hear from their minister. His openness will help others to be open about their journey and struggles and is a sign of strength and work well done.

He will give you some cheek. Don't take it lying down and don't take it personally. Come back at him. Share the joke, for if you have a sense of humour bypass or a sensitive ego, you might find him uncomfortable to be around.

Theologically, he is unapologetically progressive. He will bring creative and new insights, ask the difficult questions and give you new questions that you will want addressed. He will want to do traditional church things in a fresh way and he will seek to build something new. He will stir your emotions, stimulate your thoughts and provoke you, perhaps to protest. All of that he will see as a good result.

Above and before everything, his most important role is as a husband to Leslie and a dad and he will rightly put them first as well as needing time for himself.

# BEYOND OUR SHORES



Imagine coming home from work to find that there is, in fact, no home to come home to because it has been flattened by a missile, swept away by floodwater or burned to the ground. Unimaginable, but reality for millions of our fellow beings. Fortunately, there are individuals and organisations, both large and small, who give their time, talent and money to do what little they can to help.

Last time, we described the amazing response of Jacob's Well Appeal to the crisis in Ukraine and now, eight months since Russia's invasion, Christian Aid is working hard to help Ukrainians get through the cold winter months.. Alongside local partners and other charities, their winter programme includes the provision of insulating shelters, restoring toilet and shower blocks, and handing out cash, food, blankets, toiletries and other essentials to support 57,000 people.

Christian Aid are also warning

that hunger has soared in East Africa with 20 million Ethiopians facing food insecurity while Kenya, its Southern neighbour, has over four million facing the same fate. In this issue, (p10&11) we have a first hand report of another small Yorkshire charity which is transforming the lives of children in Nairobi by providing them with education, clothes, food and security. A drop in the ocean, maybe, but every little helps.

We, at St Andrew's, try to look beyond our shores and the proceeds of our Lent Appeal last year enabled a small local charity, Tumaini Fund, to build two houses in Tanzania so that two families now have a proper home to call their own.

We read about yet another humanitarian crisis as flood waters devastated vast areas of Pakistan affecting about 33 million people, damaging or destroying an estimated million houses and forcing 637,000 people to live in relief camps. Retiring collections raised £1371 in response to an urgent appeal from Shelter Box which provides tents for temporary accommodation, water filters and carriers, mosquito nets and solar lights.

## ... AND CLOSER TO HOME

“Families” was the theme chosen by Justin for his inaugural service as our minister on 4th September. Families, he suggested, could be defined as being “supportive” or “destructive”: John the Baptist’s family being a good example of a “supportive” family and the Prodigal Son of a “destructive” family. (see also p12)



Little did he know, as he stepped down from the pulpit that morning, that, within a matter of days, the entire nation’s attention would be gripped by one special family, the Royal Family, a family with which the parable of the Prodigal Son must surely resonate. How encouraging it was, then, to see the Queen’s two estranged grandsons walking side by side to greet people lining the street in Windsor and, then again, as the Royal Family escorted the Queen’s coffin from Buckingham Palace to lie in State in Westminster Hall. Let us pray that these were the first steps on the path to reconciliation as their grandmother would, undoubtedly, have wished.

Many tributes have been paid to the Queen in the past few weeks but something that really seems to have stood out is her steadfast Christian faith throughout her long reign.



Mark Woods, Editor of Bible Society writes, “Our Queen’s faith in Jesus Christ was central to her life. We should be deeply grateful to God for her life-long service to Christ reflected in her life-long service to her people.”

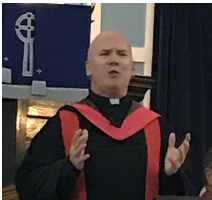
“In her 2000 broadcast, she told the watching millions: ‘To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me, the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ’s words and example.’”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby, said at the Queen’s funeral that King Charles III “shares the same faith and hope in Jesus Christ as his mother, the same sense of service and duty.”

# *Induction of Rev Justin Taylor*

## *Friday 26th August*

On Friday 26th August, we gathered for the induction of our new minister, Rev Justin Taylor, and were delighted to welcome HE, The Lieutenant Governor Richard Cripwell and his wife, the Bailiff of Guernsey, Richard McMahon, members of the Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands and also representatives from many other churches and denominations on the island.



The service was led by Rev Professor Paul Middleton, Moderator of Presbytery and the Rev. Scott Rennie, Minister of Crown Court Church of Scotland in London preached the sermon.



The four symbols of ministry: The Bible, a pitcher of water, Communion vessels and the keys of the church were presented to the newly inducted minister by Charmaine, Stuart, Ethel and Neil



Laura sang John Rutter's "The Lord bless you and keep you" and the service concluded with Neil leading us in Amen siakudumisa, a traditional South African praise song written by Stephen Molefe which translates into English from Xhosa as "Amen, we praise your name."

We then moved into a packed hall for refreshments and some short speeches, one of which was made by Justin's friend and former colleague in Kirkcaldy, Rev. Ken Froude.







As Ken reminded us, it is often said that dog owners and their pets develop a resemblance to one another: the short stocky man with the short stocky dog or the tall slim woman with the curly hair and the dog that resembles her in looks and, possibly, in temperament too. As the owner of two greyhounds, might this apply to Justin .... unlikely, he thought!



With tongue in cheek, he continued, “Well, they are lean, athletic, rippling muscle, built for speed. Don’t be fooled, he hides it well. Greyhounds are sensitive, have had a long period of training and they sleep a lot .. surely this is worth pursuing. Once on the go, they cover the ground, chase anything that moves, his mind is everywhere. They remember people and how they were treated. They are intelligent, they like a cuddle and dislike the cold, Scotland to Guernsey - it’s a no brainer Just how close the similarities are will become clearer to you in due course” He also told us that, “It is unusual to have any, topic or concern that Justin doesn’t know something about. He is never short of an idea or an opinion and sometimes his information is accurate! His Professor in South Africa, speaking at his last induction, said that Justin was the top student in his year and that was highly commendable as the other student was quite bright!”

## *The “Preaching In” Service*

It is customary in the Church of Scotland for a newly inducted minister to be “Preached In” by a colleague or friend and, so, Justin was preached in by his friend, Rev Ken Froude on 28th August.



The service followed the usual format but the Wee Word, a term probably coined, by a former incumbent, Rev Graeme Beebee, was a Wee Word with a difference. Originally a short talk aimed at younger members of the congregation, it then morphed into an introduction to the sermon. But, on this occasion, it was a “double act”, with a spontaneous and lively exchange of ideas and thoughts between Ken and Justin, a format they had often adopted in Kirkcaldy. The sermon that followed was challenging and thought provoking.

## *Holiday of a lifetime . . .*

Earlier this year, four of our grandchildren decided to visit our niece and her family in Kenya and, getting wind of this, another small East Yorkshire charity, the Swanland Education Africa Trust (SEAT) asked them to take supplies to two schools they support in Nairobi and in Ngong. Never one to miss an opportunity, Ed invited each of the travellers to write a paragraph about their experience. This is what they wrote:



"Neither school receives funding from the Kenyan government, both being almost entirely dependant on private donations and fundraising through SEAT which must meet overheads such as food, staff wages and rent each month. The charity provides consistent nutrition and education for 600 children but there is now a certain amount of entrepreneurial self-funding because Ester's School in Ngong is in the early stages of a rabbit breeding program to provide fertiliser, food and profit. Mothers of children at her school also make beautiful patchwork bags which we were able to bring back for SEAT to sell in the UK".

"The thing that struck me most about our visits to the schools was how delighted everyone was to have visitors. Upon arrival at each school, we were warmly welcomed and taken on a tour to meet as many of the staff and pupils as possible. In each classroom, we were met with bright smiles and joyful giggles from the children as they were informed that we had come from England,



where we had been pupils at 'the other' Swanland school. It quickly became apparent that, as much as the donations we brought, were valued, having a visit from some of their supporters who had made the journey to meet them was equally enriching, especially given a Covid-driven three year hiatus. The best memory I have of our visit was hearing an audible gasp and seeing a look of amazement on the face of one of the younger girls as she saw our sister walk through the door with her big curly hair. That alone was worth the trip!"

"My lasting memory will be how truly happy all the children were to be at school. Both schools provide porridge for breakfast, a hot meal at lunchtime and are safe places for pupils ranging from 3 to 15 yrs.

The excitement of the children queuing for their morning porridge at Swanland Village School showed just how much this means to them and, at both schools, the children's happiness was clear from their huge smiles when interacting with each other and their teachers."

"Weight restrictions limited what we could take, but it is surprising how much can be crammed into a suitcase and the school uniforms, dresses, knitted jumpers, toys and pencils were gratefully received at both schools. To me, the extent of the children's happiness could be seen when they were given their new jumpers."



"When I hear travellers speak of visits to Africa, their standout memories consist of unimaginably warm welcomes and overwhelming generosity. I am now one of those travellers. On arrival at both schools, the year 3 music exams were moved for us and, at Esther's prep school with the younger children, we were honoured to have a private performance both in Swahili and English. The work that had gone into making their outfits was nearly as impressive as the show and, believe me when I say, that's a tall order! The colourful homemade patriotic paper hats sat on top of wonderfully talented, beaming children. Many of their uniforms, all spotlessly clean, had holes in the trousers and their jumper were unravelling at the cuffs. The fantastic costumes at both schools demonstrated both the levels of pride and ingenuity they have by creating so much with their very limited resources."

"At Swanland Village school all the pupils, teachers and parents congregated in their corrugated hall and a year group of children dressed in the colours of the Kenyan flag performed energetic and joyful patriotic songs and dances for 1/2 an hour to a level I have never experienced in the UK let alone at age 8!"

"After this we had a swift reality check. The oldest girls in the school performed a poem for us but this was not a joyful poem. On the contrary, it was about domestic violence, the teachers explaining to us that the moving piece we had just watched was a real problem for a very high proportion of their children and that school for many is not just a place of learning but one of safety, refuge and comfort. Not only a place where they can better themselves but also one where they can express themselves."

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## St Lukes Day 18th October

‘Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on’ - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18<sup>th</sup> October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a ‘physician’ - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, ‘only Luke is with me’.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark’s Gospel may have more drama, Matthew’s more prophetic background and John’s a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions (‘your son, this brother of yours’), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling’s alleged reformation, the ‘prodigal’ himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father’s mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son’s return.

There are more women in Luke’s Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more ‘sinners’ and tax-collectors, more ‘outsiders’ who are shown to be ‘inside’ the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

David Winter

## Bible Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October:

Have you ever wondered how many Bible translations there are in the world? And how many more are still needed? Wycliffe Bible Translators reports the following, as of 2021:

There are now 3,495 languages, which have some Scripture available to 7.04 billion people. This breaks down into: 717 languages with a complete Bible – 5.75 billion people, 1,582 languages with a complete New Testament (some also have Old Testament portions) – 830 million people and 1,196 languages with some translated Bible portions – 457 million people.

Meanwhile, there are a further 828 languages which have work in progress – 67.6 million people and also, 1,892 languages waiting for translation (or preparatory work) to begin – 145 million people. 1.51 billion people, speaking 6,661 languages, do not have a *full Bible* in their first language.

*More at: <https://www.wycliffe.net/resources/statistics/>*



Minister (benevolently): “And what is your name, my little man?”

Small boy: “Well, that’s the limit. It was you who baptised me!”

## *A reflection on Harvest*

### **Reaping and harvesting**

Sometimes a law of nature is very similar to a law of the spirit. Take the process of harvest, or ‘sowing and reaping’.

The Bible tells us: ‘A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.’ (2 Cor 9:6)

It has been said that probably the most sensitive nerve on our body is the one that runs to our cheque book! Money represents our time, our security and our hard work. It gives us independence and power. So, when God begins to talk to us about giving more of our money to Him – sowing it in His service – we can feel very alarmed.

The seed a farmer sows in a field may sometimes be lost, but not the seed that we give to God. What we sow with our time, gifts and money in service to others God will make sure we one day reap – in a harvest of spiritual riches that we can never lose.





# Church Calendar



## October

Sunday	9	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	16	10.30	Morning Worship
		12.30	Anniversary Lunch at Les Cotils
Sunday	23	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	30	10.30	Morning Worship with Baptism (NB. BST ends. Clocks go back)
		18.30	Evening Service

## November

Sunday	6	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	13	10.50	Remembrance Day Service
Sunday	20	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	27	10.30	Morning Worship
		18.30	Evening Service

## December

Sunday	4	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		15.00	Bereavement Service



### *Pause for thought ...* Volunteering

If you go to church and/or volunteer for local good causes, the good that you do to others will come back to you. A recent study at the University of Utah, reported at the Alzheimer's UK Research Conference in Brighton, found that having a rich social life can help older people retain normal brain function and slow down any onset of dementia. Do we have any volunteers to help at Creche!

### *and a smile ...* Deliver us

I had been teaching my four-year-old daughter the Lord's Prayer. Then one evening at bedtime she attempted it solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen"



## Meet & Greet

### October

- 9 Gay & Peter
- 16 Amanda & Steven
- 23 Charmaine & George
- 30 Jo & Iain

### November

- 6 Eleanor & Niall
- 13 Andrea & Robert
- 20 Edith & Paul
- 27 Sally & Stuart

### December

- 4 Avril & Christine

## Sunday Readers

### October

- 9 Iain
- 16 Sara
- 23 Alan
- 30 Andrea

### November

- 6 Robert
- 13 Hilary
- 20 Amanda
- 27 Charmaine

### December

- 4 George



## Flower Rota



### October

- 9 Niall
- 16 Carolyn
- 23 Sue
- 30 Paul

### November

- 6 Hilary
- 13 Remembrance
- 20 Paul
- 27 Karen

### December

- 4 Carolyn

### Monthly Coordinator:

- October Andrea
- November Edith
- December Carolyn



## Creche



We want to offer a regular crèche during the Sunday morning service but we need more volunteers to help us to provide this service.

If you would like to help or to have more information, please contact Amanda Jones: Tel: 720547

# Church Register

Admission by Confession of Faith: Steven Corley

# Church of Scotland

## St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

### The Minister

Rev Justin Taylor

Tel 257345

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

Email: [jtaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jtaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Sunday service is held at 10.30 am each week with a creche available for the very young. Details of activities for older children are given in the Church Calendar.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

Car parking is available, by courtesy of the States of Guernsey at the Lukis House car park, 80 yards down the Grange and also at Healthspan (windscreen stickers must be displayed at the latter). Both car parks are on the same side of the road as the Church .

Session Clerk	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>	