

# The Kirk Quair

October-November 2019



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's  
life for one's friends.

John 15:13

St Andrew's  
In the Grange  
Church of Scotland

# From the Minister's Desk



The summer holidays may be over but one of the lingering memories of journeys taken is the still small voice, and sometimes the not so small voice, saying: "Are we there yet?" As far as I am aware, this is something which is not taught at nursery school or reception class. It is not used at home, in the playground or anywhere else except in the car, train, plane or bus journey, when sometimes you are just out of the driveway or heading for the ferry or having left the terminal or station and the wee voice from the back shouts: "Are we there yet?" When we are small, time and distance mean little to us, except when we are tired or hungry or we need a convenience, especially when it is anything but convenient. It is, however, something which holidays afford us, given the opportunity to allow time to drift, no deadlines to meet, no appointments to make, no external pressures or agenda. It is in those long evenings and late mornings that we too can pray with thanksgiving that we too are not there yet!

I often have conversations with folk who use the same metaphorical language when they speak about their own personal journey of faith. Rarely does anyone say that they have reached their spiritual height or depth let alone say that they have arrived. It seems as if we are all on a journey that may not have a specific beginning or end but which, sometimes, we are forced to pause and to reflect and ask ourselves: "Are we there yet?" Perhaps that is why there has been a resurgence and renewed interest in people going on pilgrimage or on retreat to get away from the daily stress and strain in life and to step off the fast moving train in order to be still and to feel God's presence with us wherever we are on our faith journey.

Some thirty years ago, the University of Glasgow Old Testament scholar, Professor Robert Davidson, published a book called: "The Courage to Doubt" where the God of Israel who saves his people is a God who conceals himself. Davidson draws upon the Hebrew Scrip-

tures and bears witness to a striking paradox that God can be known but also remains hidden. Jacob, Moses, Jeremiah and the Psalms all reveal people who rebel against God and yet the more they rebel, the more they come to believe and to trust in God. I suppose one of the reasons we find it hard to answer the faith question: “Are we there yet?” is because we all have doubts. Doubts about scripture; doctrine; the Churches position; personal commitment and a feeling of unworthiness. “Why God? Why me?”

On Thursday 19 September 2019, Rabbi Lord Sacks used his *Thought for the Day* slot on Radio 4 to pay tribute to John Humphrey’s 32 years presenting the *Today* programme and who had written a book called: “In God we Doubt.” Sacks spoke about the need on occasions to speak truth to power and the ability to hold power accountable to truth. In tribute he said that Humphreys had “moral passion” and that there was “something sacred holding power accountable to truth because if we loose truth, you loose trust and without trust the fabric of freedom begins to fray”. Sacks went on to say that while he never managed to persuade Humphreys to believe in a God of faith, he felt that “honest doubt was more powerful than dishonest faith!”  
“Are we there yet?” ....“I’m not.... What about you?”  
With all good wishes and every blessing

David



### **Prayers as heard by children**

Liverpool: My mother spent her early childhood thinking her aunt was praying: ‘Hail Mary, full of grapes.’

London: When I was in nursery school, I thought it was: ‘Our Father, who art in Heaven, how didja know our name?’

Glasgow: I remember thinking this prayer said: ‘Give us this day our jelly bread.’

Norwich: I once knew a child whose favourite hymn was ‘Gladly, the Cross-Eyed Bear.’

Manchester: When I was younger, I believed the line was ‘Lead a snot into temptation.’ I thought I was praying for my little sister to get into trouble.



# StAG News

Herm

Revisited

## Stormy Weather

On August 18th, our morning service was led by the worship team with the theme of Stormy Weather. During the service, Michelle Champion, local Christian Aid coordinator, spoke about the work of the charity in the Philippine Islands (see photo.) and “The Island to Island” project which collects money in both Guernsey and Jersey to help some small Philippine islands recover from damage by Hurricane Haiyan. An example is the placing of concrete spiky structures on the seabed to deter illegal Chinese trawlers and encourage regeneration of fish stocks after storm damage to the coral. Already, after only nine months, local fishermen are catching more fish on a sustainable basis than before the project. Like most charities, Christian Aid is re-evaluating both it’s money raising activities and its overseas activities such as the Island to Island project. A retiring collection for Christian Aid raised £191.

Paul

The sun shone for us this year for our Away Day to Herm on Sunday 25th August. What a difference from last year when rain stopped play and everyone had to scuttle back up the Grange to church.



On this occasion, 38 members of the congregation set sail, toiled up the hill and joined in worship at St Tuguals. The focus of the service was on pilgrimage and an abridged version of the sermon can be found on page 12.

## Thank You

In the last Quair, there was an impassioned appeal for a volunteer to take over from Patricia as flower convener and we are delighted to be able to report that Carolyn has offered to be responsible from the beginning of next year. Thank you, Carolyn.



## *Harvest Thanksgiving*

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 29th September included some much loved traditional Harvest hymns, the very first performance by our newly formed choir, prayers led by the youngsters and a humorous sketch to remind us of our blessings. After the service there was a sumptuous buffet lunch in the hall which was well attended and enjoyed by all.



We are pleased to say that the collection in aid of Guernsey's Rural Occupational Workshop, our local charity Grow which is celebrating its 35th year, raised £446.

## *Roll Keeper*

Alistair J agreed to carry on as Roll Keeper some 15 years ago when he relinquished his responsibilities as Session Clerk and has faithfully kept our congregational records in order ever since. He feels the time has now come to pass on the role (no pun intended) and Sally has offered to take over with immediate effect. Thank you both Alistair and Sally.

*Save  
the  
Date*

*Coffee Morning  
and Cake Sale*

Our charity piece this time (p 10) is about Leprosy Mission (TLM) and there will be a coffee morning and cake stall in the Church Hall on Saturday 26th October from 10.30 a.m. in aid of TLM. Gifts of cakes will be most welcome. The more, the merrier!

## *Guernsey Welfare*

Unfortunately, this edition comes out too late for the Autumn Lunch but plenty of advance warning for the next lunch which will be on 22nd February!

## *Actors Wanted!*



Have you ever had a secret yearning to become a Thespian but never had the courage to step out on stage into the footlights. Well, opportunity knocks because the production team of our CoSY nativity play are looking for hidden talent; auditions imminent (actually they'll bite your hand off!). On a more serious note, if you would like to be involved, please do speak to Hilary. If you fancy playing Herod's role, keep it dark because the current one can be quite vicious, we're told!

# BEYOND OUR SHORES



## *Alderney Methodist Church Furnishings Appeal*

As some of you may know, George and I love the Island of Alderney and, whenever we can spare the time, we go over for a short break. During our visits, we have got to know a lot of the islanders. One of the many residents that we were privileged to know very well was the Rev Arthur Mignot and when we were over, we would always see him. Every time we returned to Alderney, Arthur would enthusiastically welcome us back again and we would have a good chat. We got to know Arthur through our attendance at the Methodist Church in Alderney

On our last visit, over the August Bank Holiday weekend, we attended the Sunday Service as usual. At this morning's worship including the Minister there were from memory 9/12 worshippers, including 4 from Guernsey! The church was in a very poor state of repair but, when all the work is completed, they will have disabled access with a lift from the hall below up into the Church. The hope is that the church will be used as a community centre to breathe new life into the Island and the Church. The major works are almost at an end, and the thoughts are now moving towards the internal furnishing. The congregation along with their Minister and the people of Alderney have worked so hard to raise the funds needed to achieve their goal. Altogether a total of £500,000.00 is needed for the works and to date an amazing total of £350,000.00 has been raised. I think you will agree that this is remarkable considering Alderney's size.

A lot of work is still to be done, but with the help of the wider community they are now concentrating on seating. Like St Andrews in the Grange, all the pews were taken out to be replaced by chairs. The Congregation are now looking for donations, either to buy a chair for themselves, or in the memory of someone, or just a donation, to help with the purchase of a chair. The current Minister who has retired 3 times! has worked so hard to get this Church in St Annes to be a home and a

venue for all the people of Alderney. We have been invited back on the 6<sup>th</sup> December which, barring any hitches, will be the Grand Opening. The first aim of the congregation is to hold a Christmas Tree Exhibition **open to all!** We wish them the greatest of luck, but they don't need luck because they have faith. God is really working in Alderney.

If you would like to contribute to this amazing Alderney cause, then please speak to George or Charmaine, who are making a donation themselves, but would be overjoyed to forward on to the Alderney congregation any donation you would like to make, or maybe you would just like to remember them in your prayers.

## ... AND CLOSER TO HOME



### *Update from the Treasurer*

This year has been very eventful for us and we have much to thank God for; we have a new minister; we have significantly upgraded the Manse and we have much to look forward to in the continuing ministry through St Andrew's in the Grange.

However, we need to consider our response to God and our giving. We were able to complete the building work because we received two generous legacies, one at the end of last year and one at the start of this year. We will need to meet the cost of the future work of the church from our own giving in response to what God has done for us.

Please think about this during the rest of this year and as you plan your giving for next year

A particular request is that, if over last year (ie 2018) you gave more than £500 to the church, please consider completing a tax relief form. This enables the church to claim money from the Income Tax Office equal to a quarter of your giving to the church, at no cost to you. The forms are available in the Narthex and when completed please return them to the Treasurer. Your giving does not have to be through the offering envelopes, it could also be just through the offering plate.

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### *Thought for the day*

As the purse is emptied, the heart is filled. *Victor Hugo*

**What is an angel?** Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from Genesis to Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows, he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

These examples should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!



## *Battle of Britain Sunday*



Our morning service on 15th September was another very special occasion because it was not only a celebration of the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, fought by “the few” in 1940, but also included the installation of our Minister as Chaplain to the Royal British Legion in Guernsey. Special, too, was the red, white and blue floral arrangement depicting flight, set on a plinth draped with tricolor fabric representing the vapour trail and an airman’s cap at the base.

It was a pleasure to be able to extend a very warm welcome to so many veterans, young and not quite so young, resplendent in their medals, and also to the Very Rev. Tim Barker, Dean of Guernsey, who preached the sermon and blessed the Royal British Legion Chaplain’s Scarf after it had been presented.

The service began with the reception of the Standard and, then, after we had sung some well known hymns, the Dean reminded us about the bravery and sheer dedication of those involved in the “Battle of Britain”, citing a specific example of an airman who refused to bail out after his aircraft had been set alight by ack-ack fire and, despite serious burns, insisted on staying aboard to fight the blaze so that the pilot could return safely to base. Unsurprisingly, he was subsequently awarded a well deserved Victoria Cross for his bravery.

After our prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession which included the RAF Collect, the Scarf was “Handed Over” and blessed and the Standard returned, bringing a very memorable service to a close..



# Heal Nepal update

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that thanks to your prayers and fundraising efforts, Heal Nepal has been our most successful fundraising appeal to date. Furthermore, as a UK Aid Match appeal, all public donations will be matched by the UK government. Thanks to you, newly-trained community leaders can go into hard to reach areas to find people with leprosy and quickly bring them the cure before they become disabled.



In April 2015, I took over responsibility for The Leprosy Mission (TLM) in St Andrew's in the Grange from Eleanor. She had taken over from Mum, Jean Warren, back in September 2005 and thought it would be a nice idea to keep it going in the family!

TLM works in over 30 countries worldwide with over 2,000 staff co-operating with governments, voluntary groups and other agencies.

Following the devastating earthquakes in Nepal in 2015, staff at the Anandaban Hospital had to deal with very tough conditions. Parts of the hospital were so

badly affected, it resulted in doctors having to operate on patients in corridors. Not only did the staff have too many patients to treat but many of them had lost their own homes. This is one of the areas that we have been supporting since that time.

2019 saw a busy start to the year for TLM with the Heal Nepal campaign which ran from the end of January to the end of April. This has been their most successful fundraising appeal to date and has enabled them to fund newly-trained community leaders. They are able to go into hard to reach areas to find people with leprosy and quickly bring

them the cure they need before they become disabled.

Due to David not being inducted until 4<sup>th</sup> April, it was not considered a good time for us to hold our own fundraising event but we are holding a Leprosy Mission coffee morning and cake stall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October which I hope you will support.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those of you who continue to show your support by collecting in the special money boxes provided. If there are any members of the congregation that do not have a box but would like one please do come and see me. I still collect used stamps and there is a box in the Narthex where they can be deposited. Please note, there needs to be about a centimetre border (that's about a quarter of an inch in old money!) round the stamp!

Sue



The photograph on the front cover was taken at our morning service on August 18<sup>th</sup> and is a poignant reminder of the newlywed young policeman who lost his life in the course of duty. A month later, we were commemorating the



Battle of Britain and heard about another young man who put the safety of others first when facing death and certain disfigurement.

As I was assembling the material for this edition, it became increasingly obvious that a theme of sacrifice was emerging. In less than a month's time, before our next magazine "goes to press," we will be remembering not only the fallen of two World Wars, but others who have made, and are still making, the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts around the world.

It is important, too, that we remember those, not personally engaged in armed conflict, who serve as volunteers in conflict zones and are at daily risk of death and disease. Their dedication and devotion can be so easily overlooked.

It's one thing reading about charities and their workers in the comfort and safety of our own homes but something else when working in an operating theatre with bombs falling on the hospital as described in David Knott's thought provoking book "War Doctor: Surgery on the Front Line"

Ed

## *Pilgrimage to Herm : a reflection*

Text: Mk 6:  
31b-32



Jesus said to his Apostles: “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” “So, they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.”

It is remarkable to think that Christian Pilgrims have been coming to Herm since the sixth century and that St Tugual’s chapel as it exists today dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century when Norman Monks founded a community to live and to worship God in this quiet and solitary place. It is the idea of pilgrimage and the need to occasionally get away to a quiet place that I want to reflect upon.

Inside the chapel at St Tugual’s, you will find a copy of a book called *Admiral Beaufort’s Breezes*, inspired by the hymn: “For those in peril on the sea.” Rear Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort was the creator of the Beaufort Scale for indicating wind speed. Force 0 has a wind speed of 0-1mph where the sea is like a mirror and smoke rises vertically. Conversely Force 12 is a Hurricane Force Wind of 70-80 mph, far worse than any violent storm.

Pilgrimage is perhaps best defined as a departure from daily life on a journey in search of spiritual wellbeing. The practice of pilgrimage is a central feature of all the world’s major faiths. You only have to think of Muslims going to Mecca; Christians, Arabs and Jews visiting the Holy Land or Hindu’s bathing in the River Ganges. Pilgrimage has long been a significant aspect of Christian life and reached its zenith in the Middle Ages with thousands travelling for many months across Europe to Rome; Santiago; even to St Andrew’s in Scotland and other shrines and sacred places associated with the early Christian Apostles and Martyrs including Herm. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, new pilgrim routes have been opened or re-discovered including to places like Lourdes; Lindisfarne and, of course, Iona.

The idea of pilgrimage or even the idea of getting away to a quiet place, a place of solitude, is so attractive to those who are consumed with work and the pressures of life; getting ready for the next meeting ; the next chore; the next challenge.

Setting time aside to be quiet and finding a place of solitude and rest is a good thing which William Barclay called the “Rhythm of the Chris-

tian Life” where we are all called to continuously dip in and out of the presence of God. It is like the daily rhythm of sleep and work. You cannot work without rest and we are called by God to be still and to listen and to enjoy his presence, where we take time to recharge our spiritual batteries and find new energy and strength in order to cope better with all that life throws at us. It is very easy to become too busy, too tired, too distracted: to pause, to sit, to listen and to pray. The “Rhythm of the Christian life” is the alternate meeting with God in a quiet place and serving mankind in the market place.

If we could measure our lives, body, mind and spirit against the equivalent of the Beaufort Scale, I wonder how fast the wind is blowing and how choppy the water on the surface of the sea. Whether you feel you are in a flat calm or facing a violent storm I hope and pray that today you will find some rest and peace.

David

### **With Islands, Pilgrims and Halloween in mind**



Some of us are no doubt familiar with another island a little further away than Herm, the lovely island of Iona, but how many of us have ever heard of Odran of Iona who is said to have been fought over by the spirits.

British by birth, Odran who died around 563 was one of Columba’s first companions on Iona but died soon after his arrival. Columba found comfort, however, because in a vision he saw Odran’s soul ascending to heaven, after being fought over by angels and devils. Christ had redeemed Odran for His own, and so all the devils there ever were could not lay claim to Odran’s soul.

In memory of his dear friend, Columba named the graveyard on Iona after him, Reilig Orain. An old Irish tradition has an Odran abbot of Meath and founder of Latteragh Abbey (Co. Tipperary), and it is probable that these Odrans are one and the same.

### *Smile lines : definitions*

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.



# Church Calendar



## October

- |               |           |              |  |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Worship Team</b> |
|               |           |              | <b>Sunday School</b>                       |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Worship Team</b> |
|               |           |              | <b>Sunday School</b>                       |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b>                     |
|               |           |              | <b>Remember clocks go back 1 hour,</b>     |
|               |           |              | <b>Half Term.</b>                          |
|               |           | <b>18.30</b> | <b>Evening Service</b>                     |

## November

- |                |           |              |   |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship with Communion</b>       |
| <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>19.30</b> | <b>Kirk Session meets in the Upper Room</b> |
| <b>Sunday</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>10.50</b> | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>                   |
| <b>Sunday</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b>                      |
|                |           |              | <b>Sunday School</b>                        |
| <b>Sunday</b>  | <b>24</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b>                      |
|                |           |              | <b>Sunday School</b>                        |
|                |           | <b>18.30</b> | <b>Evening Service</b>                      |

## December

- |                  |           |              |   |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>1</b>  | <b>9.30</b>  | <b>CoSY Practice in Church</b>              |
|                  |           | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Advent Sunday with Communion and</b>     |
|                  |           |              | <b>Ordination of Elders</b>                 |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>8</b>  | <b>9.30</b>  | <b>CoSY Practice in Church</b>              |
|                  |           | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship</b>                      |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>15</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>CoSY Nativity Service and Tree Gifts</b> |
|                  |           |              | <b>Congregational Lunch at Jerbourg</b>     |
|                  |           |              | <b>Hotel</b>                                |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>22</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Service of Lessons and Carols</b>        |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>24</b> | <b>16.30</b> | <b>Pyjama Service</b>                       |
|                  |           | <b>21.00</b> | <b>Watch Night with Bethlehem</b>           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Christmas Day Family Service</b>         |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>29</b> | <b>10.30</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Worship Team</b>  |



Advent Sunday this year will be on Sunday 1st December and as you can see from the Calendar on the opposite page, it will be a very special service because we will not only be beginning the period of preparation for Christmas with Holy Communion but also ordaining new Elders. Details are not available at present and as the next edition of the Quair is not due to be distributed until Sunday 8th December, please keep an eye on the weekly order of service sheets for further information.

**Church of Scotland  
St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey**

**The Minister**

Rev Dr David Coulter

The Manse

Le Villocq, Castel GY5 7SB

Tel 257345

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

Email: [dcoulter@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dcoulter@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 except at Eastertime when it is on Easter Sunday.

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

