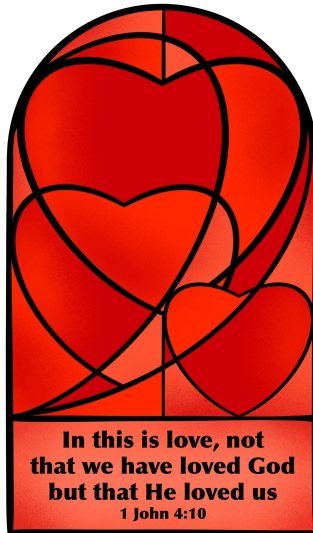


# The Kirk Quair

February — March 2023



St Andrew's  
In the Grange  
Church of Scotland

# Musings from the Minister



Francis recently brought a book home from the library about a little girl who was always looking up. She did this because she loved the stars and dreamt of one day being an astronaut. On the contrary, her brother seemed to be constantly looking down at his phone. Eventually, they share the joy of watching a meteor shower together when her brother puts down his phone and looks up. It's a simple book about looking at the world around you.

I am reading "God in search of man" by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. In the opening chapters, he speaks about how science has become too dogmatic and stolen our wonder. He is not decrying the sciences but instead suggests that in our attempt to understand and define, we have made the world something to be conquered rather than take our breath away.

How often do we miss the beauty in the mundane or the expected? How often do we miss a moment because we are looking down, trapped in our world instead, instead of looking up and seeing each moment's gift? How often do we take our breath for granted, yet it is more vital to our daily life than anything we possess?

Not long ago, I walked to Saumarez Park, where I saw daffodils starting to appear. In front of my eyes, nature is bursting to life, spring is on its way, and the new is growing. All I have to do is look up to see this bounty. To live in this moment and be lost in the sublime of all that is given to me as a gift.

Recently, before communion, I told the Kirk Session to stop and listen to the congregation as they waited for the church to start. It sounded like birds nesting in a hedge, with so many voices giving life to the walls of our sanctuary. It was beautiful, and we often miss that sound because of our business. We can be so wrapped up in doing church that we forget to be church. We can be so busy looking at all the to-do lists that we forget God is in this moment, in this space, in this conversa-

tion, if only we would look up.

I think every moment is a moment to encounter God. To see the gift before us, appreciate all we have, and be in awe about all we receive. It is an orientation of our being to one that is not closed off to the world but is present.

The great Charles Wesley hymn goes.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless, let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven, we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Wesley had the right idea, but I think he got it part wrong. We don't need to wait to be lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Justin*

## **Prayer Workshop**

As far back as I can remember, public prayer has always been the Minister's domain. Their job has been as an intermediary between God and the congregation. But is that what God wants? Is it only the Minister who can pray in public to God?

As much as I like the sound of my voice, prayer is more than the minister's job. It needs to be from the people for the people, and the minister is just one voice in a congregation.

With this in mind, I ask you to consider taking one of the prayers on a Sunday. For some, they might jump at the opportunity, whilst for others, they might doubt themselves. Wherever you find yourself on that scale, I want to encourage you to pray in public worship. Therefore, we will be running a Prayer Workshop on the 11th of March to inspire those who wish to craft a prayer for Sunday worship. (see next page for full details) If you have any questions, please speak to me.

We look forward to hearing from you. Justin

# StAG News



## Heat Hub

Recognising the hardship being faced by many islanders as temperatures fall and fuel costs rise, our minister explored the possibility of setting up a “heat hub” to offer a warm space and a hot drink to those struggling to pay their energy bills .

This outreach was reported on local radio and in the Guernsey Press and opened its doors for the first time on Wednesday 18th January. It is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9.30am and 3.30pm until the temperature rises again.. Watch the Facebook page for updates.



## Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held after the Morning Service on Sunday 12th March.

## Lent Study Group

For details of the Lent Bible Study Group, please see page 14

## Worship Group Prayer Rota



We are holding a Prayer Workshop entitled 'Discovering Prayer' on Saturday March 11, 10am - 12 noon in the Upper Room.

If you have always wondered how to write a prayer, why don't you come along and join us for the morning? Coffee will be provided.

We are hoping to start a prayer rota for services if enough people come forward and feel able to get involved.

## Setting up for Communion

There are many things in church life that we take for granted. When we arrive for the Morning Service



on the first Sunday of the month, for example, the table is already covered with a white cloth and the elements are in place. Setting up is not a particularly onerous task but it would be helpful to have a few more willing volunteers. If you feel you might be able to help, please have a word with the Session Clerk.

## *Soup and Sweet Lunch*



There will be a Soup and Sweet Lunch in aid of The Leprosy Mission after the Morning Service on Sunday 26th February. For those, who, like our minister, can't miss out on a good cake, there will be a cake stall too!

Between 200 and 300 thousand people worldwide are diagnosed with leprosy each year and two to three million people are living disabled lives because of it.

The Leprosy Mission (TLM) is an international Christian organisation which works in many countries to help people affected by leprosy and, just as leprosy affects people's lives in many different ways, so TLM cares for their physical, social, spiritual and psychological needs.

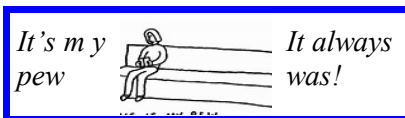
It was World Leprosy Sunday on 29th January and you can read more about this charitable organisation on their website: [www.leprosymission.org](http://www.leprosymission.org)

## *Pastoral Care*

If you, or someone you know, is in need of pastoral care, please have a word with the Minister whose contact details can be found on the back cover.

## *Surplus Pew Cushions*

Those of us with long memories will, perhaps, remember the days before we had individual chairs and sat in pews padded with long cushions. These cushions, now redundant, have been stored away but are surplus to requirements. If anyone would like one, please do have a word with Leila.



## *Remembrance Sunday 2022*



Unfortunately, owing to an editorial oversight, details of the amount raised for the Royal British Legion by the retiring collection at our Service of Remembrance last November were omitted from the last magazine. The total raised was £244.

## *Other diary dates*

Feb 14th. St Valentine's Day  
Feb 21st Shrove Tuesday  
Feb 22nd. Lent begins  
Mar 3rd Women's World Day of Prayer  
Mar 19th Mother's Day

## **Guernsey Charities regulation and the Church of Scotland**

Guernsey introduced a new charities law and related regulations in 2022 and the obligations are currently being phased in. St Andrew's in the Grange, as a local charity, is subject to these requirements. The Treasurer, Steven Jones, assisted by others with relevant expertise, has been taking forward the work to make sure that we are fully compliant with our obligations.

The aim of the law is to set minimum standards, in the main, relating to financial controls and governance. One of the main themes is to ensure that policies and procedures are documented in writing. Thus, it is not sufficient to be acting correctly, there needs to be the documented procedures to support good conduct. We have completed a number of the stages in the process and we are well advanced in the remaining steps.

### **Governance**

In the governance area, the law sets out a list of the topics that must be covered in a charity's governing documents. We have reviewed the deed of constitution that was put in place in 2019 when the church moved to what is known in the Church of Scotland as the Unitary Constitution. In January, the Kirk Session adopted a supplement to that deed to ensure that all the areas required by the law were addressed within our constitutional documents. These documents were then filed with the Guernsey Registry as required under the law.

### **Record Keeping**

We have also put in place Record Keeping procedures to document our obligation under the law to hold and retain the appropriate information.

### **Financial Controls**

The financial controls obligations relate to the processes for dealing with money received by the church and money paid out by the church. While we have always had controls and produced accounts that are reviewed, we have had to document these procedures in writing. In certain cases, additional explicit verification procedures are required under the law, which have been documented.

### **Anti-Financial Crime Policy**

We are working to complete an Anti-Financial Crime Policy document which sets out a summary of the financial crime risks faced by the church and how they are managed and mitigated. We expect to have

this completed in the near future after which it will be filed with the Registry.

### Reviews

A final aspect of the law is that all these procedures and our compliance with our obligations under the law need to be reviewed regularly. We will be setting up arrangements to review these matters, mainly on an annual basis, and for the results to be considered by the Kirk Session. This process will enable us to keep our procedures compliant with the law, appropriate for what the church is doing and to record where changes need to be made to any procedures.

### *From the Editor ..... and his moles!*



Covid and sundry trips to the UK have meant that Ed has been somewhat conspicuous by his absence in recent weeks and thanks his loyal band of moles for keeping him informed throughout Advent and beyond. He is especially grateful to his two press photographers, Merise and the angel from the “Bethlehem Herald”, aka Liz, who have supplied the pictures, which appear on pages 8&9..

As can be seen from the reports on the Christmas services, our Minister is encouraging participation by members of the congregation and, in pursuit of this aim, there will be a Prayer Workshop in March. We are also invited to take part with others in a Six Nations Fantasy League {p12,13}.

While on the subject of Rugby, we would like to wish Peter,

David and Stewart, bon voyage as the Guernsey Welsh Choir head off to Cardiff to sing at the Principality Stadium on Sat 25 February before the Wales England match. As they say in Wales, “Pob lwc.”

There will be a foretaste of the event, and a dress rehearsal for the choir, at St Saviour’s Church on Saturday 11th February at 2.30 pm.

On a more serious note. New laws have come into force regarding the regulation of charities and Steven, our treasurer, has devoted a great deal of time and effort to ensure we comply with the law. His hard work was acknowledged at the January Session meeting and there is a summary on the opposite page. .

A belated happy New Year to all our readers.

*Ed*



It is encouraging to read that, at the end of the year in the UK, the number of services advertised by the Church of England surged by more than a quarter on pre-pandemic levels. Just over 23,850 services and other gatherings were advertised on one website while an estimated 682,000 people searched for terms such as “Midnight

*Advent and*

Mass.”

Here, at St Andrew’s in the Grange, Christmas was a busy time for us, too, with lots of special services beginning on Sunday 11th December, the third Sunday in Advent, with our Nativity Service and gifts of sweets, biscuits and money for fuel vouchers which were placed under the Christmas Tree and raised £475 for Guernsey Welfare.

After the service, we headed off to Les Cotils for an excellent and well attended Christmas lunch. The raffle table was laden with donated gifts and the raffle raised another £176 which was added to the £616.28 from the subsequent retiring collections and was divided equally between this year’s chosen charities, two play-groups: Home-Start for their Dragonflies ([www.youthcommission.gg/home-start](http://www.youthcommission.gg/home-start)) and Bright Beginnings ([www.brightbeginnings.gg](http://www.brightbeginnings.gg)).



No auditions or rehearsals this year for our Nativity Service because it was a “Scratch Nativity”. What, you may well ask if you were not there, is a “Scratch Nativity”? Put simply, the play needs no rehearsal and only a small amount of preparation. Anyone can take part dressed as any character from this familiar story and it doesn’t matter how many of each character there are.



The narrators and certain principal characters are preselected and dressed appropriately but the congregation are also invited to bring their own outfits or to help themselves to those in church.

As can be seen from the photographs of the



# Christmas 2022

event, there was an excellent turnout with sundry animals, lots of shepherds, angels, gleaming Star of Bethlehem, the dastardly Herod and, on this occasion, not three wise men but three wise women! An enjoyable



and memorable service with a great deal of participation

Our other services were also very well attended. On Christmas Eve, some folks turned up in eye catching night attire, such as sparkly gold “onesies,” for the Pyjama Service which was another highly participative service telling the Christmas story through the letters of the alphabet. The congregation was divided into four groups according to their respective dates of birth and there was a great deal of bobbing up and down at the mention of certain keywords such as angel, wise men, shepherd etc.

We rounded off the season of Advent with the Watchnight at Bethlehem on Christmas Eve and a family service on Christmas Morning.



# BEYOND OUR SHORES

*The Ven John Barton writes .... Ukraine - one year on.*

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine without warning. Ukraine had been part of the Soviet Union 1922-1991 and even before that had been overshadowed and often overpowered by its larger neighbour. In 1932, millions of Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death in a famine, contrived by Joseph Stalin. This genocide, or Holodomor, is commemorated every year on the fourth Saturday in November.

The area had been overrun for centuries by successive external forces, until absorbed by Russia. In 1991, when the USSR was dissolved, Ukraine voted for independence by a huge majority. There are still pro-Russian minorities in the East of the country, as there were in Crimea before 2014 when it was annexed by Russia.

In the last 12 months, one-quarter of the civilian population of Ukraine has been displaced, with 5+ million refugees escaping for temporary sanctuary in other countries. 95% of them are women and children. They have had to learn new languages (and a new script), find jobs and schools, and become accustomed to foreign cultures. When it seems safe, they want to return home and some have already done so.

The UK government, in partnership with County and District Councils, launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme last year. Would-be homes were inspected, and prospective hosts checked out for suitability and safety. A young Ukrainian woman lived in my home for six months before returning to Kyiv. In that time, my pantry and fridge made room for bulgar wheat, lots of mushrooms and Salo, which is the name for slabs of cold cured pork fat, and much tastier than it sounds!

Most Ukrainians count themselves as Christian, including a number of Greek-Catholics, but the majority belong to what was the Russian Orthodox Church, and is now the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The two churches separated after the Moscow patriarchate backed President Putin.

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Kyiv in December and had to

take cover in a bomb shelter when air raid warnings were sounded. He said the people of the West needed to realise the costs of this war were not short term, adding “there must be no way in which we force peace on Ukraine ... Peace is always better than war. But there are times when justice demands the defeat of an evil invasion.” One year on, there is still an urgent need for British people to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

## ... AND CLOSER TO HOME

*In search of Irish Saints and Hermits  
with Janette and Paul*



In September, Janette and I trundled around Ireland in a campervan. One night in Kerry, we found ourselves parked halfway up a mountain which turned out to be St Brandon’s Mountain. He is the Patron Saint of seafarers, having travelled huge distances, six hundred years ago, possibly even to the Americas, in a little Irish boat. On June 29 each year, hundreds of pilgrims climb the mountain, observing the Signs of the Cross at shrines as they go.

A few miles further on we spotted the Skellig Islands, two crags sticking out of the Atlantic Ocean. For five hundred years, monks inhabited the larger island, Skellig Michael, enduring the most severe conditions and fighting off marauding Vikings.



Much more tranquil is Glendalough, deep in the Wicklow Mountains South of Dublin. Saint Kevin lived in a cave here and a religious community developed one thousand years ago. Nowadays wild deer graze in the ancient churchyard and modern-day pilgrims arrive in buses.



What inspired these strange loners to exist as they did? They believed that by living austere lives they came closer to God. Catholics are drawn to these Saints, but as Protestants, well

we don’t do that. Except in a campervan!

## SIX NATIONS FANTASY LEAGUE



Every year, the Six Nations Rugby Tournament is played between France, Scotland, England, Italy, Wales, and Ireland. It is fantastic to watch the spectacle, but did you know there is a Fantasy Rugby League around this tournament?

This year St Andrew's in the Grange will have its own Fantasy league, where the winner will receive a bottle of Graham Beck sparkling wine and bragging rights for a year.

So, what is a Fantasy Rugby League, I hear you ask?

The following explanation is from [Bristolpost.co.uk](http://Bristolpost.co.uk)

### **“How do I play Fantasy Six Nations?”**

It's easy to set up a team and can be done on the official Six Nations website - it costs nothing to play, and you can set up leagues to play with your mates and colleagues. (Or, in this case, other members of the church. In the coming days, there will be a link on the church's Facebook page and order of service to join you to the league)

### **What are the rules?**

#### **Player selection:**

You can modify your team between rounds, and as long as a player's match has not kicked off, you can edit your team should any last-minute injuries occur.

#### **Budget:**

Each team starts with 205 stars to build their team - the lowest player value is James Ratti of Wales (six stars), with the highest being new France captain and World Player of The Year, Antione Dupont (19 stars).

Player values will evolve throughout the tournament, so you may be looking at smart investments whose value will rise before selling them on to get a higher-rated player.

#### **Player limit per nation:**

You are only allowed four players from each nation.

### **Positions and composition:**

Each team must have one full-back, two wingers, two centres, one fly-half, one scrum-half, three back-rows, two second-rows, two props and one hooker, which is automatically organised when selecting your XV, so don't worry if those positions are meaningless to you.

### **Captain and supersub**

Each team can pick a captain, who will have their points total doubled each round and a supersub, whose points will be tripled should they come off the bench.

If they start or do not play, their score will be divided by two like the other subs, meaning you will need to pick your bench carefully.

Success on home soil earns players eight points (with four for a draw and just one for a defeat). Wins away earn 12 points, with six for a draw and three for a defeat. Plus, 0.2 points will be added or taken away from your score for every point separating the two teams in each player's match.

A try earns the scorer 15 points. Conversions and penalties get three points and a drop goal six.

Players also earn three points for every defender beaten and a further 0.3 for every metre gained.

Every tackle is worth a point, and dominant tackles are worth three.

Those named the official Guinness Six Nations Player of the Match earn 15 points.

A yellow card means a reduction of five points, and a red card loses you ten points.

So who will you pick?"

To join us in the league now no 751216 : St Andrew's in the Grange (Guernsey) Church of Scotland

Password: JEEMA

By using the following link:

<https://fantasy.sixnationsrugby.com/#welcome/register/?parrain=r4ckowo&ligue=75121&mdp=JEEMA>

If you need any information, please speak to Justin.



# Church Calendar



## February

<b>Sunday</b>	12	10.30	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	19	10.30	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	23	19.30	<b>Lent Bible Study in Upper Room</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	26	10.30	<b>Morning Worship</b>
		18.30	<b>Evening Service</b>

## March

<b>Thursday</b>	2	19.30	<b>Lent Bible Study in Upper Room</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	5	10.30	<b>Morning Worship with Holy Communion</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	9	19.30	<b>Lent Bible Study in Upper Room</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	11	10.00	<b>Prayer Workshop in Upper Room</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	12	10.30	<b>Morning Worship, Stated Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	16	19.30	<b>Lent Bible Study in Upper Room</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	19	10.30	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	23	19.30	<b>Lent Bible Study in Upper Room</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	26	10.30	<b>Morning Worship</b>
		18.30	<b>Evening Service</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	30	19.30	<b>Lent Bible Study in Upper Room</b>

## April

<b>Sunday</b>	2	10.30	<b>Palm Sunday: Morning Worship with Holy Communion</b>
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### Lent Study

We will be running Lent Bible study for six weeks starting Thursday, 23rd February, in the upper hall. The focus of the Lent Bible study will be Dallas Willard's book "The Divine Conspiracy". We will start at 19:30 and hope to finish at 21:00 at the latest. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Justin or Charmaine Taylor.

### Giving up for Lent

At the end of the pre-Lent sermon, the vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent. As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.



## Meet & Greet

### February

- 12 Edith & Paul
- 19 Jo & Iain
- 26 Morna & Peter

### March

- 5 Eleanor & Niall
- 12 Charmaine & George
- 19 Sally & Stuart
- 26 Amanda & Steven

### April

- 2 Gay & Pete

## Flower Rota

### February

- 12 Deena
- 19 Leila
- 26 Elizabeth

### March

- 5 Dulcie
- 12 Gill M
- 19 Rose
- 26 Edith

### April

- 2 Sue

### Monthly Coordinator:

**February** Carolyn

**March** Morna

**April** Sue



## Sunday Readers

### February

- 12 Elizabeth Mc
- 19 Amanda
- 26 Fiona

### March

- 5 Sarah
- 12 Ethel
- 19 Hilary
- 26 Alison

### April

- 2 Charmaine



## With Valentine's Day and love in mind....



Here's to love - the only fire for which there is no insurance. -

Anon

You know what I did before I married? Anything I wanted to. -

Henny Youngman

My wife and I were happy for twenty years. Then we met. -

Rodney Dangerfield

Marriage is the only war where one sleeps with the enemy. -

Anon

Marriage licence - the only permit taken out after the hunt is

over

## Church Register

No changes

# Church of Scotland

## St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

### **The Minister**

Rev Justin Taylor

Tel 257345

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

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

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

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

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

Session Clerk	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 <a href="mailto:amandajones.gsy@gmail.com">amandajones.gsy@gmail.com</a>	Tel 720547
Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781 132699
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus <a href="mailto:billharcus@cwgsy.net">billharcus@cwgsy.net</a>	Tel 263688