

Christians Together in Jersey
Minutes of Enabling Committee Meeting
February 6th 2018 at Georgetown Methodist Church

1. Present:

Rev Graeme Hall	President	Methodist;
Rev Martin Dryden	Ecumenical Officer	Anglican
Michael Ruskin	Treasurer	URC
Angela Le Sueur	Secretary	Catholic
Lieutenant Alice Nunn		Salvation Army
Kate de la Mare		Society of Friends
Rev Robin Dupré	Open the Book	Anglican
Georgia Meikle	Unity Group	Church of Scotland
Jen Le Rossignol	Christian Aid	

Apologies: Rev Graeme Glover, Mgr Nicholas France, Dean Keirle, Elizabeth Mullane

2. Opening Prayer was led by Rev Halls

3. Minutes of the Enabling Committee Meeting of February 9th 2016 were signed.

4. Matters Arising: Salvation Army Hub.

Lieutenants Alice and Richard Nunn had been in Jersey for six months. She was delighted with the way the Hub was bringing together diverse groups and individuals in the café. People working with those with problems with alcohol and drugs, and a mental health team were among those using the back offices. The garden project was developing – bees, guinea pigs and chickens were being acquired. –

5. Matters Arising from the AGM October 9th 2017

The Cinnamon Trust reported 67 churches and organisations had signed up for the Cinnamon audit.

6. Appointments.

Rev Halls said that it was likely that he would be leaving Jersey in 2019 and stepping down as CTJ President before the end of 2018.

Rev Martin Dryden was happy to act as Deputy Chair for the present.

The position of Ecumenical Officer was now redundant.

7. Treasurer's Report

There was £958 in the bank account, after paying for the February edition of LINK, CTJ's main expense.

In view of Rev Halls retiring as President, the meeting resolved that Mike Ruskin should write to the bank, requesting that Rev Halls' name be removed from the list of those authorised to sign cheques relating to the accounts of CTJ. A letter to HSBC to that effect was signed by Rev Graeme Halls and Angela Le Sueur as Secretary. Those authorised to sign are any two of Secretary, Treasurer and (at present) Ecumenical Officer.

8. Review of Way Forward Document (attached)

Rev Halls outlined the three main functions of CTJ: a comprehensive mailing list of issues of general interest to members; an umbrella organisation for groups and organisations; holding an AGM and occasional forum meetings for sharing and discussing issues. Rev Dryden commented that it was encouraging that the churches were now naturally working together more.

CTJ Website

Rev Dryden had recently updated and relaunched the website at: www.ctj.org.je

The website showcases everything that CTJ oversees. It also works on mobile phones. It is now easier to update as it links to other sites which are updated by their owners, rather than CTJ having to update them.

9. Reports

a) CTJ Housing Trust

The Trust comes under the umbrella of CTJ so the appointment of Trustees and any changes to its constitution must be ratified by the Enabling Committee of CTJ.

On behalf of Advocate Charles Vibert, Chairman of the Trust, Angela Le Sueur requested:

- i) That the appointment of Stephen Ogborn as Trustee be approved.
- ii) That the Trust's constitution be amended so that the total number of Trustees be increased from nine to twelve.

The meeting unanimously approved these changes.

Angela (a Trustee of the Housing Trust) reported that the Development in Minden Place, to be called Ed Le Quesne House, was progressing and should be completed early in 2019. It would consist of commercial premises at street level and about 30 flats, mostly one-bedroom but a few with two bedrooms. Discussions about the mix of tenants were on-going with various agencies.

b) Christian Aid.

- i) **Finance:** Mike Ruskin. The amount collected during 2017 was £10,482.58 and this had been sent to Christian Aid in Southampton for the Island to Island Appeal. So far this year various donations have produced £579.

- ii) **Jen Le Rossignol, Regional Coordinator for Christian Aid** – Jersey gave a comprehensive report on activities since she took up the post. **Jen's report is attached.**

c) Living Wage Foundation

Rev Graeme, Halls, Chair of the local Living Wage Group, reported that Graham Griffiths of the Living Wage Foundation who was over in Jersey had spoken to States members that morning. An open meeting at St Paul's was to follow that evening. Graham said that the Living Wage would be increased to £10.20 per hour soon – roughly the same as in London.

One benefit to businesses of paying the Living Wage was lower staff turn-over. Businesses needed to ensure that not only their own staff, but cleaners etc were also paid at this rate.

d) The LINK paper

The latest edition had been published at the beginning of February – a bumper edition that was well received.

e) Open the Door

Rev Robin Dupré, the Island co-ordinator of Open the Door, said that there were 8 groups visiting primary schools to present Bible stories. The groups worked independently but met together once a year. **Full report attached.**

10. Mental Health

Kate de la Mare said that the Quakers were working with the Jersey Recovery College. She felt that the spiritual needs of those with mental issues were not being met.

Chief Minister Ian Gorst was going to Scotland to a conference on mental health issues as a result of the child abuse inquiry. Mrs Carly Glover, Rev Glover's wife was also involved as she had experience in this field.

AOB

- a) Georgia Meikle of St Columba's Church said there was a need for a booklet or similar to publish the times of services and location of the churches – especially in St Helier – for the benefit of tourists.

Although these were published in the JEP, tourists would not necessarily know to look there. Tourism used to distribute such a leaflet, prepared by CTJ, but discontinued this service a few years ago.

- b) John Kirkby, founder of Christians against Poverty (a Cinnamon 'Gold Standard' project) would be in Jersey on March 15th and 16th.

The meeting ended with all present saying The Grace

CTJ - Way Forward 2018

CTJ fulfils three functions: It provides a comprehensive mailing list for circulation of information to clergy and churches; it is an umbrella for more than a dozen organisations and groups; it holds an AGM and occasional forum meeting for sharing and discussing matters.

At the AGM in October 2017 the following matters were reported on and debated:

Christian Aid

CTJ Housing Trust and their new project providing small town-centre accommodation in the former Scope building near Minden Place;

Christians Against Poverty, which is opening up a branch here;

The Living Wage Campaign, led by Caritas;

Cinnamon Trust, which will be conducting a survey of the value of the work the Churches do, to enable better grant-making applications to be made;

Support for Prisoners' Families, and the considerable concern there is amongst the Churches with the mental health issues of both the young and adults and how we as churches, in partnership with others, might respond to this.

This is a hefty agenda, and some are long-term projects, but they confirm 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.

Graeme Halls

February 2018



Bible Storytelling in Jersey Primary Schools

Since January 2002 small groups have been going in to Jersey Primary Schools with the simple object of telling the children Bible stories. The primary resource for this project has been the The Lion Storyteller Bible whose re-telling of some of the most well-known Bible stories has been at just the right level.

The typical presentation normally centres around sharing a story from The Lion Storyteller Bible. This is 'topped and tailed' with a short introduction to the story, a simple prayer - often as little as two or three sentences - and a song. Songs with actions are very popular and the children normally join in.

Groups are often inter-denominational and some have been associated with 'their' school or schools for most of the life of the project. Over time each group has built on the original Lion Storyteller Bible text and developed their own style. The most common model is for a narrator to tell the story and other participants act it out as a tableau taking on the speaking parts of the main characters. A substantial collection of props which are available to all groups adds to the effect.

This, however, is by no means the only way of telling the stories: one group makes quite extensive use of puppets for which they have written their own scripts; another 'group' consists of a single storyteller; fuzzy-felt pictures and projected images have also been used.

In 2014, as this project was rolled out nationally by the Bible Society under the name 'Open the Book', the Jersey groups found that they had grown and developed their material somewhat beyond the model the Bible Society was promoting. After some discussion it was decided that our future was in a separate structure under the auspices of Christians Together in Jersey and we took the name 'Open the Door'.

Currently, there are eight groups: three visit just one school, the others visit two each, giving a total of thirteen schools. Each group operates a pattern of visits that has been negotiated between themselves and the respective schools; some visit weekly, most slightly less frequently. Mine visits monthly but does two stories back-to-back. Group size varies between one and seven; I estimate we have just over forty volunteer storytellers.

Like so many church things, groups would benefit from the presence of more and younger volunteers. If such were found then actively seeking to get invited to more schools would be viable.

Robin Dupré
February 2018

Christian Aid

Morgan's Run – 9-year old Morgan ran 5km per day over the 12 days of Christmas supporting Christian Aid's work in Burkina Faso and Sudan. He raised just over £1000 via a just-giving page, which will be Aid- Matched by the UK government as part of the overall Christmas Appeal.

Inherit the Earth Exhibition –at Georgetown Methodist Church in January. We held two services and two coffee mornings. It was lovely to meet so many people interested to learn about the work that legacies do within Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week 2018 – 13th-19th May. This year's theme is the displacement of people, not necessarily outside of their country, due to famine, war, etc. We so far have two supermarket collections organised. If anyone is interested in holding a 'Big Brekkie' or 'Big Breaktime' during the week, please get in touch or look at the website.

There has been a decline in house-to-house collections and more envelopes are being given out through parish magazines or newsletters. If anyone would like me to order envelopes or resources on their behalf, do let me know, or you can order through the website.

Dr. Rowan Williams will be visiting the island on behalf of Christian Aid from the evening of 9th June until the evening of the 10th June, at the same time as Bishop Trevor. Provisionally I have planned to hold an ecumenical evening/speaking event at around 19:30 on the Saturday evening and a lunch/early afternoon tea with church and community leaders on the Sunday. Please pencil this into your diary if you would be interested. There may also be an opportunity for him to preach at a church service on the Sunday morning. Katie Roberts, Head of the South West team, will also be in Jersey and available to speak on Sunday. Please get in touch if you would be interested. Further details to be announced later

Island to Island Appeal – is the main focus of our work in Jersey, partnering with the isolated islands in the Iloilo region of the Philippines. Money raised by 2017's Lent Lunches went towards this appeal as will this year's. I have a limited stock of leaflets, bookmarks and donation envelopes left and will order more. Do get in touch if you would like some. If anyone would like to hold an event on behalf of the appeal I would love to hear from you. We will be working on this for at least the next 12-24 months and it is a great way to support a fellow island nation.

Island to Island Trip – There are plans for a supporter trip to the Philippines, possibly in April. I have had one person interested so far. It seems very short notice and I am waiting for more details from the UK team. If anyone is interested, please get in touch.

Jersey Overseas Aid – I am meeting with Jersey Overseas Aid to build back our relationship and see how we can collaborate within the local community.

GDPR – New data protection laws are coming in soon and so I will be taking part in work to make sure we are compliant here in Jersey.

Jen Le Rossignol