

The Kirk Quair

August - September
2024



St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

Message from the Marathon



As many of you know, I embarked on the Saffery Rotary Walk in June, a 39-mile walk around Guernsey to raise funds for our church. The outpouring of support, not just from our Kirk but from people around the world, has been truly humbling. Gill, a fellow congregation member who joined me for the initial part of the walk, jokingly asked if I knew what I was getting into. Little did I know, her question was a warning. I did train for the event, and thanks to Stuart, I managed to get some sort of fitness. I was running most days, and I felt good going into the walk.

The walk is the hardest thing I have ever physically had to do in my life. I had a cramp in my right calf for over 4.5 hours, which meant I couldn't feel my leg. I also managed to cry as I crossed the finish line, which Aly and Sebastian (as well as the Lieutenant Governor) will attest to.

But, during all of this, I found the walk incredibly sacred.

The walk reminded me of our walk-through life. No matter who we are, we are all going to go through some tough things. You will go through moments that push you to your limits and you will wonder how you will get over it; sometimes, you will just want to give up. We may only have the strength to take the next step and that is all we can focus on, but we somehow manage to take that step. Something deep within will push you forward.

I have spent enough time listening to people's stories over the past two years to know the hard yards people have had to walk - the death of a child, the death of the parent, a partner, finances, legal troubles, and the list goes on and on. I know that our church is full of resilient people. The fact that you're reading this letter shows me how resilient you are. No matter what life has thrown at you, you're here, reading this. You, indeed, are more resilient than you ever could imagine.

The walk has now forced me to ask a new question: Where is the sacred to be found in our pain? Where is God moving in the midst of the hard steps? We like to think of blessings when our lives are going well, but what happens when you have blisters on your feet, and all you want to do is give up? Is God still there? Is God still good?

As we transition into the summer, a season of relaxation and reflection, I invite you to take a moment to look back on your own journey. Where have you felt the presence of God in both the easy and the difficult steps? Let's take this time to recognise the sacred in our lives.

As I ask that question myself, I realise that I may have walked the island, but the island has walked me. I am noticing so much of the sacred I missed on the journey so far.

Blessings

Justin

.... AND A THANK YOU FROM JUSTIN

Dear Friends

Thank you all for your tremendous support and sponsorship during the Saffery Rotary Walk. Your generosity and encouragement were invaluable. Special thanks to Gill and Peter for walking part of the route with me, offering much-needed companionship and motivation. I am humbled by the kindness and generosity of so many.

This walk was the hardest physical challenge I've ever faced, but your support made it worthwhile. Your sponsorship and encouraging words kept me going. Thank you for believing in me and contributing to a cause close to our hearts. I am deeply grateful to be part of such a compassionate and supportive church community.

LIFE AND WORK

We want to encourage our congregation to read the Church of Scotland's magazine, "Life and Work." This insightful publication offers a wealth of articles, news, and features that reflect the vibrant life and work of our Church. To subscribe, please visit www.lifeandwork.org where you can easily apply for your subscription. An online edition is also available for those who prefer digital access, ensuring you can stay connected with the wider Church community from anywhere.

StAG News

Safeguarding Coordinator

Robert is taking over the role of Safeguarding Coordinator from Ethel and, as this transition will take some time to ensure a smooth and thorough transfer of responsibilities, we would be grateful for your patience and support during this period.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ethel for her outstanding work and invaluable contributions as our Safeguarding Coordinator. Her dedication and expertise have greatly strengthened our safeguarding efforts. Although Ethel is stepping down, we are delighted that she will continue to serve on the safeguarding panel, providing her wisdom and experience. Please join us in welcoming Robert to his new role and in thanking Ethel for her continued service.

Calling all keen Womblers

Our next beach clean will be at Chouet Beach at 2 p.m. on Saturday 8th September All ages and dogs welcome



Saffery Champness Walk

Thirty nine miles is no doddle but they did it! Congratulations are definitely in order to Justin, Catriona and her 12 year old son, Thomas, who is already counting the days until a repeat performance next time! Between them they raised £2255 (J£2020,C£235) for the charities supported by the event.



This year 1,210 people set out from the Information Centre at 4.30 am to walk some or all of the course with the last four stalwarts reaching the Liberation Monument at 10 pm! That's quite some walk!

A Gentle Reminder?



May we remind you that, as from the beginning of this month, a collection plate is no longer being passed round during the service but you have an opportunity to put freewill envelopes or cash offerings in a designated collection area when entering or leaving church. Our thanks to Carolyn who has provided a suitable (and very smart) receptacle.

Foodbank donations

When leaving donations in the Narthex, please remember that it takes time for them to reach their ultimate destination. To avoid waste, there should be at least four weeks left before the “use by” date.



Life and Work

We would like to put on record our gratitude to Graham who has managed the ordering, collection of subscriptions and distribution of Life and Work for a very long time. There are details of how to keep receiving the magazine on page 3

Church premises

The church premises usually stand empty for most of the week but we are pleased to report that discussions are ongoing with a local therapist who has expressed interest in using the Narthex as a consulting room for a three month trial period.

A Mission Team Initiative

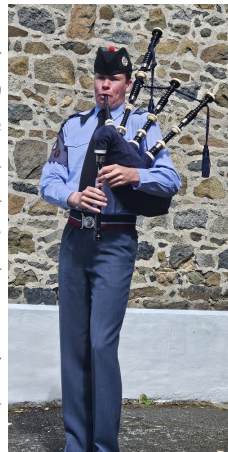
Do you have magazines you have read that are too good to throw away but others might enjoy. If they are less than six months old, just put them in the box in the hall where you may find something that grabs your attention. Help yourself!



The Normandy Landings

At our Morning Service on 2nd June, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Normandy Landings on 6th June 1944 when more than 150,000 Allied troops waist deep in the sea, waded on to the beaches to the skirl of Bill Millin, playing “Highland Laddie” on his pipes. Then, at the request of Lord Lovat, the tune changed to “The road to the Isles” as the rest of the brigade waded ashore on to Sword Beach,

As we made our way to church for our special service, thankfully not waist deep in water, and later during the service, Ben played his pipes for us and we are extremely grateful to him for enhancing this special service.. Thank you, Ben



YOUR DATA , YOUR PROTECTION

We live in a wonderful “digital world!” At least that is what some people would have us believe! Many of us, myself included, are somewhat sceptical, especially when we appreciate the amount of personal information that we are required to share with others as part of this brave digital world.

The Congregation of St Andrew’s in the Grange is, however, part of that digital world. Some of our personal information, or “data” is stored within the system.

In Guernsey, as in the UK and most other jurisdictions, you have statutory protection to prevent your personal information from being mis-used or disclosed to third parties. That protection is strictly enforced. As the designated “Data Protection Co-Ordinator” for the Congregation, I am required from time to time to carry out an audit to ensure that those who hold our information on behalf of the Congregation are complying with the necessary safeguards to satisfy our statutory protections.

The only personal information that needs to be held as part of the Congregational Rolls are our names and addresses. That information will not be shared with any person outside the Congregation and the Presbytery without your consent. Your name, address, telephone number or e-mail address, published on a web-site without your consent, could be a breach of your statutory protection. The Kirk Quair is published on the Congregation’s web-site open for public scrutiny. For that reason your full names are not listed on the various rotas that appear in this publication and telephone numbers or e-mail addresses will not appear without your consent. Photographs of members of the Congregation will only appear with your consent.

Further information about your data protection rights is given on the Privacy Notice that appears on the notice board in the Church Hall. If you have any concerns about the security of your personal information or suspect any breach of your protection rights, please contact either, or both, Sally (as our Session Clerk) and myself as your Data Protection Co-Ordinator.

Peter

From the Editor

During a recent visit to Yorkshire, I was given a copy of the village parish church magazine, a magnum opus of no less than 38 pages! A challenge for me who only manages a mere 16 but, much to my relief, I soon discovered that most of their space is devoted to adverts for local events and traders! One thing that did grab my attention though, was the front cover drawn by a year 4 pupil at the local primary school and I was delighted when Alexandra readily accepted my invitation to do likewise for us. Thank you, Alexandra. (Front cover, p9&15)

It is exactly 12 years since I inherited the editorial chair from Paul and in my very first edition, I wrote that there would be changes, not for changes sake but, simply, because change is inevitable. One of the most noticeable changes was probably that of the front cover when, after calling for suggestions and a popular vote, the St Andrews in the Grange Magazine became The Kirk Quair, a name first mooted, I think, by the Minister. I also invited you, the readers, to help me by letting me know what you do, and do not, like. That invitation still stands!



Much has been happening since our last magazine was published just after Easter, not least of which was the Saffery Champness Walk. No mean feat on the feet! (p3)

Then, in the middle of last month, we were delighted to welcome the King and Queen to our island. Despite the inevitable pomp and ceremony, their visit seems to have been quite informal and relaxed, some of us even managing to catch sight of them as they headed into town while we enjoyed refreshments outside church (p 9)

Now, the Paris Olympics are upon us as we go “to press” and we are reminded, once again, of the remarkable courage of Eric Liddell who staunchly refused to compete on a Sunday. (p 13)

Some reflections on this year’s General Assembly and, with the holiday season upon us, Sue tempts us to venture North with an account of what sounds like an extensive tour of Scotland. (p10&11)

All that remains is to wish you an enjoyable Summer. It will soon be Autumn!

Ed

Beyond our shores ..



Much is, and has been, happening as we look beyond the shores of our tiny island. A snap general election in the UK must have left those who have lost their seats feeling insecure and wondering “what next?” while those taking up seats in Parliament for the very first time face the prospect of having to adjust to major changes in their daily routines. On the other side of the Atlantic, a whole nation has been rocked by the attempted assassination and now their President has announced his impending resignation.

Meanwhile, the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza seem to continue unabated as does the forgotten war in Sudan with no winners. Bishops Nick Baines, Church of England Lead for Foreign Affairs, and Paul Swarbrick, Roman Catholic Lead Bishop for Africa, recently said:

“It is over one year since the start of the Sudanese civil war. The actions of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continue to have devastating consequences for the people of Sudan. However, today, with attention turned elsewhere, Sudan remains largely overlooked – a forgotten conflict that is already one of the greatest humanitarian catastrophes of our time.

The war has triggered the world’s largest hunger crisis, coupled with the worst ongoing displacement crisis worldwide. The World Food Programme report that there are now 10.5 million people, far more people than the entire population of London, displaced, with over 25 million people in need of humanitarian aid. Nearly 15,000 have already been killed, and 26,000 more have been injured, with women and children bearing the brunt of unspeakable violence.

Sudan, a place with which we have strong connections and with whose people we are deeply engaged, demands our collective attention and focus. To the UK government and the international community - we plead with you to do what you can to bring about an immediate ceasefire and to ensure unhindered humanitarian access.”

Is there anything we can do? The answer has to be “Pray, pray and pray again”

... and closer to home ...

We watched in dismay as the King and Queen carried out their royal duties in Jersey on Monday 15th July under the shelter of umbrellas. How very disappointing.



Would it be the same for their brief visit to us the next day, we wondered? Fortunately not, because when their helicopter put down in College Field and the Royal Standard was raised on the Weighbridge Mast to let everyone know they had arrived, the sun was shining and it was sunshades not umbrellas that were required.

We, at St Andrews in the Grange, gathered for refreshments and a special cake in front of church and did, at least, manage to get a fleeting glimpse of the Royal couple as they headed down the Grange to the seafront for a special outdoor sitting of the States and where our Minister was privileged to



shake hands with the King. He says that, although their conversation was brief, it was a memorable moment and that His Majesty was pleasantly surprised to learn about our Church of Scotland congregation here in Guernsey. Before leaving the sea front, the King spent time with a willow crab-pot maker and the Queen partook of a local ice cream!



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By all accounts, it was a very relaxed and enjoyable day with some special highlights such as a private tour of Hauteville House for the Queen and then, in the garden at Les Cotils, an opportunity to meet residents of Sark and Alderney and for the presentation of a gold bell to what is now the Royal Golden Guernsey Goat.



Sadly, owing to adverse sea conditions, three boats from Alderney were unable to make the crossing but the island of Sark was very well represented. We are now looking forward to welcoming the Duchess of Edinburgh to our shores



Scotland revisited ...

Shane, my husband, and a couple of friends decided to take advantage of the direct flights to Edinburgh. Surprise, surprise our outward bound flight was delayed but, on arrival, we found our car had been upgraded to a very posh Volvo XC40. Lovely for driving on Scottish roads but wouldn't like to drive it here in Guernsey! We



set off for Loch Lomond much later than planned but still managed to squeeze in a visit to The Kelpies recommended to me by Elizabeth. Thank you Elizabeth, they really are spectacular!

Our accommodation was really well placed for local attractions so, on Thursday, after watching a falconry display in the morning, it was a cruise of the Loch. You don't need me to tell you all how wonderful the scenery is and as we travelled on to Fort William in the afternoon, it got even more impressive when we passed close to Glencoe.



Friday was a very busy day. In the morning, we went to Ben Nevis and had a look around the visitor centre and walked a very short way up. Unfortunately, one of our friends is unable to walk anywhere too strenuous at the moment as we would have loved to have climbed halfway. Perhaps, after the Saffery's Walk, it's something Justin might be interested in!

We then drove to the Glenfinnan Viaduct, probably best known in recent times as The Harry Potter Bridge. It was built by Robert McAlpine & Sons during the period July 1897-October 1898 at a cost of £18,904 and was designed by Simpson & Wilson. Made of mass concrete, it is a 21-arch railway viaduct some 380 metres long and 30 metres high. When standing under the arches, voices echo!



In the afternoon we stopped at The Highland Folk Museum at Newtonmore. It's an open air museum where you can experience life in the Highlands from the 1700s to the 1950s. They have over 35 historical

buildings on the site to go inside and see how people lived, worked, went to school and what they did in their leisure time. Sadly, many things in the 1950s house were very familiar to me!

We stayed at a wonderful place in Ballater called The Auld Kirk which was built in 1870. The project to transform the church into an hotel and coffee lounge took 3 years and was completed in 1984. I think this is one of the best places we have stayed in. The current



owners, Kev and Helen, are extremely welcoming and, much to Shane's delight, we had a little taster of the local whisky and home-made shortbread in our room! The breakfast was amazing, all homemade scones, pastries and muffins, porridge and freshly cooked hot food. We didn't need to eat again until the evening and I have a card with details for anybody who wants to contact them regarding booking a stay! It is ideally situated for anyone planning a trip to Balmoral, which is what we did on Friday, .

On Friday afternoon, it was Glamis Castle, the ancestral seat of the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne since 1372 and the home of the late Queen Mother. We all decided Glamis was more impressive than Balmoral! I loved reading a handwritten letter from a very young Princess Elizabeth to her grandparents thanking them for having her and Princess Margaret to stay.



We then travelled on to St Andrews so on Sunday morning Shane and I went to the service at St Leonard's Church which, as I'm sure most of you know, is where Graeme Beebee is. We sat outside to surprise him when he arrived and I think I can say he was shocked to see us! It was lovely to catch up with him and Ailsa after the service. They are both keeping well and he asked me to pass on his best wishes to you all. St Leonard's is a beautiful church and the congregation were very welcoming, just like us at St Andrews in the Grange!

We spent the last 2 days of our trip in Edinburgh visiting the Castle, the Vaults and going on a historical walking tour. So we have returned exhausted in need of a holiday!

Reflections on the General Assembly

This year's General Assembly was in full swing as the last magazine was being compiled and so we only had a brief summary from Hilary, our Commissioner. In a fuller report, she says: "The nearer it got to the General Assembly, I kept asking myself why I had put my hand up to be an online Commissioner this year. Two years ago I vowed never again would I do it online as the technology for a hybrid Assembly that year had proved less than perfect. I shouldn't have worried because this year I came away having thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. Yes, there were hundreds of pages of reports to read beforehand and long days of sitting in front of a screen but the technology worked (or perhaps I was more confident when it came to the voting.)"

"When you go to the General Assembly, especially in person, there is a feeling of belonging, a sense of occasion, the knowledge that for hundreds of years the Assembly has met to do the work of the Lord. When you listen to the debates and feel the emotion behind the words, you feel the weight of history on your shoulders. Everyone there wants to make a difference and to make their own vote count"

"But what about all the debates and reports? There is no doubt that the church is in turmoil with congregations unhappy at much loved church buildings having to close; congregations joining together, ministers becoming part of a team ministry to care for a much larger parish and not enough ministers in training or coming through the ranks to replace those who are retiring. **There isn't the money.** A disturbing statistic is that only 29 % of congregations pay the full cost of Ministry and by doing so subsidise the remaining 71 %. One minister from a priority area in Glasgow thanked those 29% of congregations because without them he wouldn't be able to minister to his flock in one of the poorest areas. Mission must be the priority of the whole church, in every place at every level, all of us are in this together. The aim is still 600 ministers and 60 vacancies but retirements and resignations have surpassed initial estimates and, setting aside financial considerations, the Church of Scotland lacks the number of people discerning a call to fill the current allocation. It was also felt by many that decentralisation was essential to set the church free at local level to allow congregations to grow. The Church of Scotland must adapt to meet people where they are and "experiment" with doing things differently."

Church Calendar

August

Sunday	11	9.00	Reflective Communion`
		10.30	Morning Worship (Café style with the Lieutenant Governor)
Sunday	18	10.30	Morning Worship (Café style)
Sunday	25	10.30	Morning Worship

September

Sunday	1	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	8	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday	10	19.30	Kirk Session
Sunday	15	9.00	Reflective Communion
		10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	22	10.30	Morning Worship at St Saviours URC
Sunday	29	10.30	Morning Worship

October

Sunday	6	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		14.00	Pet Blessing Service

Stop Press

It has just been confirmed that the Lieutenant Governor will be joining us for Morning Worship on Sunday 11th August and that our Harvest Service will be on 13th October followed by lunch in the hall.

For the benefit of those who doubt the power of the press, here is a clip from a newspaper: ‘Owing to the overcrowded conditions of our columns, a number of births and deaths are unavoidably postponed this week.’

Church Register

Deaths	24th May 2024	Dorothy Timms
	29th May 2024	Brian John Thorn
	28th June 2024	Marion Elsie Le Cras
Baptism	28th July 2024	Rory Theodore Hadow



Meet & Greet

August

- 11 Andrea & Robert
- 18 Beth & Emily
- 25 Charmaine & George

September

- 1 John K and Victor
- 8 Grace & Linda
- 15 Morna & Peter
- 22 Patricia & Steve W
- 29 Jo & Iain

October

- 6 Grace & Linda



Sunday Readers

August

- 11 John K
- 18 Peter
- 25 Andrea

September

- 1 Ethel
- 8 George
- 15 Linda N
- 22 Sarah
- 29 Sally

October

- 6 Alan

Prayer Rota



August

- 11 Stuart
- 18 Alison
- 25 Hilary



September

- 1 Elizabeth
- 8 Gay
- 15 Paul
- 22 Iain
- 29 Ethel

October

- 6 Hilary



Flower Coordinator

Andrea
07781122816



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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and there is also a short reflective Communion at 9.00 am on the second Sunday of the 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 .

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Freewill Offering	Mr David Lewis-Jones	Tel 726561
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