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A Taste of India Quiz

Set by Simeon Mitchell, MRDF, at
Georgetown in June. Try it!

- Which of these games originates in India?
 - Noughts and Crosses
 - Chess
 - Snakes and Ladders
 - Monopoly
- Put these countries in order of their population:
India,
Indonesia,
China,
Brazil,
United States
- Name the first Prime Minister of India, when they went independent in 1947
- How are these Indian cities now known?
 - Bombay
 - Madras
 - Calcutta
- What percentage of India's population is living on less than 80p per day?
 - 17%
 - 28%
 - 31%
 - 42%
- What is the longest river in India?
 - Ganges
 - Indus
 - Brahmaputra
- How many people in India work in agriculture?
 - 2 in 10
 - 4 in 10
 - 6 in 10
 - 8 in 10
- How many official languages are there in India?
 - 6
 - 15
 - 42

Get a bonus point for each one you can name

- Which of these is not originally an Indian word
 - cummerbund
 - juggernaut
 - trousers
 - bungalow
- What is a Dalit?
 - A robot enemy of Dr Who
 - Someone outside India's social caste system
 - A native of Bangladesh
 - Someone considered untouchable

For answers see page 8. The centre pages tell more about the excellent work done by MRDF.

Methodist Conference 2011 Southport

Having just returned from what was one of the best Methodist Conferences to be held in recent years I could almost do with a week or so to reflect on what was discussed and shared. However the world of publishing is one of deadlines and the Jersey Methodist is no different.....so here is a brief summary of some of the things that our time in Southport generated. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to share more widely with you over the coming weeks.

This is a challenging time for Methodism in Britain and the General Secretary's Report emphasised this in no uncertain terms! We are, the Rev Martyn Atkins said, a discipleship movement shaped for mission, but he went on to say that being shaped isn't always comfortable because it means that we have to stop doing some things in order that we can do other things better. We are moving into a time in the life of the Methodist Church when we have to explore the opportunities we face and that will not only be exciting and challenging but uncomfortable and unsettling as well. We have to think seriously about what this means in the life of our local churches, circuits and districts. And, a

recurring theme through the week, we need to remind ourselves of what it means to be a Connexional church.

This report outlines many things that the Connexional Team has been doing over the past year or longer and looks at what they will be doing in the future. There are some suggestions as to how the whole Church might allow Godly change to happen. They are linked but each provides different questions and challenges and each has its own opportunities. They have to be discussed however with the whole picture in mind. For example – **worship:** how do we rediscover our ‘wonder, love and praise’; **church buildings:** our property resources are God’s, entrusted to us for His mission and purposes....do we have too many? Do we need to own them all? Are they fit for purpose? **evangelism:** the need to put more resources into this area of our Church’s life.

We are asked to discuss the issues stemming from the General Secretary’s Report at our Church Councils, Circuit Meetings and other forums and I hope and pray that we will have the opportunity to do this.....so watch this space!!!

If you would like to read the report please visit www.methodist.org.uk/2011gsreport

On the Tuesday morning of Conference Lord Mawhinney addressed the gathering, talking about More Than Gold. Lord Mawhinney is chairman of More Than Gold and as I listened to him explaining all the wonderful mission possibilities that could arise from the Olympic Games next year I wanted to shout out that here in Jersey we were already doing most of what he was suggesting. Thanks to Rev Billy Slatter we are already well underway to engaging with this great event and all that could grow from it... It truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the church and I hope we are all capturing Billy’s enthusiasm.

One thing that made this Conference so special was the atmosphere of prayer and worship which just exuded into every conversation and debate, and this was largely due to the leading of our sessions by Rev Leo Osborn (President of Conference) and Ruth Pickles (Vice-President of Conference) together with the use of hymns and worship songs from the new Methodist hymn collection ‘Singing the Faith’. It includes some stirring words and music from our world church brothers and sisters as well as many of our much loved and traditionally Methodist hymns. An inspirational collection and I say that as one who was somewhat sceptical about our need for yet another hymn book.

The Methodist commitment to social justice

issues came across strongly in the debates concerning The Big Society and Poverty & Inequality. Both reports were based largely on policies implemented by the UK government but the principles of community responsibility, upholding the plight of the poorest members of society and giving a voice to those who otherwise would not be heard is as relevant here in Jersey as anywhere else.

I could go on but I can sense the Editor itching to get to press. Suffice to say that the Welcome into Full Connexion of Presbyters and Deacons and the subsequent Ordination Services were both moving and a solemn reminder to myself and other colleagues of our own ordination vows. And there was the poignant moment when as Conference shared in a service of Holy Communion we remembered all those whose ministers, deacons and preachers who had died in the preceding year. An inspiring and encouraging ‘communion of saints’.

It was, as I have said, a Conference full of challenge and opportunity. As the people called Methodist it has been a Conference that I believe we cannot ignore. There are changes ahead – changes rooted in our worship, in our partnerships, in more strategic approaches to the use of our rich resources, in a clearer focus on learning for the whole Church, in a great flexibility in our rules and in a refreshed and revived approach to evangelism. Methodism is on the move and the call is for us to seriously embrace that movement.

Liz Hunter

It sounds very exciting and I am looking forward to being one of the C.I. reps to the 2012 conference in Plymouth. This late contribution has displaced an article by Graeme Halls, which will appear next time.

Ed Le Quesne

The Olympics are coming !

A vision event on July 5th, hosted at RJA, Trinity by representatives of More Than Gold (UK) was supported by over 60 people from more than 20 churches in Jersey. It was an inspiring presentation from which we learned some more about the potential for mission that comes with the Olympic Games in 2012. It is vital that all our churches get on board now because, in the words of the Methodist Co-ordinator Ish Lennox, "the train is leaving, with or without you." The Olympic Games will never be seen again in this part of the world in our lifetime and it presents the church with unique opportunities to actually do the mission we talk about.

One special opportunity that we have is on **15th July 2012**, when the Torch comes to Jersey. There will be a big event in St. Helier that More Than Gold hopes to have some involvement with, but the Torch will leave after only three hours without visiting the parishes. We have therefore, secured the agreement of all the parish Connétables, for the churches to arrange local parish events involving the taking of More Than Gold Parish Torches from St. Helier to each parish. This places the church at the heart of an historic community event. We will need people in every parish who will work with other churches and the Connétables to make this happen so if you are one of those people, please get in touch with Billy Slatter as soon as you can. 2011 is the time to pray, plan and prepare for mission as individual churches and as the Church in Jersey.

Contacts wanted

More Than Gold needs a contact in every church so that we can keep everybody informed of the things that are happening. Please make sure your church has someone and if you want more information, Billy Slatter will be pleased to help.

Billy Slatter

A thought from Rev Liz Hunter

*'More blessed to give than to receive,'
You said. You could have added 'easier'.
Why do we back away from compliments?
Why not with proper pride receive
Due recognition of our gifts?
In undervaluing ourselves,
We do scant honour to the one
Whose gifts we are.*

Ann Lewin

Someone recently complimented me on a piece of work I'd done and then promptly told me

off for being so dismissive of their very deeply felt and totally genuine words. I was brought up a bit short and realised that I had been 'backing away' from what they wanted to share with me, rather than embracing the words and, without letting my head grow to an enormous size, accept them with a sense of pride and a job well done.

And isn't that typical of many of us? We find it easier to compliment others when they've done something that we appreciate – although even then I'm not sure we do it enough! – but we find it hard to accept compliments given to us. We respond with words such as 'Oh...it was nothing'.

And whilst those words show that we rightly don't want to shout about our achievements and boast about our own abilities, they can also sound a little dismissive. We do tend to undervalue ourselves and to believe that there is someone who could do a job better than we could. And whilst that may be true at times we have each been given gifts that we can bring to the world, to society, to the church and to God. The gifts we have come from him in the first place after all. He is the one who has known us since before we were born, who knows us by name and can count every hair on our heads. He is the one who loves us above all else.....even when we choose not to return his love.

Perhaps the person who chastised me had a very valid point. The point made by Ann Lewin in her poem. When we undervalue ourselves and deny our gifts we are actually doing scant honour to God, the one whose gifts we are. So the next time you receive a compliment don't dismiss it but embrace it, enjoy it, remember that in accepting it joyfully and graciously you acknowledge that you are a gift of God and a gift to God. And he will always value you.

God bless you

Liz

What's in a name? The Junior Church at SHMC has been having a think about what it would like to call the classes. Here are the names we have decided:

Totzone - Any babies up to about 3yrs

Minizone – 3yrs – 6yrs

Kidszone – 6yrs – 11yrs

Youthzone – 11yrs+

Sally Vasselin

Methodism in St John

The two Methodist Churches in St John have had very different stories to tell over the last 40 years and I am sure you will be interested to know what progress is being made with the two buildings.

Sion Methodist Church has now been closed over a year and progress toward resolving what we do with the site is moving forward, but, inevitably, slowly. Plans are shortly to be submitted for turning the site into residential accommodation, the church and hall remaining much as they are visibly, the house at the rear of the site being replaced by two houses. Time will tell how the process proceeds and we are looking after the site as best we can in the meantime.

Les Freres Chapel has for many years been the HQ for the Island Boy's Brigade Companies and is a popular site for camps and children's parties. At half term a group from Sheffield, who come regularly, were camping here. Recently the large hall has been let to a Gymnastics Club and will provide a centre of excellence for gymnasts on the Island. This has secured the financial future of the site, and the remaining, modernised facilities are available for use by residents and groups. We are delighted this new arrangement has come about and that the site has a positive future. A Lent Lunch was held at Les Frères for the first time this year and it was a great success, many visiting the place for the first time in many years, and we are looking forward to doing two next year. The Methodist Church continues to engage with Churches Together in St John and this encouraging partnership is greatly valued.

We promise to keep the Circuit informed of future developments and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Rev Graeme Halls, Superintendent of the Jersey Methodist Circuit, and **Richard Dupré**, Circuit Steward.

Stuart Court's 5 centenarians

I read somewhere that the average length of stay in a residential home in the United Kingdom is two years. Well, if that is so, our five centenarians in Stuart Court have broken some records. Both Marjorie Robins and Phyllis Pascoe moved in in 1990, Phyllis Le Druillenec in 1992, Harold de Gruchy in 2001 and Joan de la Haye in 2007.

Though born in Jersey **Marjorie** moved to Canada at a young age where her father, a carpenter, built their new home. Returning to Jersey at the age of 13 Marjorie obtained a job at Frederick Baker, a haberdashery, situated opposite what is

now Boots, where she served behind the counter. Then living in St Martin she met her husband-to-be at Les Landes Methodist chapel where he was organist. Soon to be 105 and possibly Jersey's oldest resident Marjorie attributes her longevity to the helpfulness and care of the staff in the Home.

August should see **Phyllis Le Druillenec** reach her 102nd birthday. To say she is pleased at being in Stuart Court would be an understatement; she just loves being there and calls it "The house of fun". Her formal education took place in Miss Le Brun's school at First Tower followed by several years at Jersey Ladies College. Two happy years in Paris then ensued where she was employed teaching two boys to speak English. So devoted was she to her task that she never had time to learn French. Back in Jersey she spent two years looking after an Uncle Le Rossignol which is also Phyllis's maiden name.

As a young lady living opposite Bel Royal school she captivated the heart of her next door neighbour when he saw her bending over her dustbin! Once married she and Harold lived in a flat in town until he was deported to Belsen. Released at the end of the war he was taken to England to recover and called for Phyllis to join him over there. Upon her arrival he was evidently overcome with emotion as his first words were: "Have you brought me anything to eat?"

She is fortunate to have a daughter who, though living in Australia, visits her regularly each year when she spends a month in the Island.

Our next three residents have recently celebrated their momentous 100th birthdays.

Harold de Gruchy spent his childhood in a house in David Place and attended First Tower Sunday school. For his first job he was apprenticed to a plumber and, having learned his trade, became self-employed and remained a plumber for the rest of his working life. Possessed of a dry sense of humour he attributes his long life to abstinence from alcohol and to being surrounded by pretty girls.

Joan de la Haye met her future husband in Scotland where he was stationed as a member of The Royal Air Force. From Southport, where she was an evacuee, she had travelled north to stay with her brother and fell under the spell of a young Jerseyman. Following the war, she and her husband travelled to Germany where he was to be stationed, the North Sea crossing taking three days owing to the number of mines.

In 1966 the de la Hayes were amongst the first families to leave Aden before it became independent. During the following years spent in

England she worshipped regularly in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court and frequently gained access to the Palace where she hoped to experience ghostly presences but without success. However her real success was in defeating cancer, which she conquered 37 years ago.

Since in arriving in Jersey in 1985 she has been a member of St. Ouen's W.I. where she loves cooking. Keeping active is obviously important for her and she still looks forward to her weekly participation in the singing, bingo, skittles, beanbags and knocking over tins; all activities provided by Stuart Court.

Like Harold, **Phyllis Pascoe** spent much of her life around First Tower, either in the sea or in the day school or Sunday school. After the death of her mother when Phyllis was only seven, she devoted her life to looking after her father and brother, and following her father's death in 1928 concentrated on her brother and their home. Of great interest is the fact that Phyllis's mother was sent as a lieutenant to Jersey by General Booth himself and subsequently to Guernsey where she did much work in the new centre at L'Islet.

As a girl Phyllis belonged to the Girls' Life Brigade at "Wesley" in town, a movement she describe as being very like today's Guides where you "could do badges". She also attended the gym at South Hill where her brother was an instructor. In her early sixties she walked around the Island on two occasions during the Easter period. A founder member of First Tower WI, she is still a regular attendee at their meetings and once a week she goes to the Disabled Club at St. Clement's Parish hall. She was delighted when a few weeks ago the Club celebrated her hundredth birthday at Jersey Pearl.

It was both a pleasure and a privilege to have interviewed such wonderful characters.

Ian Jayes

ECG Llandudno 2011



'Equipping, Calling, Going'

A smaller Jersey contingent attended ECG this year, as it did not coincide with school holidays. It had been planned to coincide with the Victorian Extravaganza held annually in Llandudno over the Bank Holiday weekend and it was fascinating to see the town centre transformed into a funfair, complete with rides and stalls. It certainly attracted large numbers of people, helped by the beautiful sunny weather.

The theme this year was 'Word into Flesh': challenging us to encounter the word of God in a new way and using that experience to make a difference in our community. The **'E' in the logo stands for 'Equipping'** and we were reminded that the purpose of the conference is not just a time of spiritual renewal, but also a time of spiritual engagement. We were encouraged to take ideas and experiences and use them to further God's kingdom back in our churches at home. As I write this, I am reminded that it was seeing 'Big Ministries' in action at last year's ECG that prompted Mary Richardson to start 'All Sorts' worship once a quarter at Bethlehem.

'C' is for 'Calling' – God calls us all in different ways and we need to listen to His call. ECG wants our churches to be a 'Going' body of people, getting out into the community and making the most of everyday opportunities to serve others. Perhaps we have concentrated for too long on getting people to 'come to us' and we now need to 'go to them'.

There was the usual variety of activities on offer for all ages and all tastes. Indeed, you could be occupied from early Morning Prayer meetings at 7.30 a.m. until the last late night fringe event, which finished at 11.15 p.m., with Bible studies, Seminars,

Praise parties and evening celebrations in between! Of course, if all that sitting still became too much, you could always enjoy the beautiful scenery of Llandudno and the surrounding area in the afternoons. I have been to Llandudno many times on family holidays as a child, and I can honestly say I have never seen such blue skies or bright sunshine in North Wales!

The main morning speaker was Brian McLaren, a former American pastor, now an author, international speaker and spiritual leader. He challenged us to consider at what stage of Christianity we are – Stage One, Two, Three or Four and explained the features of each Stage. What seemed confusing at first, quickly became fascinating, as he took us through the four stages in just twelve words. As the blurb on the back of his book ‘Naked Spirituality’ says: “Using twelve simple words, he shows how we can connect with God in practical and durable ways, and how that connection can affect how we engage with others”. Buy the book to find out more!

The evening celebrations were led by different speakers and many of our ‘Jersey’ group commented on Eunice Attwood, Vice President of conference, who spoke passionately about working in the community in the North East. Graham Kendrick led worship on the last evening and performed in the Fringe event later that night. This year he performed many tracks from his latest CD, ‘Banquet’, which has had excellent reviews. During the singing of ‘The Peace’, Graham encouraged us to move about the theatre, sharing the peace with others, and from our viewpoint in the balcony, it was a memorable sight.

Everyone who attended ECG this year will come home having had a different experience, but the challenge for me is: what will I do with that experience? Already daily life has resumed its course and it’s so easy to put these ideas and inspirations on the back burner. We must remember what ECG stands for - the Holy Spirit has done the Equipping, God has done the Calling, **it’s up to us to do the GOING!**

Di Huddleston

Graeme Halls describes how to take the first steps towards becoming a fully-accredited local preacher...

On note preachers and mentoring

Anyone feeling a call to preach should speak to their minister or another preacher, and then to the Superintendent. A note to preach could then be issued subject to the approval of the Preachers meeting. The person will be paired to a mentor.

The mentor will support the ‘on note’ to the point where they are able to conduct a service on their own. A service conducted by the ‘on note’ will be listened to by two people and reported on to the Preachers meeting before (s)he can move to ‘on trial’.

The mentor will thoroughly cover Units 1, 2 and 3 of Faith and Worship with the ‘on note’. The studies should go no further until the preacher has proceeded to ‘on trial’. A person would be on note for a minimum of two plans but not usually more than 4 (one year). The tutors would then take over to deal with Units 4 forward. The mentor would continue to be a helpful critical friend if required.

Mentors would need to assess how quickly a person can proceed from on note to on trial but without undue haste. This is about testing a call and about previous experience and ability. Some may be experienced speakers but new to faith, others facing nerves and lack of confidence, others have academic skills but struggle to communicate. So everyone is different. Mentors also need to assess how the person will cope with the studies required.

We need people to ask for a note to preach in order to test their call, and seek to serve the church in this way; this is the gateway not just to local preaching, vital as this is, but also ordination. We all have a part to play in making this happen

A call to preach



Helen Parker of Bethlehem, shown here after taking a service at St. Ouen, is the latest name added to the list of ‘On trial’ preachers on the plan.

St. Ouen news



This photo, taken on June 5th, shows the caretakers cottage converted into a 2-bedroom house. Alongside is a one-bedroom dwelling where the caretaker's kitchen was located.

Ed Le Quesne

As always, the Liberation Thanksgiving service was held in our Church and this year was led by Brian Vibert with the Rector taking the prayers of intercession. There have been many changes in the Parish and Island over the past 66 years, but we must always remember and give thanks for our liberation and the years that have followed.

I would urge any of our readers who have not been fortunate enough to hear the Parkside Choir to do so. As Part of the Grace Trust organised by Gerry Padden, and trained by Roger Bara, they are a real inspiration. As part of our fund-raising we were privileged to be entertained by the choir on May 11th and I thank our Fund-raising Committee and helpers for all their hard work and for all who provided such a lovely tea. Thank you to all who came, I hope you enjoyed the afternoon.

Also in May Sunday School scholars and members did a sponsored walk round part of the parish raising a very satisfactory amount towards our building project.

We were invited to join in the Parish Church's celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. The Flower Festival was inspirational, depicting verses from the Bible. Jill Green, one of our members, beautifully decorated a window using the text "Suffer fools gladly". Several of our members took part in reading the New Testament in 15 minute slots.

The building project is coming to an end and we will shortly be interviewing prospective tenants. (see photo above)

We will be holding a garden party at the home of Mr and Mrs Graeme Le Marquand, Les Haies de Grosnez, St Ouen (adjacent to the racecourse) on Saturday August 6th from 2.30 pm. There will be

a bring and buy stall and refreshments.

Other forthcoming events include a car wash, quiz night and barn dance as well as our usual autumn bazaar. We will be delighted to welcome you.

Valerie Remon

A surprise discovery



At the back of the chapel at St. Ouen are two narrow staircases that lead to the gallery on 3 sides of the building like Wesley-Grove. The photo shows the top of suspended ceiling in the middle. There are still pews in the gallery and they are filled with all sorts of items that might be useful one day. Thanks to Lloyd Le Gresley for showing me this hidden aspect of St. Ouen's chapel.

Ed Le Quesne

Meals for mums at St Helier M.C.

I know that I have not mentioned this lately, but we are still keeping going with providing meals for families immediately after mum has come out of hospital.

The families we have provided for have certainly appreciated the service and each one in their own way has responded. It's such a special gift to give someone at such an important time, that it would be difficult for them to forget it even if they tried to. So if you feel that you could offer a meal, please see me. We have a freezer at Church so we can pre prepare meals and freeze them.

Thank you

Sally Vasselin

Quiz answers with comments

- 1) c) Snakes and ladders - originally an Indian morality game. Some elements of chess also originate in India.
- 2) People's Republic of China 1,340,440,000
India 1,189,790,000
United States 310,637,000
Indonesia 237,556,363
Brazil 193,750,000
- 3) Jawaharlal Nehru - the (to date) longest serving) prime minister of India, 1947 until 1964
- 4) Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata
- 5) d) 42%. This means that there are more desperately poor people in India than in the whole of sub Saharan Africa - despite some of the recent controversy over whether India should receive aid.
- 6) c) The Ganges is 1557 miles long. Brahmaputra is a tributary of the Ganges, but is 1800 miles long.
- 7) c) 6 in 10. Around 1 in 50 people in the UK are employed in agriculture. In India, MRDF is helping people who work in agriculture to improve their harvests and overcome poverty.
- 8) b) 15. This does not include English, which is used in many political and commercial settings. Hindi is the main language, spoken by 41% of the population. Other languages are: Assamese Bengali Gujarati Hindi Kannada Kashmiri Malayalam Marathi Oriya Punjabi Telugu Sindhi Sanskrit Tamil Urdu.
9) c) trousers - from trowse/drawers - French
a) cummerbund - Urdu kamar band 'loin band'
b) juggernaut - Hindi jagannath + Sanskrit jagannatha 'lord of the world' d) bungalow
- 10) b) and d) Dalits are a group of people who although Indian, are outside the traditional Hindu caste system. They were known as 'untouchables' and were discriminated against for centuries, seen as fit only for the lowliest jobs, such as scavenging and cleaning latrines. They didn't have any land or property. Although caste discrimination is illegal now, the legacy of prejudice and disadvantage remains - but with MRDF support some Dalits are building a better future.

MRDF visit

Simeon Mitchell from MRDF (Methodist Relief and Development Fund) spent the first weekend in June in Jersey. On Saturday June 4th, we enjoyed a 'Taste of India'. On arrival at Georgetown at 5 pm we enjoyed a glass of mango juice and faced the quiz on India, set out on p.1. Then we had chance to eat a variety of Indian dishes, mainly cooked by Elaine Halls, plus poppadoms and Naan bread.

Simeon gave us the full answers to the quiz.

He then explained that MRDF, as a small charity, focussed its efforts on people at the margins.

In the state of Andhra Pradesh, in south eastern Indian, a government scheme gave Dalit people land – but this alone was useless. The land was rocky, covered in thick bush, and too dry for growing food crops. The investment needed to make it useful and begin farming was beyond reach for most Dalits. They had land, but were still hungry. But a group of Dalits could see the potential offered by this opportunity, and formed an organisation to try and make the most of it.

MRDF came alongside and supported this small, local organisation to begin a project which offered local people three key opportunities:

1. to develop and learn new low-cost, **sustainable agriculture techniques**

i) As they shifted the rocks, they created terracing and trenches so water was retained more effectively. ii) The weeds they pulled up were put to use as animal fodder – and the animal manure was used to fertilise the soil.

iii) They collected neem fruit, small smelly berries which grow wild in the area, and spread them on the freshly cultivated ground to keep away insects that would attack the fledgling plants.

These techniques were simple and easy to learn, and enabled families to begin farming at very little cost.

2. **to support and train the community in setting up co-operatives.**

i) Working as a group means you can achieve far more than you would alone – but only when the process is managed well. That's why MRDF-supported training is so vital to these groups.

ii) the group have learnt how to keep good records, so they can manage their money properly; for people who have so little to start with it's especially important that their investment is safe.

the group have been trained in running meetings effectively, so decisions are made and everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

2) Involving all members of the co-operative, maximises the opportunities, resources and knowledge available to their venture.

All of this helps to ensure that the work is a success and that the returns are reinvested wisely – so they not only enrich this year's harvest but their future as well.

3. the loan scheme which offers co-operative members small loans at very low interest rates, to help them get their enterprises started or tide them over until the harvests come.

Some members pool their loans to pay for the hire of farming machinery or setting up irrigation systems, while others have invested in setting up small businesses such as fruit and vegetable stalls, sewing workshops and even dairies.

One lady, Padmathamma, used her loan to buy a buffalo, and sells the milk to provide a small income for her family. Loan repayments are managed within the co-operative and repayment rates are consequently very high. When the loans are repaid, the money is available for another group member to borrow – making it a very sustainable scheme.

This is a stark contrast to the situation before the project started, when people had to go to local moneylenders if they wanted to make a major purchase or were short of cash. The interest rates were much higher, and people were often forced to work as labourers for free before they could get a loan.

As Padmathamma explained, ‘Before we got loans from landowners on a daily basis. Sometimes they made you work for 3 or 4 days before paying you anything.’

A success story

Gangadevi wanted to grow her own crops, but couldn’t afford all the chemical fertilisers and pesticides she thought she needed to do this. But she learned to use worms to quickly and safely turn her household waste into compost. She also received training in planting different types of crops together to get the best use of the land.

With these and other techniques she, and other women in her community, saw their first ever harvests. They grew chillies, aubergines, tomatoes, oranges and bananas – all produced without harsh chemicals. As well as feeding their families, they were able to sell some of their crops, to repay the start-up loans they received and save for the future. After three years of investment, Gangadevi’s group was not being supported by the project any more but were thriving independently.

Their harvests had been so good that they’d been able to use the profits to hire a tractor, which helps them with the heavy work and means they can get their crops to market more easily. They’d also developed a further acre of land to grow chillis for export.

Most importantly, they were now in a position to help others. Gangadevi regularly shows people from other villages around her farm, and provides

them with training and help to get started as she has.

She said: “Now I am able to feed my family and also feed others – this is a big change in my life. I can afford to send my children to a good school and they want to become a doctor and an engineer. I never dreamed this would be possible.” I don’t need any money from MRDF in the future. Now we have the funds to develop our community. Now the money you have given is being multiplied and used for good things. I believe in development – because it’s happening here.’

It’s a really good example of the way MRDF and its partners work – through providing small but critical amounts of support to very poor people, which empower them to begin to take control of their lives and build a better future for themselves and their communities.

MRDF support projects like this in 20 of the world’s poorest countries. Contributions are helping to bring about small but significant transformations in the lives of people like Gangadevi. Small miracles indeed

On the Sunday morning service, Simeon spoke about their work in Africa, especially Cameroon and Gambia. They are working to ensure sustainable livelihoods, empowerment of women and are challenging unjust structures. They often go to rural areas where other development agencies are more reluctant.

In the Sunday evening service, Simeon gave some general statistics about the scale of poverty that still exists in the world.

Little by little MRDF is making a difference. Why not support MRDF this harvest season? An excellent pack called ‘Fruitful Harvests’ based on a community in Uganda is available with a CD-ROM containing resources for all-age worship, sermon notes and an amusing action mime. They are free on-line at www.mrdf.org.uk/harvest or you can buy the CD-ROM for £5 from MRDF, 25, Marylebone Rd, London NW1 5JR. Tel. 020 7467 5132

Back from Kenya June 2011

I have just had another fantastic trip to Kenya. The project in Nyalkinyi, which was started in 2006, is really taking shape. The Clinic itself which is called a Dispensary is going from strength to strength. We have a nurse, Nancy, who sees on average 13 patients a day, a mixture of youngsters and adults. The numbers were not quite so high in March, possibly because they were running low on drugs. However we managed to take a few to replenish their supplies. Even better news is that the MOH locally will be supplying them with Drug Packs from June, every three months thereafter. This will mean that some of the charges can be used in maintaining the Centre.

Nancy will be also joined shortly by another nurse to be paid for by the MOH! The aim is sustainability without our help - eventually! They are being supplied with baby vaccines, which is a great encouragement. They do not have a fridge, but if they do get one the MOH will pay for the gas to keep it going! Electricity is so unreliable in Kenya as to be non-viable (hotels provide you with a candle holder but very often no candle or matches!)

They have a "wish list"; the baby weighing equipment is borrowed as are the scales to weigh the pregnant mothers. The baby clothes we take over encourage the women to attend the centre, and eventually they may be able to be delivered at the centre. Another encouraging sign is the family planning clinic and the hope that the centre will become an HIV /TB centre.

There has been a drought in Kenya and with the bore hole pump not working our principal concern was to sort this out. We tried to find the best advice for this and eventually came up with what we considered the best solution. We bought a new generator (the previous one having "walked") and a submersible pump. You can imagine the Committee when we presented them with these new "toys"! They lost no time in getting these installed. There was great joy from all around when the water came gushing forth!

From an economical point of view it was decided to buy a new larger tank so that the generator would only be used once a day. Unfortunately, although the engineer advised us that the stand would take the extra weight, while we were having a break on an island in Lake Victoria we had a text message saying the tank had fallen and broken into pieces. Fortunately no one was in any way harmed, except emotionally. Since we have returned we have heard that a new stand has been built, now we only need a new tank! They are going to build a guard house around the generator

too.

We were also keen to get the committee started on the chicken farming and also the fields into use. The chicken house and run area have been completed and just this week we heard they had 7 eggs on Sunday and 13 on Monday. Things are going well.

With the rainy season (what there was) having passed it was not suitable to get ploughing yet but hopefully some progress will be made in a couple of months.

One of the nicest things that happened was that a lady (whose name is the same as my mother's, Flo) who I had first met on our initial trip in 2006 took the trouble to come to the centre when she knew I was there to see me. She maintains we are best friends and language is no barrier. May God bless her.

We managed a few days on Safari after our stay in Nyalkinyi. This was as exciting as usual. We saw a Black Rhino-a great rarity, and all the Big 5. Most impressive was the level of the water in the river Mara. This was so low one could walk across- but for the crocodiles. I think they can move pretty speedily! Which means that when the migration takes place there will be no culling and the balance could be upset. They have had some rain since we left but we must pray for more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have generously contributed to our project and assure them the money was well spent. I also would like to say a "thank you" for the prayers while we were there. We do feel that God is with us when we are there, especially when things just appear to fall into place!

Maureen Rayson

Giving hope, saving lives (OGRA motto)

What a difference four years makes. On my last trip to Kisumu, Kenya in August 2007, our team of 12 people helped to start a building which was completed the following year. It was used at first as accommodation for people displaced by post election violence. From September it will host ISMAT courses, training up to 50 young Kenyans as clinical officers and community health workers. They will be bonded to remain working in Kenya for 10 years after training.



Hezron shows us the clinical skills laboratory of ISMAT, ready for use.

In November 2007, Hezron Mc'Obewa and his family moved back to Kenya. An early task was to bring relief to victims of the post election violence in Jan/Feb 2008. However he has also built up the OGRA Foundation into a powerful body to relieve poverty in this area.



Note solar panels on roof for hot showers.

My son John, Gladys Dunell and I stayed for 7 nights at Le Savanna Country Lodge, (shown above) This was a large house in a field when I saw it in 2007. Now it is a comfortable 18 room hotel with its profits supporting other OGRA projects. It was great to sit on the veranda and enjoy an evening drink. A swimming pool and 18 further rooms will soon be added. It has a client base of local people and visitors working for one of the 200 NGOs in Kisumu and makes a profit to help other OGRA programmes.

OGRA aims to reach out to communities that have had little medical aid to date. So we went to Oyamo Island on Lake Victoria to see fish being smoked, a clinic with a solar panel to supply electricity to allow a fridge to store vaccines and a school. There are plans to build a proper jetty and motor boat system to ensure that this Island and others have rapid access to a fully equipped clinic in emergencies. Large funds are promised to make this a reality.

The roads were a mixture of excellent new roads, built recently by Chinese contractors and bumpy roads still awaiting an upgrade. Peter, our OGRA driver and his 4 x 4 took it all in his stride, but the shock absorbers need replacement every few months.



Lunch at the Omen feeding centre

The feeding centre that was being built in 2007, now provides a breakfast and lunch for 75 orphans which ensures they stay in school. They are growing maize nearby and have recently invested in a greenhouse.

OGRA also benefits from money from US AID, to supply ARV drugs to over 3000 people who are HIV+ and have AIDs. This needs a number of Community Health Workers to deliver and monitor the drugs to families. OGRA now employs 102 local people to carry out its public health and educational programmes. It also provides training for health workers in the local Government clinics. Its aim is for the same high standard of care in every clinic. Many remote clinic have a solar panel to provide electricity to power a fridge, which is able to store vaccines

We saw an ablution block recently built at the Oasis of Hope Secondary School and another one going up at St Marks Primary School, both funded by the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission. Much of the money raised in Jersey by WASOT-UK will now be going to pay secondary school fees for bright orphans and fees for training at ISMAT to give them a career to support themselves and younger siblings. To join our e-mail supporters list, contact me at edleq@jerseymail.co.uk

Ed Le Quesne

MABEL UNDERWOOD died on 28th June 2011

Mabel was a lifelong Christian. Born in to a Methodist Minister's family in Methwold, Norfolk, her whole life, until retirement here in Jersey, was one of moving. At the time three years in one place was a long time and several stays were only for a year. Despite that, Mabel's education did her well and she trained to be a teacher. While at training at college she met George, who at the time was at Oxford University reading History and English. When he completed his degree, he moved to Cambridge to read Theology, They married on 8th January 1944 in Marlborough and so Mabel began her life as a Minister's wife, supporting George, of whom she was enormously proud, and any first visit to her had to include being shown George's photograph. He was certainly a well-loved and much appreciated minister especially here on the island.

Together Mabel and George served in Lincolnshire, Peterborough and Dudley, from where, due to George's poor health, they moved to Jersey in 1950 and held the appointment in the West of the Island based in St. Peter. They were such a good team, as they complimented each other, George, very quiet, quite serious at times, but with a wonderful sense of humour, above all, an outstanding preacher, who never used 3 words if 2 could do, and then Mabel, very outgoing, so easy and friendly with everyone, and both of them wonderful pastors. Many of us will remember the concerts produced by Mabel in which all the circuit ministers took part and which went around all the Methodist churches in the island. Hilarious they certainly were and they brought all the churches together. Mabel was a drama teacher and a good organiser, a very talented lady who was able to write most of the script which brought fun & laughter to many people. When they left Jersey they moved to Egham, Surrey with their children Jonathan and Hilary, where they served for 6 years. From Egham they moved to Durham where George was appointed University Chaplain & they had a rewarding ministry. Mabel used to have open house for the students, often on a Sunday evening providing tea for about 30 of them. She often spoke of such happy times there and really enjoyed providing hospitality for the students but unfortunately illness struck George, and at this early age, much to their great disappointment, he had to retire from the ministry, a great loss to the Methodist church.

They moved to Jersey in 1965 and became members of Bethesda, where they were warmly welcomed. But George was not well and he died unexpectedly a year later in 1966. Mabel was heartbroken but continued to worship with us and she presented a silver cross to the church which she

had crafted at Les Quennevais school, which reminds us of a dedicated minister and now of course of Mabel too. She became a Preacher in the Circuit and was well-known in all our churches for not only her message but for her wonderful voice and diction, a gift she never lost..

While stationed here in Jersey, Hilary attended Kindergarten in Bel Royal, run by Parisienne Marcel Bounin. When Marcel became ill with cancer, Mabel took charge and ensured that the Kindergarten kept running. Marcel died a few years later, but in gratitude for all that Mabel had done, left her house to Mabel and George and they moved there, for George's sadly short retirement.

Mabel was appointed to take charge of a new remedial department when Les Quennevais School opened. She did wonderful work in that dept. helping many students who found reading & writing difficult. Dyslexia was not a well-known problem at that time but Mabel understood it and the problems it posed and she went on to write reading books and stories especially for dyslexia. Even a series of books entitled The Wicked W. Many students who passed through her class are very thankful to her for all the help she gave them enabling many to lead full and productive lives, while others went on to University. During her career she also taught elocution and her diction was always something which was very precise and clear. She continued teaching into her 80's. Her clear diction helped in her preaching around the Methodist Circuit and her use of the 'high pulpit' at Philadelphie is still remembered, she too was a much loved and appreciated preacher of God's Word.

Mabel delighted in many aspects of life, from Classical music to drama – she enjoyed acting, the Jersey debating society where she served as Secretary and President, and as well as all that she had a life-long love of poetry, especially writing it. Some of her inspiration for her poetry and other writings came through her travels, she would often join family members for part of their holidays and joined them on several occasions in Gozo (near Malta) where in her 70's she enjoyed snorkelling in the beautiful clear waters! There were other adventures too, she visited America, Canada and Portugal but the one I suspect she enjoyed a huge amount was the trip on Concorde with a friend – what a fantastic – unrepeatable – achievement.

Mabel was a prolific writer and had many articles and poems published and these were all printed in the many books she had on her bookshelves & which she would proudly show visitors. She would write hymns for a special occasion or write a poem for someone who had been bereaved or had a special birthday.

Mabel has always enjoyed good health, and other than her deafness – which it seems she may have inherited from her mother – she had always kept extremely fit and spritely. She was always very smart and took a great interest in the way she looked, always being colour-co-ordinated in her clothes and shoes. Her deafness, which began in her 60's, was a great trial and frustration to her, but she bore it with her usual graciousness. As recently as a year ago Mabel was in her familiar seat every Sunday, joining in the singing and very interested in the toddlers who always sat in front of her and who took great interest in her as she loved to talk to them. The care she received at Maison La Corderie in her final months was much appreciated by the family and thanks go to all those involved.

Throughout her 93 years she knew the care and love of her Lord. And now she does indeed dwell in the house of the Lord delightedly re-united with her beloved husband George.

Rev. Christine Legge and Enid Quenault

A large number of people attended the service at the Crematorium on a particularly wet morning. The service was led by Rev. Christine Legge and the tribute given by Enid Quenault. Two of her grandchildren read poems that she had written. Afterwards the congregation at Bethesda held a special memorial service at Bethesda where a number of people shared their special memories of how Mabel had given them help and comfort at times in their lives.

SUE PERCHARD

15th AUGUST 1946 – 9th JUNE 2011

It's always hard to say goodbye to a much loved friend and the congregation at Philadelphie found it particularly so when, on the 9th June, Sue was released from her battle against cancer.

Ours had been a long friendship. Sue along with George and son Philip had moved into the Caretakers cottage in 1978 and from that time, right up until a few weeks before her death, Sue was totally involved in all aspects of Church life. Be it as caretaker, steward, Sunday School teacher, helper or House Group member, Sue was always there for everyone. She loved being involved in activities outside of the church too. When discussions to arrange Jumble Sales and Christmas Bazaars were on the agenda Sue's eyes lit up, for such occasions presented opportunities to get out and about and talk to people, and Sue was a great conversationalist! Not, of course, that she would have put it that way for Sue in her warm Yorkshire accent would have said 'it was a chance to have a good natter!'

With the decline in holding Jumble Sales and Bazaars in more recent years, one would have thought that Sue would be happy to put her feet up at weekends after her busy working week in the travel industry, but no, that just wasn't Sue's style. She opted instead to become 'Wonder Woman' and, whenever the opportunity arose, could be found at various country fayres and fetes alongside the Wonder Team happily kneading, rolling and turning 'les mervelles' – whilst having a little natter, of course!

There are so many other things we could say about Sue for she was such a brilliant wife, mother, work-colleague and friend but many of you reading this already know that. The Thanksgiving Service in her memory on 17th June was evidence of your great love for her and was a wonderful testimony of her life and witness.

Sue was a very special person, not only in God's eyes, but in the eyes of all who had been blessed by knowing her. Her passing has undoubtedly left a huge whole in many lives but none more so than in the lives of George, Philip and Georgina, Helen and all family members, and it is to them we offer our sincere condolences.

Sue, we miss you terribly but draw comfort in the knowledge that you are rejoicing with our Father as you greet all who enter into His house in your own, special way 'Hello love!' Heaven will be richer for your presence for earth certainly was.

Katie Norman

New Circuit Office

As from 1st July 2011 the Circuit Office is situated at Georgetown Methodist Church. I would, like to thank Jill Corbin for her dedication to her work over the last 10 years, her support of successive Superintendents all who wanted her job done in a different way, of all the staff and circuit officers who have been so well supported by her, and her unfailing generosity and patience in all she did and when we rang her 'out of hours'. A thank you to her was held in the summer with all staff, circuit stewards and lay workers present.

Our new administrator is Jo Strickland, who is already Georgetown administrator. The office will normally be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00am till 2.30pm. The phone and e-mail remain the same, but messages left will be dealt with during office hours. I know she will try and help you, but please remember she is learning.

Graeme Halls

Paul Smith visit

Sunday March 11th, 2012, will be a very special day in the life of the circuit. We have the Rev Paul Smith over from Plymouth Central Hall to lead a circuit morning service in St Helier Methodist Centre. This means that this will be the only service in the circuit that morning and we are encouraging all members and friends to come along for what will be an inspiring and challenging time. In the run up to this we are encouraging each church, fellowship and house group to engage in the 'Talking of God' initiative which will be launched in the autumn and is designed to help us talk to each other and others about God, our faith and Church. Most will probably use this immediately after Christmas and before Lent starts, but it could be used before Christmas. It is four sessions and we hope we will all gain and benefit from it. Paul will be with us for the weekend and will lead some sessions for preachers and others. We hope preparations for the service, such as music, will begin in the late autumn. To gain confidence in sharing our faith in a way that is going to be effective today is the aim. We hope all will want to participate in this journey.

Graeme Halls

Information about the course from the website

Talking of God is a new faith sharing course. It will help individuals and congregations to talk about their faith journey. Written by a group of evangelism and mission experts from across the country, the course will give people more confidence when it comes to sharing the stories of their faith in everyday life. It does this by encouraging conversations about conversations, and rooting it all in the Gospels.

"We have so many opportunities to talk about how Jesus continues to transform our lives," said Evangelism in Contemporary Culture Officer Joanne Cox. "This resource is an exciting development in helping each of us to talk of God wherever we are."

Talking of God follows from the 2005 report to the Methodist Conference [Time of Talk of God](#), which featured on the Church Times list of bestselling Christian books. The report encouraged Methodists and other Christians to renew their ability to talk about God with each other.

Talking of God is made up of four sessions:

- **Starting the Conversation** - each of us has a story to share
- **Conversation Stoppers** - conversations can be hard
- **Conversations in Context** - how our world can frame our conversations
- **Living the Conversation** - conversations are more than just words

These sessions can be held over consecutive weeks or even the course of a weekend or day. All the material you need is available to download.

June Le Rossignol broke her leg while on a visit to Derek Poole in Ireland. At the moment she is staying at Maison La Corderie, while her leg heals.

Pat Tourtel moved into her new home on 3rd May. Her new address is:-
Pembury, 3 Allandale Court
Rue du Becquet Vincent
Trinity JE3 5FL, Tel: 747353

Bob and Gladys Delap have moved from the Isle of Wight to Cheshire to be nearer their son Graeme and family (and nearer Newcastle?). They celebrated their golden wedding on June 17th. Their new address 24 Sandringham Ave, Helsby, WA6 9QJ

Rev. Ian White and his wife Diana came to Jersey in June to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the completion of the refurbishments at Georgetown. He preached morning and evening for the church anniversary and both seem to be in good spirits.

Housing I get requests from time to time for help with finding a house, currently a lady looking for a 1-bed flat with parking. If you have a property to let, please give me a ring

Ed Le Quesne, 730131

Methodist Women in Britain



On Sat. morning April 30th, a small group gathered at Georgetown to hear the stories of two Methodist women ministers.

Rev. Olefemi Cole-nije, or Femi in brief, comes from the Gambia, a country 200 miles long and 20 miles wide astride the Gambia river and entirely surrounded by French-speaking Senegal in West Africa. She became the first woman minister in the Gambia when ordained in 1993. The male dominated clergy felt threatened and sent her to Meru in Kenya for a year to study for a higher degree. On her return she then won a scholarship to Edinburgh to study for one year a course on 'Women in development.'

Relations with the head of the church, a Ghanaian, remained difficult so she became head of a school in a poor area and got facilities such as electricity and a staffroom for the school. Her husband is a convert from Islam, in a country where the majority are Moslem but both faiths get along well together. However Femi was still feeling a heightened sense of persecution and decided to move to England with her husband and four children in December 2002. She had a house in the East end of London with a church a short distance away and found that they were looking for a minister! She now ministers to a very varied congregation and is Local Preachers tutor. Her eldest child has just finished University, her husband has retired but Femi has an active ministry. It was her first visit to Jersey but she has strong links as she remembers Rev Naylor and his wife Olive, who came to Wesley Grove after service as missionaries in the Gambia. Rev. Naylor brought her husband to the Christian faith and was godfather to one of their children. There was just time for a quick Island tour before she flew back to London.

Rev. Nicola Vidamour has more links with Guernsey as her former husband lived there. She studied Russian at University so was a good choice to take up a post in the Methodist church in Russia 8 years ago as it developed in the new freedom following the collapse of Communism, which had banned churches. She wrote about her experiences in a regular column in the Methodist Recorder. She returned to a church in Walthamstow, very close to the Olympic Park, two years ago and no-one else has been sent from UK to the Methodist Church there, which has about 100 churches.

In her talk, Nicola used pictures related to Mary and the nativity story. The first showed Elizabeth as a role model and mentor to Mary. It was painted by a close friend who had been a role model to her. The friend was called Magdalene and had a daughter Eve, both names of women who took risks. In small groups we considered who were our role models and close confidants.

The second picture came from Zimbabwe and showed a man taking his pregnant wife to hospital in a wheelbarrow. Nicola said we didn't know much about Mary's journey to Jerusalem and it must have been difficult, not knowing the local language as they went to register. Nicola related it to her experience of trying to register and release her luggage through Soviet bureaucracy when she moved there in 2003.

The third picture showed Mary returning home with the baby Jesus. Nicola has returned home to East Ham, an area where 130 languages are spoken. She enjoys TV series again such as Casualty and Holby City. She finds that some things she can express better in Russian. In London one in four Methodists are Ghanaian. She asked us to consider what we would take home from all our varied experiences.

As one of the two men present (Geoff Nowell was the other) I was impressed by the message of both these women, introduced by Gladys Renouf. The Jersey Network is evolving into Methodist Women in Jersey.

Ed Le Quesne

Christian Aid challenge at SHMC!

In March this year Martin Nicholls was invited to the church to talk about Christian Aid. He so impressed our young people that they came up with the suggestion that we could help this year by having a 24 hour fast! They all seemed keen on this and although we thought it was just the enthusiasm of the moment they maintained their interest and the Fast took place on the Saturday leading up to Christian Aid week.

Nine of our Secondary School youngsters

turned up having had a good breakfast on Saturday 14th May. Keeping their minds off “food” would be a problem but Charlotte was up to this.

This year’s project for Christian Aid was Nicaragua. Having established where this small country is we then learned more about the Cooperative coffee growing group called Soppexcca. After a general introduction outlining how many people will die this year from starvation and malnutrition we were introduced to the processes in the harvesting of coffee beans, and how with the money the group accumulated from Fair Trade they were able to start education for the children of their neighbourhood. One young lad named Kener is 17 years and has just left primary school having achieved in one year the normal four years course.

Most of the day was spent in prayer. This seemed to be a wonderful experience for the youngsters. The Prayer Hub was the Little Chapel and we tried to keep this manned for the full 24 hours. There were also prayer corners arranged in the church entitled Living Hopefully, Dreaming Dreams, Giving Voice to the Voiceless and The Fruits of The Earth with many prompts for the young people to direct their thoughts and prayers.

They were encouraged to express their thoughts and experiences in many ways with art in prophetic painting and writing prayers. There was time for discussion as to what could be done to help those in poverty and reflect on what they had learned. By Sunday morning there was a display of a lot of the work the young people had produced which we hope some of you had a chance to view.

The Junior Church wishes to thank the members of the congregation for their generous support for Christian Aid. They especially would like to thank Grace and Eric Le Rossignol and anyone else who helped to provide their very welcome break-fast on Sunday morning! In discussion afterwards they all said they would be prepared to hold another 24 hour prayer session but were not so sure about a Fast!

Donations in sponsorship have so far raised £545.00 for Christian Aid with more to come in. Well done to the young people whose willingness to challenge themselves challenged others to give.

Godly Play

From the noisy, busy excitement of Messy Church last Thursday, I have just returned this morning, from a three-day thought provoking & challenging course in Guernsey on Godly Play.

Although Godly Play has been around for about 30 years I have only ever heard it mentioned, but never seen it in action. You might think from the name that it will just be about “play,” and in some ways it is playing with God, but it is much, much more.

Very basically it appears that it involves moving, figures and objects around on a rug as you tell a pre-scripted story. But that is doing Godly Play a massive dis-service. I can only say that when you’ve had the experience of a Godly Play lesson, it can’t help but make a very powerful impression on you.

We have all told stories, in many differing ways, and most of these methods are very good, but this way is different. Once you have seen and listened to the lead story, which sometimes doesn’t have an ending, you are asked to wonder. Sometimes verbally, or if you want to non-verbally, you can make your own conclusions or not. But what is lovely is that nothing is dismissed, everything is acknowledged, and anything can be right or wrong. After your wondering in the circle you are invited to continue your response by using any of the extensive craft materials provided. Some people would write, some would model; some might play with the story objects, whatever feels right to you. Nothing is assessed, judged or maybe even looked at. I feel that it could be an approach that would speak to different people, and especially those who have been disenfranchised with traditional Church.

There is much, much more to Godly Play and the theological reasons behind the method, but for now just remember that if you ever get a chance to see a session, take the opportunity, I guarantee you won’t be disappointed.

Sally Vasselin

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All contributions for the 93rd issue and offers of help to Ed by September 20th