



Christians Together in Jersey

The Jersey Link

Candlemas 2018

Edition 37

Taking a 'Selfie'

I have to confess, I don't like mobile phones. Don't get me wrong. I have one and I use it all the time, but I dislike the way in which mobiles can often isolate people (which is ironic really, considering their prime purpose) and how they tempt us to live in our own self-possessed world. Frankly, I have lost count of the number of times people have walked into me because they were looking down at their phone instead of where they were going. Perhaps I should stop walking deliberately towards them!

On a recent trip to London, I was struck by the number of selfie sticks being carried around by tourists. At one point along Oxford Street, there were so many of them it was like wading through long metallic grass, but I guess it does mean you can capture pictures of yourself on your mobile next to monuments and landmarks.

February sees the Feast of Candlemas followed by the beginning of the season of Lent. Now as much as I dislike mobiles, the idea of a taking a selfie during Lent really appeals to me and here's why: Lent gives us the chance to take a 'snapshot' of our lives and to consider our journey of discipleship. It is an opportunity for self-examination in the light of the life of Jesus, who himself went into the desert to reflect (a selfie?) on how he would conduct himself in relation to his Father, to others and to his mission. Would he put himself first and feed his own appetites rather than work to God's agenda? Would he simply try to please the crowd, or would he be faithful? Would he compromise with evil or walk the difficult path of integrity? Those were the temptations that came to him and they come to us too in different guises.

Lent is a time to think about those questions and others: do I live for myself in my own self-possessed world, isolated from the people nearby - or do I look around and truly see those around me and their needs, hopes and fears?

Oh, and one more thing: Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is on Valentine's Day this year! What is that telling us, I wonder?

May you have a blessed Lent.

*Very Rev Mike Keirle,
Dean of Jersey*



A Prayer for Lent

By the Very Reverend Mike Keirle

Loving God, our lives are
laid open before you;
Rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son,
bring us healing and make us whole,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christians Together in Jersey - An Overview

CTJ fulfils three functions. It provides a comprehensive mailing list for circulation of information to clergy and churches, it is an umbrella to hold together more than a dozen organisations and groups, and its Annual General Meeting and other occasional meetings provide a forum for sharing and discussing matters.

At last year's AGM in October, subjects raised and debated included:

- **Christian Aid**, with a report that Jersey is now part of the Island-to-Island Appeal for support of the Philippines following the 2013 hurricane;
- the **CTJ Housing Trust**, whose new Scope project to provide 31 units of affordable accommodation in the town centre for those disadvantaged in housing should be completed in 2019;
- the setting up of a Jersey Branch of **Christians Against Poverty**, whose aim is to help those not coping financially to get out of debt and manage their budgets;
- the Caritas-led **Living Wage Project** campaigning for a minimum wage of £9.75 an hour to enable all workers to have a decent quality of life;

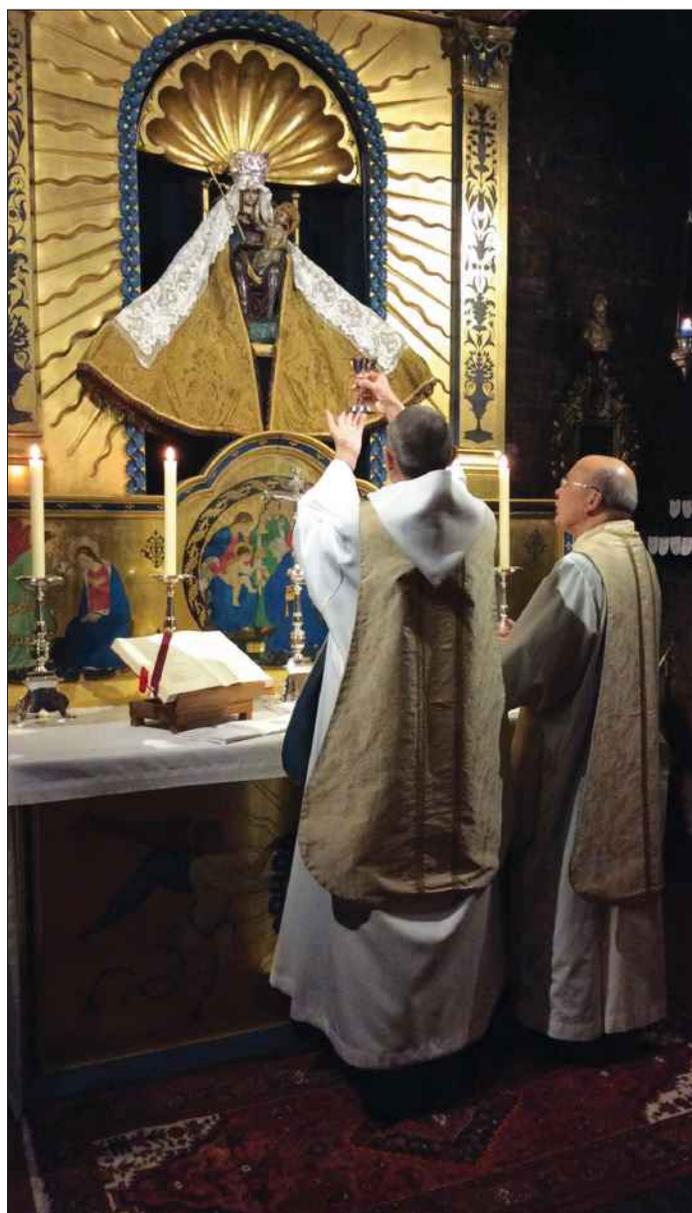
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Christians Together in Jersey - An Overview (Continued)

- the establishment of a Jersey Advisory Council of the **Cinnamon Trust**, which will be conducting a survey of what churches are doing in the community so that gaps and overlaps may be identified;
- the **Prisoners' Families Support Scheme** launched last May with partial funding from the One Foundation;
- the considerable concern amongst churches over **Mental Health Issues** of both the young and adults and how the churches in partnership might respond.

This is a hefty agenda, and several are long term projects, but it confirms that the Church is actively engaging in many aspects of Island life, especially with the poorest and most deprived and needy. And this we do gladly, whilst regretting that some have to be done at all.

*Rev Graeme Halls
Methodist Superintendent*



Pilgrimage to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Early in November last year, fourteen intrepid souls from St Peter's and St Luke's set off with their respective clergy, Fr Michael Phillips and your correspondent, on pilgrimage to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, in Norfolk. Apart from the clergy, only one of our number had ever been before, so there was a great sense of anticipation as we gathered at the airport.

Founded in 1061, the Shrine became a centre of pilgrimage for people from across Europe. However, like many holy sites, it was destroyed by order of Henry VIII and was only restored in 1922. On our pilgrimage, we would be joining the thousands who once again visit each year.

Pilgrimage is more than just a trip to an interesting place. It symbolises the Christian journey from earth to heaven; as we travelled there from our daily lives, we were travelling towards heaven, towards Jesus Christ himself. It was, then, a holy journey.

At the heart of the Shrine is the Holy House, a reminder of the house in Nazareth where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, and Jesus grew up. Entering, one cannot fail to be struck by the sense of holiness, stillness and peace; for this is a place in which countless prayers have been offered and answered through the ages.

The focus of pilgrimage to Walsingham is the Incarnation of Jesus, the wonderful truth that God shares our humanity. So, amid the holiness and many uplifting acts of worship we shared, we celebrated our humanity too: we enjoyed one another's company over mealtimes, in the (very few) shops, walking in the countryside, and in the pub!

An uplifting time was had by all, many blessings were received, and plans are already afoot for Walsingham 2018! If you'd like to come, just get in touch with me.

*Fr Nick Barry
Vicar of St Luke's*



Knights of St Columba, Jersey Win National Award

The Knights of St Columba are part of a worldwide alliance of practising Catholic Men's Associations and Brotherhoods which promotes the support and service of the Catholic Church and its clergy. The Knights are dedicated to the work of the lay apostolate and the fundamental virtues of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. We work closely with all the various organisations in the Catholic Church giving active, practical support in so many ways.

In late February 2017, I was elected and installed as Grand Knight of Council 216 (Jersey) Knights of St Columba at a ceremony at St Thomas' Church. One of the primary tasks was to build on the success of Past Grand Knight, Tom Francis, by recruiting more gentlemen to the Order and working more closely with the clergy and other Catholic organisations and charities.

The Council did not have any Portuguese or Polish members so we wanted to address this to reflect Jersey in the 21st century. Not only have we recruited five Polish and two Portuguese Brothers, but also a further three new Brothers from the UK and Ireland. With two Brothers who joined in late January, that made a total of twelve new installations in the calendar year,

with more to follow as interest has increased with the raising of our profile - in part due to the average age being reduced.

To attain our goal, we held a number of recruitment drives at various Masses Island-wide and set up a Facebook page to assist in attracting younger men. Being Grand Knight at 38 (the youngest in the UK) has certainly helped to achieve this.

I'm delighted to say Council 216 returned from our annual Supreme Council in Glasgow as the proud winners of the Surrey Shield for the best recruitment and a further trophy for most monies raised for our National Action Charity, Missio. We have a wonderful Council of 54 members and I'm very humbled and proud to lead it as we evolve into something very special.

We 'Serve God by Serving Others', never forgetting our core values highlighted in the introduction. We are also about remembering the past, capturing the present and looking forward to the future as we approach 90 years in Jersey.

*Danny Ó hEarchaí
Grand Knight, Council 216 KSC*



The Launch of the Cinnamon Project in Jersey

On 27th September, 2017 a meeting took place at St Paul's Centre so that local Christians could learn about the work of the Cinnamon Network in the UK, which is outlined in the article below.

While we were gathering, an array of delicious canapés was served, which we later learnt had been created from food that otherwise would have been destined for disposal. It was a good lesson to us all not to be too quick to turn up our noses at food officially past its sell-by date.

The meeting was addressed by Matt Bird, founder of the Cinnamon Network, who explained that church community work was often overlooked or downplayed. In order to discover whether this prevalent attitude was justified, a group of Christian business people decided to quantify the work of some churches, with results such as those noted below. It was decided that, armed with the information, churches with successful social interventions could share knowledge and know-how with others.

CTJ think it is an idea worth exploring for Jersey and a Jersey Advisory Council has been set up.

Actions Speak Louder than Words

At Cinnamon Network we believe the church is a powerful force for good in society, and we're doing everything we can to help even more churches reach out to those in need.

It's 9pm on a Saturday night and a small team of church volunteers is preparing to spend the night helping the local police to make their city a safer place. In another town, a group is putting together a package of essentials for a young mum who the local health visitor has informed them has no friends or family nearby. Elsewhere, a young man is helping a couple he was introduced to by a local housing association to clear the debts that have held them captive for too many years.

These three very different projects show the Church at its very best: working with civic agencies to identify and respond to the diverse needs of our communities.

At Cinnamon Network we simply want to make it as easy as possible for even more churches to reach out and support those in need. We do this by championing brilliant church-based social action, by building partnerships between churches and civic groups, and by delivering actionable research to enable growth.

Cinnamon Faith Action Audit

As the Church we are great at telling stories of lives that have been transformed. However, if we want to engage more effectively with civic leaders and institutions, we need to speak in numbers as well. At Cinnamon we've developed the Cinnamon Faith Action Audit to help churches measure the outcome of their activities so they can engage with civic leaders and institutions to change even more lives.

In 2015/16 we conducted an audit in 87 towns and cities across the UK and discovered that collectively, churches and faith-based groups deliver 220,000 social action projects, serving 48 million beneficiaries each year. In total their contribution is worth more than a staggering £3 billion.

We knew the Church was making an impact, but never imagined it was quite this large - and neither did many other civic authorities! As a result, the audit has opened up countless opportunities for churches to engage with civic authorities in new and powerful ways. We'd love to help churches in Jersey to run Cinnamon Faith Action Audits and to build similar collaborations that transform lives for the better.

Visit www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk to find out more.



Mr Jean Le Maistre MBE, Co-ordinator

Reaching out from St Saviour's Parish Church

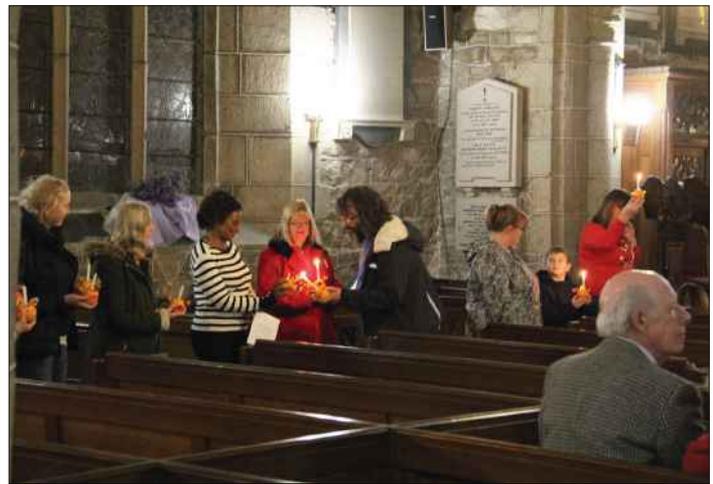
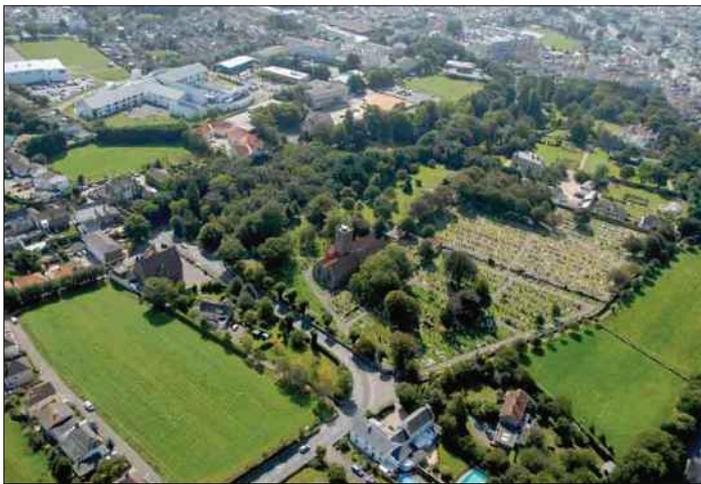
The Christian faith faces challenging times in our secular and frenetically busy world - and perhaps more especially so in Jersey where there are so many churches! I have been struck by how supportive the Parish Hall and Parish officers have been of my twenty-two month ministry at St Saviour.

Which takes me to what I think is the background to our ministry: we are here for everyone living in our Parishes and there is, firstly, a work of pre-evangelism to be done. As a church community, we need to be open, warm and friendly, making links with schools and other civic bodies; we need to be accessible and that involves using language which people can relate to (so much of our "churchy" language does not reach out to people); we need to use modern forms of communication - I am the original Luddite about this, but unless we use Facebook, Twitter and the like we won't get to a whole generation; and we need to use every means possible - the JEP, local radio, publicity posters, leaflet drops - to raise our profiles and let people know we are there and that good things, relevant to them and their lives, take place in our churches!

That is quite a big agenda in itself. And when all this makes me stressed and grumpy, I keep in mind an old Chinese proverb: "if you can't smile, don't be a shop-keeper." We believe Jesus is the way, the truth and the life - we have to show that in both our individual and our church community lives.

And within that at St Saviour's we are modernising the inside of the church with new lighting (it is a glorious building) and making space for meetings, community displays, and eating together; we have started a church playgroup "Stepping Stones"; and we are now looking at new forms of worship to complement the traditional services that will continue, as well as a series of regular special services - for instance, for the civic authorities, pet services, Christingle, in loving memory and so on. My hope is people will suddenly find they are coming so often to special one-off services, that they feel they belong!

Rev Peter Dyson

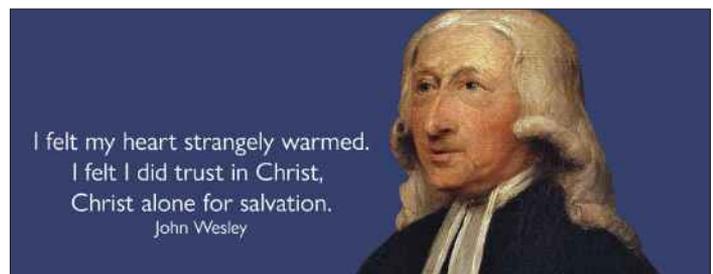


Aldersgate Day and the Holy Spirit

Methodists remember annually, on 24th May or the nearest Sunday, the moment at a meeting in 1738 when John Wesley had his Aldersgate Street experience, in which he 'felt his heart strangely warmed'. For him, it was a profound experience of embracing the grace of God and receiving the Holy Spirit fully in his heart, changing the way he lived his faith and becoming an integral part of his own missional movement. It reminds us, each year, that if the Church is to engage fully in missional activities and to fulfill what God's intentions are, we must be willing to let the Holy Spirit lead us in all we do. From Stephen, to Peter, to Paul, the Spirit is present, always. From the initiating of the first twelve, to the Gentiles, Greeks and Ethiopians and beyond, the Spirit is always there. It is through the Spirit that anything and all things happen. It begins with the power from above coming upon Jesus at His Baptism, and moves from there. We are encouraged to recapture and engage in Spirit theology in our own communities of faith, and seek to do what Jesus, the disciples and subsequent generations have been trying to emulate, from the beginning of the first early Christian communities.

Pentecost reminds us of the miracle of inclusive mission and teaches us that through the Holy Spirit's empowerment of each member of the Community of Christ, amazing things can happen. When we allow the Holy Spirit to move within us,

we begin to model and live the Kingdom message in our own communities. It encourages us to remember the importance of the ever present God, in Spirit form, to engage fully and with the knowledge that God is forever with us, and forever part of what makes mission important and transformative. It is the purpose of the Church to live out what the first Christian churches did and we are asked to embrace a Spirit-led faith and to bring and proclaim this to everyone we meet, so they too can be part of the Kingdom message. Mission is something we, as the Church, are called to do. It is enacted through and by the Holy Spirit, who is the witness to what can and does change people. So may we all feel our hearts 'strangely warmed' and begin living Spirit-led lives so we can share what that means with others, and let transformation and Kingdom-building begin. *Rev Nico Hilmy-Jones*



A Warm Welcome At Gouray

I didn't expect that my congregation here at St Martin de Gouray above the lovely harbour village of Gorey would be taking care of me quite so much in our first three months in Jersey. However, in this time I have experienced two very close family bereavements and been trotting back to the UK several times already, and we have been blessed with outstanding kindness and understanding. I look forward to returning this blessing in the years to come.

First impressions of Jersey are all very positive. We are bowled over by the outstanding natural beauty (a kestrel just perched on our garden bench even as I wrote this). We have also been struck by the vitality of so many Jersey charities that work so hard to care for those in need. And it is refreshing to see Churches working in partnership. The warm welcome from the congregation at Gouray has been echoed by the Church of England Deanery and by many leaders of other Churches.

I am now excited about building up the links between St Martin de Gouray Church and the community we serve here in Gorey.

Rev Jeff Wattley



Rev Nico Hilmy-Jones' Journey of Faith

Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, I had the privilege of growing up in an international community, due to my father's work, and was exposed to many different ethnic and religious faith groups. With an Egyptian Coptic father and a Scottish Methodist mother, my background has allowed me to honour alternative Christian viewpoints and see the common threads. At the age of 18, I moved to the United States and attended George Washington University, earning a B.A. in Religion and Anthropology. I had visions of one day being part of exciting archaeological digs, but instead went travelling in different parts of the world and simply experienced life. I married and had a beautiful son, Patrick, who is my most favourite person in the world and keeps me sane.

I remember my New Testament Professor saying to us 'when was the last time you sat with a drug addict, alcoholic, prostitute or homeless person? When you do that, you will find yourself in the Kingdom of God and that's what Jesus was all about.' I took that to heart and found myself being part of both ecumenical church teams and interfaith groups working with the homeless and those in need. It shaped who I was and kept me humble and so very aware that people living desperately on the fringe of society had more to teach me about life than I could ever learn on my own.

Although I trained as a Veterinary Nurse, those experiences had a profound impact on my life and eventually led to my candidacy for the ministry, subsequently training at Wesley Study Centre at Durham University. My previous (and first) appointment was within the Newcastle District, where I had pastoral charge of four rural/village churches in Northumberland for five years. It was challenging and rewarding, but seemed like travelling to the four corners of the earth, so I am delighted to be in Jersey where everything is so close by! I look forward to working within the communities of all my Churches, St Martin, Ebenezer and Eden, and if you see me walking my two greyhounds, Merlin and Shay, please say hello - or if I'm whizzing past on my motorcycle, please wave!

Rev Nico Hilmy-Jones



The Rev Jenny Pathmarajah introduces herself

When people ask me where I come from, I ask them "how much time have you got?!" I was born in Yorkshire and moved to Warrington just before I was five. I travelled the world for a bit, living in Sri Lanka and America, before going to University in Durham to study Language and Linguistics.

I then went to East Anglia and worked in Norwich for the Methodist Church, which led to my candidacy for ministry. I trained in Cambridge before being sent to north Norfolk for my first appointment as a Methodist minister and enjoyed six happy years working in Holt, Blakeney, Wells, Walsingham and surrounding villages.

To add a little bit more complication...my father is from Sri Lanka which is why I have such an interesting surname! I'm married to Paul Curtis who is a pilot and flies 747-4's and 747-8's

for a cargo company called Cargo Logic Air (don't worry, most people haven't heard of them either!), although he used to fly for Aurigny when he resided in Guernsey (though I'm told we shouldn't admit to him having lived there..!). We're both really excited to be living in Jersey and looking forward to joining a variety of groups from chess to Girlguiding, and getting stuck into Island life. I'm delighted to be serving St Aubin and St Ouen Methodist Churches alongside a variety of community activities.

Rev Jenny Pathmarajah
Tel. 01534 743933
E-mail: jpjersey@gmail.com



Jersey Retreat Association

Who are we?

We began in 1965 when the Rev Evelyn Chevasse, then Rector of St Peter's Parish Church, held the first Retreat, introducing us to times set aside for the Lord – time to grow in the peace He offers, and to find rest in Him in a busy and restless world.

What do we do?

The aim of the Association is to organise Ecumenical Quiet Days and Retreats, and to invite Conductors to lead them. Among others, we have welcomed Margaret Silf, Gerard Hughes, Liz Babbs, Franciscan Brothers, and many local leaders - last year Rev Gerry Baudains, Rev Mark Barrett and Mrs Barbara Rostill with 'Art and Soul' in the beauty of St Mary's Rectory Garden. All have invited us into the loving presence of the Lord, and our increasing numbers from many denominations over the Island reflect the need for 'Time-out.'

Residential Retreats often take place on-Island (latterly at the Hotel Ambassadeur) and last year we did a Pilgrimage off-island to the Sisters of l'Abbaye de St Jacut-de-la-Mer in Brittany, where we spent four days walking, praying and resting in the silence broken only by the sound of the sea surrounding the peninsula.

Why silent Retreats?

Until you have tried it, you cannot know the companionship of silence, and the delight of being free to discover God's loving presence within. Though for some it may be difficult to begin with, in time these become gems of peace and support in our busy world.

We all need to stand aside from our daily lives, and these are golden opportunities to find ourselves in both good and difficult times as we come closer to the One who knows us and guides us best of all.

Why not give it a try?

Rev Jane Ilton

Contact numbers:

Secretary: Christine Le Marquand - 825800

Chair: Rev Jane Ilton - 722327

Meetings 2018: See Diary Dates, back page

Caritas Addresses Social Exclusion



The most recent, and probably the most challenging, project so far undertaken by Caritas Jersey is the Social Inclusion Project. The objective is to empower local minority groups to discuss issues of concern to their communities, to articulate those concerns to the appropriate authority and to take such action as will ensure that these issues are addressed and resolved.

These minorities tend to exclude themselves, or are excluded, from playing a full role in the wider community, largely because of language and cultural differences and a real feeling of being disassociated from Jersey society and government. By bringing these nationalities together to share their experiences and difficulties, identifying issues of mutual concern and finding solutions, a new company - called the Caritas International Association - hopes to build bridges, to improve the quality of life and to better integrate these minority communities into Jersey society.

The Caritas International Association (Jersey) Limited has representatives from Poland, Portugal, Madeira, Venezuela, Brazil, Romania, Africa, the Caribbean, Germany and Greece, with more to follow! It has the full support of the Polish and Portuguese Consuls and the Romanian Consul-in-Waiting. Currently we are consulting widely on the emerging concerns, and shortly we will be calling an Assembly of interested parties to determine what issues we wish to pursue now and which can be addressed later. We will then form a small number of action groups who will be charged with delivering change.

Our thanks go to the Lloyds TSB Foundation for backing this innovative approach. Our thanks also go to St Mary's University, Twickenham and Birmingham University for agreeing to support Professor Francis Davis. Professor Davis will be working with the Caritas International Association to research the current state of social inclusion in Jersey and this research will benchmark the Association's work and enable it to measure progress.

John Scally
Executive Director





Hospital Chaplaincy - The Joy of being an Ecumenical Team

The joy of being part of an ecumenical team can be seen in the support and acceptance the team gives to one another regardless of creed or faith. To reach out spiritually and meet the needs of the many people who visit the hospital, a Chaplaincy team is required that can offer a rich diversity of styles and beliefs. This is provided in the Jersey hospitals by both the paid chaplains and the chaplaincy volunteers. Together they provide spiritual, religious and pastoral care to patients, families and members of staff.

The ordained members of the team comprise Anglican clergy Reverends Maureen Turner (Team Leader), Tracy Bromley and Judith Davy, Roman Catholic Chaplain Fr Wieslaw Sasinowski, and Free Church minister Debbie Poole. Other priests, ministers and faith representatives give valuable support when required, so that together, the team can offer the right spiritual support to people of all faiths and those of none.

The team cares for people's spiritual and religious needs and, as far as possible, helps them find that sense of inner peace which is such an important part of the healing process. People don't have to be "religious" or be regular churchgoers to make use of the team's services. Each person is treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity and

is listened to in a confidential and non-judgemental way. What the team offers is summed up in three phrases:

- Helping to meet people's individual spiritual and religious needs
- Offering friendship and support by coming alongside them
- Listening to their concerns with empathy and compassion

One spiritual facility that we could not do without is the hospital chapel (The Chapel of the Good Shepherd). Patients, relatives, friends and staff often visit the chapel and find it a peaceful place. All are welcome to sit, reflect, pray, light a candle or simply rest in beautiful surroundings. There is a weekly service of Holy Communion and other celebrations throughout the year.

There are plans to have a chapel built in the new hospital. Negotiations are well under way with the architect and planners. We want a chapel as beautiful and as functional as the one it will replace.

The team would value everyone's prayers as they continue to serve God in this ecumenical ministry to which they are called.

Rev Maureen Turner

Diary Dates

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|---------------------------|--|
| Sat. 10th February | Jersey Retreat Association AGM |
| Sat. 3rd March | Worship for Healing Meeting on National Quaker Day: Quaker Meeting House, 17 La Colomberie. 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Come and go freely, refreshments available |
| Sat. 14th April | Jersey Retreat Association Easter Quiet Day |
| Sat. 28th April | Jersey Festival Choir Spring Concert, St Helier Methodist Centre 8.00 p.m. Dvořák's Mass in C & other works |
| Sat. 9th June | Licensing of Fleur Benest and Angela Le Sueur as Readers at Trinity Parish Church |
| Thurs. 14th June | Ordination to the Diaconate of Nicolas Le Cornu St Thomas' Church |
| Sat. 30th June | Jersey Retreat Association Summer Quiet Day |
| Sun. 1st July | Ordination to the priesthood of Reverends Helen Gunton and Giles Bartleman at St Helier Parish Church |
| Sat. 24th November | Jersey Retreat Association Advent Quiet Day |

For further information about events in the local Christian community, visit the website of the Jersey Christian Calendar - www.christiancalendar.org.je. To submit details for inclusion or to join their mailing list, contact pilgrim@localdial.com

The Jersey Link is an occasional publication of Christians Together in Jersey.

We are very pleased to welcome the Rev Nico Hilmy-Jones to represent the Methodist Church on the editorial team, whose members are now:

Canon Geoff Houghton, Mrs. Fleur Benest, Rev Martin Dryden, Miss Delia Hardiman, Rev Nico Hilmy-Jones, Mr Michael Ruskin and Mrs Gillian Woodall.

We do not necessarily hold the views expressed in any article. To contact the editorial team, or to offer your comments, please write to Jersey Link, The Rectory, La Rue du Presbytère, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5JB.