



# THE JERSEY METHODIST

£1.00

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April 2010 No: 87

Betty Brooke, 1922 - 2010



**Betty Brooke with Barclay 2004, (note one ear up, one down). She died, age 87, on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>**

Rev. Billy Slatter led her funeral service at a packed St Helier Methodist Centre. We entered and left the church to the sound of a lone piper.

"She was born in Aberdeen in 3rd December 1922. Father and grandfather were engineers with their own business and so Betty had the privilege of a relatively comfortable home. With her brother George, who was three years her senior, she had a good relationship and a playful - and sometimes mischievous - childhood.

She attended Aberdeen High School and her determined attitude enabled her to gain school colours for hockey, tennis and badminton. Add this to her keen aptitude for golf and bridge and her commitment to the more adventurous aspects of girl guiding and it is clear that Betty was not going to journey quietly through life

The plan was to go to University to read English but the war started and Betty visited the Royal Navy with a view to joining the WRENS. However, they couldn't find a suitable job for her so she was sent away to do a typing course and after a few months she was able to sign up as a teleprinter operator. It was the beginning of a long career in Royal Navy signals.



**Betty Brooke as a WREN**

It was during the Navy days that her childhood asthma re-surfaced, journalistic opportunities arose and the social life of the forces was embraced with enthusiasm!

For most of us, we have only ever known Betty as a person of strong faith and Christian commitment, but if you have read her autobiography you will know that there was a former life of cigarettes, gin, gambling, parties and convinced atheism - all the requisites to become the wife of a Methodist Minister!

She was 25 years old and on her third engagement to be married. Plans were made for a ceremony to be conducted in Aberdeen by the Padre, Herbert Brooke. One Sunday, Betty attended one of his services in which he announced the text, "We shall nightly pitch our moving tents a day's march nearer home." He went on to ask his congregation how many of us are pitching our tents further and further away from God as the trek through life goes on.

It was not a blinding light moment for Betty, but the words did strike a chord and were to challenge her thoughts for many days.

But that wasn't all that challenged her. For some inexplicable reason that romantics might call love, but Betty could not identify, she could not shift the Padre from her mind. She broke off her engagement and a few days later the Padre asked her to marry him!

Betty and Berry (as she had decided he should be called) were married on 21st July 1949 at the Cathedral in Aberdeen against a background of sceptical friends and relations muttering behind their breath, "it will never last." Not for the last time, Betty was to prove them wrong.

Padre and Mrs Brooke took a number of short postings before going to Malta in 1951 and taking charge of Floriana Methodist Church. They were there for 3 ½ years before returning to various naval appointments in England and then to a regular Methodist Church appointment at Aquila Road in Jersey.

Billy continued "I need not speak of Betty's much loved Saturday Column in the JEP, or of her political column written as Hardbencher. Neither do I need tell of her short time as Senator and her achievements in the States and the impression she made on the departments and committees she served. You know already of her concern for social justice, her values that never accepted inequality as inevitable.

She writes, "The barefooted children of the 1920's left their mark on my own thinking. I could not reconcile the comfort and security of my own home background with their apparent hunger and poverty... My social conscience was raised at an early age by these beggars and I began to question the inequality of life as I saw it." And the service ended with these words she wrote "*If I have learned anything at all in my personal pilgrimage it is that life can have so much joy if only we search for it.*"

#### **Pat Tourtel continues**

From September 1957 when Rev. Herbert Brooke and his wife Betty came to Aquila Road we knew we had a good leadership team. Rev, Brooke as we called him then, was a fine preacher and a friendly likeable man and his wife was a lively local preacher who almost immediately saw a need among the younger women to start a Young Wives club. The older women had their Bright Hour on a Wednesday afternoon, but there were many who had young children or babies and so a meeting was held to discuss the possibility. I had just become a mother, and was one of those who welcomed the opportunity of meeting regularly to talk to other mothers or listen to a speaker with someone to look after the children, and it became a regular feature of the church's life. And we found that Betty didn't just lead the meeting, she became a good friend to those with

problems as she listened and supported them. There are some women who would say that if it hadn't been for Young Wives and Betty Brooke they would not be in the church today. At first we met on a Tuesday afternoon, with Miss Flora Queen looking after the children for the first few years, after which Mrs. Florrie Allo took over the task. After a while as the children went to school and it was necessary for the mums to be meeting them we changed to an evening meeting, taking it in turns to meet in each other's homes, where we had more time, but still felt the need to meet and enjoy the friendship, fellowship and fun, because Betty had a great sense of humour and always made us laugh when we took ourselves too seriously.

When the Young Wives club had been in existence for twenty years, we held a celebration evening inviting all the women of the church. By then some of us were too old to be called 'Young Wives' and it was suggested that another group be started which was called the Priscillians for the older 'young wives' who were then able to continue the friendships started earlier. Betty was also a lively member of this rather less formal group which met in each others' houses and enjoyed meals together.

Betty had also started a Bible Study group and when the Priscillians were no longer meeting, the group became the Monday Group which was open to all women in the Circuit, and this thrived under her leadership and is still meeting although the numbers have decreased considerably. A smaller group also met once a month for many years for meditation, which was originally led by Betty but latterly members took turns to lead.

Despite the asthma which had dogged her from her early days, she gave of herself unstintingly to all she entered into. But always it was the draw of Betty's special friendship and charisma that kept members together for as long as they were able to come. Those of us who go back a long way have learned so much from her, in so many different ways, benefiting from her wisdom and guidance over the years and we will miss her being part of our lives. So many fitting and worthy tributes have been paid to describe someone who was unique, but to those whose lives have been enriched by knowing her we would just say 'Thank you, Betty'.



### Revd Eric Lucas asks some questions

Five Anglican lay readers joined twenty Methodist preachers and worship leaders for an inspiring day of reflection at Bethlehem at the end of February.

As an introduction we each shared a piece of recent good news in our lives, which ranged over personal matters to events from work. Mark said we can get at the truth through stories. He told the story of a son who had lived a life of wild excess then came back to seek forgiveness. We then looked at the famous picture by Rembrandt of the prodigal son returned from his wild excesses kneeling in front of his welcoming Father. It was amazing how many aspects were seen in the varied people in the painting but it highlights the way that God welcomes us back after we have come to our senses. Mark then reminded us that we each make our own narrative out of the events that happen. As preachers we invite people to share in stories and to see where God is in them.

### God in our life story

After a break for coffee we were asked to consider how God had been present in our life story. We each prepared a simple graph to chart our relationship with God at various stages of our life. We then compared our stories in small groups. Mark reminded us that we had always to be ready to account for the hope that is in us, but to do it with gentleness and respect. We are helped in this by talking to each other in church, by reading the Bible regularly and from time to time giving our testimony to others. We should be prepared to overcome possible embarrassment.

He retold the story of the journey to Emmaus from the viewpoint of Mr. and Mrs Cleopas. They told a story of loss and disappointment to their companion which he listened to then told them of the scriptures. This made their story into one of hope so that they could be confident that he was still with them as expressed by the words of the hymn 'Abide with me'. Excited they rushed back to tell others.

### Lectio Divina

After lunch we tried an exercise called Lectio Divina, unfamiliar to most of us. The story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4 v. 35 - 41 was read aloud once, then we read it through on our own several times, noting anything that surprised us. Then going on to reflect what it revealed of God and what it challenged us to do as we try to continue to reveal God at work through us. Mark allowed us 30 minutes on our own before we shared our insights.

Other stories like the parable of the sower could be looked at in this way, treated as stories, a farmer doing his job rather than too detailed analysis.

As a challenging exercise we were asked to state our good news in a single sentence without using religious language. 'You are welcome' was a great example. Mark reminded us that the glory of God is the human being fully alive. He set out some of the reasons why we come together as followers of Jesus. It gives us a place to ask hard questions for which there are not simple answers. It gives a community of people who have a sense of belonging, locally and world-wide, who share a common outlook and common values. Mark had a challenging poster from his wife. It said "God loves you the way you are, but too much to leave you like that" has things for you to work on' God has not finished with us yet. This is very much the message of the Wesleys that we are called to press on towards perfection. We are a community called to make a difference, to show compassion and also crusade against injustice in our world. It is a place to give a voice for our thoughts at times of sorrow, joy, baptism, harvest, remembrance, in fact at all times and seasons. We are people deeply in love with God, who wish to both comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable.

We left encouraged to tell stories as we share the good news we have received from others.

### Ed Le Quesne

\* \* \* \* \*

As the boring old Bishop of Crewe  
Went to preach all the microphones blew!  
When the bishop said, "Crike,  
Something's wrong with this mike!"  
Folk responded: "And also with you!"

## Circuit meeting report

The opening worship at Eden was led by Rev. Billy Slatter, who displayed photos of his visits to places as varied as Old Trafford, Felixstowe docks, Newmarket racecourse and Bluewater shopping. All of them valued the presence of a chaplain as someone who was available for anyone in need and who represented values beyond economics. He also showed the passionate mission statements of a firm called ICC. He read from Luke 5 v.1-7 of Jesus encouraging Peter to try again for fish and getting a large catch. He said that we should also be encouraged to go out to where people are in their daily lives and invite them to hear the message of Jesus.

After a few moments of silence in memory of Betty Brooke and Cynthia Du Feu and others who are in need we shared good news from the circuit. It included; a Mothering Sunday service at Georgetown with nearly 100 adults and over 40 children and several puppets; Christianity Explored held at the Bowling Centre; an expanding work among young children at St. Helier Methodist Centre; exciting progress with Messy Church at Philadelphie and 'From Pharaoh to freedom' that had inspired people at St. Martin. Billy Slatter said a new team would be running Jersey Keswick this year and moving it to St. Helier Methodist Centre.

David Coote, at his last Circuit Meeting said that he has been supported by a team of ministers, supernumeraries and stewards as good as any he has known. He said 'Is God calling you?' had been key to his ministry and planned to end the meeting with the familiar hymn '...We'll praise him for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come'

John Le Gresley expressed the thanks of the circuit for David and Barbara's work and wished them a long and happy retirement. He said the sale of the manse at Blenheim Ave is nearly complete. Planning permission had just been received for development at Bethel so that it can be put on sale. He also asked for permission to prepare Sion for sale, again by arranging for appropriate development permission to be in place.

It was agreed to appoint Rev. Gill Daniel, currently studying at Queens, Birmingham, as probationer minister from September 1st to replace David. Part of her work will be involvement at Communicare and there will be some funding from the Circuit Advance Fund for her work.

Sue De Gruchy went through the budget for 2010/11 which aims to have a deficit and thus reduce our current reserves of £160,000 to closer to the recommended £100k. So most churches will see a fall in their assessment! She was warmly thanked for her careful work.



**Stephanie Cormack-Dexter** began work on Feb. 1st as development officer for BB and GB, working for 18 hours per week. She gave a very upbeat presentation of her ideas for the future (see separate article).

Rev Henry Le Ruez outlined the development of the mission at Samares, where they are the only church in an area of crowded housing. In 2003, 100 years from their start as Wesleyan Mission in 1903, they started a coffee bar. In 2005 they began Cafe Church and in 2007 they moved to the Eastern Good Companions Club for Sunday worship. With youth workers, first Danny Desbois and then Andrew Bird they have links with Samares School, Le Squez Youth Club and the St. Clement Welfare group. Andrew presented the results of a survey of people in the area, collected by knocking on doors. This will be extended to the high rise blocks soon. Funding is in place for a further 18 months after Andrew leaves in September and options include appointing a student intern. Henry appealed for someone to offer housing for this person either a flat or house share.

Billy Slatter reported that he had been to London to gather ideas to use when the Olympics happen in 2012. With 205 nations competing and 20,000 press attending it is an opportunity to raise the profile of the church, to inspire change with quiz nights, sports events and community days.

Graeme Halls reported that the leadership team had met the Scrutiny Panel looking at the Income Support system and prepared a submission for them. Ed Le Quesne thanked them for their thoughtful contribution. Copies are available from Graeme.

Ed Le Quesne reported that Lorraine Wheeler and Jo Spybey had moved to 'on trial' and Katie Norman is due to become fully accredited soon. Liz Lambotte has withdrawn from note to continue her ministry as a lay worker at St. Aubin and the wider community. Pat Bougeard is building a ministry to the Deaf Church and training with the Anglican Church. A training day with Rev Mark Wakelin had been attended by 25 people including Anglican lay readers. This year Enid Quenault will celebrate 50 years as a local preacher.

David Coote said that property consents are now a District matter rather than dealt with in Manchester and Graeme Halls should be approached in the first instance.

Barbara Coote was thanked for her work as Network President. She will be replaced by Barbara Rumfitt.

It was close to 10 p.m. before we closed with a hearty singing of 'This, this is the God we adore' after a meeting with much to celebrate and encourage us.

### **Ed Le Quesne**

This is a considered response from the Methodist Church in Jersey to the consultation process on Income Support – Who can afford to live in Jersey?

The Methodist Church was established on the dual foundation of personal responsibility, salvation and generosity; and of a caring and supportive society that is judged by the way it treats the least well off and disadvantaged in society. The measure of our civilisation is how we both encourage and defend these people.

The Methodist Church today holds these things to be true and wherever it is present explores what they mean, in our case, in Jersey. The review of social security provision is an opportunity to look again at how as a society we are faring.

We would wish to alert you to a number of areas of concern which have become clear to us recently. We would also refer you to the 2006 report 'Taking stock of deprivation', which we endorse.

- We are of the view that GST is iniquitous. Because it is on everything, it is a direct tax on the poorest, who can least afford it. We would oppose any increase.
- It is right that single mothers get support but a lot of that support, and certainly the priority disappears if the mother gets married or has a partner. This has the effect of discouraging the stable relationships that society depends on.
- The cutting off of benefit at a certain level discourages people from taking lower paid employment and makes life much more difficult for those who are just above the threshold.
- The elderly who live alone, both homeowners and renters, and rely on the state pension or small savings and are too proud to seek out help. These are often long term Jersey residents.
- That young families without work cannot cope and are forced to depend on family support. This means that children are often in cramped conditions which are not conducive to doing homework.
- The disabled are unable to establish independent living when they are capable of doing so because there is not enough financial support for them.
- There is a lack of debt counselling easily available, church premises may be a good

venue for this. We are of the view that there should be a 'Bridge' centre in the west because of high transport costs for the most needy. Perhaps more needs to be made of Credit Unions in Jersey.

- We are concerned about GP and Dentist costs for those on low wages or benefits, or in care homes.

From a retired Methodist GP My concern, based on pre-retirement knowledge, is with the benefit levels received by the pre-pensioner chronic sick and unemployed. I think that the benefits received by this group are likely to be very low.

I think that Social Security were targeting this group and encouraging them to seek reemployment by way of making it difficult for them financially. Perhaps there is some merit in spurring the workshy to get off their butts, but this fails to recognise that:

- some just cannot work because of extra non physical difficulties like illiteracy.
- that despite possessing some notionally less than complete disability status, the practical effect of the disability precludes meaningful employment eg a 50 year old labourer with chronic back pain is not likely to become a desk worker in a month of Sundays even if he is capable of doing a sedentary job.
- that at a time of significant unemployment ( a historically unusual Jersey phenomenon), the chronically unwell are going to find job seeking difficult and forced redundancy more likely.
- there isn't - or wasn't in my time - any such thing as unemployment benefit.

I am also concerned to hear of the loss of Health insurance benefit for the chronic sick. My medical colleagues were unhappy to find this change. I would suggest, that the Scrutiny Panel approach the Jersey Medical Society in order to obtain the views of members. With every good wish for your review and it's outworking in the community, with the aim of improving life for the most needy

The Scrutiny Panel was pleased to receive this thoughtful contribution. The difficulties are well-known. Finding fair amendments to the current system will not be easy.

## New Vision for BB and GB



### Craft work at the Fort

In just a few weeks, Stephanie Cormack-Dexter, Steph for short, has begun to map out a positive vision for the future of BB/GB and the Les Frères Centre. She outlined a 4-step process in a lively PowerPoint presentation

**Step 1 is communications.** This will involve refreshing the website and image of the Brigades and having a presence at a range of events. As an example she organised a craft workshop at Fort Regent during the fund-raising concert for Haiti that was very popular and greatly enjoyed by those who took part. She hopes to repeat the exercise in July at the West Show. She herself, with a frequent change of hair colour and a lively three year old son to keep her in touch with modern families communicates a very warm welcoming, lively presence.

**Step 2 is support and training.** She is keen to build groups of 13 to 25 year olds who will share in friendship, be given training leading to an NVQ qualification and provide leadership for younger groups.

**Step 3 is company development.** She is getting to know the existing companies around the circuit and has initially been most involved at Communicare to guide the development of that company. However all companies have been given fresh impetus by her energy and enthusiasm. She would like to freshen up the image of BB/GB alongside all the other opportunities for young people in Jersey. She is particularly keen to appeal to young people who are not the potential sports stars, as the stars get plenty of attention.



### Step 4 is developing BB/GB at Les Freres Centre.

One key idea is to develop the **Jersey Sports Brigade**, where for example 12 week sports sessions can be offered for 7 to 11 year olds at a cost of £19. Professional coaches would be employed. She is applying for a grant to fund this work which will use the good sports facilities at Les Frères Centre. The other key idea is called **soul food**. which will involve using part of the grounds at Les Frères as allotments that will build an interest in the environment. Renovation work is still going on at LFC and there is still discussion on the best way to manage the Centre but these are exciting plans.

Steph meets every few weeks with the other lay workers in the circuit, Bev Waller, Liz Lambotte, Sally Vasein and Andrew Bird at the home of Graeme and Elaine Halls. This is already being found to be a valuable support network to share ideas and encourage each other in outreach into the community in a range of ways.

**Ed Le Quesne**

## **GOD CALLS!**

The closer I get to retirement the more grateful I seem to be for the opportunities that being a Methodist Minister has given. I was 26 when I felt God calling me to the ministry. I was both successful and happy working as a Quantity Surveyor but even from the early years of training I felt that I was being led in a different direction. Many people played a part in my changing direction, not least Barbara, who before we married felt a call to nursing. She had experienced the freedom of a job in the West End and a good income but went off to train at Kingston Hospital in Surrey. It was very difficult indeed. There were strict nurse's home rules and boys were only allowed in under the supervision of matron - well that was the rule! First year nurses sat on different tables to second year nurses and so on and the pay, such as it was, was minimal. Things were not the same in every hospital and when Barbara was allowed to move to Hillingdon Hospital near Heathrow to be closer to home, in order to help her poorly mother she discovered a different regime. I was impressed with the way she kept at it. Such was the sense of call. When eventually, after I had applied and been accepted for training as a Probation officer and as a Youth Worker and then turned down the opportunities, I said to Barbara I felt that God was calling me to the ordained ministry. She simply said 'I wondered when you would get round to it'.

That was after we married. My father questioned me. He felt I was throwing away a successful profession. But I have never regretted it - except perhaps following the occasional circuit meeting or difficult church council when people seemed unable to lift their eyes above the bottom line of a balance sheet or when the absence of love has been evident in the way that people who are called to love do not.

But the overwhelming sense I have now is gratitude. The ministry has opened door after door into walks of life or peoples' lives that would have been unimaginable as a Quantity Surveyor. In Chaplaincy work I have got close to people in great need in hospital, in the RAF to people struggling as I always have with moral issues of war and I have walked the assembly lines of factories. I have sat in the offices of leading politicians and business people and have sat alongside people in homeless shelters. I have worked in five circuits and have travelled to Brazil, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and the United States and witnessed Christians grappling with issues of wealth and poverty. I have been treated with immense kindness and generosity by people with whom I have nothing in common but Christian faith and by people of no faith who have welcomed a friendly visitor. And we had had the opportunity to live in Jersey!

There has of course been a down side. It hasn't all been wonderful. The ordained ministry is all consuming of time, so family and relationships can suffer.

The 'Is God calling you' circuit initiative is not about being called to one type of ministry for I believe that God calls us each in a very particular way. He could have called Barbara to stay in the estate agents in Mount Street, just round the corner from the American Embassy in London or me to serve Him in the Construction industry as a Quantity Surveyor, but he didn't. And even in retirement He continues to call on us to serve Him in His kingdom building work. I forget who it was but when asked if God was dead replied, 'I didn't know he was ill'. No, as the song says 'God's not dead He is alive'. So I finish with one of life's biggest and most searching questions. What is God calling you to do?

**David Coote**

**The farewell service for David and Barbara is on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 at St. Aubin**

**Rev. Liz Hunter is on sabbatical till May 25th.**

One focus is 'Spiritual Care at the End of Life especially in the Hospice context'

## From Pharaoh to Freedom

### An Ambitious Venture . . . that worked

Back in late summer 2009, Revd Billy Slatter and his wife, Pauline, introduced their congregation at St. Martin with the idea of putting on the Christian musical, "**From Pharaoh to Freedom**", one of Roger Jones's earliest musical adaptations. With Mr. Jones's permission, Pauline had greatly re-worked the musical accompaniment and, through the magic of a Korg X3R Workstation and Roland A-30 Keyboard, transformed the music of a small band into a full orchestral arrangement with rhythm and sound effects, including a spine chilling, tolling bell! She added a masterful overture, all performed by Pauline.



### Eliesheba & the Children

It was a multi-faceted project. The drama by Victoria Richmond tells a great and often very moving story of faith and love, drawing on links between the Jewish Passover Festival, the great story of the Exodus, which it celebrates to this day, and Jesus' Last Supper - a Passover meal transformed - and the Communion service we celebrate. Themes of faith and love, of great testing, and the celebration of grace and freedom won at great cost, run like the Nile through this drama.



### The Plagues of Egypt

Billy and Pauline trusted to the acting, dancing and singing talents of their congregation at St Martin, but knew that the music would sometimes prove testing and the project would need much hard work and commitment to get the 'show on the road' in time for the Chapel Anniversary weekend in mid-February. The reward, they promised, apart from a wonderful presentation, would be an excellent team building opportunity. And so it proved!



### Pharaoh's soldiers



### Slavery

A familiarisation exercise began during each Friday in November, and all the volunteers were soon captivated by the splendid tunes of Roger Jones, even if they did not under-estimate the challenge they presented to 'artists' more accustomed to simple hymn melodies! Undaunted, they returned after the Christmas break in December - albeit a week late after early January snow caused a week's postponement. February 13 and 14 seemed to loom horribly close and many flaws still needed ironing out. It will be "all right on the night!" began to sound a little hollow as those January weeks sped by.



**Intense preparation !**

**BUT . . . it was all right on the night!** "From Pharaoh to Freedom" played to a packed house on Saturday 13th February, 2010 and to the equally well attended Circuit service on the Sunday evening, when the worship-centered qualities of the production came to the fore in a most moving drama.



**This is my blood**

Narrator Tom Perchard took us through the strands of the story, the actors under Billy's expert direction, brought the scenes to life, while the singers all gave of their best under masterful conducting by Pauline. There were moments when soloists and duetists positively raised hairs on the back of the neck. The dancers added imaginative commentaries on the drama going on around them and the children acted very vividly their roles as a variety of plagues. Many thanks must also go to the backroom boys and girls who produced splendid costumes, acted as stage builders and managers and yet others who expertly fulfilled roles as sound and lighting engineers; not forgetting our resourceful ticket sellers. What a magnificent team effort!



**The dancers**



**The soloists Wendy and Judy**



**The singers**

Visit our website [www.stmartin.ci-methodist.org.uk](http://www.stmartin.ci-methodist.org.uk) for more pictures and information. Over 100 people watched a DVD of the show at a chips and pizza evening in March.

**David Marett**

## CAST

Moses/Jesus	Ian Barette
Aaron	Tim du Feu
Elisheba	Ruth Labey
Miriam	Margaret Le Cornu
Eleazar	Joseph Barette
Rachel	Chloe Lowndes
Pharaoh	Paul Elson
Soldiers	Michael Pallot, Andrew Pallot, Alex Lowndes, James Wood, Angus Stuart-Smith
Narrator	Tom Perchard
<b>Dancers</b>	Sue Reid, Helen Barette, Megan Barette

**Plagues** Taysie Ascroft, Leanne Carroll, Beth Cooper, Juliette Cullinane Skye Fox, Lucy Hilton, Rhiannon Le Maistre, Tegan Parker Alex Wood

**Singers** Keith Howlett, David Marett, David Le Seelleur, Ray Le Cornu, Alan Le Maistre, John Germain, Robert Le Maistre, Rosemary Le Maistre Ann Marett, Carole Weir, Hayley Lowndes, Eveline Le Seelleur, Muie Le Gresley, Marion Labey, Marian Arnold, Nichola Liron

Soloists Wendy Binet, Judy Egré

Conductor Pauline Slatter

Lighting Gary Pallot

Sound Alex Wood

Costumes Jackie Layer

Make-up Carole Weir

Stage & Set Gary Pallot, Martin Bisson, Ian Barette

## How I found my home.

I arrived in Jersey in September 1958 with the family I had worked for as a Nanny and for the first three months we lived in a hotel in St. Helier before moving to a small bungalow on the sea front in Grouville. Saturday was my day off but I also had free time on Sunday from 4.30 pm. I had attended a church in town but as I loved the area in which we now lived I decided to look for a place of worship in Grouville,

One cold, wet and windy winter evening I set out to find the nearest church. To my amazement when I boarded a bus I noticed several young folk sitting near the front, one carrying a bible under his arm. I presumed they were going to church and decided to get off the bus at the same time as they did. Unfortunately for me they got off the bus before me and, being Grouville, it was pitch black outside, I could not see anyone. I stood alone and cold in the pouring rain for a few moments until I saw lights come on inside a building. They seemed to be calling me, it was as if God was saying 'come inside'. From the moment I entered I knew that this was where I wanted to worship, I immediately felt at home.



## Kathleen Noel in La Rocque chapel

The family I worked for had decided to return to England as they could not find a house suitable for their needs. Previously they had lived in a very large house with ten bedrooms, a small wood and stables and extra land. Not many of those in Jersey.

I decided to remain in the island, found a bedsit in town and began working at Noel and Porter. The friends I had made at La Rocque Methodist Church became my family. Each evening I was invited to share a meal with the members of the chapel such as Miss Baudains, the Bree, Gottrell and Cabot families. I could go on and on, so many people welcoming me into their homes. I was truly in heaven, as someone who had been in foster care, I'd found my home, at last I new where I belonged.

I married one of the boys from the Youth Club 49 years ago and from that day have been working in La Rocque Methodist Church in a number of different roles: Sunday School teacher for 17 years, Leader of the Girls Brigade and taking part and helping in many other aspects of the church.

La Rocque Chapel has been a wonderful part of my life since that dark, wet and windy night 51 years ago. I thank God for His Goodness to me and my family for guiding me to the first real home and family I ever had.

**Kathleen Noel**

## St. Ouen News

As we begin a new decade, and for this church a new century, we look back with thankfulness and forward in faith to the years ahead. After the excitement of our bi-centenary year and all the celebrations we have settled back into a more peaceful routine.

For some time now we have had a "Share through prayer" group which meets on the first and third Mondays on the month throughout the year. During Lent the group has met each Monday, and on Monday in Holy Week members set up a Prayer Labyrinth, which so many found so meaningful.

We warmly invite friends to our Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall on April 10th from 10 am to midday and to our Quiz on April 23rd at 7 pm also at the Parish Hall.

Our Liberation Thanksgiving Service, when we will be joined by members of the Parish Church and St. Georges, will be at 11 am on May 9th led by Rev. David Le Seilleur.

This year also, after a long wait for planning permission, we look forward to starting the refurbishment of Chapel House. It will make a great difference if someone is living on the premises.

We at St. Ouen thank the Lord for all the blessings He has showered upon us this past year.

**Valerie Remon**

## CELEBRATIONS AT ST AUBIN!!



Twelve young people have completed the Kinetic leadership training course. These twelve signed up in October 2009 to twelve sessions, two residentials and two first aid evenings and just recently we asked Rev David Coote to present the group with their certificates.

It has been a challenging course that has demanded commitment on behalf of each individual. Throughout the sessions the leaders have tried to obtain a balance of theory and games that allowed the young people to take on the role of the leader. They have learnt much about themselves, discovering the type of leader they are, learning about their gifts and talents and having these affirmed, as well as noticing areas that they need to work on. The group have shown great enthusiasm and willingness to 'have a go' at various

leadership roles. A great bond of friendship formed very early in the sessions with each of them encouraging and supporting one another throughout the tasks.

All twelve young people wish to continue further with another leadership course that delves deeper into the practical skills needed.

## PUPPET MINISTRY

We had a real treat at St Aubin during our Family Worship with a visit from 'Sisterly Act.' Take a look and see!!



**Liz Lambotte**

## Shop windows

There are SHOP WINDOWS and there are SHOP WINDOWS! Just down from Georgetown Methodist there has been an empty shop window for years, windowlens white and "for sale" signs filling the space. Uninspired!

Prompted by a JEP article about empty St Helier shop windows being used as impromptu art galleries, we decided to ask if we could borrow the "uninspired" shop window in Georgetown and turn it into an "installation" for Lent and Easter! With permission granted we designed a series of Video Wall look-alikes to lead "viewers" through the 40 days of Lent and the celebration of Easter. The designs are loosely based on the "Stations of the Cross" and are set against famous St Helier back drops. We began with Jesus being CONDEMNED (so it appears, in Royal Square) and taking up his cross and the progression leads people to consider "BURDENS", "HELPING HANDS" (Hospitals and Hospice and churches provide the backdrop), "CARING" (La Rocque Pier) AND "SUPPORT" before on Palm Sunday asking the question "FOR OR AGAINST?"

Good Friday had the stark message "JESUS DIES" against Fort Regent's impressive outline, followed on Easter Saturday by the equally stark "BURIED" against La Hougue Bie's prehistoric tomb. Easter Day heralds the message RISEN with Corbiere Lighthouse as a backdrop.



### **The window on Passion Sunday**

We hope the images and associated strap-lines and texts will inspire people, church-goers and non-churchgoers alike, to see the Lent and Easter story being played out not just in some far distant land 2000 years ago, but here in Jersey today.

We hope the "uninspired" shop window has become "inspired" and that some of that "inspiration" will have an impact of the community that pass by.

Window shopping is popular, we hope our window has drawn people back and back to see its progression, and maybe even some will feel drawn back to church....not just Georgetown, but any church. And if you missed seeing it on the street, then have a look at the Georgetown website.

**Elaine Halls**

[www.ci-methodist.org.uk/Jersey/Georgetown](http://www.ci-methodist.org.uk/Jersey/Georgetown)

or

<http://www.georgetown.ci-methodist.org.uk/>

### **"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings**

These sentences, handwritten, with a beautiful photographic background for each one were circulated by e-mail recently. Each were addressed "Dear God" and are left with their original spellings

Dear God Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you got now?

I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that OK?

I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions

In bible times did they really talk that fancy?

I am Ameerican. What are you?

Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy

I bet it is very hard for you to love all of every body in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it

If you watch in church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes.

If we come back as something please don't let me be Jennifer Horton because I hate her.

I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the Bible

If you give me a genie lamp like Alladin I will give you everything except my money and my chess set

If you let the dinosaur not extinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing

Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp to this year.

Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother.

Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.

## Elizabeth Toole in Morocco

Elizabeth Toole worked for 9 years in Human Relations at PwC in London. Last year she was made redundant. She has been involved with a charity in Morocco. Here she is with some of the students. The letter was sent in Nov 09.



I have been working in a girls' boarding house in Asni, a small town about 45km out of Marrakech in the High Atlas Mountains. I'm sure you can find it on Google Earth

I find it hard to believe but I have been here a staggering nine weeks already. In that time, I have learned a little Berber, less Arabic, a lot about myself, and how to make mint tea. I have yet to tackle tagine and couscous, but English lessons with the girls, home stays at the weekends with their families, project committee meetings, trips to Marrakech, visitors at the house, as well as some time off just for fun, hasn't left a lot of time for cookery lessons.

So, nine weeks ago, I left the tranquillity of my flat in London behind to move into a house with 20 incredibly bright, incredibly noisy, but incredibly kind, thoughtful, warm and affectionate teenage girls here at Dar Asni ("Dar" means "house"). Dar Asni was set up by Education For All (EFA, a charity established by a small group of expatriate business owners in Marrakech and the High Atlas region) to provide accommodation for girls attending secondary school in Asni. The girls come from villages across the High Atlas region, too far to travel every day to the college, and their families are too poor to afford lodgings in existing boarding houses, which are over-stretched and pretty inadequate in any case.

Dar Asni gives these girls from outlying villages access to a secondary education that they otherwise wouldn't have had and the opportunity to fulfil their potential in an environment that promotes academic study and social understanding. Very few girls from the predominately Berber rural areas in Morocco continue their education after primary school. Morocco is a very tolerant and fairly liberal minded country, working hard to

modernise and change traditional attitudes towards the roles of men and women in society. But of course that takes time, so although the boys need help too (literacy levels across the Berber population are universally low), girls are the focus of the work of EFA. And hurrah to that!

Having done my TESOL qualification in the summer, most of my work here is preparing and giving English lessons to the girls in their 'free' time at the house. It is a lot of fun, but hard work when you're a novice teacher working on your own in your first job. The only feedback I have on what I'm doing comes from the perplexed looks on the girls' faces or my own harsh self-critique! However, I must be doing something right. A couple of weeks ago, following some lessons on telling the time, prepositions of place and using the present continuous, I returned to the house after a few days away. Over lunch, suddenly and quite unprompted, the girls started saying, "It's twenty to one!" and "The tagine is on the table" and "Khadija is between Fatima and Zahra" and "I am eating!", "You are talking!" It was quite a moment.

Other highlights have been my first weekend home stay with one of the girls and her family in Imsker, quite a special and humbling experience; working with and getting to know Latifa, the wonderful lady in charge of the house here who is a true inspiration in every possible way, her tolerance and open-mindedness, gentleness and generosity of spirit, energy and commitment to the girls - quite amazing and not yet 30 years old; and my Mum's visit, which was great for so many reasons, not least because she came to Morocco and, like so many before her, bought a carpet. This would be funny except that I bought one too!

Right now it's quiet in the house as it is the eve of a big holiday and most of the girls have already gone home for the long weekend of celebrations. It's Eid! The whole country has been preparing for days, towns have been buzzing with activity and anticipation, new clothes have been bought, families are gathering together, and the sheep are looking nervous... This weekend will see the sheep population of Morocco severely diminished as they are slaughtered in their thousands as offerings to Allah. Then there's a really great barbecue.

So, just nine weeks to go before I leave at the end of January. My plans include Australia (more barbecues but rather less blood I suspect!!)

**Elizabeth Toole**

**To support EFA, you can give donations through [www.justgiving.com/morocco](http://www.justgiving.com/morocco)**

## Enough for all - Network meeting

**Gerry Padden**, who left early, spoke of the work of the Grace Trust, which supplies parcels of groceries weekly to needy families. The names are supplied by Citizens Advice Bureau and others, over 50 families. These are packed on a Friday afternoon at Samares Methodist Church then delivered by volunteers on Saturday mornings.



## Network officers Barbara Coote, Gladys Renouf and Barbara Rumfitt with John Rive and John Hodge

Teams from St. Pauls, St. Matthew, Bethlehem and St. Owen Parish Church take turns to cook a meal for up to 60 people at Saturday lunch times in St. Pauls Centre. For some this event provides a real feeling of family. Grace Trust also provide second hand furniture, have formed the Parklife choir and run an allotment at St. Peter. They are always looking for volunteers to share the load. Contact Gerry on 631667.

## Recycling

**John Rive** said that there would be enough for all, if we were less wasteful of energy and materials. In Jersey our food waste is 17,000 tonnes per year or 13 black bags every minute! Our general waste has risen by over 100% in the last 30 years while the population has only increased 15%. However recycling is increasing with monthly doorstep collections now in 4 parishes. The biggest proportion of waste in our bins is kitchen and garden waste at 38%, which works out at 4 kilograms per person per week. John illustrated this with 4 kg of items from his kitchen cupboard. Next is 28% of paper and card. However now envelopes with windows can now be included in the paper recycling. Money is available this year to increase the number of cardboard recycling centres from the present two (Bellozanne and Rue des Pres). The plastic tops of bottles can be included within the plastic recycling, but not screwed on the top as it makes them hard to crush. Nappies provide 3% of our rubbish, a high percentage when only 2000 families have children of that age.

Glass is being recycled locally and textiles through the Salvation Army bins which have increased from 9 to 40 in the past few years.

John reminded us that we are big consumers and said that there are energy costs in growing and transporting a carrot to our table as well as disposing of it, much greater than its food energy value. We need to avoid waste by good planning, then reuse or recycle where possible. Finally we can make energy by burning what can't be recycled. The new energy from waste plant will be 8 times more efficient when it comes on line in a few months. I think all Network members are keen recyclers though not as good as Phyllis Le Goubin who recycles so well she tells the dustmen not to call!

## Shelter Trust

**John Hodge** of the Shelter Trust said that their 35 rooms at Aztec House currently have 46 people so some share. They monitor 20 venues round the town for rough sleepers. About 400 per year pass through their rooms, with an average stay of 14 weeks. 10% are female and ages range from 17 to 71. There are a range of reasons why people become homeless. They lose tied accommodation, have to move out of care, have addiction or mental health issue or have suffered a relationship breakdown. Also some find there is no affordable housing for their income.

A grant from the States meets 50% of their costs. Those who can pay for their accommodation and they get grants from other organisations. Most of the staff have taken a one year counselling course at Highlands. Their aim is to build up the self-esteem of the people who come, to negotiate a realistic view of a future career and get them to move back into mainstream housing, perhaps via a spell in sheltered housing in Midvale Road.

## Ed Le Quesne

### A tribute to Cynthia Du Feu

I first met Cynthia when as a young radiant bride-to-be, Tom brought her to Bethesda to introduce her to us. After their wedding at Sion in 1963, she joined us and immediately became involved in the work of the Church, first as a Sunday School teacher and then Superintendent, serving for 24 years. She was a very loyal and dedicated teacher and loved being with the children, always encouraging them and giving them special little gifts at Sunday School Anniversaries and Christmas.

She joined our Young Wives' Club, becoming Secretary and then President, and was very actively involved in all its activities. She set up the Girls' Brigade at Bethesda and was Captain of the unit for 17 years.

About 12 years ago, she trained as a Worship Leader and enjoyed leading the worship. Her prayers always reflected her strong faith in God. She enjoyed the fellowship and social life of the church and especially

enjoyed attending “Easter People” , from where she returned with renewed faith and enthusiasm.

She was also very interested in all forms of art, especially painting and was part of a small group who met regularly to share their hobby. She went to Lakeside to share her hobby with the residents and her paintings, mostly of birds and flowers, are quite professional.

Sadly, all this came to an end in 2006 when she suffered a severe stroke and received lengthy treatment at the Hospital and Overdale. But eventually she was well enough to return home due to the devoted care of her sister-in-law, Janice, and her husband Tom. During these 12 months, she began slowly to learn to write and paint again, and she was able to return to church on a few occasions where she was warmly welcomed. She was even able to lead worship on one occasion which was much appreciated.

Unfortunately another serious stroke saw her back in hospital and Overdale. She was not well enough to return home so she moved into Lakeside Residential Home where she settled down well and where Tom ensured that her room was as cosy and homely as possible. Our weekly newsletters kept her in touch with the Church and the monthly Communion service, shared by a few friends, and led by Christine meant a lot to her.

Cynthia died two weeks ago at the General Hospital after another massive stroke from which she never recovered.

Her funeral Service at St. Peter's Church was attended by a large congregation, who heard Rev. Christine Legge speak of Cynthia's deep faith which was reflected in her chosen reading from Ephesians Ch. 6, speaking of putting on the whole armour of God, so that you can resist all the attacks of the evil one, having faith as your shield.

We thank God for Cynthia, for her friendship, her life and work among us at Bethesda over so many years. We shall miss her but we entrust her into the loving care of her Heavenly Father whom she loved and worshipped all her life.

**Enid Quenault** speaking at Cynthia du Feu's funeral on January 28th, 2010

## **Challenges facing Jersey**

This was the provocative title of a talk by Daniel Wimberley to the Christian Men's' lunch in February. He made it more challenging by issuing paper and pens before the lunch and asking us to write our top 3! As he spoke he outlined his top 5.

**Community** The fault lines in our community show up when there is pressure. We pride ourselves on our parish system but how real is our “community”. There is no Ministry for Community in Jersey. Building houses close together makes for mutual support yet there is often protests from neighbours to new buildings. In Stuttgart, every householder kept their pavement free of

ice in the recent cold weather. Here a Millennium Town Park has been regarded as nice to have when we get funds rather than an important community asset.

**Finance** We are constantly told this is a poor island and “there is no money” but this is nonsense. This attitude however puts a drag on all areas of the States. For example, Fort Regent is seen as a cost rather than an opportunity to invest in some top class facilities. Benchmarking shows Jersey's public services are in line with other places and not inefficient. We have the lowest spending per head in the OECD and historic under spending on housing repairs, sewer renewal and so on.

**Sustainable economy** The world still has a legacy of toxic debts. If a ‘recovery’ were to happen, the price of oil would immediately rise and the recovery would die out. We need to move to a low carbon economy.

**Honesty and communication** We must have honest communication to survive the difficulties ahead, but we often do not get it. Two examples 1. a large part of the incinerator loss due to the Euro has still not been admitted in the States because it is politically inconvenient. 2. The strap line for the Strategic Plan was “working together to meet the needs of the community”. This was an admirable aim, but the Council of Ministers then proceeded NOT to ask the public of the island what those needs were. The strategic plan has not really given a sense of all working together to meet the needs of the community. We need a realistic sense of where we are coming from.

**Representation in the States** The country is much more strongly represented than the town, with fewer voters behind each country Deputy and this is unfair and has to end. He would like to keep Senators and Deputies. Constables would be free to stand as Deputies. Such a system can be made to be proportional so that every vote would count roughly the same.

There were a number of questions especially on the issue of the number of people who don't feel bothered to vote All present appreciated Daniel's thoughtful talk and wished him well in his States work.

**Ed Le Quesne**

## Reflections on Fairtrade Fortnight 2010

The highlight was a visit by 4 people from the Divine Chocolate company, including Comfort and Kojo from Ghana.

Comfort is the elected secretary of Kuapa Kokoo, a co-operative of 45,000 cocoa farmers. She is a mother of five, a grandmother, a kindergarten teacher with a class of up to 120 children and a farmer. Kojo is a recorder who weighs the sacks brought in by farmers. Only 20% of their cocoa beans are sold on Fairtrade terms so we still need to encourage more people to buy Fairtrade.



Kojo and Comfort were interested to see Divine chocolate on sale at the Oxfam shop. Here they are with shop manager Hazel Forrest. The chocolate is made in Germany on a long term contract as it is too hot in Ghana to turn beans to chocolate. However Kuapa Kokoo own 45% of the shares in Divine. In the first year each farmer got \$1 as dividend, the following year shared 30,000 machetes. Expertise is being shared with Sierra Leone and in 2009 Fairtrade cocoa beans came from there for the first time.

Comfort spoke to an assembly at JCG and at Beaulieu. She ended with this striking sentence "To love chocolate is human. to love justice is Divine" - an advertising slogan with a strong echo of Micah 6 v.8 "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God"



Another focus was on tea, as the five major tea companies are slow to adopt Fairtrade. They will have received thousands of signed cards asking them to change. A large inflatable mug made a memorable symbol, urging people to sign up for 'The Big Swap', making a pledge to change to a Fairtrade brand.

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All contributions for the 88<sup>th</sup> issue and  
offers of help to Ed by June 20th