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Welcome Service at St. Aubin



New Superintendent, Graeme Halls with Rev. Gill Daniel and husband Dave.

On Wednesday September 1st, the church at St Aubin was full for a welcome by Rev. Billy Slatter to the new District Chairman, Rev. David Hinchliffe (not Hinchcliffe) on his first official duty.

The service opened with the grand hymn 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of Creation' sung with enthusiasm. After prayers, St Brelade rector Mark Bond read the OT lesson from Isaiah 61 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me to declare good news to the poor....' then Barbara Le Ruez read from Ephesians 4 'Live in unity with Christ' The hymn 'Lord God your Love has called us here' was followed by the gospel reading from Matthew 14 'Jesus walks on water' read by Ed Le Quesne.

In his sermon, David opened with a story about Trislanders, a novelty he will quickly get used to in his District duties. He then drew three points from the Gospel lesson: Jesus' gracious invitation to the disciples to follow him, the extraordinary

bravery of Peter in accepting it and then the unfailing love shown by Jesus that rescued the floundering Peter. He joked that Graeme Halls with his experience of Methodist CPD would be able to encourage Gill Daniel as she begins her ministry. He used the saying that Jesus is on the way and at the journey's end to encourage all of us, lay and clerical, to be a Pilgrim.

Graeme Halls was formally confirmed as our Superintendent and we asked for God's blessing on him.

Gill Daniel was welcomed as probationer minister at St. Aubin and given the authorisation to preside at the Lord's Super, a great privilege said David. John Le Gresley welcomed her on behalf of the circuit and she was also greeted by church and civic leaders. In response, Gill thanked everyone for her welcome gifts and asked all to join her in sharing God's all-embracing love.

The hymn 'God's Spirit is in my heart' was a very appropriate follow-on. Graeme Halls and Henry Le Ruez offered thanks and a gift to Andrew and Monica Bird for their 5 years of work in Jersey and good wishes for Andrew's study at Wesley House, Cambridge.

The song 'Father I place into your hands' was followed by intercessions led by Rev. Liz Hunter.

The final song was "Come on and celebrate" before we moved to the Hall for refreshments, via a collection for the MRDF Pakistan Appeal. **Ed Le Quesne**

Letter from the Super

Dear friends,

We are at the beginning of another Methodist year, treasurers are preparing accounts, Church Councils are taking place, Harvest Festivals are nearly over and it won't be long before our thoughts turn to Christmas. I am not wishing time away but this is part of the regular life of our Church and churches. And then into this comes the whole issue of change. After one year here I have now picked up the mantle of Superintendent, which is a great honour and privilege, as well as Synod Secretary for the District. We also welcome our new probationer minister, Rev Gill Daniel, we have a new fully accredited local preacher in Katie Norman and in your churches you may have new stewards or other officers. Since the last edition Sion has closed its doors for the final time, but during the autumn new work amongst young people will be established in three of our churches as well as at Les Frères through Steph Cormack Dexter.

Jesus told his listeners that the wise person is the one who takes new things and old things out of his storeroom. We deeply value our traditions, and our familiar patterns, but we should only value them if they enhance the life, worship, witness and mission of our churches. The truth is that if we do not change, and don't just tolerate but embrace and celebrate change, then the opportunity to express the traditional will disappear. Baldly, if we do not change as churches, (also true as people), we die.

One of the significant changes that has happened in the Methodist Church is the way we can now use our Circuit Advance Fund (the place where monies from the sale of property is deposited) has changed. Up until very recently only some of the money could be used for ministry, the rest was ring fenced for property. Now we are able to use it as we see fit, and the circuit in recent years has fully embraced this and the circuit policy clearly states that we will use our resources to support mission not property. This can be best seen in the lay workers we now employ and the result of what they are doing is evident across the circuit. We do of course support churches that wish to improve their premises, but to access CAF monies it will have to be shown that there is a mission purpose to the work.

Where the difference is being seen most is our engagement with young people and their families,

and not primarily through the traditional means we are used to, but through new ways that fully engage with young people where they are. We are encouraging all of the churches to examine their mission this autumn, and to dare to see where God is calling each church to more fully reach out into their communities and the life of the Island, and if there is real hope and an opportunity to be explored the circuit is committed to supporting you, so take a risk, like Peter as he stepped out of the boat into the storm and the deep, and you will find a partner to work with you, in the form of the circuit.

A very happy Methodist New Year.

Graeme

Gill (**Gill Daniel**) writes

When Graeme asked me in advance if I had a favourite hymn for my welcome service, it was without hesitation that I said "God's Spirit is in my heart", because in the playing of that hymn that something magical happened to me many years ago; As I was singing along to the chorus in my car on the way to a Church meeting it was *almost* as if heaven opened up to me, and *almost* as if I was transported into a rapturous chorus sung by heaven itself! ...Well, words are so inadequate that it wasn't *exactly* like that, but the sensation was totally indescribable, and it has always been a very special scripture for me and my individually tailored call. So when I found at my welcome service that the reading was Isaiah 61, which for me has always encapsulated that hymn, my heart was strangely warmed, because it seemed that God's call to my new ministry here in Jersey was truly affirmed.

From the delight of first discovering that I would be stationed in Jersey Dave and I have never looked back. The thrill of such a stunning Church on a picturesque bay, and the joy of accompanying such warm, caring people whose hearts love to serve God, seems, like my waistline, to increase every day! My heart is getting fuller as I am becoming more and more immersed in the ministry I adore, alongside people I have already come to love.

Dave shares with me in the delight of this new adventure, and we look forward to sharing this enchantment with the numerous guests we know will be coming over to visit! I only hope they like seafood, Jersey ice-creams, and eating out!

ECG 2011 Llandudno Tues 26 Apr – 03 May

Six months have flown past since a party of us from Jersey were in Llandudno praising and sharing fellowship at the amazing ECG 2010 Conference and it's time for arrangements for 2011. I anticipate that we will be flying to Manchester.

Due to the conference clashing with an extremely popular Victorian Fayre which 'takes over' Llandudno, it has been very difficult for ECG delegates to secure accommodation. We have been very fortunate that the Kensington Hotel, where we have stayed for the last two years and which is ideally located, have honoured our custom and are holding a limited amount of rooms for us. Unfortunately they are not able to offer single rooms or rooms for sole occupancy on this occasion. The rate for 7 nights Dinner/Bed/Breakfast is £278.25 pp, which works out at £39.75 per day a huge saving on the Kensington's normal rate of £50 plus. They really have done us proud over the last two years and I know that many of you have favourite rooms which you request, however, that may not be possible next year as so many are already reserved.

The Conference starts on Thursday 28 April and finishes Monday 02 May so we will have a couple of days free to relax and enjoy the delights of North Wales and, for the first time, we will actually be there for the last session! It is necessary for you to reserve a place at the Conference. Passes are available from www.ecgevent.org.uk at a rate of £80 per adult for the 5-day event.

I do hope this has whetted your appetite to come along to ECG next year and see what God has in store for us! If that is the case, please contact me on tel: 482364 or e-mail: katie.bill@jerseymail.co.uk to reserve your place, after which a £30 pp deposit will secure your booking. With accommodation at such a premium I'm anticipating that the trip will be oversubscribed - please don't be one of the people who wished they'd got in touch earlier! **Katie Norman**

N.B. Katie and Bill are taking a trip to New Zealand 27 Oct - 09 Dec so please contact before/after those dates

Farewell to Andrew and Monica Bird



Pictured at their farewell service, they are now settling into Flat R12, Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BJ.. Two doors away is Peter Rayson, son of Maureen Rayson, who is also beginning his ministerial training. So a good Jersey link for them!

Welcome to Hannah Raybould



Hannah comes from near Dudley in the West Midlands and has spent three years studying theology at Cliff College. She is on an intern placement at Samares and currently staying at Eastern Good Companions Club. She is hoping to extend the work of Samares with children and young people in the local community. She misses her friends but has met young people from St Pauls.

To contact Hannah, 07829 768574 or e-mail: cranberri_han@hotmail.com

Circuit meeting

Held at Ebenezer, the meeting opened with a presentation by Danielle and Chloe about the Kinetic course, run recently by Liz Lambotte at St. Aubin. This course promoted the leadership skills of 12 young people. The innovative ideas of Liz are being used by the course writers in their revised edition!! There will be a chance for more to learn about it on March 26th next year.

Ray Le Cornu is taking on the role of Circuit Property Secretary this year to replace Russell Christison who has moved to UK but a long-term replacement is needed. Property Schedules should be returned by the end of November.

Rev. Henry Le Ruez was reinvited for a further 5 years from 2011 and Katie Norman was admitted as a local preacher.

In his Steward's report John Le Gresley thanked our ministers and Jill Corbin for their work. He said that Bethel was almost ready to go on the market for sale, while much remains to be done re Sion. He hopes that Les Frères will be used more fully. He challenged churches to complete local Evaluation reports based on their Mission statements and all together to build confident faith in God, to encourage Christian growth and strengthen community life in Jersey.

The grant to Samares for Andrew Bird was ended, and a 3 year grant to St. Aubin to employ Liz Lambotte more fully in the St Aubin/Communicare area was agreed. A new Youth & Community worker has started work at Samares. (see separate article)

The meeting agreed to gift a small piece of land at Bethlehem to the States to improve visibility at the corner. The gate will be moved back slightly, at no cost to us, by Christmas, but the value of the property is unchanged.

The accounts were passed with thanks to Sue de Gruchy for her work. We have a good cash balance, partly through lack of ministerial movements.

St Ouen reported that work has started in refurbishing the caretaker's cottage into a 2-bed and a 1-bed unit. They need tenants paying a reasonable rent to pay back their loans but they will be assets for their work in the community. Work should be complete by mid-January. St. Martin, Georgetown and Bethesda are all thinking of new work on their properties.



Rev. David Hinchliffe, shown here, has met with the District Policy committee at St Aubin said Graeme Halls and shared views. They suggested that President and Vice-President should serve for two years not one. Also a new lay worker is needed in Sark to replace David Hollingsworth who is now training for the ministry.

As Tom Perchard has reached the age to retire, Mr. Robert Le Maistre was recommended to replace him as a Trustee for Methodist Church purposes (TMCP).

In news from the churches, Karen White reported that Eden had invited the Governor to their Harvest service. He had enjoyed the experience and was keen to visit many more churches before he leaves next June. They are looking for a new tenant for their 2 bed caretaker cottage as Paul and Sharon Millbank are moving to Church House, as Town Missioners.

At St Helier Methodist Centre, there was a successful Holiday Club and now 3 toddler groups and plans for a Messy Church on Thursday afternoons monthly.

At Ebenezer there are now many bookings for their Hall from a Baby Centre to Pickles for young children to Network events. The Harvest supper and services combined young and old people. Their new stained glass window, illuminated at night, symbolised their Window on the World. They are supporting Habitat for Humanity with an emphasis on Haiti.

The whole meeting ended just after 9 pm, a welcome change, with much to celebrate.

Ed Le Quesne

Point of view?

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman asked, "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?"

She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

Jersey Keswick 2010

The Committee of Jersey Keswick wanted to offer some feedback on this year's event and to thank you for your interest and support.

The main event was unavoidably restricted to three evenings this year and clashed with the West Show, but will revert to the usual four evenings leading up to the first weekend in July in 2011.

Our speakers were well appreciated and the worship was led with sensitivity. The new venue at St. Helier Methodist Centre proved very suitable and was conveniently located for the Keswick4Kids held at the Baptist Church.

Vinchelez Manor was again the venue for Youth Keswick where 80 young people and leaders had a great experience which they were eager to share with the main meeting on Sunday.

There are lessons that the committee has learned and areas that can be improved for 2011 but the general feeling is that this year's event enjoyed a rich blessing from God and we are encouraged that Jersey Keswick has a future in God's plans for Jersey.

Financially, we began the year with some concern and we end it with great praise. God has blessed us beyond our expectations and we are able to start planning for next year with the resources we dare not have hoped for. This means that with the continued support of churches and individuals we can make advance arrangements with some confidence.

Here is a basic summary of the finances for Jersey Keswick 2010. I hope you will find that useful when considering any support for next year.

Round-figure summary of Jersey Keswick 2010

Income

Balance brought forward	£595
Individual Donations	£935
Church Donations	£4,400
Main Event Offerings	£3,872
Miscellaneous	£615
Youth Keswick Receipts	£2,520
Keswick 4 Kids Receipts	£127

£13,064

Expenses

Ministry Gifts	£2,200
Flights & Travel	£1,645
Audio/Visual	£1,180
Printing & Publicity	£1,128

Insurance	£500
Youth Tent Hire	£1,931
Youth Catering	£688
Miscellaneous	£897

£10,169

Balance carried forward

£2,895

In addition to financial support, Jersey Keswick receives many personal gifts and a tremendous amount of voluntary service from individual Christians and we would want to acknowledge and pay tribute to the excellent work that is done. It does not go unnoticed. If anyone feels they would like to have some role in planning and organising Jersey Keswick please contact Billy.

World Cup Worship

It seems a long time ago that the World Cup was held in South Africa and World Cup Worship was held at St. Martin's Methodist Church and while the football may have been pretty forgettable, the same cannot be said for the worship.

The media had done their job in giving some excellent publicity to the service and that had created many opportunities to talk about church in places that are not always open to such conversations.

WCW coincided with the end of a Girl's Brigade camp and provided a suitably excitable culmination to their weekend. It was great to see the church full of people – young and old – dressed in football colours and wearing scarves, hats and wigs and coming to church ready to celebrate!

Cheerleaders started the service with enthusiastic dancing that the congregation were later invited to join in. The service itself contained songs from faith and football and showed how sometimes the distinctions are blurred. Scripture too used sporting metaphors to encourage faith and there were video testimonies from world class footballers who make no secret of the influence of their Christian faith on their footballing lives.

When the final whistle blew (literally!) the congregation left with the buzz of being involved in something special.

In the words of three-time world cup winner Jorghino, "Winning the world cup is great, but there is a greater prize – the gift of eternal life that Christ Jesus gives."

Olympics 2012

Next up on the sporting front will be the Olympics in 2012.

Without doubt, this will be the greatest media event for many years and it will be impossible not to get caught up in the whole Olympic event which will be a festival of culture as well as sport.

Representatives of the major churches have been working on the preparations for our involvement and soon there will be ideas that can be embraced by the church in Jersey.

Billy Slatter will be keeping us informed of what resources are available and how churches can participate individually and across the Island. If you would like to be part of the Church Planning Group for the Olympics please get in touch with Billy.

Ed Le Quesne/Billy Slatter

HEART OF ISRAEL CONFERENCE

Bethlehem Methodist Church was the venue for the Heart of Israel Conference at the beginning of September, with speakers – Geoffrey Smith and Robin Benson from **Christian Friends of Israel**.

The vision behind this Conference is the realisation that Jesus was a Torah-observant Jewish Rabbi, who grew up in a Jewish family, attended synagogue at Shabbat, celebrated all the Jewish festivals and walked the land of Israel, and taught the people through parables (stories relating to life in Israel at that time). If we are ever going to understand Jesus we need to go back to the Jewish ‘roots’ of our faith, which Robin spoke about at the first conference talk on the Friday evening.

On Saturday, Robin spoke about ‘Jesus in the Feasts of Israel’ through a series of seminars throughout the day. Jesus, our Saviour, would have celebrated the 3 main feasts – Passover, Shavuot and all the Autumn Feasts. They all required the men of Israel and their families to become pilgrims and walk from wherever they lived, and travel up to Jerusalem and seek out the Lord.

Every major teaching of Jesus took place during a Jewish feast. Passover (Spring), Pentecost (early summer) and Tabernacles (autumn) have a clear prophetic significance. Jesus was the perfect Passover Lamb (Who was sacrificed so that we can live). At the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) the Holy Spirit was sent, meaning that the first fruits were offered and the harvest begun. At the Feast of Tabernacles, it is the end of the harvest, the Messiah returns and God is dwelling in the midst of His people. Prophetically speaking, no one can experience the fullness of these three feasts without first becoming a ‘pilgrim’ and coming up to God.

In recent years the Church has begun to

awaken to the value of the Biblical feasts and realise a basic understanding of them would radically change most Christians’ perception of the Bible. So much can be found of the life of the Lord Jesus in these feasts! In fact they are not just a Jewish thing – because Jesus refers to these feasts as ‘the feasts of the Lord’ and His ‘appointed times’.

Immanu-El Dance Group were a major part of the weekend with their own special ministry of Hebraic dance and worship – and provided a colourful display with their beautiful costumes, and flags as well as the joy and emotion of dancing to the Lord – that brought together the songs being sung by local worship group **Cornerstone** as well as the words of Robin and Geoffrey – into ‘three strands’ coming together as ‘one’ working perfectly together.

Geoffrey Smith ended the last 2 sessions of the Conference, with his talks on Israel – Land of God’s Promise and Israel in God’s Purposes today. We, as Christians, should care about Israel and the Jewish people simply because God does. He has chosen not only a specific group of people, but a specific area of land for His purposes. Down through the centuries, ‘Replacement Theology’ has been erroneously taught, that somehow God has rejected Israel and replaced ‘her’ with the Church. The Scriptures are full of God’s love and faithfulness towards His people Israel. We must return to actually believing the Old Testament, understanding the promises God made to Israel and trust what the Word of God says.

The God of our Bible is faithful and is watching over His ancient people and we have the honour and privilege of watching ancient prophecies being fulfilled in our lifetime.

Many difficult days are still ahead for Israel, and God is offering us the opportunity, as believers, to stand with the people He has chosen, because the God of our Messiah is also the God of Israel, and we need to understand His Covenant faithfulness, trusting in His everlasting love.

Jean Schooling

More about Liz Hunter's sabbatical, Spring 2010 Year of the Bible

Next year is the Year of the Bible when God's Church will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the printing of the King James Bible. Scripture available to all people in a way it never had been before and 2011 is the opportunity for us to rediscover the excitement and depth of the gospel message and to encourage one another to share God's word with others. I have read quite a lot about church leadership and discipleship whilst on sabbatical and it's really challenged me to think about the way in which we can deepen our own, individual commitment to Christ together with our collective discipleship as God's body in the world. I think I've ended up with more questions than answers but I've often found that's the way God speaks – through questions and the thought processes and discussions those questions stimulate. It's what Jesus did when he told parables.....they never answered the questions but encouraged people to think things through and come to faith by their thoughts and God's grace.

Gardening and reading

Mulling all this over I spent a good amount of time in the garden tackling the weeds.....not that you'd know it now!! Gardening and walking have always been great times for me to think.....clearing the mind of all the day to day clutter and focussing on God's prompting. I don't always want to go where he leads mind you but usually if I listen it turns out to be exciting and fun!

By now the weeks had flown. I'd caught up on watching a few DVDs that had been lying around since Christmas and managed to read a few novels as well. I really enjoyed 'The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo' by Stieg Larsson and went on to read 'The Girl Who Played With Fire', the second in the trilogy. Larsson died unexpectedly before the books were published and became the phenomenon that they become.

50th birthday surprise

May was now upon us and a big landmark in my life as I celebrated my 50th birthday! Charlotte, Bex and Emma had done a great job of arranging a surprise party for me.....I thought I was going out for lunch! After taking me to Les Landes for a birthday breakfast of bagels, smoked salmon, creamed cheese and champagne all washed down with the terrific (if windy) view of St Ouen's Bay. We were then dropping into the Manse before going on for a drive and then a special meal. Pulling into the drive the garden was full of friends, people whom I would have chosen to spend my birthday with had I known!! Thank you all!

Visit to Oberammergau

The last two weeks and the day after my wonderful surprise saw me at the harbour ready to board the ferry to St Malo with 41 others. The gift of family and special friends I was off on a coach trip to the Passion Play at Oberammergau and then to Lake Garda for a five day break before heading home. I 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.

Lake Garda was stunningly picturesque – the water, the mountains – incredible scenery. Day trips to Venice and Verona, Italian charm, warming sunshine, it was relaxing and fun. But nothing will ever better that moment when the world seemed to slip back in time, when Jesus looked with total openness into the faces of those he loved and said 'Take! Eat! This bread is my body that I shall give for the life of the world.' 'Drink! My blood! My blood of the covenant, that will be shed for the forgiveness of sin.' And as the cup was passed between them he spoke 'This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for others.'

Thanks

Thank you to the Methodist Church, Jersey Circuit, my colleagues and the churches for which I have the privilege of being pastorally responsible for.....thank you for the gift of this sabbatical.

Liz Hunter

Our condolences to Liz, Charlotte and Shaun, Becky and Emma on the sudden death of John on June 22nd, which meant that Liz went to Leeds to be with his parents rather than Portsmouth for the Conference. The family are grateful for all the cards, messages and prayers that have given them love and support through this difficult time.

Mrs Olga Hanks and Sion



Olga sent me this recent photo of herself, quite a family likeness with her brother Rodney Baudains, who is two years older!

Olga writes:

I remember asking my Dad, Reginald Baudains why Sion was such a large building and he pointed out that he was one of eleven siblings, and that was not unusual in those days, so a large building was necessary. However by the time I was born in 1923 it was not exactly crowded. One exception was the Sunday School anniversary. That was usually pretty full especially on the Sunday evening and the week-night prize giving with music, recitations etc., which lasted about three hours. It was tedious!!

There was some concern when it was decided that we would install electric lighting instead of the oil lamps. Some people were afraid that we would lose some degree of heat. We needed all the heat we could get as it was always very cold and at one time just heated by a few oil heaters.

I remember sitting up late to keep mother company whilst Dad went to Trustees meetings for they went on quite late. Another thing he was involved in was the Harvest Auction sale which was held on the Monday evening. He took the Auction and treated it with great hilarity.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Denis were caretakers. They lived in the accommodation which I understand is still used. It was very dark. I remember being taken there when I was about four or five as I yelled blue murder!! The occasion was one the big Bazaars which was occasionally held over two days. The stalls were beautifully decorated and there were numerous competitions i.e. best vegetables, cakes, embroidery etc. A prominent person was invited to open the proceedings and there was a soloist. The reason for my tantrum - I was asked to present a bouquet to the opener. I can't believe I was such a shy little mouse!!

We had a good Wesley Guild and we put on several rather ambitious plays under the direction of Miss Emily Blampied. A particular one which I remember was called A Pageant of the Empire, (Miss Emily was exceedingly patriotic). She hit on the bright idea of inviting the Bailiff and his retinue to one of the performances. To her consternation she found that the premises had to be inspected to see if they were suitable for the occasion. The outcome was that extra fire precautions had to be installed and various alterations to the premises had to be undertaken. She found this a bit difficult and I think she offered to pay for it all. Anyway the Bailiff etc came and a good time was had by all. I hope!!

One person who had a great influence on we young girls was Mrs. Luce (mother of May Morling) She instituted a Mission Band of three or four of us and we used to go with her taking services. I shall always be grateful for her memory for it stood me in good stead when eventually I married a Methodist minister and was expected to preside at meetings etc.

Four of us girls started a Junior Choir. May Morling (nee Luce), Gertie Mourant (nee Pallot, Marguerite Blampied (nee Du Feu) and me. We met a little band of children every week and trained them to sing.

Another activity for girls was the Girls' League. This was a Junior branch of Women's Work (now known as Network). This was started by Mrs. Gibson who was the wife of Rev. E. Douglas Gibson who was our Minister until 1938. We used to go down to the Manse in St. Mark's Road once a month and have a little meeting. Mr. Gibson was followed by Rev. A. T. Skyrme who stayed with us until the end of the war.

Earlier on I should have mentioned Miss Virginia Coutanche. She was at one time S.S. Superintendent and also played the organ on Sunday mornings. She would watch, in the mirror on the organ, we little wrigglers sitting in the front row. We were so disciplined in those days. Sunday School was from 9.15 am and then we would go to the full length service. A lot to ask of youngsters!! Sometimes the services were in French and that was an added burden. The church and hall were very cold and the seats were hard. I was quite determined that I would give up church when I got older!!! And look what happened to me!! I married in 1948 and there my Sion memories end except for the very welcome holidays each year when we went "home". Jersey and Sion will always be home although I am unable to visit now.

I want you to know how much I owe to Sion and the kindly folk who were such a great influence on my life particularly Mrs. Luce and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Du Feu and Miss Virgie Coutanche who encouraged me to think of Church membership. I thank the Lord for such wonderful people.

Olga is always pleased to receive the 'Jersey Methodist'. I was interested to know about her life after leaving Jersey so she lent me a copy of "**What is a manse?**" her autobiography written for Helen, her beloved granddaughter. Below is a brief summary. The copy is back with Rodney and makes a fascinating read about the discipline of being a Methodist minister in the post-war years.

Olga on her early life

It was hard work for her father on the farm. Lighting by oil lamps. School in town with pupils frightened to ask questions of the teacher. However she didn't leave at 14 but stayed to 16 and passed her School Certificate exam.

Olga, from the age of 8 had been fascinated by seeing typists at work so on leaving school she enrolled at the Jersey Typewriting Co. Her course began in January 1940 The family decided to stay in Jersey in June 1940. At first she worked in the Milk Control Office, then was invited to work at Lloyds Bank. In 1944 she became ill and had to resign, but then had a job as a teacher at her old school, which she didn't enjoy much. In common with other people she was delighted when the Vega came, bringing Red Cross parcels.

Romance

Olga first met Pastor Peter Hanks on 17th Sept 1939 when he took a service at Sion. He had come to take charge at Georgetown. At first she was not very interested but from Nov. 1943 they were seldom apart till he died in 1987.

Peter Hanks came from a mining family in South Wales but there was unemployment in the 30's and he went to London. He offered for the ministry in 1939 but there were lots of candidates and he was young. He was sent to Jersey for a year as a lay pastor from Sept. 1st 1939, which of course turned into nearly 6 years. He and a young probationer felt they couldn't leave 3 elderly ministerial staff. He learnt to ride a bicycle and also walked to many appointments. Olga had to keep her engagement secret for over a year as it could have affected Peter's chance of getting a place at a training college. He was placed at Handsworth College in Birmingham and started there in September 1946. In those days, ministers could not get married till 3 years of training plus 4 years of

probation. However special pleading eventually bore fruit and Olga had just 6 weeks to organise her wedding in 1948. She bought a silk parachute to make her dress and that of two bridesmaids.

Peter's first appointment was at Stone, Staffordshire, taking services in the Community Centre and acting as chaplain to a teacher training college and a very large munitions factory. When ordained he was appointed to Clun in Staffordshire, with several small chapels. Olga had to sink her savings in a car and teach Peter to drive just before her daughter Alison was born. Peter needed the car most of the time while they were in Bromyard, Hereford so Olga felt rather isolated and they asked to move to a town with public transport. So they moved to Stoke where they spent 6 years. At the end of their time, Rodney and Mabel got married and kindly left a car for them to use. They spent 7 years at Newport in the Isle of Wight while Alison took A level and won a place at Southampton University They moved to Hardley near Southampton then back to the Isle of Wight for final 7 years at Shanklin. They had a cottage in the Isle of Wight but moved to Dorset to be near Alison, husband Rodney and new granddaughter Helen. Sadly Peter died of a heart attack in 1987 but Olga remains a lively character.

A history of Sion by Alastair Crosby (first published in the April 2010 St. John Parish magazine and used with permission

LOOKING BACK.....

As in other parts of the Island, Methodism was first preached in St John before the end of the 18th Century. But it was in 1820 that the building of a chapel in St John to unite prayer groups in Mont-à-l'Abbé, Hérupe and Augrès was first mentioned.

Nothing happened for a while because the Calvinists already had a chapel, and they did not want to upset the congregation by building another chapel near by.

But in August 1825, Philip Tourgis, a St Jeannais who had been sent as a missionary to France for many years, returned to the Island to pay a short visit to his family and friends and to preach the gospel. He was, it seems, an electrifying speaker, and his visit resulted in a considerable religious revival.

The existing meeting place became too small for the congregation, and people stopped coming because they found the crowded room too suffocating. So, in May 1826, there was a meeting to discuss what should be done.

Despite continued opposition to doing anything that might offend the Calvinists, a decision was taken in principle to build a chapel, and this was approved by the quarterly assembly in St John. Trustees appointed were: Josue Norman, Philippe Le Cornu, Jean Gruchy, Philippe Picot, Jean Corbel, Jean Norman, Thomas de la Haye and Charles Tourgis.

Contract was passed in August 1826, and work began immediately. The day work began, Philip Tourgis preached a sermon to a gathering of around 800 to 1,000 people, basing his remarks on Psalm 132: 'For the Lord has chosen Sion and desired it for His home; This is my resting place for ever; here will I make my home for such is my desire.' ((The area of Jersey now known as Sion was named after the chapel, unlike other chapels)

The chapel opened the following year; and thrived. Its location was the building – now called Chapel House – that houses the company CT Tiles. Membership continued to increase, and finally, at a meeting of the trustees held on 31 July 1876, it was decided that the building no longer provided sufficiently for the needs of the locality and the only way of remedying the situation was to build a new chapel.

So once again meetings were held, plans drawn up and fund raising events organised until eventually the huge edifice we know as Sion Chapel came into being.

A considerable amount of money was already in hand, as a result of fund-raising activity: two vergées of land was bought, from Jean Corbel 'Junior' – 'the northern portion of Parc de Bas for the sum of thirteen quarters of wheat rente'.

An architect, Mr. Philip Bree, was asked to prepare plans. The new chapel was to have 500 seats with a gallery and doors to each pew and the front of the chapel to face east. The chapel was to be 26 feet in height and the schoolroom 12 feet 4 inches in height.

A tender from Falaize and Tostevin for £1,895 was accepted for the construction of the building.

On May 18th 1880 six commemorative stones were laid by Jean Corbel, Francis Gaudin, Charles de Gruchy, Anne Le Quesne, Philippe Norman and Joseph Le Seilleur. This event was held 'in magnificent weather, tea was served to about 800 in a large marquee erected on the site. Services were held after tea both in the old chapel and in the tent

and addressed by an English layman - a Mr. Waddy Q.C. The platform party included Pastor Binet of St. John's Independent Chapel and the Constable of the Parish, Mr. P. Bree. The collection taken on this day amounted to £355.6s.7d'.

On 28 September 1881 the new chapel was opened and consecrated. It was registered for the solemnization of marriages in 1885 and a Mr and Mrs Picot were the first to be married in the new chapel. The organ was purchased in 1914, and installed two years later. The first Sunday school was founded in 1928.

More recent events

The former St John Constable, Richard Dupré, was brought up at Sion, where his father owned a shoe-repair business at "Sunny Corner" on the V junction. He was christened in Sion Methodist Church; he was married at Sion Methodist Church. He attended Sunday School there when his father was the Superintendent; Mr Dupré is now a Methodist Circuit Steward.

In short, he comes from Sion.

And if in the past, life there might have been dominated, in a spiritual sense, by the imposing Sion chapel, nowadays, the building still dominates the main road, and its imposing classical temple frontage makes it one of the better-known buildings in Jersey. And its imposing size, in fact, is one of the problems now.. It is a very large building, and of course, the larger the property, the more difficult it is to maintain it.

'Sion is in a fair state of repair,' Richard continued, 'but it requires considerable expense to bring it up to a standard that could be considered suitable for worship today. It is a large building with a very high ceiling, so it is very difficult to heat, and the roof - although no longer leaking - needs a considerable sum to be spent on it.' Inside it is, perhaps, not quite so large as it might appear from the outside, but even so, the height of the interior is considerable, and the number of people who worship there regularly has fallen considerably – a far cry from the time, during his boyhood, when there were 50 to 70 members of the Sunday School alone.

The church has not attracted any younger members over the last ten years and during the last three or four years the ageing congregation has considerably diminished, with stalwart members passing away.

About ten years ago Maureen Le Feuvre gave the nursery school business to the Church when she retired. Two years ago the nursery school lost its manager, Caroline Hopkinson, to another nursery.

The church was not able to find a qualified replacement.

Liz Blampied, the Senior Steward, who had worked in the nursery for many years, was given special permission to manage it for a limited period of two years. This came to an end in July, 2010, and no replacement has been found.

Mr Dupré said: 'I regret it very much, because the church has always been part of my life, but without the nursery the church will not be financially viable, so we really have no option but to close.'

With a heavy heart, he proposed a motion that worship should cease at Sion Methodist Church, and this motion was approved. He said: 'The church building is a millstone round our necks, really. It is too big – there are other smaller Methodist chapels in the Island that are easier to maintain. The roof needs to be renewed, and there is a lot of woodworm. Just to get the woodworm done would cost us in the region of £30,000.'

What of the future of the building?

It is an SSI, he said, and that is also one of the problems, since Planning would not agree to divide up the interior space by putting in an upper floor. But other Methodist chapels have been turned into private dwellings, and with imagination – and some help from Planning – it is possible that this might be the future for the Sion building.

Certainly the school room could be altered and the former minister's house at the back of the chapel – which only dates from the 1950s – could be demolished and there is potential for at least five houses on the site.

He added: 'We are all very unhappy at having to close Sion. But the people who come to worship here these days do not necessarily come from the immediate area. We may have mostly all been to the Sunday School here in our time, but now we have dispersed around the Island. Local residents may well continue to worship at the United Reformed Church (that may be another denomination, but is still similar to Methodism); and quite a few of us who now live in St Clement may in future worship at Georgetown.'

'We have, I suppose, too many churches for the amount of congregations that we have. If everything were rationalised, we would all fit into two or three buildings. But however rational and rationalised that might be, Sion has been our home, - and it is a wrench to have to leave it.'

* * * * *

This piece, sent to me recently, strikes a chord

A Grandfather's Ramblings

The greatest joy that one could know-
To watch the children as they grow-
But don't forget us older ones
We love granddaughters and grandsons.
To hold and love each little child
No matter if they're weak or wild.
For each one has a special place
Not won by works, but gained by grace.
Their pictures all the walls adorn,
Although they kick lumps from the lawn!
Angelic, sometimes, they appear
Especially when their birthday's near!
But who could grudge their childish ways?
So quickly fly those childhood days!
Then, one day soon when we are gone,
They'll have grandchildren of their own
Perhaps like us, they'll realise
Our Father is extremely wise.
Who else could think of such a plan
To carry on the life of man?
We know there's more when life is through
Let's pray to God that they will too!

Brian Burley, Baptist Minister

10th anniversary of SHMC at Halkett Place

It is 10 years ago that the congregation of this church closed the doors at Aquila Road church building and processed through town to the building we now think of as St Helier Methodist Centre (SHMC). Once we arrived we were able to look around the redeveloped premises, share a prayer of thanks together and then cut a celebration cake. The first full service of worship was held the following week. (Sunday August 27th, 2000)

This church is the amalgamation of four previous congregations; Wesley Street & Grove Place (which amalgamated in 1956 on this site), Great Union Road & Aquila Road (joined together in 1960 at Aquila Road) In 1986 the embryo of a plan was formed by correspondence between Rev Bob Delap and the late Rev Wesley Kenworthy. Rev Mark Haynes was then appointed to follow on in 1988 and together with Bob they steered the Working Party through the early planning.

In September 1992 this building, then called Wesley Grove, closed its doors and a new congregation was formed with Aquila Road called St Helier Methodist Centre and worship continued at the Aquila Road building.

During the early 1990's plans were drawn up by Allan Miller, our architect, after many hours of discussion and consultation with the church members, Nursery staff, Education, Youth club & representatives of Parish of St Helier and Circuit staff. Little did we think that planning permission would not be granted until the autumn of 1997!

Once permission to begin the project was received, the fund raising began in earnest. The first month saw our membership give over £65,000.00. This commitment encouraged others to believe in the project and generously support it too. Many trust funds, charitable funds both in the island and from the UK, individuals, the parish and the Circuit, members & friends dug deep to raise the enormous amount needed. (£2.2m)

Receiving permission was not the end of problems with which the Working Party grappled. The enthusiasm was kept going by the raft of prayer for the project and the belief that it was where God wanted a strong Methodist Christian witness in the town centre.

From 1988 to 2000, 30 people served on the Working Party for differing lengths of time. Since then the group has 'morphed' into the Management & Finance Group.

The ups & downs and the energetic fund raising events over the 8 years that we all were

squeezed into Aquila Road building did, I believe, help to weld us into one united congregation with a real purpose. When we moved into this building in August 2000 it was a thrill to realise that we had the potential to reach out into the town in a far more effective way than had previously been possible.

Some of our dreams have not materialised and others have taken their place. We no longer have a youth club on site but we do have a thriving parent/toddler group 3 days a week that is reaching many new families with the love of God. August's Holiday Club service bore witness to that. We are able to offer our modern, light and well-kept premises to self-help groups on a regular basis. We have young people passing through daily as they attend dance classes. Our notice boards displaying events & activities and the members that the children & their parents meet can and do bear witness to what we believe.

A service of thanksgiving was held on 25th July 2004 when the £2.2m target was reached and our debts paid. What a sense of relief!

We are custodians of a building to which all are welcome, whether to worship, to play music, to share in a soup lunch, to study the word of God, to pray or just to admire the architecture. It's a blessing but also a responsibility. We have to continue to seek God's will for this place and to give our time, talents and prayers in full measure.

'come on and celebrate, celebrate and sing to the King'

Di Toole

Scarves galore

Over the past few months, members and friends of S.H.M.C. have been busily knitting scarves with a triple purpose! The aims were to make enough scarves to go right around the interior of the church; to get individual sponsorships or donations to church funds; and to donate all of the scarves to Mustard Seed to be taken to Romania.

The final totals exceeded all our expectations. The scarves laid end to end up and down the aisles and into the vestibule totalled 114! A quick calculation worked out that there was over 330 feet of knitting. Such a kaleidoscope of colour, the scarves were mostly the same length of between 36 and 48 inches. The money raised at the time totalled an amazing £930 and some is still coming in, all towards our church funds. Mary Osmand from Mustard Seed came to the Sunday morning service (June 6th) to see the "big count up" and was able to take the scarves with her to be put in shoeboxes for Romania later in the year.

Some people enjoyed the knitting experience and have decided to continue, as any scarves will be welcomed by Mustard Seed for the people that they help. Thanks to all the knitters and those who generously sponsored their efforts.

Messy Church at SHMC

A trial 'Messy Church' was held at Pentecost using the basic format: Activities, Worship, Eat. At 9.30am on the 23rd May we provided seven zones of activities for anyone who felt they wanted to get involved. All these activities were based on the theme of Pentecost. At least 25 children and their parents came through the door all eager to be busy. The Hall buzzed with excited children and interested adults. After an hour, at 10.30am it was time to go upstairs into Church. The chairs were in a horseshoe, so that all the activity could go on in the floor space. This was greatly conducive to the feeling of togetherness and also freedom for the children to move, play and dance.

Our worship that day was just wonderful. Very lively, very noisy, very spontaneous and must have seemed like organized chaos at times, but God was there enjoying His children's' praise. We did all sorts of things in the Church from marching and stories, to flag waving and colouring. Mr. Bible made an appearance and the Lord's Prayer was said altogether in about 10 languages. Maureen demonstrated very briefly with self lighting candles about us being lights in the world and being able to pass our light on, and that our light cannot ever be blown out. We finished with the Messy Grace, and then downstairs to eat the cakes the children had iced and put candles on.

A great deal of prayer from a great deal of people went into that day, and thank-you to all who supported it in any way, especially in prayer. God honoured our decision to go through with it, and now people are asking for more of the same, so there's a challenge for us?

Sally Vasselin

'Messy Church', is planned to be monthly on Thursdays from 3.30 to 5.30. Liz and Sally hope to have a team committed to this amazing outreach project and also willing to attend a planning meeting each month. They are excited at the prospect.

Foods for Thought Summer Holiday Club

Every day for a whole week, 23 children came to SHMC to have fun learning about Jesus and his friends eating together.

The theme was **Biblical Meals**, so we did a lot of eating, cooking, preparing food, making food pictures, singing food songs, playing food games, answering food quizzes and of course listening to food stories.

We made so many creations during the week the children needed special carrier bags to take things home in. Mr. Bible was there every day watching us and giving us a message to remember.

By the end of the week the hard working faithful team of helpers were exhausted but absolutely elated. God had provided the amazing privilege of been able to reach out to so many children and their families in such a special way. It really was a wonderful week of fun and friendship

Many of the children and their families came to the Holiday Club Service on Sunday. This was a very special service where Liz could explain to the congregation what we had been doing all week and why we had done it. The service was very lively with Holiday Club songs and crafts. The children were presented with certificates and stickers.

An idea from St Helier Methodist Centre

We are going to extend our hospitality further by providing simple meals, for a week, to families straight after the arrival of a new baby.

The church is hoping to buy a small freezer where we can store these meals so that when they are needed we can just thaw and re-heat them and take to the families concerned. We provided this service recently for one of the mums from "Little Rascals". She was so surprised and grateful, and the effort involved was more than worth it. So maybe when you are cooking next time think "Could I make more than usual to provide one of these meals?"

We would like to start building up a bank of these simple meals as soon as we get the freezer! **N.B.** before cooking, please check with Sally that there is space to store the meal!

News from St. Ouen

After three years of frustration and disappointing delays which have involved extensive correspondence and negotiations with the Planning Department and Jersey Heritage and numerous design modifications, the restoration work on Chapel House and the building of an additional one bedroomed extension have begun - at last! The work is intended to be completed in six months. We are in the process of raising money for the project, and we will be having many fund raising events to which we hope to welcome many of our friends.

We will be celebrating our Harvest Thanksgiving on October 3rd, and we will be holding a Harvest Barn dance in the Parish Hall on October 9th at 7 p.m. Following this our annual Bazaar also in the Parish Hall is on November 6th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be various stalls, and morning coffee, soup and dessert lunches will be served.

The Sunday School anniversary is on November 21st at 11 a.m. when there will be a demonstration by the children.

We are sad to record the death of one of our members, Don Huelin. Don was a popular member of the R.J.A. & H.S. as well as a well known judge in the fruit and vegetable shows. His knowledge of the varieties of apples and pears was outstanding. The funeral was held on August 2nd in a packed church. Don was predeceased by his wife Elsie. They are greatly missed by the folk at St. Ouen. We offer our condolences to Linda, Stuart and their families

Valerie Remon

Methodists live longer than the average Brit

In June, Stanley Lucas of Cornwall died aged 110 (born on 15 January, 1900). Stanley was thought to be not only the oldest male member of the British Methodist Church, but one of the oldest men in the world.

Is this sort of longevity characteristic of Methodists? Seemingly, yes. An analysis of family announcements printed in the *Methodist Recorder* carried out by British Religion in Numbers, hosted by Manchester University, shows that in 1973 the mean age of death for Methodist laity was 77.9 years for men and 83 for women. By 2008 these figures had risen to 83.9 and 91.1 respectively – well above the life expectancy for the UK population as a whole (77 for men and 82 for women).

Dr Richard Vautrey, GP and recently Vice President of the Methodist Conference, said, “I’m

sure there are many different factors at work for Methodists to attain these numbers. But I would guess that our emphasis on caring for our spiritual as well as physical health, avoiding excess, engaging with people in our communities and being good neighbours all help.”

The position for male Methodist ministers is similar, with a mean age of death of 83.4 years for those whose obituaries appeared in the 2009 edition of the *Minutes of the Annual Conference and Directory of the Methodist Church*. Since the Methodist Church began ordaining women in 1973, too few Methodist women ministers die each year to draw any meaningful conclusions.

And this is not a new pattern. Clive Field’s unpublished Oxford DPhil thesis of 1974 revealed that, until the beginning of the twentieth century, the death rate per 1,000 among lay members of the various Methodist denominations in Britain was appreciably below the national level, especially in Wesleyan Methodism. Published studies by Kenneth Brown (*A Social History of the Nonconformist Ministry in England and Wales, 1800-1930*) and Tim Allison (*An Historical Cohort Study of Methodist Ministers Examining Lifespan and Socioeconomic Status* - University of Manchester MSc thesis, 1995) demonstrate similar trends. More information about the research by British Religion in Numbers can be found at <http://www.brin.ac.uk/news/?p=361>.

Methodist commentators, both in the Victorian era and since, were quick to point out that the longevity of Methodists was not accidental. They posited a clear link between a religious, ‘clean’ and virtuous life on the one hand and a long one on the other. The avoidance of physical and moral excess was especially advocated.

The Church’s annual governing body, the Methodist Conference, which met in Portsmouth this year, always begins with singing “And are we yet alive?”, a hymn by Charles Wesley.

Press release from Methodist Church

I think the same pattern holds good in Jersey, though I have not got any figures to back up my hunch. **Ed**

Jersey's Aid programme celebrated



Dancers from the Philippines at Trinity event

Many Methodists were among those celebrating four decades of Overseas Aid over the August Bank holiday weekend. It was a sunny weekend ending in 370 people "Eating round the World" at the RJA HQ in Trinity (photo above)

In 1967 Senator Clarence Farley proposed a £10,000 grant for Oxfam. In 1968 an official grant of £14k was given to a committee with Senator Farley as President and Reg Jeune on the committee. He is now the sole survivor of that first committee, 'a relic' in his words!

The principle has been to give mainly through big UK agencies. In 2009, the budget was £7.7 m, with nearly 80% given in grants to 59 agencies. Over 16% was given in immediate grants of, usually, £25k to disaster relief to over 40 places. The Work projects, which are the very visible face of Jersey's aid and started in 1972, with a trip led by Jean Le Maistre to Nazareth, take just 2% of the budget. Grants to local charities and administration costs each take just over 1%

Among those who have led work parties are Rev Colin Hough, Rev. Derek Poole, Ian Jayes, Rowland Heaven, Norman De La Haye and myself. A large part of the money pays for the building materials as fares are only subsidised by £500. Teams do much fundraising to provide extras for the communities they visit. There are plenty of willing local workers and some have the expertise to ensure buildings are completed after the team have left. Links often continue between the local community and the visitors from Jersey, such as Kevin Daly/Vanessa Nash in Tanzania and Zambia, Robin and Carole Mallet in Gambia and John Carnegie in Uganda. 14 different projects were on display at the Trinity event.

Over the past 10 years, Christian Aid in UK has had grants of over £2m and Oxfam nearly £3m from JOAC for projects they have put forward.. At

a rough estimate, Christian Aid fundraising through Lent lunches and house-to-house collections have raised about £500k in the same time and the Oxfam Shop nearly £1.5m. Grants by JOAC greatly exceed local efforts but both aspects are important.

Looking to the future we hope Deputy Ian Gorst will be able to maintain the steady rise of the Jersey Aid budget. It does have a real impact on people keen to improve their life and those of their families. At about 0.19% of GDP it is nowhere near the UN target of 0.7%, though it is in the form of grants not a loan

I would like to see more of a partnership approach by JOAC with both the agencies and local groups, recognising the costs for an agency of preparing a project and the need for a long-term approach to make real sustainable progress.

I would like to see more emphasis on development education in Jersey. so that people understand the underlying issues of trade justice, debt and climate change. We are trying to do that through JOWG, Jersey One World Group, who were joint organisers of the August Weekend. We now have a suitable base at the Jersey One World Centre at the side of the Town Hall in Seale St.

A Fair Feast at the Town Hall

Nearly 100 people enjoyed a buffet provided by local suppliers, such as Jersey Dairies, Vienna Bakeries and Classic Herds and with Fairtrade wines and chocolates on September 21st. Then we heard an inspiring talk by Harriet Lamb, CBE, who is chief executive of the Fairtrade Foundation. Fairtrade sales continue to grow strongly, thanks to the many people who are proud to "Show off your Label" During her visit Harriet also spoke to local wholesalers and hoteliers to try to increase the availability of Fairtrade goods in Jersey

Ed Le Quesne

Network competition The first round, for Jersey entries only, was won by St Aubin The final round was won by Guernsey, who were very worthy winners. Some excellent art work produced across the islands.

Gladys Renouf

Reception Service



Rev. Graeme Halls, Rev. Liz Hunter, Katie Norman and Enid Quenault after the service

At a special service at Philadelphie Methodist Church on Saturday evening, September 25th, Rev. Graeme Halls welcomed Mrs. Katie Norman as a fully accredited local preacher and Ed Le Quesne read the letter from the President, Rev. Alison Tomlin. Rev. Liz Hunter, tutor for Katie, preached the sermon, urging all to make Jesus the central focus of their faith. Katie outlined her faith journey from 20 years earlier when she was asked to teach R.E. at her daughter's primary school, though personal tragedy and years of study supported by husband Bill and the Philadelphie congregation.

Mrs Enid Quenault was presented with a certificate to mark 50 years service as a local preacher. She said that she had followed her father, the late Arthur Queree and her son Richard and Grand-daughter Jo Spybey were continuing to serve as preachers. They all received great support from congregations round the Island

After the service, the large congregation enjoyed a Harvest supper.

Harvest time is a reminder of our need to share our bounty with others. It can be done through MRDF (Methodist Relief and Development Fund), through Christian Aid, Oxfam, Tearfund and many others. All are seeking to meet the MDG's (Millennium Development Goals) to halve world poverty by 2015.

Hezron's story



Hezron, Connie and Samantha in St Martin's Hall in July 2006

It has been 14 years since Hezron Mc'Obewa first came to Jersey, brought by his sponsor the late Peter Gibaut. It has been 9 years since I became chairman of WASOT-UK, but it was the celebration of 40 years of Overseas Aid projects from Jersey on August Bank Holiday weekend 2010, has prompted me to put together a booklet of story and photos about this remarkable young Kenyan, Hezron Mc'Obewa. He came from a village in Western Kenya, 20 km from Kisumu, Kenya's third biggest town on the edge of Lake Victoria and is now Executive Director of the OGRA Foundation. He is a fully qualified medical doctor and OGRA employs over 100 local people in a range of projects in his home area, all dedicated to fulfilling OGRA's motto 'Giving hope, saving lives' The printing of the booklet (44pp) has been covered by a sponsor so the suggested £5 donation will go to continue his work. Copies are available from the Christian Bookshop Mission or the Oxfam Shop or direct from me. I have visited Kenya in 2002, 2005 and with a team of 12 in 2007 and keep in close contact by e-mail and mobile phone. I am planning another visit in the New Year to see the progress for myself and to stay at OGRA's hotel, Le Savanna Country Lodge.

Ed Le Quesne

Editor: Ed Le Quesne – 16 Millais Park, St Helier, Jersey JE2 4RU Email: edleq@jerseymail.co.uk

All contributions for the 90th issue and offers of help to Ed by December 20th