

The Kirk Quair

June - July
2024



**Prayer is the engine room of the
church.**

C H Spurgeon

St Andrew's
In the Grange
Church of Scotland

Musings from the Manse



I am sitting at my computer watching the General Assembly and fascinated by how the Church of Scotland does its business. The Assembly Hall has something special about it; there is an electricity in the air as the Church comes together. Many discussions and decisions are made; as always, some will leave the General Assembly excited about the future whilst others will leave disillusioned. It is well worth a visit if you ever get chance to go or even sit in the public gallery.

At this year's General Assembly, there was a moment when the Theological Forum spoke about a book of confessions they wanted to bring as the "subordinate standards" for the church. Currently, the Westminster Confession is the subordinate standard, and all elders and ministers have to swear to this. After some debate around this, The Very Reverend Martin Fair asked the question of the Theological Forum about how this is relevant to people in the community.

I believe this question should have been asked in every report and decision. The Kirk (and this could be true of any denomination) can often look like it is doing the work of God only to be serving itself. The reality is that the decisions of the General Assembly, the historic creeds, the theology it upholds and the rituals of the Kirk are divorced from so many people's lived experiences. This is reinforced by the fact that data from the Scottish Census found the majority of Scots have no religion (in Guernsey, it is 42%).

As a congregation, we have been following 1 Corinthians over the past month and Paul has challenged me not to take the church for granted. The church is not a building or an institution. In the words of one of my favourite authors, Phylis Tickle, it is, "The church is a community of people on a journey of faith, seeking to grow closer to God and each other." It is this radical spirit of God that joins us together despite everything that should keep us apart. At its best, the Church is a sacred,

beautiful expression of humanity, but we should constantly be reminded how fragile this is and, when we get it wrong, how much hurt we cause.

So, what does this mean for our church here in Guernsey? Two things come to mind. First, we must work at being that church. We must constantly work on our relationships, unity, forgiveness, surrender, and humility. Second, we need to step outside ourselves and ask how we make the love of God and our community relevant to those who don't come. It is about being the embodiment of God's love (1 Corinthians 13), which is so inviting that people cannot imagine not wanting to be a part of it. We should never be about maintaining the status quo but embracing the new life God has given us; otherwise, we are in danger of inhabiting a museum.

Thank you for being the church! I hope you have a restful and wonderful summer.

Blessings

Justin



STREAMING

We are dedicated to making our services accessible to everyone, no matter who or where they are. To achieve this, we broadcast our weekly services on multiple platforms, including YouTube, our website and Apple Podcast. This ensures that you can join in worship and stay connected with our community from the comfort of your own home or, even, on the go. We regret, however, that we cannot offer simultaneous translation into Swahili although we have been delighted to welcome Kenyans into our congregation!



By streaming our services on YouTube, we leverage the platform's extensive reach, making it easy for you to share the service with friends and family. Our website serves as a central hub where you can find, not only, the latest services but also additional resources and information about our church activities. For those who prefer audio, our Apple Podcast channel offers a convenient way to listen to the sermons and teachings while commuting or during your daily routines.

StAG News

Reflective Communion

Please note that the June Reflective Communion will be a week later than usual and will be on Sunday 16th at 9.00 a.m. and not the 9th

Leprosy Mission



At our morning service on Sunday April 21st, we celebrated the 125th birthday of the foundation of The Leprosy Mission and were reminded that it is not a disease that has gone away.

It certainly hasn't because someone is diagnosed with this disabling but treatable condition every two minutes. Between 2-3 million people are currently living with leprosy related disabilities and, although it is probably considered to be a disease of poorer nations, over 100 new cases are reported every year in the USA.

After the service in April, we had a cake stall and a congregational lunch in the hall which raised £371.91 for the Mission. Thank you.

Saffery Champness Walk

The Saffery Champness Walk is one of the island's largest charity fundraisers and will be supporting 21 local charities this year including a contribution to the cost of installing our wheelchair ramp.

The 39 mile course round the island can take participants anything from 7.5 to 9.5 hours to complete and, on June 8th, our minister will be walking as will visitors who have travelled here specially from as far afield as Hungary and South Africa.

Justin writes, "A big thank you to those who have sponsored me for the Saffery Rotary Walk. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated and will go a long way in making our church more disabled-friendly. If you still want to donate, it's not too late! You can sponsor me by visiting the following link:

Sponsor Justin: <https://sportsgiving.co.uk/sponsorship/entry/1134396>

Your support is invaluable and helps to make a positive impact in our community."



Christian Aid Week 2024

How do you evaluate a charity to measure if it is worthwhile and cost effective? There are several answers to this question.

The Church of Scotland has a long association with Christian Aid because our good friend the Right-Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton is head of the charity in Scotland, our minister, Justin, is a strong supporter and in London amongst the Trustees are a Scottish parish minister and a Scottish-Kenyan lady. They can't all be wrong.

Christian Aid is working with hundreds of local partners in 24 countries and, this year, the appeal for Christian Aid Week (12-18 May) fo-



cused on Burundi, a tiny land-locked country with a population of about 3.25 million in Central Africa. Although Burundi gained independence just over 60 years ago, it continued to experience



coups, massacres and political assassinations before plunging into civil war in 1996. Peace was restored in 2005 but Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in the world with widespread malnourishment and poverty. A number of business and agricultural projects will be supported by the proceeds of this year's Christian Aid Week's collections.. Thank you for supporting Christian Aid in all the ways you do.

Paul



Beach cleaning

A merry bunch of thirteen keen womblers (and three adorable dogs) turned up for a very enjoyable beach clean at Chouet on 14th April. Our new tabards really advertised who we were, and invited comments



of thanks from fellow beach go - ers. We collected a very respectable amount of rubbish, three large bags full, and are planning a repeat visit in the Autumn.



Fellowship Functions

A wee while ago the Minister asked me what the Friends and Fellowship Team hoped to achieve.

Being a single church with an island wide congregation, and with times having changed – we don't bump into each other during the week in the village shop or hall – we congregate, as expats (some of us of 50 or 60 years) and locals, once a week in the Kirk where our shared beliefs bind us together and where we welcome new comers and visitors. Worship, together with the joy of a chat with “weel kent faces” and our natural inquisitiveness of new faces make us a welcoming and caring haven on a Sunday morning.

As with most religions, the sharing of food, the breaking of bread, is a great way to cement that Sunday morning joy, to be in touch with each other, to learn how each is surviving, is coping with life or is having a great time.

Data Protection, Safeguarding, the dreaded Health and Safety and trying to be politically correct – all these rule out any information about each other e.g. being in hospital, being forthcoming, as it used to be, “from the pulpit”; we need to communicate if we are to be caring of each other. So our opportunities to share food and company, to slow down and chat, are invaluable.

It is unfortunate that neither history nor the Church calendar make planning functions easy on a time basis – all or nothing. This year we have had Easter in March; a Leprosy Mission Fund Raising Lunch in April; Liberation Day on 9th May and the 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings on 6th June, so we commemorated both on the 19th May. This turned out to be our Christian Aid Service Sunday – a double became a triple; and very successful it was! Wonderful food, plenty of it and increased numbers. Never fear that if you come to church, unaware of a function, that you will not be welcome or that you will compromise portion availability. As with Scotland's Patron Saint, Andrew, we always have some spare, for anyone to take home, not wasted. On 2nd June after the D Day Service. “coffee” will be augmented with fizzy wine and cake as we continue to remember those who fought on to bring an end to WW11.

We hope that on 4th August, our Service will be in the Manse Garden

and will be followed by a Buffet Lunch. (The last Sunday in July and the other 3 Sundays in August will be Cafe Style, as last year, with Bacon Butties.) A Harvest Festival Buffet Lunch on 6th October, and we are into Autumn.

A Musical Bingo Event at Les Cotils on 15th June was intimated by the Minister and a list posted in the Narthex – we await responses. Sadly with our aging congregation, many do not relish night time driving, and the younger ones already in their 50s and 60s with many commitments, our offers of quizzes, beetle drives, films etc have not been taken up. All suggestions are welcome. However, some information about the event or an indication as to how many and at what cost, going out, as in “for Afternoon Tea” would be most helpful.

What can be described in a rather demeaning manner as “just socialising” gives us great opportunities to be aware of each other’s predicaments, simply to air them as a release, or to indicate that help would be appreciated, help which we might never dream of requesting outright. Suggest what you would like us, The Friends and Fellowship Team of Liz, David, Patricia, Paul, Andrea, Beth, Bunty, Sally and me, to arrange. Never underestimate the joy, pleasure, inclusion that can be appreciated by a simple repast in friendly company. I call it Fellowship.

Ethel



The D-Day Landings

On 19th May, we celebrated both the Liberation of Guernsey in May 1945 and the D-Day Normandy Landings 80 yrs ago on 6th June 1944 when more than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches and won the Battle of Normandy some 11 weeks later. The victory was not without loss, however, because it is estimated that as many as 4,000 Allied troops were killed.

What does the *D* stand for?

Some say it stands for Day; others, Disembarkation, because it was an amphibious operation.

What is sure is that there was a spiritual dimension. General Eisenhower, the commander of Operation Overlord, urged those taking part to “beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking”, and President Roosevelt broadcast a prayer to the nation – the United States, that is.

Beyond our shores ..



As we look Beyond Our Shores, conflicts continue unabated between North and South Sudan which flared up last April, Israel and Hamas in Gaza since October and the war in Ukraine, now in its third year, and, sadly, it seems there is little we can do to help except by praying for the endless number of innocent people caught up in the violence and also, needless to say, by contributing to the numerous charities working to bring some measure of relief. It is difficult to get one's mind round the numbers affected with, for example, an estimated 150,000 people killed in Sudan and millions fleeing what the UN calls the world's biggest displacement crisis. According to UNRWA, 810,000 people have fled from Rafah in Gaza in just two weeks.

These are "self inflicted" crises but there are so many other examples of a wide range of natural disasters. South Africa is in the grip of a severe drought affecting more than 61 million people and there are disaster alerts for drought in Lesotho, Bolivia and Viet Nam, drought and wild fires in Columbia, a heat wave in Bangladesh and flooding in Rwanda, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Somalia.

Some time ago, in the late 1800's, Arthur Ainger wrote the first line of the hymn "God is working His purposes out as year succeeds to year": words that help us to remember God is ultimately in control of the world he created. They help us to remember we must always put our trust in God even when things seem disheartening.

Certainly the state of the church in Europe is not in a good place but the church world wide is growing . It might surprise you that Christianity around the world is growing faster than the rate of the population and it is the Protestant Church that is growing the fastest with the greatest increase in Asia and Africa. Globally, Atheism is in decline.

If we look at what God is doing beyond our shores, there is much to encourage us. As Spurgeon said, "Prayer is the engine room of the church." This must surely be the priority of every church fellowship, large or small as is remembering that Jesus is head of the church. The Holy Spirit is moving round the world. In the last verse of Arthur

Ainger’s hymn, he says, “All that we do can have no worth unless God blesses the seed.

... and closer to home ... We are travelling North to Edinburgh this time to see what is happening closer to home because it’s that time of year again and the Assembly will be over when this edition “goes to press.”

Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, appointed as the Lord High Commissioner, a decade after he last took on the role of royal representative in place of his mother, the late Queen, gave an excellent opening address as did both the outgoing Moderator and her replacement, the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson.

Hilary, our Commissioner this year, is not attending in person but is taking part digitally, glued to her screen for up to 11 hours a day, and tells us that she has been singing along heartily to tunes from the new supplement to CH4, “God Welcomes All,” launched at St Cuthbert’s Church on Sunday 19th May. It is the first addition to CH4 since 2005 and contains a collection of over 200 hymns and songs, the majority of which have been written in the last 20 years.

The proceedings included a debate on the interim report on the emotional subject of Assisted Dying. No decision was taken and the matter will be brought back to the Assembly again next year for a decision.

The Archbishop of Canterbury who last addressed the General Assembly in 2016 when the St Columba Declaration was signed, received a standing ovation to his speech built on the themes of the Moderator who said that, “ We are to bear the Cross and serve the people as Jesus did.” The Archbishop agreed and said that “Loyalty to God comes before country. We do not interfere in politics, we do our duty when we speak into politics. That is our job to speak out on injustice wherever we are.” The Moderator concurred and said he was pleased that their respective churches had grown closer together in the eight years since the Archbishop’s previous visit to Assembly.

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The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray.
S D Gordon

"Let us pray" ...



A very familiar phrase which for many of us may evoke early memories of A A Milne's Christopher Robin kneeling at the foot of the bed saying his prayers! Indeed, C H Spurgeon described prayer as the engine room of the church.

The term "prayer walking," however, is probably less familiar although it does keep cropping up and has featured recently in the Guernsey Press, the magazine of the Baptist Union and Parish Pump.

So what is it? Prayer walking is just what it sounds. You pray as you walk. What is the point? Think of it as stepping out as God's children to intercede for those who are living in your community. Be intentional about praying for God's blessings on what you see and feel. Simply praying: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done..." is an excellent start.

Prayer walking is NOT about being seen to be praying, you are not doing it to 'show off'. It is about seeing your neighbourhood with compassion and, then, praying for God's mercy and blessing to be upon it.

So, as you go along, you can pray quietly or in silence. If you do want to pray out loud, take a friend along, so that it will seem merely as if you are chatting. In fact, when you do a prayer walk, it is best not to do it alone. Always try and go with someone else. After all, Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs.

On your prayer walk, try to be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around the community. As the former Archbishop of York, Lord Sentamu, once advised: "If any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any pictures, visions or words of knowledge, turn these into prayer."

At the end of the prayer walk, share with others what you prayed for and heard from God. Write any impressions down, so you can keep track of how you have prayed for your area. Again, to quote Lord Sentamu, "If you feel that God has highlighted specific needs or challenges, think about how to take action. Could you or the church be part of God's solution practically, as well as prayerfully?"

The Press tells the story of a member of the Rock Community Church who, in 2021, walked with his wife through most of the island's par-

ishes praying as they walked. The next year, they were joined by other members of the congregation and, last year, people from 20 churches took part. This year's walk on Saturday 18th May saw numbers soaring and ended in Church Square with live bands and refreshments.

During the pandemic, members of a small church in Plymouth, threatened with closure, began to pray when they were allowed to go for walks together and, before long, they were joined by members of two other churches. Each of the three churches, now working ecumenically, has seen significant growth and one even has the enviable problem of fitting everyone in on a Sunday morning.

St Giles Cathedral

St Giles Cathedral on the Royal Mile is a well known landmark for those familiar with Edinburgh and a motion has been laid in the Scottish Parliament recognising St Giles' Cathedral as "a prominent part of the life of Edinburgh and Scotland for 900 years." The cathedral, probably founded by King David I in 1124, was named after St Giles who was born in Athens and was the patron saint of lepers, beggars and cripples.



The motion commends the "iconic" for "its various projects, designed to reach out to people of all ages, backgrounds and faiths across the city." The citation continues stating that "1.5 million people from around the world visited St Giles' in 2023, underlining its status as a dynamic centre celebrating Scotland's heritage and culture, as well as being an active place of worship".

The motion was laid down by Miles Briggs, a Lothian MSP, and will now be circulated for other MSPs to sign. If you would like more information about the 900th anniversary, please check for updates on the St Giles' website.(www.stgilescathedral.org.uk)

Words of wisdom with Father's Day in mind (16th June)

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once! *Ogden Nash*

Weekly Offering



It has been decided that as from the beginning of August, a collection plate will no longer be passed round during the service but there will be an opportunity to put freewill envelopes or cash donations in a designated collection area when entering or leaving the Sanctuary. More detailed information and guidance will be provided in the coming weeks. Watch this space!

Pause for thought



In our last magazine, we were reassured that wearing hearing aids can be beneficial to health and, this time, we have reassurance that apparent short term memory loss is not limited to the mature members of society i.e. “where did I put my keys, wallet or purse etc?”



It may be irritating, but don't worry – it does not mean that you are losing your memory. Instead, it is merely your brain forgetting them on purpose, so that it can store other information.

That is the verdict of two academics whose book *The Psychology of Memory*, sets out to explain why we forget some things that we assume we should always know. Dr Megan Sumeracki and Dr Althea Kamin-ske argue that storing and retrieving information is far more complicated than people think.

Dr Kaminske of Indiana University School of Medicine said: “Because we are most aware of our memory when we have trouble remembering something, our intuitions about how memory works might be a little biased. For example, I spend an embarrassing amount of time looking for my phone, water bottle, and keys. You may be unsurprised to learn that our memory systems are not necessarily designed to remember where we put our phones. Or keys. Or water bottles”

Co-author Dr Sumeracki of Rhode Island College added: “A degree of forgetting is natural to allow the brain to remember more general information.

Memory does not work like a recording device, they say, but ‘more like a Wiki page’ because details can be edited.” I must remember that when I can't find my keys. Ed!

From the Editor

There seem to be a lot of dates and numbers in this edition but no apologies because we need dates to keep abreast of what is going on and numbers to put things into perspective.

Even then, it can be difficult to get our minds round some of the vast numbers quoted. We can probably just about picture the 74,000 or so people packed into the Millenium Stadium in Cardiff to listen to the Guernsey Welsh Choir but millions and billions, now commonplace, are probably beyond our grasp.

We also have updates on some of the charities we support and have been reminded recently in the press that food banks are needed more than ever as folks struggle with the rising cost of

living. One or two matters of housekeeping such as the forthcoming changes to the collection of the weekly offering are described on the opposite page.



There is a reminder from our minister to work constantly on our relationships, unity, forgiveness, surrender and humility and that we need to step outside ourselves and ask how we make the love of God and our community relevant to those who don't come to church.

We are also reminded that prayer should be central to church life and need not be restricted to kneeling at the bedside but can be just as effective when we are walking down the street.

Ed

Time for a smile

The Minister was having technical problems with the sound system one Sunday morning. Instead of starting the service as usual with "The Lord be with you," he said, "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this clearly, the congregation responded, "And also with you"

.... and some one liner headlines

Typhoon rips through cemetery; Hundreds dead.

New study of obesity looks for larger test group

Kids make nutritious snacks

Red tape holds up new bridges

Church Calendar

June

Sunday	9	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	16	9.00	Reflective Communion
		10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	23	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	30	10.30	Morning Worship

July

Sunday	7	10.30	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday	14	9.00	Reflective Communion
		10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	21	10.30	Morning Worship
Sunday	28	10.30	Morning Worship Café Style

August

Sunday	4	10.30	Morning Worship at the Manse
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We are delighted to announce our special summer services schedule which promises a variety of enriching and community-focused gatherings. On the 28th of July, 11th of August and 18th of August, we will be hosting Café Style services. These sessions are designed to foster a relaxed and engaging atmosphere, encouraging open discussion and fellowship over light refreshments. It's an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow congregation members in a more informal setting while exploring faith and spirituality in a collaborative environment.

Additionally, we are excited to invite you to a unique Manse service on the 4th of August. This service will take place at the Manse, offering a more intimate and homely setting for worship. It's a wonderful chance to experience a different aspect of our church community, with a focus on deeper connection and personal reflection. We look forward to welcoming you to these special Summer services, each designed to bring our community closer together in faith and fellowship.

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Church Register

No changes



Meet & Greet

June

9 Patricia & Ethel
16 John K & Victor
23 Grace & Linda
30 Morna & Peter

July

7 Sally & Stuart
14 Amanda & Steven
21 David and Hilary
28 Liz B & Rose

August

4 Sally & Stuart



Sunday Readers

June

9 Linda
16 Elizabeth Mc
23 Robert
30 Iain

July

7 Alison
14 Stuart
21 Gay
28 Victor

August

4 Amanda

Prayer Rota



June

9 Elizabeth
16 Hilary
23 Hilary
30 Iain



July

7 Gay
14 Ethel
21 Paul
28 Sally

August

4 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 .

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
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