

The Kirk Quair

April - May
2024



Worship is over, now the service
begins.

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

Musings from the Manse



Love one another as I have loved you. John 13 v34

I have recently been listening to a podcast by an American pastor, Carrie Neuhoff, who interviews church leaders to inspire those who work within the church. This week, he has been speaking to Jeff Jones, a pastor from a church in Texas, about rebranding Christianity.

It has been fascinating to hear Jeff Jones's insights about how people outside the church perceive those inside the church. Working with professionals with a marketing background, Jeff has written a book, (Rebranding Christianity), which suggests that the Church has moved away from its brand. The thing Christians should be known for, according to Jesus, is their love. Unfortunately, what we are known for, according to research, is being judgmental, hypocritical, homophobic, spiteful, sexist, corrupt, untrustworthy, and hateful.

How did an organisation built to show love come to represent all this toxicity? How does a group of people who believe in love, new life, hope, grace and resurrection become something that people want nothing to do with? This is not a new problem. St Augustine struggled with the Church, Knox, Luther and Calvin all struggled with the Church, and Gandhi said, "If it weren't for Christians, I'd be a Christian".

Last week, in our Stated Annual Meeting, we looked at our church and where we are headed. We have significant challenges ahead of us, not just as a local church but as a denomination and a religion. It is a daunting task and undoubtedly one of the hardest things I have ever faced. I want to pretend I have the silver bullet but the reality is I do not have the answers to how we are going to turn the ship around. As I was praying for us as a church this week, I felt a deep peace when I realised that St Andrew's in the Grange is not my church; it belongs to God. All I can do is surrender and ask God to lead us. My job is to lead with honesty, faithfulness, integrity, and love.

At the Stated Annual Meeting, I was humbled by our church because I

believe we are a church of love. I look at the people inside our walls. They are deeply committed to the church and seeing Guernsey thrive. It was humbling to see the engagement and the passion. I am still trying to put it into words.

As I have been reflecting on the meeting, I feel that the next step is slowly becoming more apparent. It will not be a big Epiphany but, as Elijah found, it is a still, small voice. Our calling is to love extravagantly. I honestly believe this is in our DNA as a church. We have and can still be known as the church in Guernsey which loves whomever we encounter. If we are going to make the change, it starts with a small step in the language we use.

Jesus speaks what the heart is full of overflows from the mouth. So, what is coming out of our mouths?

As we celebrate Easter, I want to encourage everyone to start speaking about life, not death. Speak life into the church; speak of its goodness, vision, love, hope, mission, care for creation, people, and all it does in God's name. There is so much to be pessimistic about; anyone can find an excuse or a fault but turning your heart to life changes you, and it changes us. We have so much to be thankful for, so let's tell people! Let's share the good news; let's celebrate the triumphs. What good is believing in the resurrection of God if our lives and church are not bursting at the seams with life?

Blessings to you and all you love

Justin



As we face our challenges and seek the way forward for our church, we are reminded in Psalm 127 that:

The wise man built his house upon the rock,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
The rains came down and the floods came up.
The house on the sand went flop,
the house on the rock stood firm.
Except the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.



StAG News

Reflective Communion

We are now offering a short reflective Communion Service at 9.00 am on the second Sunday of the month..



Leprosy Mission

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of The Leprosy Mission in 1874 by Wellesley and Alice Bailey. After morning worship on Sunday 21st April, there will be a Fund-raising Buffet Lunch and Bring and Buy Cake Stall in aid of the Leprosy Mission. Contributions to the Cake Stall should be brought on the day and will be greatly appreciated.

In due course, there will be a list in the Narthex of the food and drink needed for the lunch and also a sheet to be signed by those who wish to attend.



and don't forget beach cleaning

As reported last time, beach cleaning is back on the agenda and we will be gathering at the Chouet kiosk on 14th April at 2 pm. There is no need to reserve a place, just turn up on the day! Friends and family welcome. The more the merrier!

GW Foodbank .. Wow!!



Several of our members are actively involved with the Guernsey Welfare Service, a charity helping those in need since 1896. They work with all sorts of people in financial difficulties including single parent families, pensioners, people with disabilities or chronic medical conditions and families on low income. As you can see above, the response to an appeal for “Easter Treats” of chocolate, sweets and biscuits was amazing. And it’s a big thank you. to everyone who contributed.

This was a “special treat”. Please put the usual items in the container in the Narthex.

Sun

April
14

Stated Annual Meeting 2024

The Stated Annual Meeting was held on Sunday 17th March but, this year, the format was somewhat different in that the proceedings were integrated within the service during which, the Convenors presented their reports as usual and members of the congregation had opportunities to discuss the reports and to ask questions.

“The Five Marks of Mission,” originally described in our Summer 2012 edition of the Quair and, more recently, in three of the last six issues, provides a useful focus against which we can measure our performance and, in her report, the Session Clerk did just that, looking at each of the five marks in turn to highlight our successes and failures!



Lent Study Course

Our Lent Study Course, this year, was based on “Seeking the Life God Gives” by Trevor Hudson who has been part of the Methodist movement in South Africa for more than 35 years. and now spends a large part of his week giving the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. He has written 22 books.

Unfortunately, our performance against the second mark, “To teach, baptise and nurture new believers,” has been disappointing but is hardly surprising when so many churches of all denominations in the British Isles are experiencing declining attendance and facing closure.

The Treasurer presented the Congregation Accounts for the year together with a comprehensive review of our objectives and activities, achievements and performance as well as a summary of the diverse and complicated requirements for the structure, management and governance incumbent on charity trustees. If you were not at the meeting and have not seen the report, copies are available on request.

Visiting congregations

We were pleased to welcome members of the St Saviour’s URC church at our morning service on Sunday 25th February and, then, on Good Friday morning, members of the Bordeaux Methodist Church joined us for an extremely well attended Morning Service.

Wheelchair Ramp Update



What is this? You may well ask!. No, it's not the washing being hung out to dry in the Sanctuary but a mock up to give us an idea of the site, size and shape of the new wheelchair ramp which will be installed in due course once our property convenor has jumped through all the necessary planning hoops etc.

He reminds us that churches of all denominations are having to work out how best to appear relevant in today's confused world. How can we best make use of the facilities that we look after? How do we show society that we are relevant? How do we show society that we care? Apart from offering a smiling and friendly welcome, how do we encourage an increased footfall over our threshold?

We have decided that, with an aging congregational demographic, we need to make the buildings a safer place in which to move about. But, if we are to encourage a new and younger membership, we must also make it easier for families with toddlers in pushchairs or buggies as well as for wheelchairs.

We have spoken with and engaged Julian Hurley of Lovell Ozanne. He has advised us on architectural design and has produced drawings for submission to The States.

Over the coming weeks and months working drawings will be completed, schedules of works and tender documents will be prepared for pricing. The tender process will be gone through, tender submissions will be scrutinised, and a contract let. Thereafter, the building works will progress with completion later this year. That's all there is to it!

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Sandy has been the St Andrews MAF church rep for some 20 years and thinks the time has now come to stand aside and let someone else pick up the reins.

It is not an onerous task, the staff are very supportive and anything we do for them is greatly appreciated. If you feel able to help, please have a word with Sally.

.... and Mission Team Update

Mission team was created to promote the church within our community, to set up initiatives to serve the community and to encourage participation in these initiatives by the congregation. Gill, our Congregational Press Officer, has joined us on the Mission Team.

What have we achieved so far? A successful application to the Co Op Community Fund and a personal donation enabled us to buy and print tabards which raise our profile when working in the community and, also, two banners displayed in the forecourt outside church to advertise our Sunday services.

Birthday cards will be sent to any baby baptised at St Andrew's and Christmas cards to couples getting married in church to keep in touch and, hopefully, to encourage new members or continued engagement with us. Unfortunately, this cannot be applied retrospectively because of compliance with consent and data protection regulations.

What else is in the pipeline? We have set up a Church Whatsapp group to create an easily accessible platform for sharing news, updates, reminders and requests for help or items for donation etc. This is intended to be a helpful and friendly site to benefit the congregation. If you wish to join please speak to any member of the mission team or, if you are already on Whatapp, just search for St Andrew's in the Grange and request to join. Any member of the Mission team can approve your request and the site will be monitored. An Instagram account for sharing photos of church events and activities is also being considered. Whilst these online platforms are not to everyone's taste, we must move in the digital world if we are to reach out to the millennial, Gen Z or even the Gen alpha cohort and that basically means anyone under the age of forty.

As reported previously, Justin will be taking part in the Saffery Champness Rotary Walk in June in support of the grant towards our new access ramp and will be sporting a tabard!

Sponsorship of a child overseas is being considered and we are keen to engage in further environmental projects on island. Any suggestions about increasing our profile, serving the community and our own congregation are always welcome.

Alison

Beyond our shores ..

Twelve years ago, at Easter 2012, Paul wrote about a holiday in Antigua, one of the Leeward Islands, described as a sun soaked paradise in the Caribbean, and told of his visit to the local Anglican church where the service lasted for two and a half hours and included 13 hymns! A glutton for punishment, he has been back this year but, apparently, the service was not quite as long on this occasion. Only nine hymns!



Paul writes, “The photo shows the graveyard of the Church of Our Lady of the Valley, an Anglican church in Antigua. Overgrown bushes of bougainvillea and oleander and a huge mango tree. It makes me think of the seed being choked by weeds in the Parable of the Sower. The seed would have little chance in the blazing sun and tropical rain here.”

“In February, we attended a service conducted by the visiting Bishop of Aruba. Nine hymns enthusiastically sung, the doors wide open in the hope of a breeze. No other European faces. The local ladies were stunning in wide hats and dramatically printed dresses. We endured the “Stand up and tell us who you are” ordeal and were presented with rosettes, just like the West Show. There are so many ways to greet visitors, an important thing to get right.”

Now, we travel South to Kenya, a nation of 58 million people, of whom 85% are Christian, predominantly Anglican and 12% are Muslim. In Guernsey, there are approximately one hundred Kenyans working, mainly in low-paid jobs, including John who is employed on a one year licence by a local cleaning company.

Soon after he came to Guernsey in January this year, John appeared in our congregation and has attended regularly since then. He cannot explain why he chose us. Having walked from the Rohais, he thought he would “give us a go!” and has been given a friendly reception.

Unfortunately, John’s father died suddenly at the end of February and we were pleased to be able to help with the arrangements for him to return home in time for the funeral. There were a thousand mourners at the service including a ladies’ church choir of about one hundred sing-

ers. His church sends us their greetings, along with the thanks of John's mother Pauline and his wife, Valentine, pictured with John outside the airport.



We have also been pleased to welcome Esnart and her family to St Andrew's



and, more recently, her father, Julius, from Zambia during a family visit. The photograph taken in front of the MAF poster in the Hall is particularly poignant because Julius, a retired medical officer, served the charity in Zambia, not just in a clinical role but as a MAF pilot as well.

... and closer to home ...

At this time, last year, preparations were in hand for the coronation of King Charles. Now, we have had the sad news that both he and Princess Kate are unwell and have been in hospital. Fortunately, they have both been seen in public and spoken to the media since their discharge. Please keep them and their family in your thoughts and prayers at this very worrying time.



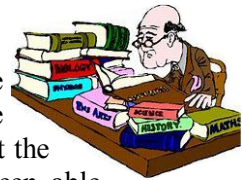
From the Editor

As usual, there has been a lot going on in the past two months and it has been our pleasure to welcome individuals and members from other congregations at our services. (p 5, 8 & 11)

Although Easter is now but a memory, we have an Easter refection on p 10 and a report on the "Egg rolling" that preceded the service on Easter Day. It was encouraging to see more young people than we would have ex-

pected.

A busy time indeed and we are pleased that the minister has been able to take a well deserved break.

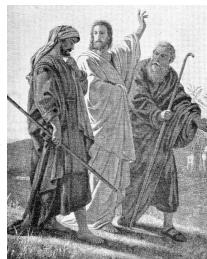


Looking forward, we have our first beach cleaning session of the year on Sunday 14th April and, the following Sunday, 21st April, we are invited to a congregational lunch in aid of The Leprosy Mission.

Ed

An Easter reflection ... The Easter Glow

For three years, Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – after a public trial and execution – He was gone.



Take away the dominant figure and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The ‘scattering’ process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ’s arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: “It is written ‘I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered’” (Matthew 26:31).

The dream was over. “Let’s go home - back to Emmaus.” *Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview.* As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely *crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!*

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, “Let me fill in those bits for you.” Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – *Why.... it’s Jesus.*

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can’t keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!



Good likeness

Some children were asked: “What do you think of Jesus?”

“Jesus,” said one little boy, “is the best photograph God ever had.

Easter at St Andrews in the Grange

Easter was a really busy time for us as usual this year, beginning on Maundy Thursday with Communion in the Round, then, on Good Friday, we were joined by the Methodists for an extremely well attended and much appreciated service. Fast forward to Easter Day and something quite different from the norm! This year, young and not so young gathered at Grange Court to roll Easter Eggs and then headed

back across The Grange to indulge in Hot Cross Buns and coffee before the Easter Day Communion Service. Definitely something quite different and it was really encouraging to see so many young people taking part. Lots of memorable photos but, sadly, GDPR regulations and safeguarding issues preclude publication and we have to stick with the "grown ups"!



Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way of celebrating the end of the Lenten fast.

What about Hot Cross Buns? There are many historical myths about their origin. It is possible that a 12th Century Irish monk baked a bun with a cross on it but it seems that the first definite record comes from a 16th and 17th century text "Good Friday comes this month, the old lady runs, with one a penny, two a penny hot cross buns." In 1592, Queen Elizabeth 1st decreed that Hot Cross Buns could only be sold on Good Friday, Christmas Day or for burials.

Don't hesitate to use hearing aids

Here is something you didn't expect. Using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health. Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said: "Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids but only about two million use them. The researchers hope the findings, published in *The Lancet Healthy Longevity* journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."



Pause for thought ... why saying hello is important

What lessons can Christians learn from a London rail worker who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List for talking 29 people out of taking their own lives? Maybe something about the power of conversation and being willing to 'stop for a chat.' Rizwan Javed helped to save each life over a period of eight years, by being alert and approaching vulnerable individuals in difficult situations. Rizwan was alert, and willing to engage people in conversation.

Anglican priest Jemima Prasadam's style of talking with people has been described as 'bus stop theology.' She puts it into action on the half-mile walk from her home to the church in Lozells, an inner-city area of West Birmingham with high unemployment and poverty. Her engaging approach is featured in *Stick with Love*, a recent book by Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall in Northern England.

Supermarkets are phasing out staffed checkout points which means that elderly people and others who live alone are deprived of those brief conversations that can make such a difference to their day.

Jesus asked questions as a vital component of His earthly ministry. His deep conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, for example, begins with Him asking for a drink.

A letter to all the Island Churches from the chairman of Christian Aid in Guernsey.



Dear Friends,

We continue to raise funds to assist people in various and desperate need. In particular, we are still collecting money for The Ukraine and the vulnerable people of Gaza.

At the end of our financial year on December 31st 2023, we are pleased to report that we sent £31,015.24 pence to support people in Africa and the other locations mentioned above through the generosity of Guernsey people.

In January we received further gifts amounting to £2,070.63 which were sent to the Gaza appeal.

On 6th May, we will be helping run the World Aid Walk event which is always well supported by the public and can be supported by online giving if you search Guernsey World Aid Walk. This event is match funded by The Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission which makes our efforts so much more worthwhile.

We want to remind you that Christian Aid Week runs from

the 12th of May to the 18th of May 2024 and ask that you might consider supporting us in our desire to witness to the care for others that has always been the vision of the Guernsey Churches.

If your church can display a small banner to raise the visibility of Christian Aid during this week, I will be pleased to deliver it in preparation for display.

During the Summer we will be doing bucket collections at various Supermarket locations (more of those dates later) The first collection was at Forest Stores on the 16th of March. Later in the year, you will also see collecting boxes situated in store with the kind permission of the CO OP. Please remember those in need as you shop. If you see us there or can visit and make a donation we will be pleased to welcome you.

Yours sincerely

R Browning
roga.browning@cwgsy.net
Tel No. 07839241950
Chairman for Christian Aid
Le Pre,
Delancey Lane
St Sampsons.

Church Calendar

April

Sunday	14	9.00	Reflective Communion
		10.30	Morning Worship
		14.00	Beach cleaning at Chouet
Sunday	21	10.30	Morning Worship followed by buffet lunch and cake stall in the hall in aid of The Leprosy Mission
Sunday	28	10.30	Morning Worship

May

Sunday	5	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	12	9.00	Reflective Communion
		10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	19	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	26	10.30	Morning Worship

June

Sunday	2	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
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Church Register

No changes



Something to smile about ...

What headstones are for:

In the 1950s, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, visited the church of Scotland in Dumfries. As she was walking through the graveyard after the service, she asked the Lord Provost who was with her, why the headstones were so large? He replied "To hold them doon, Ma'am."



Wages

Seen on a church notice board: 'Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.'

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.



Meet & Greet

April

- 14 Gay & Pete
- 21 Jo & Iain
- 28 Liz B & Rose C

May

- 5 Andrea & Robert
- 12 Amanda & Steven
- 19 Charm & George
- 26 Steve W & Elizabeth

June

- 2 Sally & Stuart



Sunday Readers

April

- 14 Andrea
- 21 Peter
- 28 George

May

- 5 Amanda
- 12 Alan
- 19 Linda N
- 26 Ethel

June

- 2 Sally



Prayer Rota



April

- 14 Paul
- 21 Charmaine
- 28 Hilary



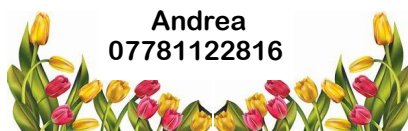
May

- 5 Iain
- 12 Gay
- 19 Ethel
- 26 Paul

June

- 2 Stuart

Flower Coordinator



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 .

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