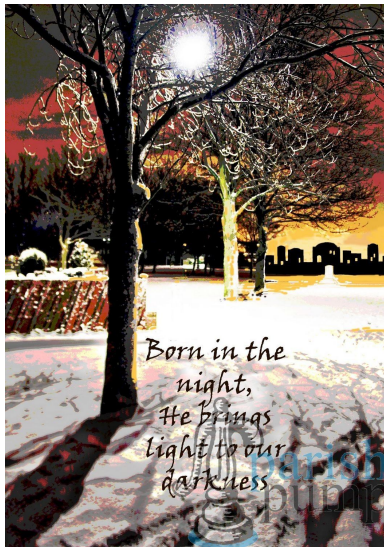


The Kirk Quair

December 2020-January 2021



He brings light to the darkness

**St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland**



Sunday 29 November 2020 marked the start of Advent, that season in the Christian calendar that is observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. We are told often that we must be alert and be ready. But ready for what? At this time of the year people are busy getting ready for Christmas, for winter, for cars that won't start, and for heating bills that won't stop. Many are still uncertain how many of their family and friends will be able to gather together on Christmas Day due to the Coronavirus Restrictions.

Some people are preparing for exams, some are preparing for death, some are preparing for new life in their families. Some are hoping and praying for a fresh start and a new beginning in their lives. Most of us are praying for a vaccine and the end of Covid 19. While at the same time, life goes on regardless, in the midst of our coming and going. In the introduction to his book called "Wake Up to Advent," Archbishop John Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, writes: "Each year, at this time – the beginning of the Church's year – we find ourselves facing in two directions. We look back, reflecting and rejoicing in the story of Christ's first coming to earth to be Emmanuel, God with us. We look forward, with hope and Godly fear, to his glorious return: The Second Coming of Our Lord."

The only way to secure the future is to care about the present. We are all responsible for the world in which we live and if we choose to do nothing, we can hardly accuse the world of conspiring against us. Peace never comes because people are not bothered. There is nothing automatic about peace. It is not caring and not bothering that causes the harm. It is because we do care for the world, the Church and the community in which we live, that the Lord has given us, we stay awake to what is happening in it, for good or ill.

The season of Advent is given to us so that we can realign our compass to direct us on the right path. This is the New Year of the Church, when we ponder and renew our commitment and our understanding of Christ's gracious invitation to us. Perhaps today, more so than ever, we as a community here in Guernsey should rejoice in the opportunities we have to meet together, to move around unhindered and not to worry about wearing masks.

We should give thanks for Dr Brink and all the Health Care Professionals who have worked so hard to keep us all safe. But also, to renew our own calling and commitment to not stand idly by but to ask, what can we do and which path should we walk, in Christ's name, this coming year.

As we ponder on these things, Grace joins me in wishing you all a very happy, merry and peaceful Christmas and all health, strength and prosperity for the New Year.

With all good wishes and every blessing

David



A Christmas Miscellany of Wit and Wisdom



Presents: Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. *Anon*

People say it's the thought that counts, not the gift, but couldn't people think a little bigger?

Some of these new toys are so creative and inventive. This year they have a Neurotic Doll. It's wound up already.

Think not on what you lack as much as on what you have. *Greek proverb*

Good advice:

The best way to succeed in this world is to act on the advice you give to others. *Anon*

If you have a lot of tension this Christmas and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: 'Take two aspirin' and 'Keep away from children.'

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

StAG News



The headline grabbing news this time has to be that, after a great deal of serious prayer and reflection, our minister has accepted the Call to become the Clerk of the new Presbytery of St Andrews charged with the daunting task of merging three presbyteries into one as part of the Church's vision for the future.

Telling us of his decision, David was quick to point out that he had not been actively seeking a new job when he was approached and that both he and Grace had already decided they would not consider another parish because they had been so well received and supported here in Guernsey.



The good news is that they will not be moving until Easter next year. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to serve us while planning for their future.

Bring and Buy Sale

Our Bring and Buy Sale on Saturday 7th November raised £265.10p for The Leprosy Mission.

Session Dinner

A dinner was held at Les Cotils on 22nd October for active and "retired" elders to mark the retirement of our Session Clerk, Hilary. The minister said Grace, which turned out to be a poem in rhyming couplets extolling Hilary's merits. Not to be outdone, she replied without the aid of notes, explaining that she has been replaced by a team of three, in contrast to her husband who, when he retired as hospital anaesthetist, had been replaced by only two! She declared that she was now content to be known in church as "The Organist's Wife." A parting gift from the elders was presented and the evening continued in this cheerful vein.



Chaplain of St John Ambulance Guernsey

In October, our minister took over from Father Marc Trickey as chaplain to St John Ambulance in Guernsey. No newcomer to the organisation, he has been involved with St John in the UK for over 15 years.

As we arrived for our annual Service of Remembrance this year, we were greeted by an armoured car and an army sergeant with eyes cast down, “resting on arms reversed,” a mark of respect or mourning which is thought to have originated in Ancient Greece.



The service was based on the “Voices of War” which our minister had presented throughout the preceding week on Radio Guernsey’s early morning “Guideline” and was very moving. David and Amanda spoke about four servicemen killed in action; William Doyle, an Irish Roman Catholic Chaplain in the first World war; Bryan Budd VC who lost his life during Operation Herrick in Afghanistan in 2006; Captain Hugh Dormer awarded a DSO for his service in SOE but later killed in action and Rifleman Paul Donnachie, an 18 year old, shot while on routine patrol in Iraq. The fifth “Voice of War” described the last moments of an unnamed serviceman who faced a firing squad for cowardice. A very thought provoking story. The retiring collection raised £482 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



The Choir Returns

Our choir returns for its Christmas Season to add to the celebration and joy of our worship and will be singing at the Carol and Bethlehem Services. There will be rehearsals in church on 12th and 19th December at 10.30 am.



Safeguarding Training

Members of Session attended a “virtual” training meeting on Tuesday 24th November.

Diary Dates

Advent is with us once more and we have a busy programme ahead with a slightly different look to it this year. We begin next Sunday with a “Musical Christmas” instead of our usual Nativity service. Our tree gifts of chocolates and biscuits will be given to Guernsey Welfare as will monetary donations for fuel vouchers. (Envelopes in the Narthex) Then it will be off for our Congregational Lunch.(see below) The following Sunday, 20th December, we have our service of Lessons and Carols with coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards. No Pyjamas Service this year but a Christingle at 4 pm on Christmas Eve with a collection for the Children’s Society (p 9) and, then, a Bethlehem Watchnight service at 9 pm which is timed to coincide with midnight in Bethlehem. There will be a Family Service on Christmas morning and Morning Worship as usual on Sunday, 27th.

Christmas Day Collection

Our offerings from the Watchnight and Christmas Day services will be in aid of the Priaulx Premature Baby Foundation



Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held after Morning Worship on Sunday 21st March.

Christmas Lunch



This year’s Christmas Church family lunch will be at the Driftwood Inn, Perelle on 13th December. The cost is £18 for adults (£6 for under 12’s). Last chance to sign up in the Narthex and indicate your menu choice. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Salvation Army Lunch Appeal.

This year has certainly been different to its predecessors but seems to have gone in a flash and, before we know it, Big Ben will be heralding a new year once more. Let us pray that the scientists will perfect their vaccines soon and that the global threat from the virus which has affected us all in one way or another, will be curbed.



Although the year started normally, we were soon in lockdown and attending “virtual” services so ably produced by our small team of stalwarts. Our return to normality has been blessed with some very special services and, as you can see, we have more to come. We have also held some very successful fund raising events and it is reassuring to know that the money raised has been put to such good use so quickly.

In order to take a photo of the Humber armoured car parked outside church on Remembrance Sunday, I had to cross to the other side of the road and, to my amazement, when I raised my little point and press camera, the flow of traffic in both directions drew to a halt and not an impatient horn was sounded. It may have taken only a few seconds but what a thoughtful and considerate gesture the very essence of Guernsey Together. Happy Christmas everyone!

Ed

Sally's Boxes

It has come to Sally's attention that, since the Lent Appeal ended, some of the congregation are weighed down with pockets and purses full of cash. Sally, being the resourceful person she is, has come up with a possible solution to relieve



them of their burden. After painstaking research, she has identified and obtained supplies of an amazing device in which cash may be stored. It is made from the finest quality cardboard shaped like a money box. These boxes will shortly be available in the Narthex and when they are filled, they should be returned to the Narthex under heavily armed guard where Sally or Steven who have a master key will retrieve the contents and lodge them securely in our Charities Fund. The boxes do not have a “Best by date” and may be refilled ad infinitum.



BEYOND OUR SHORES

If we were to saddle up our reindeer and accompany Father Christmas on his round the world trip this year, what would we find “Beyond our shores”? Countries reeling from the effects of the global pandemic, aid agencies with greatly reduced income, struggling to maintain their outreach and vast populations affected by all manner of natural disasters such as earthquakes, wild fires, flash flooding and what has been described by the National Geographic Magazine as “an epic hurricane season.” Other disasters such as the explosion in Beirut and persecution for religious beliefs are not-so-natural but as we begin the season of Goodwill, please spare a thought for all those affected, whoever and wherever they may be.

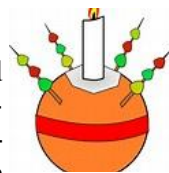
The parable of the Good Samaritan is not one we associate with Advent or Christmas but Barnabas Fund’s current magazine describes how, in July of this year, a Fulani Muslim rescued two Nigerian Christian Missionaries who had been dumped in the bush by their captors after being kidnapped and held in captivity for two months. Their rescuer then cared for them for two days before taking them safely to church leaders in the neighbouring state. Another, more recent piece of encouraging news in the magazine, is that, in September the Prime minister of Sudan signed an accord stating that “No citizen shall be discriminated against based on their religion” ending 30 years of Islamic rule

... AND CLOSER TO HOME

We are just so blessed that, thanks to the prudence of our “Authorities” and our community’s adherence to their advice, we are able to make plans for Christmas as usual in Guernsey. We can shop for Christmas gifts, enjoy a pantomime at Beau Sejour, worship together in church, dine out and meet with friends when and where we like. Back to normal ... well almost! Unfortunately, current difficulties with travel mean that those with families living elsewhere who would normally meet up for Christmas may not be able to do so this year and may be feeling frustrated and lonely, especially if they live alone. A friendly smile, a warm handshake or gentle hug may make all the difference.

The story of the Christingle

The word ‘Christingle’ actually means ‘Christ Light’, and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:



Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the ‘world’, as a symbol of Christ’s blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God’s blessings.

The Children’s Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk



Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is. - *Athanasius*

Update on the Lent Appeal



The Lent Appeal this year was somewhat protracted but, as reported in the last issue, we were able to present a cheque to Allister Carey of the Eleanor Foundation at our Harvest Service. Our donation has been put to good use already and Allister has written to tell us that construction of a well in Tanzania has now been completed.

The well is located within Nyambale Village in Biharamulo District and specifically in the sub-village of Mwasa with a population of 150 households (about 1200 individuals). Their current source of water is badly contaminated (see photo) and there is a high incidence of typical waterborne diseases including diarrhoea, stomach worms and typhoid. (Just imagine having to drink this water)



We are advised that medical expenses for each household average around TZS20,000 (close to £7) per month and if past experience is repeated this figure will reduce significantly now the well is complete.

Construction work was finished by the end of last week and Allister says “We have already built two wells within Nyambale in different sub-villages and we have established a good working relationship with the community.”

“You may be interested to know that according to UNWater, \$1 invested in improved water provides, on average, a return of \$7 in terms of reduced medical expenditure and increased economic productivity.”

Allister concludes his letter with the following “The community of Mwasa sub-village is really grateful for this support and the village leaders send you all their thanks and blessings”

“It is our custom to place a plaque at each well recording details of the donor and, with this in mind, I look forward to receiving suggestions for wording for your well.”



Work in progress

Rings for lining wells



A letter to Guernsey Churches from Christian Aid:

On behalf of the Guernsey Christian Aid Committee, I would like to thank individuals and Churches for continuing to support Christian Aid during the pandemic this year. Although the door-to-door collections were cancelled, due to Coronavirus, people sent donations to our Treasurer, Steve England BEM, or took advantage of the new online scheme, e-Envelope, and, thanks to the generosity of Guernsey people, £5,740 was raised and has been forwarded to Christian Aid HQ.

The World Aid Walk 2020 raised £13125 which is divided equally between five charities. Christian Aid will benefit by £2625 from WAW so when the sum is matched by the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission we will be looking for a new project in the region of £5,250

Please see below an excerpt from an email received from Laura Mead, CA rep for the South East : “When crisis threatens, love builds hope. Neighbourly love has built hope and solidarity across our communities in Surrey during the Coronavirus epidemic, and love for our global neighbour can bring hope and resilience to people living in poverty, on the frontline of the climate crisis. This Christmas, Christian Aid invites you to stand united with communities facing drought in Ethiopia, and millions more battling climate change around the world. Thank you for your remarkable creativity and resilience this year, continuing to work with us to support our neighbours facing the triple burden of climate change, poverty and pandemic. Please join us through giving, acting and praying this Christmas – love brings hope, and hope for a better future is the greatest gift we can give this season.

To find out more, please call 01925 573 769, email hello@christian-aid.org, or visit www.caid.org.uk and click ‘Appeals’. Thank you for spreading hope when we all need it most.”

For a selection of Christmas resources please visit : www.christianaid.org.uk. It includes an Advent Carol recommended to be sung on the first Sunday in Advent, “When out of poverty is born”.

I have attached a copy of the Advent Carol for your information.

With grateful thanks on behalf of the world’s poor.

(Signed) Roger Browning

Chair - Christian Aid, Guernsey

A message from Hilary

It has been an enormous privilege to serve St Andrew's in the Grange as Session Clerk. I certainly did not plan to stay on as long as I did nor could I have continued in post without the tremendous support that you have all given me. Since giving up, I have had more time to reflect on the highs and lows.

Taking up office was quite a Baptism for me. I was immediately thrown in to planning a Moderator's Visit (David Lunan) followed very soon afterwards by a Presbytery Quinquennial. It was at that visit that I met, for the first, time David Coulter, Dorothy Lunn and Jennifer Ritchie from Newcastle: St Andrews. I remember the Presbytery visit for two reasons. Firstly, David Coulter's luggage did not arrive with him; it was a very casual minister who preached that morning. He was impressive then as indeed he is now.

Secondly, Jennifer Ritchie took me on one side and gave me some advice and I quote..."Speaking as someone who has been Session Clerk for 13/14 years and haven't been able to give it up, stick to a set time of 4 years or so otherwise you will be in it for the long haul!" How prophetic! Jennifer knew what she was talking about for she continued in her role for several more years.

Since that first year, I have been involved in another Local Church Review in 2014 (Neil be warned we would be having one soon but for Covid), an informal visit from another Moderator, Derek Browning, when he came to preach at the Town Church on Liberation Day and of course March 2019 when the delightful Susan Brown came on her Moderatorial Visit. I can honestly say that was indeed a real high for me. Trips to Government House, the Prison, beach cleaning etc She loved her visit and still keeps in touch with me. Of course, the real high was the Induction of David as our Minister.

They say every Session Clerk has to go through at least one Vacancy so when Graeme Beebee left I knew it would be a tough challenge to keep everyone together. I first met Graeme whilst serving on the Vacancy Committee as Clerk. Later I was asked to be an Elder and, then, a few years later to serve as Session Clerk. Graeme was our Minister for fourteen years and I know that it was thanks to him that my own

faith was nurtured and developed especially as I became involved in the Worship Team. Graeme had the vision to get together a group of people who were keen to help in the worship life of the congregation. Thank goodness he did; our members come and go but we have been lucky to maintain a core of people who are prepared to lead the congregation in worship.

We got through the Vacancy thanks to the support of Alistair Cumming as our locum Minister and Liz Fox who regularly came over in her role of Interim Moderator. They both love Guernsey so were keen to come over as often as time permitted. Our congregation kept faith with us and we all pulled together. During this time, we also made the decision as a congregation, to move to the Unitary Constitution. We now have several teams, not only worship but finance, fabric, communications, fellowship and pastoral care. We hope members of the congregation will continue to be involved in these groups because it shares the work load and helps to maintain the smooth running of our church.

For me, the arrival of David Coulter as our Minister, felt as if I had come full circle. It has been a real pleasure to work with him; I have known him through Presbytery for so many years but it has been lovely to get to really know both David and Grace as friends. David has grown into the role of Parish Minister and taken on several roles within the Community as Minister of St Andrew's in the Grange. He led us through the lockdown despite working also at the hospital during the pandemic. Our recorded services were watched by many folk both on and off the island and have been described by many as inspirational. With my Worship Team hat on, I often sit on a Sunday morning, listening to him but also taking his sermons apart in a constructive manner. I certainly have learnt from him.

I am very sorry that David has decided to move on and that next year we will move into another Vacancy. However, we will get through it. Graeme used to say that there is someone out there for us but he/she has yet to hear the Call.

I know you will all support the new Session Clerk Team and, finally, I just want to say good luck to Neil, Ethel and John. I am certain that they will do a fantastic job.

Hilary



Church Calendar



December

Sunday	13	10.30	Morning Worship: A Musical Christmas Congregational Lunch at Driftwood Inn
Sunday	20	10.30	Service of Lessons and Carols. Mince pies in the hall after the service
Thursday	24	16.00	The Christingle Service. Collection in aid of The Children's Society
		21.00	The Watchnight service with Bethlehem.
Friday	25	10.30	Christmas Day Family Service
Sunday	27	10.30	Morning Worship

January

Sunday	3	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	10	10.30	Morning Worship
Tuesday	12	19.30	Session meets in Upper Room
Sunday	17	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	24	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	31	10.30	Morning Worship

February

Sunday	7	10.30	Morning Worship with Communion
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Church Register

Weddings

3rd October 2020	Shaun Tullier to Caroline Eddie
24th October 2020	Adam Sutherland to Amelia Anderson
31st October 2020	Adam Smith to Karen Taylor

Church Membership

On Sunday 4th October, we welcomed four new members:

One by Confirmation and three by Resolution of the Kirk Session



A warm welcome can make all the difference to a visitor, someone coming back to church after a period of absence or even plucking up courage to come for the very first time.

At St Andrews in the Grange, we like to think that we make everyone welcome and, for that, the first contact is our Meet and Greet Team at the door. Not a particularly onerous task and the more names we have on the rota, the less onerous it becomes. If you think you can help and would like to add your name to the list, please have a word with John Videlo or email him at: (johnvidelo@aol.com)



Meet & Greet

- 13 Eleanor & Niall
- 20 Morna & Peter
- 27 Jo & Iain

December

**Flower Rota
December - February**



- December**
- 6 Morna
- 13 Christmas
- 20 Christmas
- 27 Christmas
- January**
- 3 Christmas
- 10 Paul
- 17 Christine
- 24 Isobel
- 31 Hilary
- February**
- 7 Deena
- 14 Carolyn
- 21 Elizabeth
- 28 Edith

Monthly Coordinator:
December Carolyn
January Paul
February Edith

Sunday Readers



To be selected by the minister

January

- 3 Gay and Peter
- 10 Edith & Paul
- 17 Sally and Stuart
- 24 Andrea & Robert
- 31 Avril & Robert

- Neil
- Hilary
- Alan
- David H
- Sarah

February

- 7 Christina & David

Iain

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
	Neil.Houston2812@gmail.com	000727
Treasurer	Mr Steven Jones	Tel 720547
Freewill Offering	Mr David Lewis-Jones	Tel 726561
Safeguarding Officer	Mr George Taylor	Tel 07781 100132
Church Organist	Jurat Dr Alan Boyle	Tel 246153
Creche Organiser	Mrs Amanda Jones	Tel 720547
	amandajones.gsy@gmail.com	
Flower List Organiser	Mrs Carolyn Oxburgh	Tel 07781 132699
Church Magazine	Dr Bill Harcus	Tel 263688
	billharcus@cwgsy.net	