

The Kirk Quair

June — July 2023



**"I come not to be
served but to serve"**

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

Musings from the Minister



I am writing to you as I sit in the General Assembly, listening to the reports about the future of the Church of Scotland. It has been an Assembly of two halves, one of doom and gloom and the other moments of saturated sacredness.

This is my first time attending the General Assembly as a member of St Andrew's in the Grange and it has been interesting to be part of the Church outside Scotland. Being a Kirk outside Scotland has its own dynamic context, vastly different from those inside Scotland. Many discussions at the General Assembly have centred on protecting the institution and the Kirk's national identity.

Every year, the General Assembly invites ecumenical partners worldwide to represent their denominations. Hearing different accents, theologies and backgrounds in the Assembly Hall has been lovely. The Scottish ecumenical partners spoke about being a minority partner in Scotland as the Church of Scotland seeks to continue being the National Church. I often identified more with the Ecumenical Partners than with my colleagues in the Kirk.

I wonder if we could ever run a General Assembly for churches in Guernsey. My mind naturally starts to imagine what this would look like. Who would be there? What would we speak about?

There is no doubt in my mind we would be an ecumenical partner on the island. But I wonder what type of ecumenical partner we would be? How are we different from the other churches on the island? There are 50 churches on our small island, but what makes us unique? Often we answer, "We are reformed" and "We order ourselves as a democracy" but when you strip the structures away, what makes us, us? What is our identity? What would we bring to the table? What is our story, our accent, our identity, our theology? What would the island lose if we weren't there?

On the 4th and 11th of June, we will be starting to answer these questions in Future Focus. Part of our discussions will examine how to adapt to the future as the Kirk goes through its challenging times. But maybe more importantly, the process helps us to put words to these questions about our identity. Who are we? It is not to change us into something we are not but to allow us to remember who we are.

There is a saying, "Nothing about us, without us, is for us". So I want to encourage you to join in the conversation.

I want to see our church thrive not because of our bottom line but because we want to see our church make Guernsey a better place. To make the lives of all people reflect what God, who created them, wanted them to be.

Or as Jesus says, "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth" (Matthew 5:13
Justin

The Five Marks of Mission

As an article in Life and Work last year pointed out, The Five Marks of Mission are at the heart of the Church of Scotland and are currently defined as:

- 1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- 2) To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- 3) To respond to human need by loving service.
- 4) To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- 5) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

They can be summed up in five "T" words: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure.

In 2017, Rev Dr Doug Gay wrote in his book "Reforming the Kirk" that, "This is the kind of full spectrum lens which I believe we need to refocus the life and work of the Church of Scotland." The Marks have not been universally accepted but it is fair to say that a church which is strong on all five is probably a healthy church. They are certainly worth bearing in mind as we discuss our "Future Focus."

StAG News

From Kirk Session



Congregational Roll

A review of The Roll has been completed and, after unsuccessful attempts to make contact, the names of fifteen members and three adherents have been removed. Three other members who have left the island have also requested that their names be taken off the Register. This leaves a total membership of 145.

Eco congregation

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches to make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith. Session has agreed that we should join “Eco-Congregation Scotland.” More details about this charity can be found at www.ecocongregationscotland.org.



Disabled Access

Ways of improving access to the church premises for wheelchair users and the disabled are being explored.

Place for Hope

Last month, Elders were encouraged to take part in two zoom sessions “Leading Well in Times of Change.” The sessions were facilitated for us by Place for Hope, a Glasgow based charity.

Kneelers

As the kneelers are rarely used, they will be removed from the Sanctuary. A small number will be retained but the others are up for grabs!

New Church Website www.stag.org

Design of the new church website is still a work in progress but Elders have been sent a suggested outline for consideration.

Flower rota

As reported on the next page, Carolyn has stepped down as coordinator. The current rota will continue while further consideration is given to the way forward.



Celebration Lunch



A Congregation Lunch was held after the Morning Service on 7th May as a joint celebration of the Coronation and Liberation Days. Lots of good food and chatter ensured the occasion was a success.



Diary dates

Future Focus, 11th June 2023

Church Lunch followed by the 2nd session of Future Focus at which all members of the congregation are welcome.

Remembrance Sunday 2023

Humanitarian Aid Guernsey have been approached and accepted an invitation to speak at this year's Remembrance Day Service.

Flower List

Organiser



We are very sorry to learn that Carolyn, our Flower List Organiser, has decided to step down and we would like to put on record our appreciation for all her hard work.

It is often only when people give up that we really appreciate the extent of their commitment, dedication and service. Voluntary work is often a lot more demanding and time consuming than we imagine.



The Coronation of King Charles III

At this time last year, when we were celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of the ascension of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne, our cover also featured a crown. Who, if any of us, imagined that, within months, over 20 million people in the British Isles would be watching as the Archbishop of Canterbury gently lowered St Edward's Crown on to the head of her eldest son, King Charles III?



The words forming the caption beneath the crown on the front cover of this edition are the very first words spoken by King Charles at his coronation in Westminster Abbey last month. They are an example to us all and echo those of Jesus. (Mark 10 v45)

During their last meal together before His arrest, Jesus demonstrated the importance of service when he washed the feet of His Disciples, including the man who would betray Him. This act of loving service reminds us that we should love one another and care for all people. A message reinforced by King Charles by including people from other religions and countries in his coronation service.



Bailiwick of Guernsey Victim Support & Witness Service.

This year represents the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of our local Victim Support and Witness Service. As its name implies, the Charity recognises that not all witnesses of crime will necessarily themselves be victims. Equally, it recognises that not all victims will wish to report the crime of which they are the victim, to face the ordeal of being questioned by the Police and the even greater ordeal of facing the accused and being cross-examined in a Court of Law.

Through its team of volunteers, the Charity offers victims the opportunity to seek one-to-one support on a non-judgmental basis. One victim may require more than one session with a volunteer before plucking up the necessary courage to make a formal report to the Police. Many victims may decide not to make that report, but will still benefit from that one-to-one support from the Charity's volunteers.

In the case of those who may be called as witnesses to give evidence in Court, the Charity is able to give assistance by arranging pre-trial visits to the Court, by sitting in with the witness before they are called to give evidence and, with the approval of the Court, by attending the Court hearing to provide re-assurance and a friendly presence. The witness service provided by the Charity is recognised by the judiciary as helping to relax the witness and, thereby, making that witness' evidence more effective.

The Charity also provides similar support for witnesses in Family proceedings before the Courts, where the personal involvement of a witness can be a particularly traumatic experience.

The Charity is conscious of the need to assist in obtaining justice for those victims that it supports. In one recent case, the Charity's executive team were able to assist a victim, who could not read or write, to successfully complete the process of pursuing an insurance recovery. In another case the team were able to assist a victim, who had been a victim of a scam fraud, to obtain compensation through the banking system.

The Charity depends upon volunteers for the provision of its services and the generosity of the public to fund most of its day-to-day running costs. If you are in need of its services or if you would like to volunteer, please contact the Charity by phone on 223000 or by e-mail at victimsupportgsy@cwgsy.net.
Peter

From the Editor

Easter, Ascension and Pentecost have come and gone and, so too, has the Coronation and Liberation Day with our celebratory lunch. (p4&5). No pictures of the latter for the album because Ed was off island!

Now, as this edition is published, it is Trinity Sunday (p11) which we celebrated en plein air in Gay and Pete's garden last year.

Next Sunday, we have the 2nd session of Future Focus to which all members of the congregation are invited as we consider the way ahead for our church in difficult times and, then, on 18th June, it is Father's Day (p12).

The series on the charitable work supported by our members, "our unsung heroes," continues on the opposite page with a contribution from Peter about another charity with which he is very closely associated and, indeed, a great deal of space in this magazine is devoted to the vital work of charities at home and "Beyond our Shores."



Room, as usual, for a little humour and some reflections arising from the story of Noah and the Ark.

Then, as our thoughts turn to Summer and holidays, Paul tells us about his recent trip to Malta, another island with a Church of Scotland presence and quite a troubled history. (p10)

As one who struggles with the standards of contemporary journalism, written or spoken, it is interesting to read (p13) that others are also questioning if proof reading is a dying art. It would seem that it is!

Finally, as I write, this year's General Assembly is in full swing in Edinburgh. The brief mention by Justin does not sound encouraging and we will have to await more details in due course when Ethel and Justin, our Commissioners, have had time to reflect on the proceedings.

Ed

BEYOND OUR SHORES



There has been a lot happening “Beyond our shores” in the past two months and, as usual, there’s good news and bad news. Too much to report but here are just three examples that have hit the headlines.

Helping in the terrible aftermath of Cyclone Freddy

Cyclone Freddy, which recently hit Malawi, Madagascar, and Mozambique, is still causing widespread devastation. The Zambezia province in Mozambique remains pretty much underwater, the tropical storm leaving thousands homeless and in need of aid.

“We have experienced a situation that has never happened before in the country.” These words from Cedric Willie, Acting Executive Director, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian - Blantyre Synod Health & Development Commission, only begin to describe the situation in Malawi, a region deluged by six months of rain - in just six days.

The cyclone displaced close to 160,000 people. Torrential rain, flooding, and mudslides have caused over 320 known deaths. Hospitals have been overwhelmed with the injured. Families have been torn apart, left homeless, and children orphaned.

Barnabas Aid, the Christian aid agency celebrating its 30th anniversary on the 1st June, has been working in the area since the storm struck. If you would like to know more about their work, go to: <https://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/>

Christians helping to clean up after the earthquake in Turkey

A week after more than 50,000 people were killed and tens of thousands injured by the massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Christian aid agency Samaritan’s Purse opened an Emergency Field Hospital in Turkey with two emergency operating rooms, 52 beds, four intensive care unit beds, a pharmacy and about 100 staff including doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel.

Samaritan’s Purse, in partnership with First Hope Association, has also distributed thousands of tents, as well as mattresses, food boxes, solar lanterns, and hygiene kits (including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet

paper, and more). Teams are also in the process of installing 120 mobile hygiene containers, each complete with three showers, three toilets, and sinks. Arriving on large trucks and lifted onto level ground by cranes, these facilities will be maintained for up to a year through their partnerships in Turkey. If you would like to help the on-going relief effort, please go to: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk>

World Vision help children in war-torn Sudan

As the fighting between Sudan's military and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continues in the capital, Khartoum, millions of people are living in fear and great need. Humanitarian activities to help them have been greatly interrupted owing to widespread insecurity.

Emmanuel Isch, World Vision Sudan Country Director, says, "*The escalating violence is putting the lives of innocent civilians, particularly women and children, at risk. Many Sudanese, particularly in Khartoum and South Darfur have been stuck in their homes for days, running out of food and water and facing increased insecurity.*"

World Vision has local teams in surrounding countries ready to help children and families who urgently need food, water and shelter. If you would like help, please go to: <https://www.worldvision.org.uk>

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

Christian Aid has warned that since the Russian invasion more than 15 million Ukrainians now require humanitarian assistance, a figure that includes 7.1 million internally displaced people living in private homes with host communities and in collective centres.



Christian Aid is working with local organisations to provide medical help and equipment of many kinds and also to offer shelter for refugees, prioritising women and children so that they don't need to sleep at overcrowded railway stations.

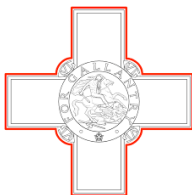
Our church at St. Andrew's in the Grange held retiring collections at the beginning and end of Christian Aid Week and raised a splendid total of £350.27 in addition to the £472 from the Bucket Collection organised by Paul.

MALTA ...GEORGE CROSS ISLAND

In 2012, Bill wrote in our church magazine about his holiday in Malta. Like him, I found it a beautiful and intriguing island when Janette and I visited it with Alan and Hilary in May this year.



Situated midway between the coast of Tunisia and Sicily, it has been a magnet to invaders for thousands of years. In 1530, the Knights of St John were driven out of Rhodes and the Holy Roman Emperor gave them the island of Malta. The knights were committed to the overthrow of Islam, initially as a hospital service to Christians stricken while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, later as a military order. Their anti Islamic deeds became so troublesome that, in 1565, Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent sent a vast armada and besieged them in their fortified city of Valletta. Four bloody months later the siege was lifted. Nowadays, there is evidence everywhere of those crusaders, including the magnificent Cathedral and its floor made of crusader's tombs.



In the Second World War, it was Hitler's Wehrmacht who besieged the island. Once again, Malta held out and was awarded the George Cross for the bravery of civilians and allied forces.

Outside Valletta, I found the war memorial to 800 commonwealth Air Force personnel who lost their lives defending Malta, including my Aunt's fiancé who was shot down in 1941.

The Maltese people are famously hospitable and they were certainly welcoming to our small group from Guernsey when we visited St Andrew's Church, the Church of Scotland in Valletta.



Of all the interesting Mediterranean islands we visited, Malta is the one to which I would like to return.

Paul



Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

This month we celebrate Trinity Sunday. The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important of the Christian faith, for it goes to the very heart of what God is like. The Bible is quite clear, there is one God, but He is revealed in three ‘persons’ – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever wondered at what point in the Bible God is revealed as being more than one person? Well, you don’t have to read very far: only to Genesis 1:26, where God (Elohim – a plural noun) says: Let US make man in OUR image. (Gen. 1:26)

The Bible reveals a pattern: God the Father lives in heaven and has never been seen. God the Son became the incarnate Jesus Christ, who made known to us the Father, and God the Holy Spirit, who is unseen, has been sent to live within and to equip His people, the Church.

The Trinity is basic to our salvation – for these three persons in the one Godhead have combined to save us from our sins: it is the WILL of the Father, the saving WORK of the Son, and the indwelling WITNESS of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16, 23-26).

The master of ceremonies was introducing a record at the church fete. "This next one," he said, "is for Charlotte, a choir member, who is a hundred and eleven! Hey, Charlotte, congratulations on a ripe old age!"



There was a short pause and then he said in a somewhat more subdued voice, "I'm sorry, I got it wrong. This next one is for Charlotte, who is ill."

18th June. Father's Day, a time to celebrate Dads.



Ever wondered how these special days get started? Well, Father's Day began because, way back in 1909, there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year, she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time but Sonora knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave her the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers and, in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. She had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday) but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on 19th June, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower and some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day,

Proof-reading needed! *The following true-life headlines found in local newspapers make you wonder: is proofreading a dying art?*

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
Miners Refuse to Work after Death
Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
War Dims Hope for Peace
If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

“Lent Appeal 2023”

This year’s Lent Appeal for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) was put on hold in favour of a special appeal when Turkey and Syria were hit by a devastating earthquake but we hope to reinstate the original appeal fairly soon.

MAF are looking for partners to join them in a current project - fighting malaria. Malaria, a treatable disease, is still killing more than 600,000 people every year (75% children under five) and MAF by flying medication, mosquito nets, healthcare providers, medical researchers and rapid test malaria kits to more than 25 low income counties across the world are providing vital access to lifesaving care for communities living beyond the reach of mainstream treatment .

At Vanga Hospital in the DRC, the second worst affected country in the world according to the WHO 2022 Malaria Report, Dr Junior Mudji is working to treat malaria and to raise awareness of rural isolated places with no access to care. With the help of MAF, he is on a mission to save more lives and reach the remotest places. “Join the Fight against Malaria” is an excellent short video about his work and tells the harrowing story of conjoined twins who were successfully separated only to catch malaria. (<https://youtu.be/8xsu2EGUOg8>)

MAF say “Mosquitoes aren’t the only ones who fly”

Everything I need to know... I learned from Noah’s Ark

1. Don’t miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you’re very old Someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don’t listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety’s sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn’t always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you’re stressed, float awhile.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there’s always a rainbow waiting.





Church Calendar



June

- Sunday** 11 10.30 **Morning Worship followed by lunch and 2nd session of Future Focus in which we consider the way ahead for our church**
- Sunday** 18 10.30 **Morning Worship Father's Day**
- Sunday** 25 10.30 **Morning Worship**

July

- Sunday** 2 10.30 **Morning Worship with Holy Communion**
- Sunday** 9 10.30 **Morning Worship**
- Sunday** 16 10.30 **Morning Worship**
- Sunday** 23 10.30 **Morning Worship**
- Sunday** 30 10.30 **Morning Worship**

August

- Sunday** 6 10.30 **Morning Worship with Holy Communion**



Scam Alert .. if a vicar asks you for money...

It is unlikely that this will be tried in Guernsey but forewarned is forearmed. The Church of England in the UK reports that scammers have been impersonating various clergy, including even the Archbishop of York, to ask priests and other church people to buy them Amazon vouchers and online gift cards. The scammers use either emails or texts, and their message is along the lines: "I have a request I need you to handle discreetly." They then say: "I am currently busy in a prayer meeting, so no calls – just reply to my email." Then the message asks the intended victim to send them financial help, usually in the form of vouchers or gift cards.



The police reckon that the scammers have trawled church websites for the contact details of clergy and parish officials and at least one person is believed to have been fooled – and lost £1000 in a scam.

Clergy will *never* ask you to give them money, vouchers, or personal banking details directly, even to help someone in need.... it is a scam.



Meet & Greet

June

- 11 Andrea & Robert
- 18 Beth & Emily
- 25 Jo & Iain

July

- 2 Morna & Peter
- 9 Edith & Paul
- 16 Sally & Stuart
- 23 Charmaine & George
- 30 Amanda & Steven

August

- 6 Gay & Pete

Flower Rota

June

- 11 Bunty
- 18 Isobel
- 25 NancyS



For July and August please see
Noticeboard in the Hall

Monthly Coordinator:

- June Leila
- July Amanda
- August Liz
- September Avril

Food for thought

Before Pentecost, the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost, they found it easy to do hard things

A J Gordon

Sunday Readers



June

- 11 Stuart
- 18 Steve
- 25 Alison

July

- 2 Alan
- 9 Ethel
- 16 Amanda
- 23 Charmaine
- 30 Sarah

August

- 6 Leila

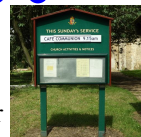
Church notices that didn't quite work...

~ The Visiting Preacher spoke briefly, much to the delight of the congregation.

~ Our students will present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the church on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

~ A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.

~ The pastoral committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.



Church Register

No births, baptisms, marriages or deaths

Church of Scotland

St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

The Minister

Rev Justin Taylor

Tel 257345

Website: cofsguernsey.org.gg

Email: 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	Ms Sally Wilkinson	Tel 263991
Treasurer	Mr Steven Jones	Tel 720547
Freewill Offering	Mr David Lewis-Jones	Tel 726561
Safeguarding Officer	Ms Ethel Robb	Tel 264559
Church Organist	Jurat Dr Alan Boyle	Tel 246153
Creche Organiser	Mrs Amanda Jones amandajones.gsy@gmail.com	Tel 720547
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus billharcus@duck.com	Tel 263688