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June farewells



Rev. David Coote, Reg Jeune, Richard Dupre and Rev Graeme Halls all took part in the final service at Sion on Sunday June 13th. A week later at St Aubin, the District said farewell to David and Barbara Coote at another Inspiring service.

Liz Lambotte says 'GOODBYE'

It is part of the structure of the Methodist Church that after what seems only a short time, we have to say goodbye to our minister and his wife but we look back and see how far we have travelled together and what has been achieved.

Building project

Six years ago Rev David & Barbara Coote took a great leap of faith in coming to the Channel Islands. David was appointed and began his work as Chair, Superintendent and minister of St Aubin. There were more than a few hidden surprises and challenges along the way including a building project here at St Aubin. We were extremely fortunate to have someone who was not only a workaholic but had experience in the building trade when David had what some would call a 'real job' as a quantity surveyor.

He steered us through a difficult period when countless decisions had to be made and each of these bore enormous financial concern. Today we bear the fruits as the roof of the church is water-tight, our hall is open and welcoming, and used for many different events.

Young people

David was at the forefront of encouraging and developing work among children and young people at St Aubin. He had a vision for what could be achieved and funding was found for my position as youth worker on condition that I underwent training. A distance learning course was found, I was accepted on the course and David became my mentor. And what a hard task master!! I still remember submitting my very first essay for him to comment on and after reading it through he told me that it may be better if I started it again. I was gutted and cried all the way home. Four years on and fully qualified David continues to be very supportive and is extremely interested in the welfare of the children and young people that are connected to St Aubin.

Barbara

It is certainly true what they say 'that behind every great man there's a great woman' as we have found in Barbara. She is a very gentle, caring person who is always ready to give a helping hand and is continually supportive of David's ministry in her quiet way. She conducted, with great sensitivity and depth of thinking a most helpful House Group. Barbara also has great skills on the computer which have been an immense help in many areas. She is someone we have come to know and love and will greatly miss her calm and peaceful demeanour.

Moving on

Six years on, battle scars to prove it, David with slightly less hair than when he started but both of them still with a deep sense of calling, move on to a new venture – that of retirement!!

We not only have been so fortunate to have been led and influenced by two people with a deep faith but we hope that both David and Barbara take with them memories of both our beautiful island and the hearts of the people they have worked with and walked amongst. We wish them both a very long and enjoyable retirement together.

Farewell Service for David and Barbara Coote



Marian Dart & John Le Gresley cut the cake

On a sunny June 20th evening, the church at St. Aubin was packed with a congregation which included the Governor, the Bailiff and the Chief Minister with their wives. The service opened with Fred Pratt Green's great hymn 'God is here as we his people'. Then Rev. Graeme Halls led prayers of thanks for the friendship and care as well as leadership and vision of David and Barbara. Les Conteur Singers sang the Classic Praise (as the deer) before Senator Sarah Ferguson read from Isaiah 55 v.1-6 'Turn to the Lord'

The less familiar song 'Christ be our light' started hesitantly but by the final chorus we sang confidently "Christ be our light! Shine in your church Gathered today.'

Rev. Stephen Robinson, Synod secretary from Guernsey amused all when he said that someone outside the church had described David as 'a dishy minister'. He then read from Colossians 1 v. 24-29, which was the theme of the address by the Dean. Rev. Bob Key compared Paul's commitment to announce the good news to that shown by David. He especially praised his willingness to work ecumenically.



A Painting presented to David by the circuit

We sang "Thine be the glory" before Pat Bougeard's signing choir expressively signed to a CD of 'Be still in the presence of the Lord' The intercessions were led by Rev. Mark Bond and Mgr Nicholas France among others. Les Conteurs Singers sang 'Lead me Lord' before John Le Gresley came forward to express our appreciation of David and Barbara. Joking at first that he was joining the Victor Meldrew generation, he did express our warm thanks for all their work and prayers for a healthy sitting-down. They were then presented with a painting and other gifts. In his response David reflected with gratitude on the blessings he had received through all the varied people he had met as a minister. He then asked Jeannie Richardson to bring forward a cake for the circuit and asked Marian Dart to make the first cut. The service closed with Charles Wesley's 'Love Divine', a Blessing by Les Conteurs then the song 'You shall go out with joy' played with energy by Pauline Slatter that had the congregation clapping along as they sang.

Many stayed behind for a cup of tea or coffee and a range of cakes in the crowded school Hall after an inspiring service

Ed Le Quesne

David goes to Conference in Portsmouth at the end of June and finally leaves Jersey in mid July to settle at 9, Cavalier Close, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9QW

ON SAFARI

This group of young people from St Aubin have experienced a safari; not the usual trek that comes to mind of crossing the African plains but travelling in a minibus across the countryside of Jersey. Ten young people plus 2 leaders set out

recently on a Safari meal. The first habitat we visited in the west of the island welcomed us with a cool slice of melon dressed with parma ham. Our journey moved onwards to a family in Grouville to indulge in sizzling spicy chicken fajitas with salad accompaniments.



The group tucked into some lovely desserts at David and Barbara Coote's house.

Our trip continued further north to a location in St Lawrence where we devoured a magnificent selection of desserts, enjoyed a selection of mints and played the inevitable game of 'Articulate.' It was a very enjoyable and memorable evening spent by all.

Returning the favour

As a way of appreciation the young people returned the favour to the three welcoming hosts by cooking a meal of melon, roast chicken, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables followed by strawberry pavlova, three 'P' crumble and fruit salad at St Aubin Church Hall.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY!

Lloyds TSB, St. Brelade very kindly gave St Aubin Youth Club permission to hold a car wash in the car park to raise funds for the club. The young people busied themselves baking cakes the night before to offer to car drivers while they waited for their car to be washed. We had a steady flow of cars and a good team of young people, adults and even 2 very willing volunteers from Lloyds TSB. It was a very successful morning and we raised the magnificent total of £255.85.



Safari group ready to go

Liz Lambotte

St. Ouen news

It was with great regret that we said goodbye to Nick and Joy Owen at a barbecue at the home of Steve and Jenny on May 30th. Nick preached his last service in the Island on April 25th at St. Ouen. They have now answered God's call to return to work for Him in the Isle of Man. We wish them all God's blessings and will very much miss their support. We trust it will not be too long before they are back in Jersey.

Sea Sunday on July 11th will see the usual gathering of the churches of the parish and St Mary's at Greve de Lecq. The service at 10.30 will include the blessing of the fishermen and their boats. One notable absentee will be Mr Eddie Blanchet who sadly lost his life at sea since the last Sea Sunday.

Later in the year we will be holding a fund raising in support of our Church's project in Mifumi. Adopted some two years ago, it is a charity and primary school in an impoverished and rural area of Uganda close to the Kenyan border. It has been partly funded by Jersey residents and from two work parties by the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission.. Our members Mr. & Mrs. John Carnegie are involved and Mr. Carnegie is an educational consultant to the school.

Probably before the next issue our usual Sunday School outing in lorries will have taken place. This is always a much looked forward to event by children and adults alike.

Finally we would like to wish the Rev. and Mrs. David Coote a long and happy retirement.

Valerie Remon

Sion closes its doors



The impressive landmark building near the centre stone of the island

On Sunday, June 13th at 4 p.m. a large congregation joined in a service to give thanks for 129 years of worship at the current chapel. We were welcomed by Mrs Amber Du Feu, while stewards ensured that everyone had at least a shared view of the special service leaflet! The opening hymn ‘Now thank we all our God’ was followed by reflections from Richard Dupre of a lifetime at Sion. Then ‘Shine Jesus shine’ was followed by reflections from Reg Jeune, who cycled to Sion as a young local preacher in 1942.

We sang ‘One more step along the world I go’ before a brief message from Colin and Ann Hayes, minister from 1977-82, a typically humorous one from Chris White, minister till 2009 and one delivered in person by Henry Le Ruez, minister in the 1980’s.

Rev. Patrick McManus read a lesson from Ephesians 3 before Rev. David Coote, in his last sermon before ‘sitting down’ as Circuit Superintendent spoke on Acts 20 v.32 ‘I commend you to God’ These farewell words of Paul to his friends at Ephesus were echoed in David’s farewell words to friends at Sion and the Jersey circuit.

After we sang Charles Wesley’s great hymn ‘O thou who camest from above’, prayers were offered by different people for aspects of the church’s life; Edith Le Cornu for the members, Ian Jayes for the children baptised, Joan Streets for the Sunday School, Graeme Halls for the music, Ed Le Quesne for the preaching and John Le Gresley for the communion, marriages and funerals held over the years. These were summed up in the Lord’s Prayer before we sang ‘Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son’. The final responsive prayer reminded us that God remains with us though we move on to new friends and new congregations.

Reflections by Mr. Reg Jeune

He became a local preacher in 1941 and one of his first appointments was at Sion in that year. All cars of ministers had been confiscated by the Germans so he cycled from his house in Bagot Road. He has a notebook, now in a second volume, in which he has noted all his appointments, his text and date and, in those days, time to cycle to the church.

The steward at Sion was Mr. Tom Du Feu who ‘treated this callow youth with great kindness’. The organist was Mr. Stanley Blampied who seemed to ‘attack the keyboard’ as he played with great vigour. He has continued to receive great support and a warm welcome from the congregations at Sion over the years.

He commented that this was the 15th chapel in which he had preached that had closed its doors. However the work of building up God’s kingdom was continuing in different ways and places

After his words several people tried to recall the 15 names. They are Carmel, Seaton Place, Tabor, Bethel, Royal Crescent, Wesley St, Augres, Great Union Rd, Les Freres, Six Roads, Aquila Rd, Galaad, Gorey, Communicare and now Sion

Also St Ouen no longer use the large chapel but a lively congregation meet in restored original chapel that celebrated 200 years in 2009.

Thoughts of Sion over the years

My family connections with Sion started a few years before I was born, when my father who had been brought up in St Lawrence, and had attended Six Roads chapel, transferred his membership here when he came to live at Sunny Corner on the Sion junction. My mother who lived just down the road, had been brought up at the Congregational church (now URC) and when they married at Sion she too became a member here.

I was born in 1945 and christened here, attended the Sunday School when most of the time there were at least 50 children attending each Sunday sometimes as many as seventy five. My father was Sunday School Superintendent for over 25 years. During the 1950’s & 60s’ the Sunday School Anniversary was the main event of the Church calendar.

A stage was erected over the whole of the front of the church, it was all brought up from under the floor – there's a huge cellar under here and there are traps in the aisles so the carpets were rolled back, the trap opened and all the trestles & boards were brought up and erected like a huge jigsaw. Every piece was marked and slotted into place even taking up the exact shape around the communion rail. Nearly all the children took an individual part and there were usually 3 services on that Sunday.



Final Sunday morning at Sion

The event that we children really looked forward to in those days was the annual Sunday School Treat. The farming community would spruce up their Lorries and erect seating around the perimeter of the rear. At times there were up to seven vehicles, and we would be driven around the Island with the lead driver finding the most difficult route he could, through winding lanes and hills, to stretch the other drivers abilities. We would stop for afternoon tea at one of the other chapels before going on the beach somewhere for games. A couple of times I recall all the lorries lined up at Gorey, waiting for the flood lighting on the castle to be switched on. After waiting half an hour they were switched on. 3 minutes later it was back home to Sion with everyone singing their hearts out.

There was a big sense of church family in those days, with many activities going on during the week. There was the Women's Fellowship, the Junior Choir, the Thursday Club and even a Young Wives Club at one time. My abiding memories of those days were of the Sion Guild and the plays that were performed in the School hall. My father produced most of them, which included constructing all the scenery. The plays all had a message to impart; they usually ran for three evenings and were always a sell out.

A thriving youth club was started by the then caretakers Diana & John Mauger, but they

emigrated to Australia. The Club was then continued for a long time by Don & Dulcie De La Haye. The Club also ran some very successful variety concerts, and took part in quite a few Battle of Flowers parades. At least three relationships that started at Sion Youth Club resulted in marriages that are still intact today.

I, along with Ken Corbin and a couple of others from the Youth Club started a pop group in the 60's and because of the Sion connection we called ourselves the "Siontist". We practiced in an old double decker bus at the farm that was opposite the church at that time. We did play quite a bit on Saturday nights at the Rainbow Room (where the Iceland store is now) and we even played in a few services in here.

As you can imagine a building like this can be expensive to maintain. We were very grateful to Maureen Le Feuvre, when she retired from the Nursery School, for giving the business to the Church. With the help of Liz Blampied this has enabled us to continue running Sion up until now. However with more and more regulations and the inability to find a qualified Manager, the Nursery has to close at the end of this term.

I will sorely miss Sion – not the building which I do not consider to be aesthetically pleasing whatsoever. But I **will** miss all the people whose lives have touched mine through this place, Sion Chapel has been the place of lots of happy memories.

We are all very sad that this era has come to an end.

Richard Dupre

Richard's CV in church and parish

Sunday School teacher (1969-1971) Church Steward (in the eighties) (Welcome Steward (about 20 years) Property steward (about 35 years)

CO (1980 – 83) Vingtenier (1983-1992) Centenier (1992-1997) Procureur du Bien Public (2001-2003) Connétable 2003-2006

I really enjoyed all my positions, especially Connétable but I did not enjoy the States work that went along with it.

A REVIEW OF OUR TIME IN JERSEY



Andrew & Monica at a friend's wedding

Having enjoyed five special years in Jersey it is now time for Monica and me to move on. We are moving to Cambridge where I will study a Masters degree at Wesley House as part of the process of becoming an accredited Methodist Minister. Monica meanwhile will transfer from the company she works for on the Island to their main UK headquarters also thankfully in Cambridge. We will leave with a mixture of expectation to the future and trusting in the Lord's guidance and goodness. There will also be that real sense of sadness at leaving behind so many special memories and good friends.

On arriving in Jersey we were quickly embraced into the life of our local fellowship at Samares Methodist where I have been working in Youth and Community Development. Friendships developed soon led to 'open door' opportunities in the community. It reminds us that Church life is the best way to get to know people and feel part of the Island scene. If one is new to a place it can be a lonely experience. This need not be the case when you 'plug' into an active church - what a blessing!

Warm welcome

We have also had a sense of warm welcome from churches of many denominational flavours. It's been exciting to be a small part of churches working together particularly with regard to youth. It's with anticipation that there is increasing evidence of churches supporting and encouraging each other across the island. This is a valuable witness and enabler for God to work powerfully amongst us.

Our biggest wrench will be to leave our home fellowship at Samares Methodist led by Henry Le Ruez. We will miss them all as indeed we will miss the wider Methodist circuit that have unwaveringly

been supportive and encouraging, giving wise counsel and direction as big decisions have needed to be made. This will be an abiding memory.

May God increasing pour his love and mercy on the people of Jersey. God bless,

Andrew and Monica Bird

New Minister at St. Aubin



Hi my name's Gill Daniel. You may be seeing a lot more of me soon so let me tell you a little bit about myself: I come from a farming background in North Cornwall, having assisted my husband Dave with farming for over 20 years. Dave and I have two grown up children, Scott and Lisa, who live in Cornwall too.

In September 2008 Dave gallantly agreed to give up farming to come to Birmingham with me once I had been accepted for Ordination Training, so we have experienced quite a culture shock to say the least, moving from possibly the second smallest village in Cornwall into arguably the second biggest city in the UK. But the experience has been both amazing and beneficial, from the multi cultural ethos, to the shopper's paradise, the 'forbidden delights' of nearby Cadbury's world, and the golden opportunity for me to visit India, and for Dave to visit Kenya. So in effect we felt like small fries freed from the ties of a goldfish bowl to swim in the wild and exciting open sea! Yet there's more!...the wild sea brings us to a beautiful Island, and like most people we have fallen in love with Jersey and the lovely people we have already met, and are excited about God's call, and the mysteries of ministry to come.

Welcome Service: Sept.1st at 7.30 at St Aubin

John Gottrel



John died on May His son Stephen spoke at his funeral service, conducted at La Rocque by Rev Graeme Halls, Ruth Baudians and Rev. Geoff Nowell

“ First I would like to say thank you to all of you being here this morning! Some of you will have known Dad for longer than I have. Perhaps through work in Hill Street or the Methodist circuit and others as friends and family but I knew him as his son.

So these are a few memories that I have. Dad was born on the 25th May 1926 but my mind goes back to Dad when he was 12 years old, this photograph shows him running in a race at school looking eager, determined and has a smile on his face.

But two years later and it was the beginning of the occupation and for a boy of 14 life would bring many challengers, some more dangerous than others. Dad was not one for taking risks, yet he told me that he had a small radio. It was when this (crystal set) needed repairing that Dad decided to ride his bike from Grouville to Trinity in broad day light to have it repaired. If he had been caught he could have been in serious trouble. Not like dad.

But he must have liked riding his bike and keeping fit because when he started work he would ride into town and when he started courting Mum in 1946 he would ride all the way to St Peters for tea before heading back to Grouville in the dark.

That's what you call love.

Mum and Dad lived for a time just across the road at No 1 Windsor cottages nice and close to the

chapel and the youth club where many young people would meet in the hall and in the home. Dad and Mum always had time for people.

But the cottage soon became too small when my three sisters arrived and so in 1960 they moved to Roseneath where I was born.

The love and hospitality that was shown at Windsor cottage moved with the family to Roseneath and there was always an open door to anybody who needed it, from Sunday lunch with the minister to the homeless looking for a bed.

Dad was always smartly dressed and would often be seen with jacket, tie and briefcase in hand, unless he was in the garden or on the beach and this photo shows Dad in a playful mood, sitting with the family on the beach with nothing on except his shorts, sunglasses and a tie around his neck.

But you wouldn't find Dad on the beach very often. His way of relaxing was music, especially playing the piano and singing with Mum at home or playing the organ with the choir here in full voice.

His other love was his garden and many of us will remember Dad there. Early in the morning preparing the ground, and after work unwinding planting beans, carrots, potatoes..... the list goes on. It was only when the stars came out that Dad would stop and enjoy his evening meal, so he could return to the garden in the morning.

The garden means a lot to the family and all 7 grand children have enjoyed playing at Roseneath at some time. Dad was immensely proud of them and always enquired after them when he called. We can only hope that the values that Dad instilled in us, his children will continue with his grand children also. Dad's example as a gentleman will be a good reminder for us.

HOW He provided for his family, had respect for the law, showed love to his neighbour but most of all having a healthy respect for his God and creator.”

Passion Play ~ Oberammergau 2010

On Monday 17th May, ten local Methodists set off with great expectations for the world renowned Passion Play at Oberammergau in Bavaria and our expectations were to be well fulfilled. As others make the pilgrimage between now and September, they too can justifiably look forward to a great experience.

We were to spend the Wednesday and Thursday in Oberammergau before proceeding to the magnificent Lake Garda in Italy, a part of our package. The village is truly beautiful, nestling under a rugged, rocky peak, topped with a simple Christian cross. The houses and shops nearly all have walls beautifully decorated with paintings of folk tale scenes, Biblical scenes, bishops, saints and all manner of humble folk about their daily activities.

No less ornate is the magnificent baroque Roman Catholic Church. It is covered from floor to ceiling, on all its walls and in every corner with the most opulent decoration, whether painted, as the great dome above, or with wood and stone statues and decoration, often glistening with gold leaf. In contrast to many other churches we saw on our travels, it was full of light as well as colour. But this is a living church not a museum piece. Hanging on strings were four or five posters made by the children, illustrating Christian themes such as “Jesus is the Bread of Life”. All this was good preparation for the great spectacular we were to witness in the afternoon and evening.

Performances of the Passion Play began 376 years ago, at Whitsun 1634. This was the Village Council’s response to their vow the previous year that they would honour our Lord in this way every decade, if only they could be spared from the ravages of the plague, which in the previous year had claimed 80 lives. It is said that from that date there were no further deaths from the plague!

To this day, it is still the town council that is responsible for the production, making sure that they get the best advice and ultimately vetting all aspects from textual changes to the selection of the actors and other participants. To be one of those 2,400 participants you have to be born in Oberammergau and all the men playing Jewish roles have to grow their hair and beards for the duration. There will be some 101 performances over a twenty week period, in front of up to 4,720 people at each sitting. Having first been acted out before a couple of hundred people in the village churchyard, they now expect to see audiences of half a million each season!



The large auditorium

Each time it is performed – and we were witnessing the 41st Passion Play – it has been painstakingly revised for virtually all of those 41 seasons. Over the decades and centuries, yes the basic story remains the same, but a whole spectrum of emphases and meanings have been drawn out, using the best scholarship available, sensitive to contemporary beliefs and striving to meet the needs of its audiences. The present Director, Christian Stückl (who incidentally co-directed Germany’s World Cup opening ceremony), for his 3rd staging of the Passion was anxious to portray a Messiah with a revolutionary message of love for God and for all people but presented in an uncompromisingly forthright and often provocative way. In this post holocaust age, great care was taken to reject any anti-Jewish sentiment. Much thought and preparation went into the whole production to get it right for our time. Careful attention was given to the politics of the situation and how the characters, with all their different motives, related to each other, especially Jesus, Judas, Peter, Caiaphas and Pilate, not to forget Mary, and the supportive Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea and Gamaliel. The betrayals of Judas and Peter were most sensitively compared and the contrast between their responses to what they had done, drawn out poignantly and sympathetically. Most of all they wanted to produce a thought-provoking, meditative production and away from any simple, pietistic portrayal. It is telling that the production team were by their own admission very aware that even in as little as the last twenty or even ten years,

knowledge of the story, which could once have been taken as read can no longer be taken for granted. (Where have you heard that before?) Some of the cast even travelled to Israel and visited the Holocaust Museum there, as well as the Biblical sites, as part of their preparation.

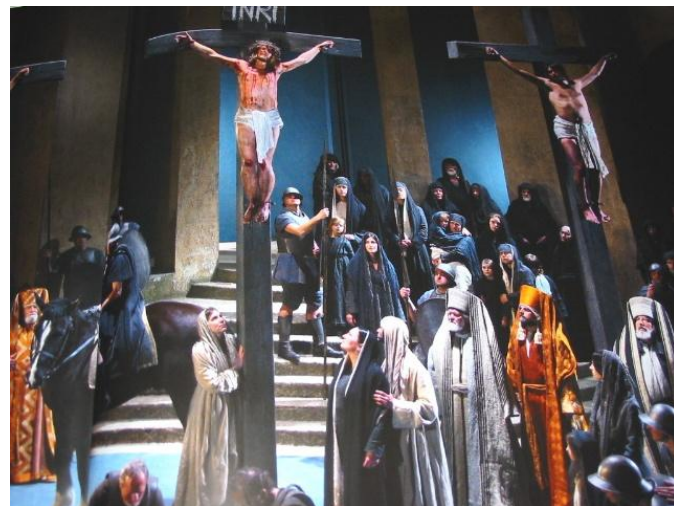


Last Supper

In the afternoon we assembled in the huge 4,720 seater auditorium of the great Passion Theatre for the first two and a half hour part of the Play. Impressive were the crowd scenes with children and highly well-trained animals from obedient sheep to horses and even a camel! With the beautiful music, first introduced in 1811, and excellent singing from the impressive, white robed 48-strong choir with soloists, the Old Testament *tableaux vivants* made perfect sense as they punctuated the New Testament story. Careful attention was given to the historical realities of this time in a drama that seeks to 'reach deep into life, seeking to convey hope ... and create a lasting inner connection with the divine'. As it said in our booklet, "It is a mystery play that illuminates the Passion of Jesus both as a drama and as an opportunity for meditation".

From five to seven thirty we had time for a meal and to think on what we had already experienced. Then it was back to the theatre, armed with our blankets, for the second, three hour performance. Following the text was no longer possible in the dark but, we could follow the story well enough. There were very moving scenes with Judas and Peter as already mentioned and the simple solemnity of the Passover/Last Supper meal,

conveyed so movingly, as one of our friends has commented, by the simple removal of a stole from their shoulders to the head drawing out the deep significance of this meal they had together. With increasingly harrowing scenes, we were led to the crucifixion itself which was most impressive in the way it was made real. And finally the resurrection scenes were briefly but very cleverly and sensitively depicted; a wonderful and memorable performance to be sure.



Crucifixion

Presented as 'both drama and an opportunity for meditation' most profound in its effect, I would say they succeeded magnificently. Something to treasure for a long time to come.

David Marett

N.B. Photos taken from the literature provided at the play

Liz Hunter comments

I had expected to be particularly moved by the Crucifixion scene but it was the Last Supper that found me sat mesmerized as Jesus gently poured water over the disciples feet, as two young children brought bread and wine to the scene, as they all pulled their prayer shawls over their heads and Jesus broke the bread and share it around, raised the cup and passed it amongst them. It was simple, poignant and the most beautiful thing I've seen.....God pouring himself out for us in humility and love.

And then the resurrection.....one simple flame as the figure of Jesus appeared on stage. One by one more flame torches appeared, lighting up the stage, lighting up the world. It was the culmination of six hours during which we'd been taken through the last week of Jesus' life in words and music and tableaux. It was the gospel, it was amazing.

John Dorey Germain (1915-2010)



With the passing of John Dorey Germain, St. Martin and its Methodist Church lost one of its great souls and indeed one of its father figures. Throughout a long life John was a true gentle man, a man of faith and total integrity. He was born of John and Annie Germain into a well respected parish family on the 26th October 1915. With his parents and four sisters he grew up on the family farm, enjoyed his education at the redoubtable Miss Touzel's School, and following the family tradition, the Chapel, its worship and activities became a focal point in his life. The foundations of his lifelong faith were laid here, foundations that were solid and firm. It was a realistic, questioning faith and one that found its expression essentially in practical ways and in relationships. Soon he became a Sunday School teacher, impressing his elders who were pleased when he took on the post of Sunday School Superintendent, a task he did diligently working opposite the late Raymond Le Gresley, from the late 40s to the early 60s. Meanwhile he also became a Trustee of the church and at various times a Church Steward, Church Treasurer and a key member of decision making groups such as the old 'Leaders' Meeting and later Church Council. Colleagues always trusted the wisdom and practical, good sense of his advice. Always willing to help with fund raising, John demonstrated all the graces of a good team leader, gently cajoling folk into doing things they had never thought possible. It was very hard to say "no" to John! He also possessed vision and one of the great legacies that was largely his inspiration, was the acquisition of a parcel of land which he negotiated with great skill, to make a car park that has become such an invaluable asset for the church.

It was this practical attitude to his faith that motivated his service to the broader community, in equal measure to his sense of family tradition. Over the years, he served his parish as a Constable's Officer (1955-58), a Vingtenier (1958-63) and Centenier (1971-81). He also became a Procureur du Bien Publique for several years and, after some years as Deputy Registrar for the Parish, he became the Parish Registrar; a superb record of honorary service. In later times particularly, he devoted many hours of his time and for several years to

the work of the Samaritans in their quiet, unobtrusive way. Then there were those many hours spent at the various hospitals visiting folk and bringing them his own very special cheer; sometimes people he knew who were ill but just as likely someone he spotted as he toured the wards and especially those who might not have many visitors.

Cycling to Grouville, a young John Germain began to court Miss Gwen Baudains and in 1936 they were married at St. Martin, starting a lifelong relationship of love and devotion, never more apparent than in the last years of Gwen's life. Adventurously, they were among the first to set out on their honeymoon from the newly completed Jersey Airport. Soon they were to raise their own family of four children, John, Ann, Peter and David, who all testify to the great debt they owe their parents. We extend our sincere our condolences to all of them and their families.

Essentially a family man, John was a great role model to his own children and grand-children and for ever a favourite uncle to his more extended family. John, his son, gave us many affectionate and often amusing illustrations of this lovely family man, during his funeral service. Even disciplinary matters were dealt with with great wisdom and good humour. But the family did not end there. In latter years particularly, he very much took on the role of honorary 'uncle' within both church and Parish community. Many have commented on the welcome he gave them as they came into church, perhaps for the first time, or when they first arrived to live in the parish. And these would not be isolated occasions but invariably followed up in a spirit of genuine interest and care. Others have also commented on his qualities as a great 'encourager'. Local preachers, Sunday School teachers and post-holders of every description were made to feel valued, and, in difficult times, spurred on to greater things.

Above all he had one great gift – knowing when the time had come to take a back seat and from there he never sought to 'drive'. Instead he would always seek to encourage his successors, give wise counsel when they sought it and re-assure when they were in doubt. Negative comments rarely, if ever, passed his lips and criticisms and scepticism would at most raise a gentle shrug of the shoulders, a wry little smile and perhaps a quizzical, "Jé n' sait pas?" in Jèrriais. A true Christian soul and a gentle man. He will be remembered with the fondest of memories and affection.

Un Saint Martinais

ECG 2010 - a 'first timers' perspective



A group photo for ECG 2010

For those who are wondering - ECG stands for Equipping, Calling, Going. This conference was set up when Easter People stopped. After a couple of years of 'nothing' it was felt that there was still a need for a conference where people could 'recharge' their batteries and be 'fed' and 'watered' by God's word so 'ECG - A Heart for the Nations' was born.

The journey

WOW, What an amazing experience and a real blessing!! - Now, where do I start? - at the beginning - sounds like a very good place to start! That was July 2009 when the flights to Liverpool (the airport the Jersey Group use) became available and one of the provisional bookings was not taken up. I was approached to see if I would like to go. So, I checked with my husband (who incidentally is not a Christian) whether he minded being left with the 3 kids for a week in order that I could go to ECG a Christian Conference in Llandudno, he said "yes" (praise the Lord), so the flights and passes were booked - there was no going back!

Time then flew past and Easter Monday - 5th April 2010 arrived - my 'taxi' in the form of Anley Richardson (as Mary was also going) appeared and it was time for farewells to the family. We met the rest of the group at the airport, and very shortly the flight was called. I had a mix of feelings, excitement, apprehension and anticipation - I had never attended a big conference in the UK but I love New Wine & Keswick which are held in Jersey each year.

We lunched at Liverpool airport then boarded the coach and set off for Llandudno which was a lovely scenic drive. Checked in to our hotels and went for a wander along the Prom and down the old Victorian pier. The Monday evening was free as the conference was not due to start until 7pm on

the Tuesday evening so a group of us caught the train to the cinema to watch a film called 'The Blind Side' well worth watching if you haven't seen it.

The programme

Tuesday morning a few of us went up the 'Great Orme' - which on this occasion was a very 'wind swept' experience when we got to the top! - We travelled up by tram and walked back down via the old copper mines which were very interesting to visit. The afternoon was spent picking up our passes and programmes and trying to decide what events/seminars we would attend - so much to choose from.

Dinner was at 5.15pm each evening in order that we could get to the conference centre for the evening sessions which started at 7pm, there was a choice of two each evening the Theatre Celebration - which I attended - and the Arena Celebration to which the 15-18 year old group were invited. The worship in our session was led by Kev Whitmore who was an amazing worship leader. Each evening we had a different speaker(s) the various themes were;

- * Everything was Good - Genesis 1 - (First Encounters)

- * A Transformed Life - Luke 7 - (The Widow at Nain)

- * A Transformed Community - John 4 - (Women at the Well)

- * A Transformed Church - Revelation 3 - (The Church at Laodicea)

- * A Transformed World - Revelation 21 (The Final Encounter)

Each speaker was very different but the teachings were very thought provoking and relevant to today.

Unfortunately due to having to leave on the Sunday morning to get our flight home we missed the Sunday night session which was;

- Go Do It! - Matthew 28 (A Close Encounter)

The morning sessions started at 9.30am, so breakfast was early! A choice of seminars was available from 9.30 to 10.30 with a wide variety of subjects covered, including Building a better world, Building a better Church & New Generation Leader. Each morning there was also the opportunity to attend an All Age Worship session hosted by Big Ministries if you didn't fancy a seminar. There were also the children and youth activities taking place alongside the adult events.

This was followed by the bible study session at 11.00am which each morning was led by Dr Steve Brady who is the principal of Moorlands College near Bournemouth and a trustee of the Keswick Convention. The theme was 'God's Transforming Mission'

*Focusing on Essentials: Nehemiah 1 (Prayer, and God's preparation of a key leader)

* Sharing the Details: Nehemiah 2 & 3 (Rebuilding a better world, teamwork etc.)

* Weathering the Storms: Nehemiah 4-6 (2 parts – hassles in kingdom, building from without and within)

Steve Brady was an amazing teacher he really brought Nehemiah to life and made it relevant to today too – fantastic bible study each morning.

Afternoon activities

There were afternoon seminar sessions available, family film sessions as well as other activities going on along the prom organised by the ECG team – including a mobile skate park & ice skating. On the whole I opted to take the afternoons off and go for a stroll or shop (others made use of the dry ski slope to practice their skiing or had fun on the toboggan run!) apart from Thursday afternoon when I signed up to be on the litter picking mission team. ECG had three teams going out into the community to show love & kindness. The litter picking group were working next to a B & Q store in a disused warehouse area – as well as loads of litter some brand new B & Q items were found hidden in the shrubs and a total of £160.00 worth of stock was returned – B & Q were amazed that we had returned the items and the amount returned

They were so pleased that they made a donation to ECG. A skip full of rubbish was accumulated in two hours of litter picking!

Fringe events

After the main session in the evening there was a selection of 'Fringe' events to attend if you still had the energy, these included Christian musicians in concert, Quizzyoke (a cross between a quiz and karaoke), live debates & comedy and magic. I attended a couple of these events but on the whole by this time I was ready for my bed!!

Final reflections

The whole experience was amazing and a real blessing. I would like to thank everyone who made it possible for me to attend. I know I won't be there in 2011 as the conference starts the day the Jersey schools go back after Easter 28th April, but I do hope to get back to ECG at some point in the future and I would encourage you all that if you get the opportunity to go – GRASP IT!

Ali Connan

ECG dates are 28 April - 02 May 2011 but the group are going for a week from 25 April, Easter Monday - 02 May. Contact Katie Norman if you are interested

Tel: 482364, e-mail: katie.bill@jerseymail.co.uk

Spiritual care of the dying

I've been part of the voluntary chaplaincy team at Jersey Hospice Care for three years now and the need for spiritual care in the healthcare context is an area of ministry that is particularly close to my heart. To be able to guide those reaching the end of their life to find at least some meaning, some sense, to their earthly existence is not only a privilege but, I believe, part of my calling as one of God's people. So to have the opportunity to spend the first two weeks of my sabbatical at St Christopher's Hospice was a wonderful experience. Situated in Sydenham, near the Crystal Palace park, this is where the hospice movement started with Dame Cecily Sanders and the development of palliative and holistic care for the terminally ill. Working alongside the full-time chaplain at St Christopher's I was enabled not only to share in, and then lead, the weekly acts of worship but also to sit alongside those in their last moments of life, to come alongside grieving families and staff, and to be included in ward meetings as part of a care team. It was all I could have asked for as an experience to deepen my understanding of the role of a spiritual care team in a hospice environment, especially as St Christopher's has a great reference library and I was able to read some of the most recent publications concerning the holistic nature of healthcare.

Two memories stand out from that fortnight. Firstly the afternoon sat with a lady who knew that she was dying and was going home for her last days. Her wish. But before she was discharged she asked to speak to someone.....she'd been a churchgoer in her early life (she was 81) though hadn't been near a church building for years except for weddings and funerals.

She was restless when I saw her....anxious that her lifestyle and attitude to others hadn't been what it should have been. We prayed and through words and a prayer card she was reassured of God's love for her and the forgiveness that Jesus won for her on the Cross. Her tears and her acceptance of that amazing grace led to a poignant moment.....not my doing but God'sshe died at home as she wished.....she died at peace with herself, and with God.

And then the other memory...the informal act of worship on a Thursday afternoon when people were invited to choose a flower from a mixed bouquet and then say why they'd chosen that flower. Joe (not his real name) chose a lily and then described how growing up in the West Indies he remembered his grandmother and mother cutting the lilies in the fields to box up and send for export. He wept as he recalled those distant days and reflected on the short time he had left. He had no real faith but that time of sharing filled a spiritual need for him that was as significant as the last rites that were said later that same day by the Roman Catholic priest with one of his church.

The spiritual care of the dying goes beyond just the obviously religious and involves the very depth of what it means to be human. The responsibility of a spiritual care team rests in helping the patient to answer those questions.....who am I? Why am I? What does this all mean? And that may be through prayer. It may be through facilitating a visit from their own faith leader or representative. It may simply be by listening to their story. It was, it is, the greatest privilege and I thank God and the church for allowing me that special two weeks in a very special place.

After touching base at home for a couple of days I then went over to Devon for two weeks to spend some time with my Dad. We visited family and friends and sorted out some of the stuff Dad had stored in the roof – that was interesting. One box contained some of my old school exercise books – I always thought I'd done quite well at school but maybe not!! The lasting memory of that fortnight was that for the first time in five years I actually took the car over on the ferry. The trip from here to Weymouth was fine but coming back.....now I know why I usually fly!

Easter with the girls and then Emma and I joined a group from across the Circuit to go to the ECG Conference in Llandudno. We arrived at the airport to meet up with everyone and it was then

that I realised that being away from my usual church responsibilities and creating that space in which to find some spiritual refreshment also meant that I was slightly detached from everyone. I didn't know what had been going on at church, I'd missed all the Easter services (I worshipped at other churches and explored worship on TV/radio and the internet whilst I was on sabbatical) and it took a little while to just feel part of the conversation and relationship of the group. For a while there I really appreciated what it might be like for those folk who, for whatever reason, have drifted away from church and are trying to get back into the fellowship but don't quite feel connected to those people any more.

ECG was an amazing time of sharing and laughter and just being renewed by God's Spirit. The worship was uplifting and inspiring and the main speaker, Steve Brady, the Principal of Moorlands Bible College, has a great sense of humour, bringing scripture alive in a memorable and thought provoking way. This type of conference isn't everyone's cup of tea however for me to have the opportunity to hear some solid Bible exposition, to be part of lively and uninhibited worship and to simply share in conversation and prayer with other Christians is what recharges my batteries and helps equip me for my ministry. I came back from Wales with a great sense of excitement about the future.....there are some great things happening in the church as a whole, some of which we might be able to use here in Jersey, others which might stimulate our thinking and openness to God's vision and leading as we seek new ways to be His church in the 21st century.

Rev. Liz Hunter

More about her sabbatical activities next time

Women's Network Conference

'Moving and Travelling on' 16 – 18 April 2010

This was the first residential conference organised jointly by Women's Network in the Methodist Church and the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. These two organisations (WN) and (WFMUCW) are already restructuring and will merge to create a **new movement Methodist Women in Britain (MwiB)** which is due to be fully launched in 2011. It will incorporate the aims of both existing organisations but aims to go beyond both! Barbara Rumfitt preparing for her new role as President in Jersey, following Barbara Coote, and Gladys Renouf were among the 200 present. They were joined by Lynn White at the



The programme

The weekend programme, Friday dinner - Sunday 4.00 was very professionally planned and executed and created a most informative and enjoyable experience. There were 6 Bible Study sessions and 2 Seminars (a choice from a list of 9 wide ranging options) It was hard to choose as they all looked most interesting. The Bible studies were part led from the front, then table talk in groups with questions on the topic being addressed. Everyone participated well, as could be heard from the noise in the main hall, and a very friendly atmosphere was quickly established.

Between each of these sessions we sang, 200 of us, no musician, no music, all unaccompanied and wonderful, as we sang some of our old favourites and learned many new songs.

Each day began with early morning prayers at 8 a.m. with various options to choose from ranging from a quiet prayerful walk around the lake, "New Every Morning" a lovely experience for both of us and led by Pam Turner who some of you may remember her from a previous visit to Jersey, and 6 others e.g. traditional Iona morning prayers., prayer with a Russian Icon, reflecting on the

transition experience of Elisha and Elijah (Gladys found this very thought provoking and moving) plus others based on the theme of pilgrimage in the Psalms for instance.

After prayers it was breakfast then 4 Bible studies before lunch!! fascinating and the time was flying by. Lunch was a most welcome break It was followed by a choice of Line dancing, or a craft session. It was such a beautiful day that we declined both of these and decided instead to spend time in the gardens with Lynn White with whom we had had little conversation since we had checked in. I think many others had the same idea as little groups were forming on all the lawns and cameras were clicking furiously.

Our 2 chosen seminars kept us busy between 4.30 and 6.45pm I attended "Story telling" in which we heard various stories of transition as experienced by a number of black British women attending the conference. So many heart rending and horrific experiences we heard and yet these women who fled for their lives, have managed to keep their families together and still thank and Praise the Lord Their messages to us were: "Trust in the Lord and Smile" ! "Don't stop praying about refugees and other countries, these people need your help" "There are still "brick walls" to be faced and we need to encourage. All ARE EQUAL.

Final morning

Sunday - early Morning prayers and breakfast then our last Bible Study session "The Journey Home" and a discussion on what are we focussing on - an earthly place? - or a heavenly home?

During the coffee break that followed Barbara and I discussed how very uncertain our journey home was for both of us due to flight cancellations because of the volcanic ash.!

A business meeting was next on the Agenda to discuss the new structure for the merger into MwiB and some of the topics addressed were

The process and deadline dates for election of officers; Finance; Magnet change in status, its aims for the future., need for volunteers; Future events

Then Sunday lunch and saying our farewells as we planned our own "moving on", but not before we shared in the afternoon Communion Service in the chapel. A lovely service with a very reverent atmosphere and a most delightful feeling of all at one with each other. We were all sent on our way with Joy and Peace in our hearts.

It is good to be reminded that we may meet together in very small groups locally and sometimes struggle as numbers dwindle. But as individuals alone, or in groups, we all belong to a much bigger group **The Methodist Women in Britain**. Don't forget the name, you will be hearing much more about it in future.

Gladys Renouf

Good Friday service

This year the Good Friday service at St Helier Methodist Centre was planned and led by Rev Billy Slatter. It included the hymns 'My song is love unknown', 'There is a green hill far away' and 'The servant king'

We saw a clip from the film 'Schindler's list' where Oscar Schindler bargains with the camp commander for some Jews to be taken on as workers in his factory, ending the question 'What is your life worth? This was followed by Graham Kendrick's powerful song 'Paid on the nail', accompanied by a range of images.(Text below)

The Gospel was read from Mark 15, then the President, Rev David Gamble, was led forward and nailed to the cross at the front of the church with several loud blows. One verse of 'When I survey the wondrous cross' was sung while we remained seated.

The service continued with a soloist singing 'Mary's boy child' before the remaining verses of 'When I survey..'

People left in silence as the Taize chorus 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom' was led by the choir.

It was a memorable service that fitted the season.

PAID ON THE NAIL by Graham Kendrick

Is a rich man worth more than a poor man?
Is a stranger worth less than a friend?
Is a baby worth more than an old man?
Your beginning worth more than your end?
Is a president worth more than his assassin?
Does your value decrease with your crime?
Like when Christ took the place of Barabbas,
Would you say he was wasting his time?

Well, how much do you think you are worth?
Will anyone stand up and say?
Would you say that a man is worth nothing,
Until someone is willing to pay?

I suppose that you think that you matter,
Well, how much do you matter, to whom?
It's much easier at night when with friends and
bright lights,

Than much later alone in your room.
Do you think they'll miss one in a billion
When you finish this old human race?
Does it really make much of a difference,
When your friends have forgotten your face?

Well, how much do you think you are worth?
Will anyone stand up and say?
Would you say that a man is worth nothing,
Until someone is willing to pay?

If you heard that your life had been valued,
That a price had been paid on the nail,
Would you ask what was traded, how much and
who paid it,
Who was he and what was his name?
If you heard that his name was called Jesus,
Would you say that the price was too dear?
Held to the cross, not by nails but by love,
It was you who broke his heart, not the spear.

Would you say you are worth what it cost him?
You say 'no,' but the price stays the same.
If it don't make you cry, laugh it off, pass him by,
But just remember the day when you throw it away,
That he paid what he thought you were worth.

How much do you think he is worth then?
Will anyone stand up and say?
Tell me, what are you willing to give him,
In return for the price that he paid?

Ed Le Quesne

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son..

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know, But it all starts with U.

Christian Aid Lent lunches

This year the aim was to raise £5000 for a project in Burkina Faso to bring food security to 88,000 people in Passore province Northern Burkina Faso.

Working in partnership with Christian Aid's partner, ODE, the project will

- * set up community market gardens
- * provide initial stocks of seeds of new varieties that can survive in the harsh environment
- * improve access to small loans and credit to allow people to work their way out of poverty
- * provide training to support farmer-led crop research

* purchase equipment for drying fresh produce so farmers can feed themselves and sell the excess all year round.

ODE = Office de Developpement des Eglises Evangeliques

Thanks to the hard work of many, over £8000 was raised. The E.U. added £15,000 to our first £5000. The balance of £3000 was moved to a second project in Burkina Faso, which attracted a further £12,000 from the E.U. So in total the people in Burkina Faso have benefitted by £35,000 from the Lent lunches in Jersey !!

Ed Le Quesne

Clock from Ghana

During a Sunday service recently, Francis Quasnah, who had been home to Ghana for a month's holiday, presented St. Helier Methodist Centre with the gift of a beautiful clock in the shape of his home country. We are very grateful to Francis and will be placing this clock where it will be admired by all who see it and will remind us of Christian friends across the world.

Flat screen TV wanted

Are you upgrading to High Definition TV?! If you are and just happen to have a (non-HD) 40" or 42" flat screen set to dispose of, St. Martin's Methodist Church believe that they could give it a very good home. If you can help please contact the Revd. Billy Slatter or David Marett on 862447.

Flat wanted for Samares

Have you got an empty granny flat or empty private area in your home begging for company? Accommodation needed for one year (or more) for responsible student Youth & Community intern working with Samares Methodist Church.

Start date August 2010.

Can you support a student in their training and development by helping with their accomodation?

Please contact Henry Le Ruez on 481335.

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All contributions for the 89th issue and offers of help to Ed by September 20th