

The Kirk Quair

October-November 2020



St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland



God the Artist

**Thou takest the pen – and the lines dance.
Thou takest the flute – and the notes shimmer.
Thou takest the brush – and the colours sing.
So all things have meaning and beauty
in that space beyond time where Thou art.
How, then, can I hold back anything from Thee?**

Dag Hammarskjöld

On 8th September 2020, the Kirk Session approved the appointment of a new Session Clerk for St. Andrew's in the Grange and thanked Hilary for her long service, commitment and dedication as Treasurer and, then, Session Clerk. Over the summer months I had the opportunity to consult widely and to speak both formally and informally with each of the members of Session to try and discern who is best equipped to become the next Session Clerk and how might we make the Session work more effectively.

Our conversations have confirmed that:

The appointment of Session Clerk is a Session decision and not the gift of the Minister.

The appointment should be time bracketed for initially 3 years with the possibility of an extension.

There is merit in having a Deputy Session Clerk and, in discussion, the idea of having two Deputy Clerks has been proposed. With an initial appointment of 2 years and the possibility of an extension.

The Session should have a mechanism to rotate Session Elders around the various committees and to enable change to happen so that not everyone changes at once.

It is recognised that all Congregational Office Bearers make a commitment to serve the Church to the best of their ability and need to be in a position to offer the necessary time commitment having weighed up

other duties and responsibilities to family and their own work/life balance.

Where possible a volunteer is better than a pressed man or woman.

Above all, this is about Calling and a willingness to serve.

Philippians Chapter 2 sets the tone in that being an office bearer in a congregation is: a call to service not promotion; is a privilege not a prize; confers responsibility not power; is a task for a season not a right for life.

As a result of our discussions and after much prayerful reflection, it was, therefore, my privilege to bring before Session the names of Ethel Robb and John Videlo as Deputy Session Clerks and Neil Houston as Session Clerk. The Session warmly approved these appointments and thanked Hilary for her faithful service to the Church. I would ask you now to remember Neil, Ethel and John in your prayers as the new team begins their work together.



I have always enjoyed working in a team. I remember, as a small boy, I always wanted to be part of the gang but never wanted to be the leader of the gang. Over time there is something about leadership and followership that we all need to discover. In the Church, becoming an Office Bearer is both a Calling and an opportunity to serve others. It is not for everyone and for everything there is a season. It was no accident that Jesus chose twelve disciples. God's chosen people, the Israelites, were divided into twelve tribes and so when Jesus calls out a new people for himself, he starts with twelve who will form the basis of the new Israel. The power of God was working through them and they were willing to receive this call, but it is doubtful whether they knew the full extent of what they were signing up for when they began as Jesus's disciples.

There is little doubt what Ethel, John and Neil have signed up for but I would ask that we pray for them and for all the Elders past and present in our Church, that together they may know: "all things have meaning and beauty in that space beyond time where Thou art. How, then, can I hold back anything from Thee?"

With all good wishes and every blessing
David



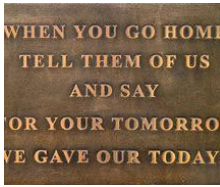
StAG News

VJ Day Commemoration



We were pleased to welcome Major Bob Place, MBE, President of the Guernsey Branch of the Royal British Legion and members from both the North and Western Branches to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day at our morning service on 16th August. The standards were presented during the opening hymn and there were poignant moments when Stuart read the FEPOW Reflection¹, our silence was broken by the words of the Kohima Epitaph, the Standards were returned and, then, dipped during the National Anthem. After the service, we were able to chat with the veterans over refreshments in the hall.

¹Donald Smith, "And all the trumpets", Wyman & Sons, 1954



The Standards are dipped

Kohima Epitaph

Refreshments in the hall

Harvest Service

Our Harvest service, on September 27th, was well attended but a little different this year because, as well as traditional harvest hymns, we had the opportunity to present a cheque from our Lent Appeal (p12) to Allister Carey, a director of the Eleanor Foundation, and to hear a little about



their work in Tanzania. We also had a choir and a short sketch based on the story of Zacchaeus. After the service, there was a



splendid congregational buffet lunch in the hall.

Battle of Britain Sunday



On 13th September, we once again remembered Battle of Britain Sunday and, to misquote Sir Winston Churchill, we were reminded of “the few to whom so much was owed by so many.”



One of the few, a particularly brave young fighter pilot was singled out for special mention; Eric Stanley Lock or “Sawn Off Lockie” as he was known to his friends, may have been short in stature but, in all other respects, he was a giant! One of the most successful fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) on 1st October 1940 and, just three weeks later, a bar for his gallantry.

He was forced to crash land twice and was seriously wounded the second time. After months in hospital where he was operated on by the famous plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe, he returned to active service but, unfortunately, he was shot down over the English Channel in 1941 and neither he nor his aircraft have ever been found despite extensive searches by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Afternoon in the Garden



We were blessed with fine weather for our Afternoon in the Garden in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship on Saturday 15th August. The event was a great success with around 70 visitors and raised an amazing £1637.10 towards refurbishment of the Millennium Messenger which is now fully funded and will be deployed shortly. A big thank you to the team of volunteers who planned the event, set it up, ran it and left the garden as they found it! Someone was overheard to say that there was a real feeling of fellowship. What a wonderful testimony.



'Hello from your new Session Clerk'

Life certainly does take you on new journeys!

These journeys often take you to new places, both predictable and unpredictable, physical and spiritual and always providing plenty of scope for reflection and action.

The journey over the summer has been a most interesting and exciting one. David, in his introduction to this issue, has shared the process he undertook with each Elder over the summer as we sought to find a new Session Clerk. The process had a gentle rigour, perhaps there is a contradiction here, but it gave each of us an opportunity to share with him our thoughts about the church and the future direction of the Session. Conversations with David, over that necessary cup of tea, started off quite broad based, occasionally 'thinking outside the box' but with each cuppa our conversations became more and more focused. After one of our chats I sat down and asked myself, "if I am called to do this, can I?"

That was a big question.

Friends, I am most grateful for your many generous wishes since taking over as Session Clerk from Hilary on the 8th September. Taking up the role of Session Clerk is not something I have done without much thought and prayer but, now that I am in role, I am hugely excited about the journey ahead.

I have been in the Church of Scotland since I was a baby; born a few days after Christmas, taken for Baptism on Easter Sunday. Sunday School, Bible Class and membership followed in congregations in Maybole Old Parish, Ayr Auld Kirk, Tarbert, Argyll and St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh and, of course, St. Andrews in the Grange. Each of these experiences has shaped my belief, in both comfort and challenge; it has fortified my delight in church music and in all matters of the church - all part of my spiritual journey.

I would like to thank Hilary on behalf of us all for her immense contribution to St. Andrews in the Grange. She has kept our church on a steady path during some challenging times. Her journey may have taken her down some side paths from time to time but always she

brought us back to that main road! It is good to know that I can call on her for advice as I take my first steps!

Thank you also to David who guided each of us through the journey during the summer as we addressed his searching questions.

Now, I look forward to working with Ethel and John, our Deputy Session Clerks, my fellow Elders and of course, you the congregation, as we set out on our new journey together.

Over the next issues I will be outlining the work of Session but for now...

All blessings and prayers.

Neil



You may be wondering about the significance of our cover graphic but, as I was putting this edition together, there seemed to be a thread running through it of what can be achieved by working in teams and, therefore, it seemed relevant!

Summer is usually a quiet time in the church calendar but not so this year. After a Spring in lockdown, the last two months have been all go at St Andrews in the Grange as you will have seen on pages 4-6. More to come!

Although our national news, continues to be dominated by Covid in the UK and the re-emergence of Brexit, other things are still

happening “Beyond Our Shores.” Some, like the massive explosion in Beirut on 4th August, and the fire in the Moria refugee camp in Lesbos which made 12,000 people homeless, have attracted passing comment as have the wild fires in North America.

When I was proof reading a thesis on Catastrophe Modelling a year or so ago, little did I think that I would be inviting the author, one of our grandsons, to write a piece for The Quair but, as his working day at the moment revolves around the wild fires sweeping the West Coast of the United States, it seemed like a good idea. His contribution on the subject should give us all pause for thought. (p8)

Just enough space to wish Rupert Bear a happy 100th birthday!



BEYOND OUR SHORES



The year 2020 has been seen by many as “the worst year ever”. Whilst this is largely driven by the current Covid-19 pandemic, the number of stories that would usually dominate the news but are barely gracing our screens is truly remarkable. The 2020 hurricane season in the US has already been so active that on the 18th September forecasters ran out of traditional storm names and have been forced to turn to the Greek alphabet for only the second time since the 1950s. Meanwhile, at the opposite end of the country, the wildfire season on the West Coast of the United States has been the worst in 18 years.

Across the US, 6.7 million acres of land (approx 388 times the area of Guernsey) have been burned by wildfires this year. Contributing to this loss have been five of the largest 20 fires on record in California, including the State’s largest ever, the August Complex Fire which has destroyed 750,000 acres. Throughout the 2019 fire season (which usually runs from August to November) there were 4,972 individual fires and as of the 18th September, there had been 7,606 fires so far in 2020. At the time of writing large parts of both California and Oregon continue to burn with a significant proportion of the season remaining.

Across the West of the US an estimated 9,657 residential and commercial structures have been destroyed already, displacing tens of thousands of people. Sadly, at least 30 people have also been killed. In addition to direct fire damage, wildfires also produce large volumes of harmful smoke and air quality has been so low in parts of Oregon this year that it has exceeded the scale used to measure it. Amazingly, particles of this smoke have even reached Europe.

The underlying causes of such a severe fire season are contested, with many pointing to Climate Change, whilst President Trump blames poor forest management. In reality, it seems that both are likely to be at play. If there is a positive spin to put on 2020, it is this; throughout the disaster risk reduction community, it is widely regarded that there is no such thing as a “natural disaster” and that the risk of these events can be managed. Whilst we can’t stop hurricanes, we can ensure that people are warned when one is impending and prevent any loss of life. Hopefully, with the increased visibility of these perils, more will be done to mitigate their impacts.

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

Fortunately, we in Guernsey, are not subject to wild fires but, at present, we do have something in common with the United States. Elections are looming on both sides of the Atlantic and, with this in mind, here are a few light hearted reflections on the topic!

Decide ?

Politician to aide: “About their charge that I’m indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?”

Straightforward

Admirer to political candidate: Great speech sir! I really like the straightforward way you dodged the issues.

Shakes ?

Politician: a fellow who shakes your hand before the election and shakes you after the election.

Friends and Fellowship Team

Autumn in Guernsey will be packed with events as few of us travel off island, the world-wide situation on Covid- 19 deteriorates and local organisations gear into action

So the Team of Liz, David LJ, Patricia, Ethel, Sally and Stephen (Children’s Events) with the facility to co-opt members for specific events will be happy to consider ideas for social gatherings. A few suggestions, for your diary:

Saturday, 31st October - Afternoon Tea - Donations in aid of Grow Ltd
Sunday, 13th December - Kirk Christmas Lunch at the Driftwood Inn with children’s menu - details to follow. This date is definite.

In the New Year, possibly a Cake Stall after a Service, a Soup and Sweet Lunch - Donations in aid of Leprosy Mission and a Fun Beetle Drive involving the Children, perhaps on a Saturday afternoon.

We all hope for your support and would be delighted if you feel inclined to bring spouses, partners, parents, children, visitors and friends whether or not they attend our services and irrespective of their beliefs or lack of them. If you have ideas or suggestions, remember all must be feasible, come and talk to us.

Our mat at the front door says it all “ALL ARE WELCOME”.



A Messenger from Mongolia to Guinea

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), motivated by our Christian faith, are passionate that all people should have access to the essentials of life, no matter how remote they may be. For over 75 years, MAF has used light aircraft to provide a solution to reach those experiencing physical and spiritual poverty in isolation.

Such hardship was particularly acute in Mongolia when the Cold War ended and support from the Soviet Union disappeared. This triggered widespread poverty across the vast and sparsely populated country. Without funding, the country's infrastructure fell into disrepair, leaving rural communities isolated and cut off from outside help and the Gospel. As the country's fledgling democratic government stepped out from the oppressive shadow of communist rule, the needs had never been greater but neither had the opportunity to demonstrate God's love. In response to a request from Mongolia's authorities, MAF was granted permission to establish operations. Following the commencement of flights in 2001 with its Cessna 208, 'The Millennium Messenger,' journeys for aid and mission groups that had previously taken up to a week by road were now quickly reduced to a matter of hours. With MAF's partnership, from a handful of believers in 1990, Mongolia's Church grew to almost 60,000 Christians.¹

One door closes

Seeking to be good stewards of the gifts we receive and, following the introduction of new operating restrictions within the country, in 2019 MAF prayerfully assessed our ministry effectiveness in Mongolia. It was agreed that infrastructure within the country had improved to the degree that MAF services were no longer essential and that God was directing our resources elsewhere.

Another door opens

MAF's work in Liberia was established back in 2015 and has contin-



ued to be inundated with demands for flights. However, these requests have not just come from within Liberia but also from the neighbouring country of Guinea, one of the world's poorest countries with over half of its 13.2 million² population living below the poverty line. After decades of political unrest and violence, the population continues to be ravaged by Malaria, HIV and other preventable diseases and, more recently, the devastating Ebola epidemic. Dense jungle and dirt track roads that become muddy quagmires in the rain have also kept many villages trapped in superstitious beliefs.



The challenge that hinders development and the spread of the gospel to isolated communities is the same challenge that hinders the ability of those seeking to assist – access.

As we seek to bring physical and spiritual transformation to the impoverished people of Guinea, the Millennium Messenger is ideal to serve isolated, rural populations. Like the aircraft above, this God-given vessel is therefore presently undergoing a refurbishment for this very purpose. The hope, help and healing that this aircraft will bring would not be possible without our family of supporters.

On behalf of the remote communities we seek to serve, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to St Andrews in the Grange, Guernsey who through your generosity and hard work raised over £1,600 towards the realisation of the project. Your giving has helped to ensure that, no matter how remote, nobody gets left behind!



Simon Dunsmore, Partnership Manager, MAF UK

¹*The Joshua Project - <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/MG> 16/09/2020*

²*Worldometer-<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/guinea-population/> 16/09/2020*



From the Charities Committee

During Lent this year, we launched an appeal asking members of the congregation to collect any spare loose change in water bottles for sanitation projects to help the 10 percent of the world's population - that's an estimated 785 million people - who don't have clean water close to home. Twice as many people as that don't have decent toilet facilities of their own, so good hygiene is really impossible for them.

Not having access to clean water is a major issue in poverty. Collecting water can take so long that it prevents adults from working or children from going to school. Some even walk long distances to collect the closest water they can get and that's not clean water.

We decided to collect funds for a local charity called the Eleanor Foundation. One of the things the charity does is help communities in rural villages in Africa build wells and protect spring sources.

With the Covid-19 lockdown during Lent, the appeal was continued until Harvest and we were thrilled with the response.

The final total was £1500, plus €9.48, US\$ 4.15, SA Rand 2,

Danish Krone 1, Can \$0.67,

Swiss Francs 0.20,

1 old halfpenny, 1 Irish 20 pence **and** one shirt button!

Any offers at a reasonable exchange rate for the foreign currency, or the button, will be seriously considered, otherwise they will be donated to a children's charity that accepts foreign currency. Enormous thanks to everyone who took part for your huge generosity.

Smile lines!

With the resumption of schools and Sunday schools in mind ..

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: "Well, dear, what did they teach you today?"

Daughter: "Not much. I've got to go back again tomorrow."

Shakespeare

Student essay: Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, but he mostly lived at Windsor with his merry wives. This is quite usual with actors.



Celebrating 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower*

Recently, the morning service on BBC Radio 4 and, later in the day, Songs of Praise focussed on the 400th Anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* evoking memories of our one and only visit to America. Some 25 years ago, I was advising a firm in East Kilbride and when I mentioned that we would be going on holiday, was asked “Where to?” “The West Coast of Scotland or the East Coast of America,” I replied. “No brainer, too many midges in the West!” Sound advice and a fortnight later we set off for New England in the footsteps of the Pilgrim Fathers.

If we find it difficult to cross the Atlantic just now, it was even worse 400 years ago when on 6th September 1620, 102 determined Puritans climbed on board the *Mayflower* and set sail from Plymouth with 30 crew to steer them across 3000 miles of open, perilous ocean.

Having rejected the Church of England because of its Roman Catholic past, they moved to Holland, where they could worship freely but life was hard, the New World beckoned and after a long and difficult 10 weeks at sea, they finally landed in Provincetown, Massachusetts on 11th November. Those Puritans, or ‘Pilgrim Fathers’, could never have dreamed that their journey in search of religious freedom and a new life would become one of the most influential in world history. Their courage and purpose for the voyage would help shape the very history and culture of the USA.

Half of the Pilgrims died from hunger and cold that first winter and, without the help of the local Indigenous peoples to teach them food-gathering and other survival skills, the rest would probably have perished as well. By the ‘Fall’ of 1621, after months of hard work, the tiny colony had its first harvest and celebrated this great achievement with their new Indigenous friends. It became Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims had been convinced that God wanted them to go to the New World. They wrote: “We verily believe and trust the Lord is with us, and that He will graciously prosper our endeavours according to the simplicity of our hearts therein.”

Our visit to the living history museum, Plimouth Plantation, where the staff were totally in character will never be forgotten. Brilliant! Ed.



Church Calendar



October

Sunday	11	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	18	10.30	Morning Worship
Saturday	24		Wedding
Sunday	25	10.30	Morning Worship. Clocks go back Half Term
		18.30	Evening Service
Saturday	31		Wedding

November

Sunday	1	10.30	All Saints Day Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday	3	19.30	Session meets in Upper Room
Sunday	8	10.50	Remembrance Sunday Morning Wor- ship with Act of Remembrance
Sunday	15	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	22	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	29	10.30	Morning Worship : Celebration of St An- drew and First Sunday in Advent

December

Sunday	6	10.30	Morning Worship with Communion
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Church Register

No entries for August or September



With Harvest in mind

It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Don't grumble because you don't get what you want; be grateful you don't get what you deserve. - Anon

With St Luke's Day and the pandemic in mind...

God does not witness to the world by taking His people out of suffering, but rather by demonstrating His grace through them in the midst of pain. - C Samuel Storms

Crossreach Cards and Calendars

A reminder from Crossreach that this year's cards and next year's calendars are available and can be viewed and ordered online at <https://shop.crossreach.org.uk>.

Did you know that if you shop online through the link www.easypundraising.org.uk/crossreach, each time you place an order, Crossreach will receive a commission from the retailer at no extra cost to you.

Ps. Managed to pass on the message without using the "C" word in September!!



Door Duty

- 11 Christina and David
- 18 Ethel and Patricia
- 25 Edith and Paul

October

Flower Rota October- December



- October**
- 11 Niall
- 18 Andrea
- 25 Sue
- November**
- 1 Fiona
- 8 Remembrance
- 15 Neil
- 22 Grace C
- 29 Karen G
- December**
- 6 Morna
- 13 Christmas
- 20 Christmas
- 27 Christmas

Monthly Coordinator:
October Andrea
November Fiona
December Carolyn

Sunday Readers



- Iain
- Ethel
- Elizabeth Mc

November

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 1 Gay and Peter | Grace C |
| 8 Jo and Iain | Peter |
| 15 Charmaine & George | Neil |
| 22 Sally and Stuart | Sally |
| 29 Avril & Christine | Stuart |

December

- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| 6 Beth & Emily | George |
|----------------|--------|

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

Email: 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 .

Session Clerk	Mr Neil Houston	Tel 07810
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Treasurer	Mr Steven Jones	Tel 720547
Freewill Offering	Mr David Lewis-Jones	Tel 726561
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Creche Organiser	Mrs Amanda Jones	Tel 720547
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Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781 132699
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus	Tel 263688
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