

# From the Editors... Jutta & Harald



## Dear Readers

Volunteering can, at times, be highly challenging. When things don't work out as we expected, we might struggle to see, or even begin to question, how much of a difference we're actually making.

Don't. Volunteering is the way that God wants us to be the light in our given situations. It is not all about sacrifice, it is also sharing the joy of being part, deeper friendships by contacts via same rota persons, experiencing how Jesus humbled himself and served patiently (I must admit this is a difficult one, but it is worth seeing our circumstances also as learning platforms – I love learning), sincere appreciation for the participation, being open to step in, being creative.



We have all heard already that church volunteers can get burned out – didn't you? If we want to love our neighbours, should we not also start with our fellowship-members. It is sad to observe that we see the same people in various posts but not being able to see them

I am only one, but still  
**I AM ONE.**  
I cannot do everything, but still  
**I CAN DO SOMETHING.**  
and because I cannot do everything,  
I will not refuse to do something that  
**I CAN DO.**

- Hellen Keller

on a Sunday just "absorbing" a service. Let's see what we can do, which can even start by looking around and give an encouraging note to others.

# From the Manse...



**"How magnificent your work, O God!  
How profound your thoughts!" Psalm 92:5**

## Dear Friends

Psalm 92:5 is in praise of all the works of the Lord and also his thoughts. One of the problems in churches is that we are either thinkers or doers. God has very profound thoughts but those thoughts lead him to action, where so often here our thoughts seem to lead other people to action.

Our church vision day back in January came up with lots of profound thoughts and ideas, lots of hopes and dreams, but none of those will come to anything without action, unless people do something about it. So many people have been asking me how the plans are going when are we going to start this initiative or that initiative but things can only happen when people volunteer to do something and I have discovered quite early in my time here that volunteers are a very rare commodity at St Andrew's.

There is a very well-known saying "If you want a job done well, ask a busy person" a busy person will find time to do it – but I am afraid our busy persons are getting to breaking point and unless we can find some others to help we will not be able to complete the magnificent work that God has planned for us.

Next week is our Church cleaning day and I am fairly confident that I can write a list now of the people who will be there. I hope I am wrong and that more of the church

family come to support our spiritual home and enable it to remain a clean, tidy and welcoming place for all.

The Foodbank is now up and running, our premises our a great resource, but we need some of our people to offer to help as well, by providing food, time and energy.

At the Church of Scotland General Assembly recently people kept coming up to Peter and myself and saying what a wonderful job our church is doing in Malta with the migrant community and helping the poor, but ultimately it isn't our church, it is a few people from our church, as most of the volunteers and funding come from elsewhere. We are great at having ideas but we also need to put more effort into bringing them to completion.

James in his letter tells the early church that faith without works is dead, but thoughts and ideas without works are equally dead, as they are stripped of their power.

Please continue like our heavenly father to have profound thoughts and dream great dreams but also please help bring those thoughts and dreams to completion by doing magnificent works!

Looking forward to continuing to do magnificent works and share profound thoughts together.

*Love and Prayers,  
Kim*



### **Visit of the Maltese Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) ship „My Phoenix“ and Bezzina Ship Repair Yard Ltd. dry docks on 21st March 2015**

The Maltese Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) is a rescue ship. It was set up in 2014 by Mr Christopher and Mrs Regina Catrambone, two young humanitarians who felt compelled to save migrant lives on sinking dinghies in the Mediterranean.

Captain Marco Cauchi and Ms Maria Luisa Catrambone, the 19-year-old daughter who also works with her parents on-board the ship, spoke about and answered questions about rescuing and saving lives of drowning migrants in sinking and maximally overloaded dinghies at sea on their way to the “promised land”, the E.U.

The ship can rescue up to 350-400 migrants at the same time and is equipped not only with a medical first aid team on-board but also with state-of-the-art technical equipment. MOAS is not a ferry service but works in close co-operation with the Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) of the respective countries. Their first rescue was a Maltese amateur fisherman off Malta. The 40-metre expedition vessel, *My Phoenix*, and its 18 members strong crew saved almost 3,000 lives in 60 days only in 2014. What a stunning and at the same time shocking quota! Some of us explored the ship and its engine room and everybody enjoyed self-made muffins, cookies and chat. When leaving the MOAS boat, Mr Victor Bezzina, its owner, invited us for a quick tour on-board his own ship, a modern yacht entirely made in Malta.

After leaving the ship, we visited one of the 3 dry docks present at Bezzina Ship Repair Yard Ltd. In an interesting presentation, Mr Oreste Bottiglieri explained by a “living” example how ship

maintenance is done today at a dry dock. The shipyard has been existing since the 1930's.

Our little all-age-group was blessed on that day, not only by the weather (which got instantly better when we met) but also by the fresh input by dedicated people with a vision to save lives at sea. More about MOAS and its work can be read on Mr Christopher Catrambone's blog [www.christophercatrambone.com](http://www.christophercatrambone.com).

Whom can WE save today?

Matthias Kundt



*The following is an extract from a report of a joint working group on climate change and theology convened by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church*

“” **Hope in God’s Future:** Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change

### 1. Approaching God in the context of climate change

The scientific analyses of climate change and the role of human greenhouse gas emissions are well grounded. ***It is now morally irresponsible to fail to acknowledge and address the urgent need for radical cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in order to prevent intolerable damage to human populations and mass extinctions of many plant and animal species.***

### 2. Encountering the Word of God

Reading the Bible in the context of climate change gives a vision of hope in God’s faithfulness to creation, a call to practice love and justice to our human and non-human neighbors, and a warning of God’s judgment of those who fail to do so. In this context, closing our ears to the voices of those most vulnerable to climate change would be nothing less than giving up our claim to be disciples of Christ.

### 3. Responding to God’s Word

What is required of God’s people in the industrialized world is repentance. ***The first step towards this change of heart and practice is confessing our complicity in the sinful structures that have caused the problem.***

### 4. The body of Christ in the World

A core component to Christian discipleship is a commitment to lifestyles consistent with levels of greenhouse gas emissions the earth can sustain. The church must commit itself to this standard of sustainability. At the time of writing, this means signing up to the UK government target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and to urgent action to meet appropriate interim goals, as well as assisting members of its congregations to make similar changes and engaging with government to enable national and international change.

5. Sending out

**We call on our churches** to confess their guilt in relation to the causes of climate change, to show signs of repentance and redeemed sacramental living and to be a prophetic voice in the life of our communities in the following ways:

1. Through prayer, preaching, bible study, teaching, and discussion to raise awareness of the need for confession and repentance among the churches and thereby enable acts of corporate confession in liturgical settings.
2. To act urgently to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the whole of church life in line with the national goal of a minimum 80% reduction on 1990 levels by 2050 and appropriate interim targets. This will require first a systematic audit of church greenhouse gas emissions at national and local levels and second a strategy to reduce these emissions to achieve this target.
3. To help members of congregations to make similar adjustments in the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their lifestyles by supporting them in a personal audit and strategies to reduce their emissions.
4. To campaign at a local and national level for policies that strengthen and take steps towards realizing the commitment to a minimum 80% reduction by 2050. “”

**We are all concerned about our planet and want to be part of the solutions. Please engage with Franklin Wilmot to find out more. Phone: 21 641 308 or mob 7926 1646 or email [fwilmot@keyworld.net](mailto:fwilmot@keyworld.net)**



**You say... God says...**

kitmac05152011

YOU SAY:	GOD SAYS:	BIBLE VERSES
"It's impossible"	"All things are possible"	Luke 18:27
"I'm too tired"	"I will give you rest"	Matthew 11:28-30
"Nobody really loves me"	"I love you"	John 3:16 & John 3:34
"I can't go on"	"My grace is sufficient"	II Cor 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
"I can't figure things out"	"I will direct your steps"	Proverbs 3:5-6
"I can't do it"	"You can do all things"	Philippians 4:13
"I'm not able"	"I am able"	II Corinthians 9:8
"It's not worth it"	"It will be worth it"	Romans 8:28
"I can't forgive myself"	"I forgive you"	I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
"I'm afraid"	"I have not given you a spirit of fear"	II Timothy 1:7
"I'm always worried and frustrated"	"Cast all your cares on ME"	I Peter 5:7
"I'm not smart enough"	"I give you wisdom"	I Corinthians 1:30
"I feel all alone"	"I will never leave you nor forsake you"	Hebrews 13:5
"I can't manage"	"I will supply all your needs"	Philippians 4:19

## Bartimaeus - Model Disciple Showing Us The Way to Witness

Bartimaeus, the poor, blind beggar who persevered in asking Jesus to make him whole is a model disciple. His blindness rendered him dependent on others' daily mercy for his survival. He was conscious of this dependence and so cried out 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' (Mark 10 v. 47). He asked for Jesus to make him see. That would mean he could do things for himself and enable him to live in dignity. He acknowledged this openly. No pride, no pretence, no beating around the bush.

Most of us often moan and groan at minor mishaps, blind to the blessings of health, loved ones, enough or much more to live comfortably, and the beauty of God's creation all around us. We forget that we are fully dependent on God though we ask for our prayers to be answered, sometimes promising to change when we get what we want but soon forgetting about the transformation we scheduled for ourselves.

Like Bartimaeus, we, too, need to have our sight restored to recognise our blessings as well as the needs of others around us. We thank God for the opportunities he gives us to share what he has provided for us, to allow him to work through us. We need to trust him more of course to enable a bigger transformation that could ripple out to touch others around us who may be able to recognise God's love working through us. We need to openly acknowledge our dependence on him, our needing him constantly. We can do nothing without him. We need the Holy



Spirit to enable us to see opportunities to show his love through us, both to those we love and who need us to love them as well as to those who do not know us but for whom we can do whatever the Spirit moves us to do.

The recent pasta night was one such opportunity that enabled us to contribute to the needs of the Tugwashanye community. The maize project that we started last year is ongoing. It is hoped that every year a few more women will benefit from the proceeds of the maize to enable them to sow and harvest in turn. The pasta night itself serves as a time of fellowship during which, even when we sit with the same friends, inevitably includes others and so our friendships grow. We can therefore thank God for the blessing of having others around us. Bartimaeus must have thanked God for every person who was moved to help him survive.

It is sometimes easier for us to help others in extreme need: feeding the hungry and seeing to the urgent needs of sustenance and basic sanitation. Occasionally we have done that. However, we realise that we need to go beyond that in order to try to move communities out of the situation they are in, as we did before in the case of the Fumbo community.

We are currently targeting education as a means to help the younger members of the Tugwashanye community to independent and responsible living. Giving them the fishing rod rather than the fish, as it were. This will enable them to find jobs and help their families. Eventually, when they start their own family they will be able to move away from the poverty cycle resulting from ill-health and sparse education.

In Tugwashanye, Sister Catherine follows up the pupils who are sponsored to go through primary education and students who make good progress into secondary education. Some children have to stop school when they do not find sponsors to cover their fees. Some move into college. The proceeds from the pasta night itself and the donations by others who could not come to the event should enable Sister Catherine to identify more children to move into secondary school education and some to continue into college. Some of the money donated was specifically intended to help a child in secondary school. Individual members or groups could decide to follow children through in this way.

So far the students sponsored have done well. One of the young men who finished college is now looking for a job. Hopefully, more will follow and will find their own path forward. We need to join our prayers to the financial aid we are sending so that the community will finally move out of poverty and enable the next generation to be healthy contributors themselves. Like Bartimaeus, we ask the Good Lord to give us the energy to continue with our mission and the readiness to open our hearts and minds to all those around us in order to be his light in our world, his witnesses in all that we say and do.

**Marie Alexander, for the Mission Team**



## *New Beginnings locally at Pentecost*

May the 24<sup>th</sup> saw the birth of the 'outreach' church of St Andrew's in Gozo when a congregation of 20 celebrated its first evening service in the tiny chapel of Manresa House. It was Pentecost and it seemed so fitting that the theme should be the coming of the Holy Spirit amongst the disciples resulting in the birth of the Christian Church.



Rev Kim used hymns, readings, prayers and reflections to demonstrate the work of the Holy Spirit from the Beginning – Genesis Ch1 v2 .....*and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.....* throughout the Old Testament into the New, when the disciples '*were filled with the Holy Spirit*' on that very first Pentecost.

We hope that this new church venture on Gozo will be blessed by the Holy Spirit so that it will flourish and grow and become an integral part of the spiritual life on the island.



It was good to visit Gozo on a Sunday afternoon, have a look round and then join with residents of the island at their service - so why not come over some time – you will find a warm welcome and be part of an enthusiastic group who join together on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 7pm to worship God together.

**Dot. Hunter**

# Dates For Your Diary



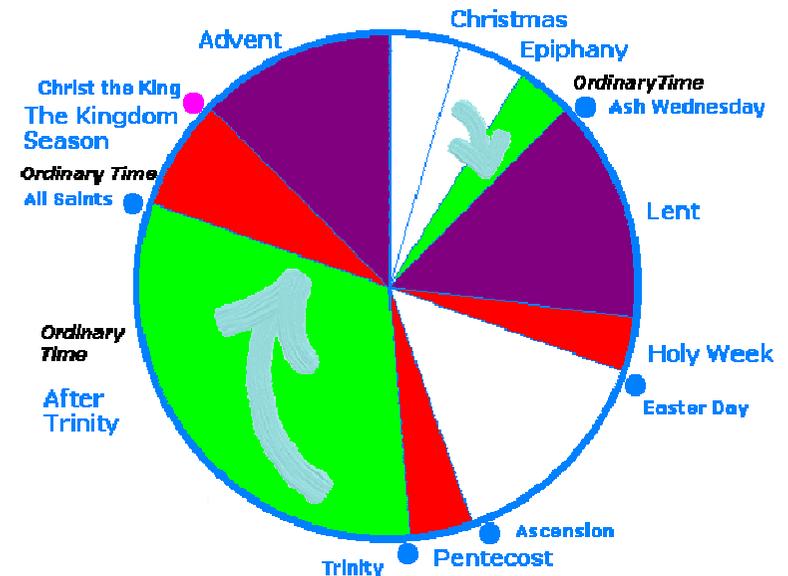
Preaching Appionments and Duty Rotas				
Date	Theme	Preacher	Door Steward / Greeter	Regular Duty Elder (Welcome Address)
21. Jun 15	All Age Worship	Rev Hurst	Franklin Wilmot Jenny Psaila	Christa Wiegand
28. Jun 15	Holy Communion	Rev Hurst	Pat O'Neil Doreen Portelli	David O'Neil
05. Jul 15		To be confirmed	Ria den Heyer Norrie Alexander	Ernest Kumi Assumang
12. Jul 15		Rev Hurst	Franklin Wilmot Mary Pace Bardon	Clement Okoru
19. Jul 15	All age Worship	Rev Westwood	David Smith Tony Ellul	Sharon Abbott
26. Jul 15	Holy Communion	Rev Hurst	David Pritchard Griffiths Steve Hurst	Christa Wiegand
02. Aug 15		Rev Hurst	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
09. Aug 15		Rev Hurst	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
16. Aug 15	All Age Worship	To be Confirmed	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
23. Aug 15	Holy Communion	Rev Hurst	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
30. Aug 15	IONA	Rev Hurst	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
06. Sep 15		Rev Hurst	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
13. Sep 15	Education Sunday	Rev Hurst	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
20. Sep 15	All Age Worship	Kirk Session	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
27. Sep 15	Holy Communion		t.b.d.	t.b.d.

When ever possible the Rev Kim plans to have **Monday** as her rest day so please try to refrain from contacting her on a **Monday** unless it is an emergency. Thank You for your understanding.

## The Liturgical Year: Traditions and Meaning of the Long Green Season

The term "Ordinary Time" may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

The colour green is usually considered a symbol of the Church's growth and rebirth.



## Coffee & Chat



### Coffee & Chat

We sit at the front of the Church and either just chat or make things, etc. People of different nationalities and cultures come in for a drink. Some are on holiday and some live here. If you have nothing to do on a Tuesday each week why not drop in and see us between 2 pm and 4 pm. You are very welcome.

## Home Groups

There are two Home Groups just now: one in Birgu at the Wilmot's – and a second in Magtab at Thiele-Trimmel's.

Contact Judy or Franklin (Birgu Group) on 7926 1646 or [jwilmot@keyworld.net](mailto:jwilmot@keyworld.net) OR Jutta or Harald (Magtab Group) 9964 7772 or [dc8-73@gmx.de](mailto:dc8-73@gmx.de)



## CROSSROADS MAGAZINE

Please enjoy reading "Crossroads" but when you have finished with your Crossroads Magazine and taken a note of any dates or articles you wish to remember perhaps you could return it to us for recycling to the many visitors who drop in to visit the Church during the week.



A prayer chain is a group of like-minded people who wish to pray for people and their situations that arise during our daily lives. It is also used for praise.

This started in our previous church also called St. Andrew in Cardiff 34 year ago. When it was started there it was all done by phone as no one had a computer back then.

A Coordinator was informed of a person who needed prayers. There would be about 4 or 5 "Chain Leaders" who would each receive the message, and they would then contact the person underneath them on the chain, who would then contact the next one on the list, and so on, there may be 6, 7, or even more hence the chain. So with the exception of the Coordinator no one had to call more than one person. It was a wonderful feeling to know that people were praying for your situation.

With the advent of computers being owned by lots of people now, it was suggested to me a couple of years ago that I might want to move with times and bring the prayer chain into the 21st century by using email as well. It made a tremendous difference, as people who had odd working hours and/or used their computer a lot were able to participate more easily. Of course there are people who don't have a computer, or just prefer a phone call which is fine.

The power of prayer is truly amazing.

If anyone would like more information or to join the prayer chain, please don't hesitate to contact me.

My details are as follow:

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