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Ruth and David Pickles in Jersey



They live in Congleton in Cheshire though they attend a church in Staffordshire. They have 7 grandchildren. Ruth was at Sheffield University early in the 80s nurtured by a flourishing youth fellowship and Meth. Soc. She did a year of VSO in Uganda. She has worked as a science teacher, residential houseparent and manager of an alcohol advisory service. In the Methodist Church she has been a lay pastoral assistant and more recently a training and development officer. She worked for some time with Caroline Homan, who is well known to us here in Jersey. Caroline is currently in circuit in Birmingham.

Ruth continues to provide training to churches through 'Perceive Training' (look it up on Google) She wants worship to be participatory because the Bible is not just history but speaks to us now.

David is a worship leader in their local church. He has not accompanied her on every trip as Vice-President as he is an I.T. manager co-ordinating work in a range of countries. However he has

enjoyed a break in Jersey with Ruth, staying with Graeme and Elaine Halls. It was their first visit to Jersey. They visited Durrell and the Woman's Refuge. On Radio Jersey Ruth spoke about herself and addressing change. She also spoke about her experience of minimum alcohol pricing on the radio and to Health Minister, Deputy Anne Pryke..

The theme of Ruth's year as Vice-President has been 'Learning as disciples of Jesus' and she had a long meeting on the Friday with our Circuit lay workers, under the title 'Meeting God along the way', reflections on our discipleship journey, using a series of pictures. She met some of the Samares congregation for a cup of tea and chat on Thursday and conducted morning worship at Bethesda on Sunday.

Café Worship

A row of breadmaking units and the smell of baking bread greeted those who came for 'Café worship' at Georgetown on Sunday evening.



At the start of the service, Ruth asked for the essential ingredients of a loaf, the flour, the oil, the

salt, sugar, water and the yeast to be brought to the front. Each one came from a separate table. and John Le Gresley, as master chef in an apron, was waiting to mix them in a *bachain*. This Jersey-French word was new to Ruth. She commented that in this acted parable all the ingredients, are essential to make a tasty loaf and they need to be worked on to make sure they are thoroughly mixed, a task that gets hands messy. Several from the congregation helped John with this task.



Alf Vibert adds the oil

As the dough was left to rise, Ruth spoke on her text from Luke 13 "Jesus said "The kingdom of God is like yeast that a woman took and mixed it in with 3 measures of flour until all of it was leavened". She pointed out that Luke places this sentence just after Jesus has healed a woman, crippled for 18 years, on the Sabbath. This was acted out by circuit staff including Graeme Halls as Jesus, Liz Hunter as the woman and Christine Legge. This action caused Jesus to draw the wrath of the synagogue ruler who saw the rules he lived by broken. The parable of the mustard seed was linked too. We do need to reach out to people by getting alongside of them in simple activities. Breadmaking has proved a powerful way of getting to know a range of people in a Liverpool church. All of us were encouraged to take some dough home to cook later and to share with a neighbour.

All the hymns we sang were from "Singing the Faith" and the words of no 239 from Central America summed up the theme well.

Sent by the Lord am I, my hands are ready now
To make the earth the place in which the kingdom
comes, repeat these lines

The angels can not change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is mine to do, to set it really free.

Oh, help me to obey, help me to do your will.



**George Waller helps to prepare
'Dough to go'**

At the end of the service, the loaves that had been prepared earlier in 4 breadmakers were cut up and shared among the congregation along with a cup of tea or coffee. It was a memorable evening and thanks are due to Elaine Halls for all the preparation of the ingredients and to Ruth for a most inspiring event. Now the task is ours, as the hymn said.

Tell: Show: Be

Ruth Pickles had started her Jersey visit at Georgetown on Thursday evening for an informal Cafe style meeting, with an attendance of about 50 people. The opening reading came from Hebrews 12, speaking of the cloud of witnesses that surround us.

Ruth spoke briefly of her visit to the World Methodist Council in Durban before speaking of her visit to the West Pokot people of North-West Kenya. She flew to Kitale from Nairobi with her husband David and a staff member of MRDF to visit a demonstration farm run by three Kenyans with agricultural training. They called it SMART, (Sustainable Mobilisation of Agricultural Technologies Initiative). First we saw a clip of the End of page about here

lively welcoming dance that greeted them with jumping and chanting. We learnt that the people had been forced by drought and cattle rustling to give up their traditional cattle farming ways but hadn't got the knowledge and skill to prevent malnutrition and death.

SMART is a small organisation, specialists in sustainable agriculture, who offered to teach them a new way of growing food on condition that they worked co-operatively with their neighbours. The farmers were given seeds, from a seed bank, for a

range of crops beyond the traditional maize and beans. This included sorghum, millet and nightshade (a new one to me!). They were given advice on farming techniques and were delighted to learn new skills which meant that they could feed their family all the year round. Formerly they had a three month hungry season between harvests without much food.

What Ruth found so exciting was that the people were so eager to pass on their new found knowledge, to both show and tell it to their neighbours, saying ð We know how to pass on the good news of Jesus, now let us pass on the good news about growing more food.÷ She said that this is one of the small miracles that MRDF bring about. The grant to SMART has been £25k a year for the past 5 years, rising to £35k for next few years. The project illustrated her theme of Tell : Show : Be.

Ruth then handed out some question sheets asking us to reflect on our own situation. What do we need to change in what we do in our churches so we have something new to share with our neighbours and what should we try to retain of our traditions.



Jesus and the queue-jumper

This was the intriguing title that Ruth gave for her presentation to 20 preachers and worship leaders on a cool, sunny Saturday morning at Bethlehem. (see photo) We sat in an arc and first briefly introduced ourselves for Ruth's benefit. Then we acted the story from Mark 5 v.21-43 of Jairus' daughter and the woman with a flow of blood who touched the hem of his garment and was healed. Different people took the part of narrator, Jesus, Jairus and so on. We called out a wide range of words that struck us about the story, power, hope, compassion and many more.

Then the interesting part. We were divided at random into 5 groups of 4 people. Each group

focussed on one character, Jesus, Jairus, the woman, the disciples and Mark, the gospel writer. Each group was asked, as their character, to consider the same questions, such as what are the problems that I face, **who** is the problem for me and **for whom** am I a problem. Then finally, what do I understand by the words -faithø and -saveø? This led to lively discussion for 15 minutes.

Next 2 from the -Jairusø group went to the -womanø group, 2 from the -womanø group went to the -Jesusø group and 2 from the -Jesusø group went to the -Jairusø group, each still in their roles. This led to some challenging discussions observed by the -discipleø and -Markø groups. We then reported on the conversations we had had. Ruth then used a flip chart prepared earlier to show that the approaches of Jairus and the woman to faith are very different

Jesus demands that Jairus must have faith while he recognises that the woman already has it..

Jairusø faith is expressed in making a request while the womanø faith is expressed in grasping an opportunity.

Jairusø faith is expressed in his refusal to be discouraged by the fact of death while the womanø faith is her refusal to be discouraged by religious rules.

Jairusø faith meant he was willing to defy the public message of the religious authorities to avoid dealing with Jesus and to refuse to believe death was final. The womanø faith defied public disapproval to get to Jesus.

Jesus brings salvation or healing to **both** the child of the wealthy Jairus **and** to the poor woman. However, he attends to the needs of the underprivileged first before the child of the privileged.

This story is included by Mark to tell us that Jesus is concerned to reach out to the outsider first.

An interesting detail is that the woman had the flow of blood for 12 years, just the age at which Jewish children become adult. And in this story a girl rather than a boy is healed or saved (both words are the same in Greek)

The whole exercise made the story come alive for us, with a message for today. Our attitude generally in Jersey is more like that of Jairus. We are very grateful to Ruth.

Ed Le Quesne

All in this together

Over the last year or so each of our 13 Methodist Churches has been asked to look at its mission policy and set goals for the coming year. We have had open circuit meetings and plenty of opportunity to be prepared. We are asking each church to do this again and have their policy for 2012 settled by the end of February. We are then asking each church leadership team to meet with the superintendent, their minister and a circuit steward to discuss it, to see where the circuit can support mission but also to help where things are difficult. We hope most of these meetings can happen before Easter.

New Year resolution

If there is a new year resolution each church could adopt, maybe it could be: To look ahead 5 and 10 years and see what your church might look like then and then make decisions to start to change that. Whatever our view is of what the circuit will look like in 5-10 years (since AD2000 Galaad, Gorey, Sion and the Methodist Society at Communicare have closed), and if we are to see growth rather than decline, then we need to start now, and we need to put our resources where the churches want to make the changes necessary to bring that growth about. To fulfill the new year resolution, each church and member will need to make a sacrifice (not the OT type!) and by offering that, new life might just come if we believe that God's Spirit is in and amongst us, and making all things new. This is the gospel, this is the New Testament message, generosity of spirit brings life; the reverse, death. To try to stay the same is to guarantee further decline, so each church must be bold, open, ready to change, and take a risk. Are we up to it?

Following the example of Jesus

'All in this Together' assures you that each church and the circuit are doing the Methodist thing of 'watching over each other in love'. This means trusting each other and facing hard realities as well as golden opportunities. This means putting past experiences in their rightful place., they teach us but do not determine the future, and are continually reminding ourselves of the one who gave all that others might live. We say and pray we might live in the example of Jesus, this is the challenge for us all, hard and dangerous as it will be.

Graeme Halls.

Talking of God

In parallel with 'All in this Together', the circuit service on March 11th at SHMC will be

a celebration of our Methodist presence here in Jersey,

an opportunity to share those things that we stand for together,

a sign of our commitment to and hope for the future.

I hope that every member and friend will want to be there. I know many take the opportunity when services are not in 'their' church to 'take the day off', but I appeal to you not to do so this time.

Over the next few weeks we want as many as possible to share in the **4 week 'Talking of God' course**. This will be held in each church or section, as well as 4 evening services as indicated on the plan. These courses are aimed at increasing our confidence to talk about our faith, as well as live it out as we all try to do day by day. The service in March will focus on this. Many do not find it easy to speak of their faith, if you are one of those, please come along, the dates and places will be advertised soon. As we are aware of the need for new preachers, of finding more who will respond to the call to speak of their faith 'from the pulpit', it is those of us who sit in the pews and then go out into our communities and neighbourhoods who are called to speak more confidently of what we believe where we are. A family who arrived on the island were talking with a neighbour who said she was a member of the local flower club and was the new arrival interested. She was, and the flower club had a new member, easy as that!

Graeme Halls

Back problems

Gill Daniel had to go back to her home in Cornwall recently (early January) as her daughter Lisa had broken her back while skiing. Hopefully the transfer from the ski slopes has happened without further incident and Gill can put satisfactory arrangements in place for her.

Billy Slatter was unable to attend the session by Ruth Pickles for preachers as he had done his back and was flat out in bed. Nicola Jones stepped in to take his services at St Martin on Sunday 15th at short notice.

We hope both will be back to full fitness as soon as possible.

Report from Barbara Rumfitt MWiB 1st Forum for Representatives The Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick 14- 15th May 2011



As the delegate for the Channel Islands I travelled on 14 May to attend the conference where an Executive Committee of members had been elected, led by Jill Baker as the first President and Rev Julie Hume as Vice President. (Barbara is 2nd from the right in the front row). The evening consisted of meetings, introductions, reunions with friends met at the earlier conference, an enjoyable meal followed by a good night's rest.

Early next morning we gathered for the first meeting with music and a verse from Isaiah ch.43 I am with you always do not be afraid - and **we must not be afraid to move forward**. A story of the butterfly followed, then prayers and the hymn "Make me a channel of your peace" then more introductions and a coffee break before the first speaker. Alison Judd talked about Women's Fellowship 25 years ago how it was then formed into Women's Network and later in 2003 we gained a seat at the Methodist Conference.

Why do we need a women's only movement? What has it achieved? Much has been successfully done by addressing Women in Britain, Women and trafficking and more issues still to tackle.

What for the future? A vision - The British Federation of Women has the

potential to move forward. We really can make a difference. Rev'd Julie Hume spoke on how it will be a means of training and leadership and service, with Methodist Lay Women taking a bigger part in the Church. Gill Pengelly spoke about the need to maintain a flexible campaign for Justice and Peace

There will be various task groups set up. Gill will lead the fundraising and grants from the Connexion. Liz will lead Communications, the Forum web site and Publicity. Task Groups will also include Events, the MWiB Annual Conference,; The Regional Day, The Multi faith Development Day. More discussion followed and more tea and coffee and cakes! Then we went on to discuss our aims and our worries. These included topics such as Climate change., People being cared for in Women's Homes., Pastoral Care for women caring for the sick and the elderly, Financial concerns., Ageism in our churches, Unemployment, and Youth Violence. The list was endless Internationally - trafficking., Wars., Clean water for all., Basic Education., Health care, Fair trade, The Dalit people, Child Protection for girls and boys under 18 years And again the list was endless

On the final morning (Sunday) we started with a service followed by breakfast. The service was led by Rev Julie Hume with reading and prayers followed by Communion. This was a very moving service and a fitting end to a fantastic and rewarding weekend. Final farewells were said during and following lunch then everyone departed to make their way home.

Barbara Rumfitt

The Methodist story: part 3 Conversion.....

John and Charles Wesley's conversion experiences came just three days apart in 1738 and it was the younger brother who was first to finally discover that relationship with God that they had both longed for.

Extracts from his journal show how deep was Charles's spiritual turmoil and desire. On Saturday 18th December 1736 he wrote he was 'in a murmuring, discontented spirit'. 15th September 1737 found him 'with earnest desires of resigning myself up entirely to God'. On 9th October he is 'still growing in humility and love' and on 4th December 'much melted at the Sacrament'.

In the spring of 1738 Charles taken ill with pleurisy. He was lodging with a certain Mr Bray at the time, someone he was a little dismissive of as being low of intelligence, and as he lay in his sick bed on night (it was 20th May) Charles heard a woman come into his room and say 'In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth arise and believe, and thou shalt be healed of all thy infirmities'. The woman was Bray's sister and after that moment Charles found the assurance of salvation which he had so hungered after. He wrote 'I found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in the hope of loving Christ'. 'I saw that by faith I stood; and the continual support of faith which kept me from falling'. Two days later he embarked on his career as a hymn writer.

Meanwhile John, having seen the effect of this conversion experience on his brother, plunged into despondency. Perhaps he wondered if it was ever to be something he would share in? He was already struggling with the question of faith 'was it a gift and, if so, when would he receive it? Three days after his brother's conversion John opened his bible and the words before him read 'Thou art not far from the kingdom of God'. He felt similar messages coming to him throughout that day and was prompted, albeit very unwillingly, to go to a Moravian society meeting in Aldersgate Street that evening. Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans was being read aloud and John describes what happened. 'About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ,

Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death'.

What had happened?

We talk about the conversion of the Wesley brothers but from what and what to? It wasn't as if either of them were a pagan converting to Christianity. Nor were they converted from being nominal Christians to committed ones, their commitment was already beyond doubt. And, as one bright spark to rightly said, they certainly weren't converted from Anglicanism to Methodism! So what was the nature of their conversion? Well, it was more of a change, a shift, of theological perception and emphasis. It was a culmination of many things that had happened to each brother, a powerful spiritual experience when both head and heart together felt confident in God's salvation promise. A surrendering to God of all the doubts and questions that enabled a realisation to happen 'the realisation of being a child of God, loved and accepted by him, that brought with it a sense of peace and assurance. It was a sensation which Charles went on to express in his hymns and which John saw could be experienced by all people. He now wanted others to hear the 'good news' and a new phase of the ministry of the Wesley brothers began.

Rev. Liz Hunter

Circuit meeting October 2011

It was held in the front half of the new church hall at St Martin's. Thoughtful opening words, written by Susan Sayers, were led by Liz Hunter. Marcia Lee acted as circuit meeting minutes secretary, on a one-off basis.

Changes

We welcomed John Le Marquand taking place of Ray Le Cornu as Circuit Steward; Nicola Jones, from Cliff College, for one year at Ebenezer / St Martin; Di Huddleston,

a new member of the meeting; Barbara Jacobs as Ministers assistant to Billy Slatter for 6 hours per week for 6 months; Gill Daniel is moving up from 1 session/week at Hospital to 2 per week in Jan. while June Le Rossignol is stepping down.

We noted the departure of Hannah Raybold back to UK after a year, and Stephanie Cormack-Dexter after 18 months for family reasons. She had a strong belief in working in partnership with young people..

Graeme Halls said that the lay workers job description is moving on. In future all lay workers contracts will be done centrally.

News

It costs £240 to circulate the minutes and agenda for a Circuit meeting. A number of people have agreed to receive them by e-mail in future.

Liz Hunter reported that the CD 'Switch on' had provoked many negative responses. Full report to follow.

The new name for Safeguarding is 'Creating safer space' 63 people in the circuit were checked this year.

Sion plans for the church were put forward to planning after an open meeting with people at St John.. The gift of the bus stop was finalised after 40 years. (Planning rejected the plans for the site in December.)

At Bethlehem a gift of land to the parish is also finalised, work done by Marcia.

At St Martin Hall, with physical work done, now community outreach begins.

At Les Freres it has a good tenant (gym club) at fair rent, but major work is now needed on leaded windows and on electrics

The sale of Bethel was completed after tough negotiations.

St Ouen has two tenants in its new buildings. It will repay the interest bearing loans from Chapel Aid first before the interest free loans from the circuit.

Graeme Halls and David Marett have become trustees at Communicare. They feel a sharper focus is needed on work there.

Karen Le Mouton is going full time in Sark

from Jan. She is doing excellent work and will now appear on the Guernsey plan.

Alderney are hoping for a deacon in Sept. The church building is likely to close.

Future

There was an important message to every member in Annual report from Martyn Atkins. Each church needs to focus on Mission and evaluation forms and determine priorities.

Making the plan is becoming very difficult and 13 services every Sunday at around 10.30 am is not sustainable for long.

Vice-President Ruth Pickles is in Jersey on Jan 12th to 15th, but we won't see the President Leo Osborn.

Rev. Paul Smith will lead a circuit service on March 11th at SHMC. We hope that a dinner for 85 at Red Rose to hear him speak will include up to half who are non members.

Olympics Every parish needs to respond to the planned torch relay on 15th July.

Ed Le Quesne

In October Rev Henry Le Ruez stepped down as minister at Samares Methodist Church at his own request. Jersey Methodist Circuit thanks Henry for his ministry at Samares and elsewhere in the circuit over the years. He remains a Methodist Minister and continues his much respected work as Chaplain to HMP La Moye. Whilst the Samares congregation thinks and prays about where their future mission lies, Rev Graeme Halls, along with the rest of the circuit staff and stewards are offering pastoral support and care.

Rev. Graeme Halls

One-week timeshare week 07 (Feb.) in

Madeira for sale Ownership valid until end of 2030. Studio de Luxe for two with max. occupancy of 4. Full details to anyone interested from

Rev. Geoff Nowell, tel. 856762.

Tribute to Kathleen Le Maistre



Kathleen was born on 2 December 1924, the only child of Elie and Florence Laurens of Les Chasses, St Mary. As often happened in those days, she was born at home. She had private schooling in the early days, shared together with Isobel Perree, under the watchful eye of Miss Oules, who was no less significant in that she taught the young Kathleen the musical ability that became so much of her life in later years. After further schooling in town Kathleen worked at home, becoming more involved in her home church here at Bethlehem.

It was in the Sunday School that Kathleen met a young Bertram Le Maistre of Ivanhoe, St Mary. And they were married in 1952 here in this chapel and settled at Les Chasses where Bertram was able to farm, first growing and later introducing a herd of cows. Their son Robert was born in 1957 and the family stayed at Les Chasses until the move to Sunny Brow in 1989. Her joy in Robert and Rosemary's marriage was enhanced with the arrival of grandchildren Amy, recently married to James, and Jonathon, just engaged to Bex.

A few words about Bethlehem: Kathleen left Sunday School in her mid teens and in due time was asked to help Miss Ethel Arthur in the Primary, which met in its own department where the shower and toilet facilities now are in the hall. After some years she moved to teach in the main school of which she became Superintendent, succeeding Miss Lucille Le Brocq. In those days, Sunday School

was held before the morning worship, then all moved across for the service.

Now we have the list of some of the activities she was in:

Organist ó for many, many years until 2009

Pastoral visitor

President of the Western Network Group

Circuit Network President

Founder member of the West area prayer group

Secretary of the Wesley Guild

Church Secretary

Church Council representative

Circuit representative to the synod

Bible Society representative for Bethlehem

Member of St Mary's Christian Aid Committee

Also:

Collector for the Jersey Blind Society, and member of their committee

Secretary of the Silver Lily Club committee

Then there were the Jersey French articles in the St Mary's parish newsletter under the name of *Katrine de Ste Mathie*, as well as the *Lettres* on BBC Radio Jersey.

I am convinced that she brought to each office, each opportunity of service her same commitment, her 100% loyalty. Just as her voice was so clear, so precise, as was her handwriting, so she brought precision and thoroughness to everything she did. However she was no robot: in her we found the sparkle of humour, the warmth of genuine compassion and honest friendship.

Other interests: reading (she had a breadth to her), supporting children and projects overseas, agreeing to crew with Bertram on the boat, and to trust him to navigate to Guernsey. Then were the trips abroad, which she enjoyed, but her husband could do the planning. Hospitable ó and generously so, with the garden parties at both Les Chasses and Sunny Brow. A lady who was always busy and always willing to do her best. Strong minded, she always understood diplomacy but her high principles remained high.

And at its core lay one day when in her early teens Kathleen made her personal commitment to Christ. It was then that foundations were dug deep in a personal Christian faith that both kept and guided her through so many years, through the Occupation and into married and family life, into retirement which never really happened and into the final days of her life in this world. No wonder her daily Bible reading was part of her mainstay. Some months ago she and I had a long conversation, as she was aware that her days here were numbered ó and it was all about heaven. Typical of her.

As my Sunday School Superintendent, teacher and encourager to play the pipe organ, and most of

all as friend, I have been privileged and become far richer for knowing her. It was she who asked me to share this appreciation today ðwell you have known me all your lifeö she said. I am glad I have.

Rev. Henry Le Ruez

Kathleen died on December 23rd after a short time at Little Grove. She was cared for at home by the family for several months before that

Christmas@Georgetown

It has become a tradition at Georgetown to have a theme for Advent where all the groups within our church community including the two local primary schools create displays in keeping with that theme. This year the theme was Nativity and the church was filled with angels, wise men, innkeepers and so many sheep that one could easily fall asleep counting them.

The first Sunday in Advent was Messy Church, where our extended community joined the regular congregation at Georgetown, to celebrate the launch of the displays. Each table were given bag of materials to make large wooden spoon puppets of angels, shepherds, animals, as well as Mary, Joseph and Jesus. The achievements after twenty minutes were very impressive. These puppets went on to feature regularly as we progressed through Advent although many of them required a major make-over following our family carol service in which the children used them to tell the story of the Nativity with great enthusiasm.

During Advent we invited all groups, churches, childrens organisations, school and nurseries within our community to come and visit ö the response was overwhelming. As well as the Nativity displays, there were themed areas for children to ðmake and doö ðtouch and feelö the textures in the sheep corner, and a puzzles and building area. It was a daily job to try and ensure that the right sized baby Jesus was with the correct display! The 20 foot öAngel of the Southö also proved very popular especially when his head fell off. Luckily we had a retired fireman to climb the ladder and re-attach it.

With a change of spelling, Nativity became a Saturday night NativiTEA, where we invited families to join us for supper and to watch the film Nativity. We will not let the man who had this inspiration ever forget! 80 people responded, which was



People in the Hall queuing for supper

fantastic but when 150 people turned up we were amazed that pizzas and jacket potatoes could stretch so far. The evening was a lovely start to Christmas with families from our Toddler Group, Childrens Groups, Schools and Church enjoying being together. The film has many special messages and makes the viewer come away with the inspiration that there is hope in every person and in every situation.

On Christmas Eve the church was full once again with lots of very excited children and fraught parents for our family service. This service is always very special if not a little noisy and Graeme did an excellent job keeping things running smoothly. The Georgetown puppet team performed Bethlehemian Rhapsody set to the music of the Queen song and Elvis made a guest appearance to perform the guitar solo. The service ended with a bang literally. Isn't it amazing how much confetti comes out of a confetti bomb! The evening finished with a tea party in the hall whilst a team of people tried to get the church back into some sort of order for the later (and quieter) communion service.

That was Christmas @ Georgetown.

Bev Waller

Moving on from Jersey



Simon Young writes:

September 2008 in many ways seems such a long time ago, but in so many other ways it remains as clear as yesterday. It is hard to believe that it is now more than three years since we, as a family, left Jersey behind to return to the UK, but having spent three wonderfully enriching years, Jersey remains very deeply entrenched in our hearts and always very close in our thoughts and prayers.

Since returning, our lives have continued apace on all fronts, not least exploring my call from God. Many may recall that I became a Worship Leader whilst we worshipped at SHMC, and was looking to tackle Faith & Worship. With the UK return, this was put on hold until early 2009, when, having returned to St Andrew's Church in Eastleigh, the Church in which Wendy grew up and in which we were married in 1998, I began my study of the Local Preacher's coursework. I was fortunate to be the only person studying in the Circuit and was therefore able to go through on a 1 ó 2 ó 1 basis with my tutor, herself a Local Preacher for some 15 years. The study taught me a great deal about so many aspects of Methodism and theology, but more importantly taught me a great deal about myself as a person, and the direction I was taking. My professional career had often required me to take very quick decisions, acting swiftly before moving onto something else, a factor which ultimately was at the heart of leaving corporate business in 2008. Undertaking Faith & Worship taught me that my

outlook needed to change and over the time I became more reflective, considering and applying God into everything within life. The study was not without its ups and downs, and those who know the course will understand how some of those issues stem from the coursework itself!!

Whilst the academic study progressed I continued to develop as a Preacher receiving support, encouragement and feedback from the four churches within the circuit where I would be regularly preaching. It was also a great pleasure and privilege to be invited back to Jersey during Easter 2010 to preach at Ebenezer on Easter Sunday and SHMC the following week, which really felt like coming home.

As the study progressed, so the call from God grew and with the support of some wonderful people in my life (including those in Jersey ó and you know who you are!!!) Wendy, myself and the family considered an application for Presbyterian Ministry. It was not a decision taken lightly, there have been many long discussions and prayers, but in September 2011 my formal application was submitted.

Since then, I have completed my final Faith & Worship study, which was marked in December with a pass and therefore an Accreditation Service on Sunday February 5th, and also spent time constructing a Presbyterian Candidates Portfolio which will be considered by a District Candidates Committee in February and Connexional Committee in March. Should everything go to plan, I would hope to be accepted by Conference in June and begin Ministry training in September.

The pathway ahead remains a long one, with the one certainty being that there will be ups and downs. However, as an individual and a family, we move forward in the welcoming knowledge and comfort that we are surrounded, even at distance, by much love and continuing prayers of support and encouragement.

With love, thanks and many blessings.

Simon Young

In the photo Simon was attending a Winter Reception for the Charity U Support (www.usupport.org.uk) of which he is Chief Executive and a Trustee. The Charity provides opportunities for disabled, disadvantaged, deprived and terminally ill young people with the chance to attend sporting, cultural, leisure and music events both in this country and abroad. We have provided over 10,000 tickets to attend football matches alone since 2004. We are also working with the Esperado AIDS orphanage in South Africa, following my initial work at SHMC.

The Winter Reception, hosted by the Right Reverend Lord Bishop of Exeter, Dr Michael Langrish, was attended by 250 guests and launched a new partnership for the charity with the Saints Foundation, the community and charity arm of Southampton Football Club. We have worked with the club for a long time and now will be providing "Dream Days" which gives youngsters the chance to meet their heroes and go behind the scenes. Here is the video link - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLqYZ0YrJeI>

Vulture Funds - an update

This has hit the headlines in the past few months. Many have been angry that a Jersey Court granted an appeal by FG Hemispheres to be able to reclaim nearly £100 million from the Congo Govt. after buying a discounted debt for a much smaller figure.

In November, CTJ hosted an event at Grouville Parish Hall which was addressed by Tim Jones from the Jubilee Debt Campaign. Tim outlined the history of developing country debt. It started in the 70s with large oil revenues in Western banks lent to our Cold War friends with little concern for the value of the projects. Then the double figure inflation of the 80s made the interest repayments rise steeply. Harsh measures like cutting Government spending were imposed in the 90s to make some repayments possible. The HIPC (Highly Indebted Poor Countries) initiative of the past decade has only relieved some of the debt. It relies on all governments agreeing to collect only a small % of the money they are owed. However it doesn't apply to private firms or vulture funds who wait till the developing country economy shows signs of recovery before claiming 100% of the debt they bought at a big discount.

Tim Jones has sent in a full response to the consultation, given his knowledge of the issue. Some CTJ members have sent their own response. The deadline passed on December 8th and we hope that a Jersey law will come into line with the UK law which has been in force for 18 months.

Uncovering Zimbabwe's debt

Tim Jones has also written a study of Zimbabwe's debt. For example Ian Smith's Govt borrowed \$700 million, despite international sanctions, to buy arms to fight the independence civil war against Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe. This was a debt for the new Government

in 1980. South Africa, still an apartheid country, restricted Zimbabwe's trade and droughts also affected their economy and required more loans.

We are all aware of the activities of Robert Mugabe and the takeover of white farmers' properties. We are not so aware of the way that it is in part driven by the need to appease poor people kept in poverty by the large payments Zimbabwe is still required to pay to external creditors.

The Jubilee Debt Campaign is asking that all lenders, whether, multilateral, bilateral or private be required to have an official audit of all Zimbabwe's debts. Even the Zimbabwe Govt doesn't know the extent of all their debts. Then lenders should only give loans if it is completely open what the aims of the loan are and how it can be repaid.. Grants rather than loans should be given to cope with emergencies such as drought or a change in commodity prices. Loans should also not be given with conditions attached about relaxing trade protections.

I have leaflets that explain the whole situation very clearly. They ask for you to send a postcard to the Head of the African Development Bank Group asking him to release all information about the Bank loans that helped to create Zimbabwe's current \$7 billion debt. Also to signal that the Bank would support and co-operate with an official debt audit if one is undertaken by Zimbabwe. Please ask me for a copy.

Ordinary people in countries in Europe like Greece, Ireland and Spain are now feeling the same pressures felt for years in developing countries like Zimbabwe as loans become due for repayment or the country tries to make further borrowings.

Ed Le Quesne

My journey in Methodism...



At the age of two and a half my mother began taking me to what was then called First Tower Methodist Church. I joined the Sunday School which in those days was attended by approximately thirty children. Mum still enjoys reminding me that at the end of my first year as a JMA collector my eagerness to get my hands on a JMA medal dictated that I must climb over the communion rail rather than taking the more orthodox route to the presentation point favoured by every other child. I was confirmed in 1991, at the age of 14, having attended confirmation classes led by Reverend Mark Haynes. From around that time until I left Jersey in 1995 for three years of university life I assisted the Sunday School teachers and later became Sunday School treasurer.

During my time at Exeter University I joined the Methodist Society (Methsoc) and worshipped at the Mint Methodist Church. The minister at that time was the Reverend Norman Wallwork, a larger than life character who was an influential and fatherly figure to the Methodist students. By happy coincidence we have used one or other of his books of vestry prayers at The Bay for many years. I served on the Methsoc committee during my second and third years at Exeter having allowed myself, in a moment of weakness, to be nominated their Combined Christian Societies representative. The downside of being elected to this post was that it meant that I was required to attend a second series of committee meetings. On a more positive note this tapped into my previously undiscovered ecumenical gene. It proved rewarding working with Catholic, Anglican and Christian Union colleagues organising events for members of the various Christian societies on campus to attend. I made a number of lifelong friends during my time in Exeter, some of them thanks to the Church. I still meet up with a couple of fellow Methsoccers at least once a

year.

After returning to Jersey in 1998 I started working in the finance industry where I remain to this day. I joined Abacus in 1998 where I worked for a little over twelve years. Abacus was bought out by the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) in 2005. Whilst at RBC I completed my studies to qualify as a Chartered Secretary. I started only my second ever job, at Computershare, in July 2011.

Having come back from Exeter it was my privilege to represent Jersey at the Methodist Youth Conference for three years. This provided another good opportunity for me to meet with and worship alongside fellow young Methodists. At First Tower I became a Church Steward, a position I held for a few years until First Tower and Galaad combined forces to form The Bay Methodist Church in January 2003. The departure to Norwich of longstanding Church treasurer, secretary and circuit archivist Freda Le Boutillier resulted in my becoming treasurer for The Bay in 2005. This remains a challenging role. The limited income from a small congregation leaves The Bay reliant upon ongoing fund raising activities. Financial prudence remains the order of the day and it is only the brave that present me with a Church bill on a Sunday morning.

In early 2011 I was asked to consider becoming a Circuit Steward. I attended a meeting at Georgetown to learn more about what the role would involve. After careful consideration I advised that I was willing to take on new responsibilities providing that the circuit were happy to enlist me. At the time of writing it is still early days in my first year as a Circuit Steward. I am learning all the time and to use a classic comedy analogy I consider myself as the Private Pike of the Circuit Stewards team. Which of my colleagues I consider most suited to the Captain Mainwaring, Sergeant Wilson and Corporal Jones roles I will leave the readers to decide.

John Le Marquand

Messy Church at St Helier

Since last time in the magazine we have had two Messy Churches, talking about Joshua in October and Joseph in November.

Joshua, was a lot of fun, as the children made all sorts of noisy and bright things to take into the Church, with them. They walked around the walls, very quietly 6 times then on the 7th time blew their trumpets, lit their pretend torches, and waved their ribbons to bring the walls down. Building towers and walls with big polystyrene bricks, was also very popular, as was the graffiti wall and icing biscuits. 32 children were there and all went home with a full carrier bag of craft and a full tummy of spaghetti bolognese and cakes.

Joseph was our latest, and also our Messy Church's birthday. Yes, our Messy Church has been up and running now for a full year. It has been an amazing year and we have touched so many families' lives by providing this outreach ministry, that we could not abandon it now. This is definitely one of the ways forward, in bringing the Bible and the Good News of Jesus to families. Our Church should and must be proud of their Messy Church, we are doing something really good for God and He is blessing it each time. A big thank-you to all helpers.

Since it was Messy Church's Birthday we had rainbow jellies (to go with the theme) and a Birthday Cake.

Sally Vasselin

Esperado news

Gala night

The Gala held at The Mayfair hotel on Sat. 12 November was a great success. Both the hotel and The Little Big Band were amazing and everyone enjoyed themselves. Some very nimble feet were spotted during the dancing after the meal (Trevor & Jane)

At the last count the total raised was £1750.00. The fund raising group would like to thank everyone who supported the evening and made it such a success. The money will make such a difference for the family at The Haven. Particular thanks go to Charlotte, who masterminded the whole event. Congratulations on a super do!

Why do we continue to support Esperado? Here is an extract from an email from Jayel Jardim:-

Jane's our main problem is that the sponsors that we still have been doing their best to ensure that Esperado has all they need - with no help from our fellow South-Africans - we need other

sponsors beside all you wonderful people and Simon, our need to become self-sufficient with solar Geysers, wind and solar power generation is becoming of utmost importance, the outlay is expensive, thank all of you for not forgetting about us. God bless. Jayel

In September we were able to send out £300 to help an immediate crisis and Jane received the following thank you

To all our friends at St Helier a thank-you thank-you for all your help and the funds that we received from you Janet & Steve dropped it off here at Sophia. It relieves a bit of the daily pressure. Our vehicle is still broken and we are still relying on help of others to fetch the food. We have left the electricity cut off for the last six months as we cannot explain why it is so high. After numerous emails we get no answer and therefore keep it off we can no longer pump borehole water for drinking and home usage. And it has to be transported to the various houses - and with no vehicle except my car and those people who want to be paid. My car is entering a state of disrepair as it has not been made to transport the weight it does. All are in good health and we face what get put in our path thank you all again from the bottom of our hearts - God bless all of you from all of us here at Esperado field of Dreams.

Has the question been answered?

From SHMC magazine

Singing the Faith

The launch of the new Methodist hymn book last Autumn has received a guarded welcome in Jersey. Most churches have bought at least one music edition and most have bought an electronic copy. Rev Billy Slatter claims that the electronic version is not very user-friendly. However I think Georgetown is the only church to take the plunge in a big way and they have bought 100 copies of the words edition.

The circuit has bought a music edition for all active preachers and preachers on trial. I still select my hymns from Hymns and Psalms and now check that they are included in StF! The only hymn I've used so far that didn't make it to the new book is 769 'God is working his purpose out'. I have found it very interesting to look through the hymns in the Advent and Christmas section. It includes fine words to familiar tunes. For example we sang the following words by Peter Relf to the tune of 'Once in Royal David's city' at St Martin on December 18th

1. When a young unmarried couple
tried to find a place to stay,
then a Middle-Eastern village
had no space, "No, not today"
Mary's pregnancy was clear.
"Go away! There's no room here!"

2. Labour pains forced urgent action:
any shelter now till dawn!
In a shed to house the livestock
Mary's baby then was born -
nowhere for the child to lay
but a feeding trough with hay.

3. Such undignified beginnings
for a child - no matter who -
yet this is the baby Jesus,
God's own Son! It's strange, but true:
our God comes among the poor
bringing hope for evermore.

4. Songs that paint a cosy Christmas
miss the truth of God above!
See how God, rejected, homeless,
came a child with wide-eyed love.
Love transforms and brings release!
Love brings justice, joy and peace!

5. Here's good news: our God is with us,
friend for life in joy and need!
In rejection, pain and trouble
Jesus is our Friend in deed.
Baby child and dying Friend,
living Lord: love without end

I look forward to discovering other new insights as
we move through the Christian year.

At Bethlehem, Ebenezer, St Aubin and St Helier
Music groups are learning the new hymns.
Hopefully other congregations too are working
through this great new resource.

Ed Le Quesne

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY FROM ST AUBIN PRAYER DAYS



Children sticking a plaster on the cross for people they know who are hurting

Prayer days have been a huge success both in
Mont Nicolle and La Moye schools. It's a day when
the whole school from Reception to Year 6 become
involved in experiencing different forms of prayer.
Both interactive stations as well as quiet reflective
corners are offered to show children that prayer can
come in a variety of forms. Set prayers, as well as
their own prayers or drawings can be a way of
sharing and communicating with God. Prayer is just
like talking to our best friend but it is also about
allowing time to listen to what God might have to
say to us.



Walking through the sand and feeling God walking beside or carrying them

Children have been very responsive to the prayer days and below are just a few comments made from a year one class. (5-6 year olds)

-When I planted my seed I thought it was God's seed.

-When I went into the sand it made me think that God was looking after me.

-I remember that I am special to God.

The start of the Spring Term and already two different primary schools have been in touch for the prayer day to come to their school. It is a way of giving the children an opportunity of being in the presence of God in a non-threatening way.

KINETIC LEADERSHIP TRAINING

We begin Kinetic 2 with ten young people aged from 13 to 18 registered for the course. This course has now been accredited by Asdan and offers the young people two and a quarter GCSEs in the three areas of, working together, their own performance and problem solving. It is a skill that the church can offer to young people not only to help them grow in their own faith but enable them to have a qualification for whatever career they embark on. Nine members from the first group are leading this second group. I ask for your prayers for the leaders and young people committed to this course during the next few months.

MENTORING

Much of my work is on a one-on-one basis with young people but the work has increased so much that I was in desperate need for more people to help in this area. Several people interested in this type of work at St Aubin attended training meetings that equipped them with basic skills and mentoring began. It has been a real success as it has linked the youth club with members of the congregation and enabled the young people to feel how much they are valued. Added to that, members of the congregation have become people with names and characters that the young people can relate to and speak of with genuine love and care.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

This year St Aubin was buzzing with children for Christmas Holiday Club. Led by 18 young people we had 48 children all day for two days. It was an exhausting time but enabled us to form some very good relationships between children, young people and parents. Well done to the young people who gave of their time and energy to make it such a success.

There were four groups red, gold, green and silver. There were 12 children in each group



Silver group



Green group



Gold group



Red group

Thanks to Liz Lambotte for this exciting account of her work at St. Aubin.

Constantine: the Man who invented Christmas

This was the title of a thoughtful programme on Christmas Day by Rev. Giles Fraser. Constantine became Emperor in 306 and in a crucial battle in 312 he had a vision of a cross in the sky with the text -In this sign, conquerø Constantine wiped out all his rivals and made Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire. However as Giles Fraser remarked the God Constantine worshipped had little in common with gentle Jesus meek and mild but one who could deliver on the battlefield and hold an empire together.

In 325 he sent his mother Helena to the Holy Land to identify the places where the major events in the life of Jesus had taken place. He ordered the building in Bethlehem and Jerusalem of churches worthy of their role in Jesusø birth and death. In the same year, he convened the Council of Nicaea which drew up our basic creed, the Nicene creed. This creed moves from Jesusø birth to his death with nothing of his radical teaching in between that might have disturbed a Roman emperor. It is the moment when Christianity became the religion of the ruling classes.

When anti-capitalist protesters began to camp outside St Pauls last year, Giles Fraser felt he had to resign from the ministerial team over the way the church responded to the protesters. The church has still to respond fully to the demands for a new ordering of society, that seeks peace on earth and goodwill to all men and women all year round, not just for Christmas

Eighty Plus

Getting old is a B nuisance

When the doctor looks puzzled and mutters something about age
 When steps become higher and slopes become steeper
 When fingers turn into thumbs
 When button and hole refuse to meet
 When the supermarket starts using invisible inks
 When the names of school friends begin to appear on the last page of the local press.
 When prized ornaments have a death wish just as you happen to pass.
 And when some bright young thing offers to help you cross the road
 You will know that you are just about there.

But all is not bad news

Age brings its own blessings.
 It loosens the shackles of foolish conformity
 The truth may be said with mercy and compassion but without fear or favour
 In the end despite all the torments of life the hole in the ground or the puff of grey smoke is not the Eighty plus end of the story.

Anon though I do know who sent it in!

õTo worship isí .
 .to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God,
 to feed the mind with the truth of God,
 to purge the imagination by the beauty of God,
 to open the heart to the love of God,
 to devote the will to the purpose of God.ö
William Temple

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All contributions for the 95th issue and offers of help to Ed by April 1st