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With the start of a New Year, I thought I would take the opportunity to reach out to you and wish a Happy New Year to you all!

2025 is set to be a busy and fulfilling year for the Circuit, with lots of exciting events and markers to guide us and give us opportunities to come together.

We start as we mean to go on with our mission event "Alive and Well" taking place on the 18th of January at Georgetown. The aim for this event is to mark this point in our journey to review and summarise what we have learned over this time of discernment. Once we have achieved this, we will move onto a more proactive phase of future planning! Further details can be found in this newsletter and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this half day. Remember Every Voice Matters and so we want to hear from everyone!

I am also pleased to announce that 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of Methodism in Jersey. This momentous marker also coincides with a visit from the the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference and as such, we are taking this opportunity to bring these two celebrations together. The Circuit has started planning a weekend of events that will take place in April 2025, you can read about some of the plans in this newsletter but we will continue to bring you further details as we get closer to the date. Do make sure to mark the dates in your diary (26th and 27th of April) as its going to be a wonderful opportunity for both the members of the circuit and the people of Jersey to enjoy and take part in.

Blessings

Dawn



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: JANUARY

WEEK COMMENCING 5TH JANUARY

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us into a new year. We praise You for new beginnings and fresh opportunities. Lord, as we step into January 2025, guide our steps and help us to trust fully in Your plan for our lives. Let this month be filled with Your grace and blessings. Amen.



WEEK COMMENCING 12TH JANUARY

Lord, we ask for Your peace to fill our hearts and minds. Calm our fears and remind us that You are in control. Let Your peace guide us through every moment of this month. Amen.

WEEK COMMENCING 19TH JANUARY

Lord we trust You to be our provider in every area of life. Open doors of opportunity, bless the work of our hands, and meet every need that arises this month. Let us never lack, for You are our source. Amen.



WEEK COMMENCING 26TH JANUARY

Father, teach us to have a heart of gratitude, seeing Your blessings even in small things. Help us to thank You daily and glorify You in every season of life. Amen.

ALIVE & WELL

Saturday 18th January at Georgetown

Timetable:

Arrivals & Coffee - 9am

Opening devotions - 9.15am

Closing devotions - 1pm

Please do join us at 9am on the 18th of January at Georgetown Methodist Church, to take part in our Mission Event 'Alive & Well'. Within this event we will start by marking this point in our journey, reviewing and summarising what we have learned over this time of discernment, before moving forwards and into the next, more proactive phase of future planning!

We are very blessed that both Katy and James are joining us from the Learning Network and will be leading the day. James has kindly sent an introduction to the work we will be looking at on the day, which we would recommend reading through if you are going to attend:

Growth Planning Reflection Cycle

The growth planning cycle offers a simple structure for listening deeply, dreaming about the change you long to see in the world, choosing a couple of areas to focus on, then taking action. The aim is at the General Church Meeting or Church Council (whichever fits your context best) you review what you've done over the past year, listen again, and go round the cycle once more.



The growth planning cycle invites churches to do what they can, not what they can't. A good idea might be to choose two stations from the Methodist Way of Life as a focus: one strength and one stretch. Many Methodist churches report that the evangelism practices – share, live and tell – are the ones they struggle with the most, so we highly recommend that you choose one of these stations as the way you will stretch yourselves. (You can learn more about the Methodist Way of Life at: www.methodist.org.uk/mwol)

Once you have chosen your two areas of focus for the year, think about how you will create easy entry points for unaffiliated people. For example, you may choose to focus on the 'pray' station from the Methodist Way of Life, and commit to praying more often, more deeply and more creatively. That's great – but how are you inviting unaffiliated people to pray too? Studies have shown that a large proportion of people pray – far larger than the number who would call themselves Christians. As well as meeting as a church to pray, you might plan some community events that include prayer, create a prayer garden that's open to everyone, or simply contact all the groups that use your building a couple of times a year to ask what they would like you to pray for.

Remember Every Voice Matters; Church growth is so much more than more people worshipping on a Sunday and we have so much to give in this circuit. As such everyone is welcome and we would like to see as many people as possible to give their thoughts and opinions on how we can move forward!

SAVE — THE — DATE

250 years of Methodism in Jersey

26th & 27th April

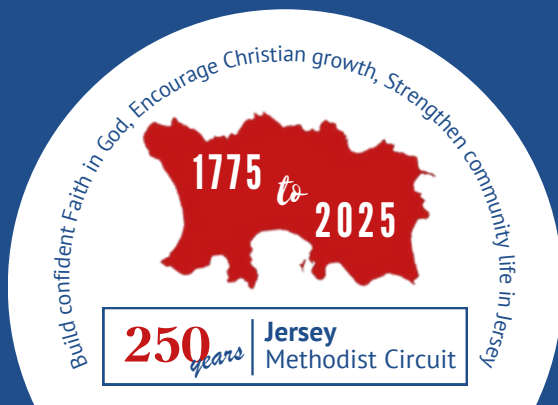
Saturday 26th April:

- 'Question Time' with local charities, SoJ Police and president & Vice-president of Conference
- Celebration concert at St Helier Methodist Centre

Sunday 27th April:

- Prayer walk, celebrating and giving thanks for the past and prayers for the future
- Afternoon celebration service, led by the president and vice president of the Methodist Conference, followed by afternoon tea.

Further details to follow



QUEEN'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE AWARD

Back in October it was announced that the Methodist Homes for the Aged's very own Stuart Court home manager; Elaine Jackson, had been awarded the Queen's Nurse title and would be presented with this award in a later ceremony.



This prestigious title is awarded to those with 5+ years of experience and have demonstrated a high level of commitment to patient care and nursing practice.

Having now received her award in person, Elaine felt "incredibly humbled and inspired to receive the award from Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu



DBE CBE" (you may recognise her from carrying the orb during the King's Coronation), and was delighted to share this special moment with her daughter Philippa and two of her esteemed colleagues from Family Nursing & Home Care - Ann Morgan and Justine Le Bon Bell.

GENERATIONS

Session timetable:

- Arrive from 2.45 pm
- Singing a few popular well known songs and doing a craft activity.
- Children arrive just after 3pm
- Some sit with the seniors to help with the craft and have a chat.
- Finish with songs, with the children handing out musical instruments to those who wish to join in.

Session dates:

- Friday 31st January
- Friday 7th March
- Friday 4th April

Everyone is welcome to these sessions and if you would like any further information please contact Amy Britton on 07797 769186

MBE AWARDED TO RUTH SMITH

We were pleased to hear that Ruth Smith, a member of our St Aubin family has been awarded an MBE for services to communities in both Jersey and Kenya.

Ruth has taught in Jersey for over 50 years, having come to the island at the age of 23, however, it was through a gap year, taken in 2014, that Ruth found herself splitting her teaching abilities between Jersey and Kenya. Having spent time in a school in Malindi, Ruth saw how many younger children were not in school and was inspired in setting up her very own self-funded school.



Image of Ruth taken from JEP online



*Images taken from
www.malindibrightfuture.org*

The school opened in January 2015, and has now been running for 10 years, growing in size from only 5 students at the beginning to over 300 students today. Student numbers are not the only growth seen at the school, however, with Ruth noticing that many students would come to school hungry and/or without lunch. This prompted Ruth to set up a porridge and lunch fund as part of the School's offerings, meaning every child would have breakfast and lunch at school if they could not bring their own.

Ruth's accomplishments do not stop there, with her also:

- Setting up a Registered Jersey Charity in 2020, named 'The Friends of Malindi Bright Future Academy', which continues to support the school
- Writing Children's books with funds also supporting the Malindi school
- Running the Jersey Dyslexia Association for many years
- Setting up and leading a Trinity Youth Club

If you would like to learn more about Ruth's work in Kenya, please do check out their website: <https://malindibrightfuture.org/>



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT



We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! The following shows some of the events that took place across the circuit during December.



St Aubin

An amazing 96 gifts were donated as part of the St Aubin Gift Tree service that took place on the 15th of December. Well done to everyone that took part with the gifts being gratefully received by the following local charities: FREEDA, Shelter Trust, Sanctuary House Trust, Cheshire Homes and Brighter Futures. St Aubin has been supporting local charities in this way for 25 years now, which is quite an achievement. Well done all!



Ebenezer

Pickles at Ebenezer had a very special guest attend their Christmas party on the 12th of December. As this was the last session for the term, Father Christmas took time out of his Christmas preparations to pop in and give out presents, sing a song and take part in a short prayer. The look on the little boy's face in the photo to the left, is a joy to behold.



The Pantivity at Ebenezer took place on Sunday the 15th of, with friends from URC and many families from Pickles also joining in on the fun. Rev Dawn scripted and led the story of the Three Kings for the 2024 Pantivity and wasn't short of helpers for the reenactment. The children were all keen and so there were many shepherds, angels and Kings all joining in.



The congregation were also blessed to have one of the church children sign Silent Night.



Georgetown

In a year which has seen so much war as well as illness, pain and bereavement amongst Georgetown's congregation and friends, and financial hardship for many islanders, they decided that their Christmas theme would be trees, arranged around the church.



The Prayer Tree was originally set up a few years ago when a little girl from Plat Douet School was very ill and it gave her family and school friends at their carol service a chance to remember her and others who needed prayer. Paper doves were left for prayer requests



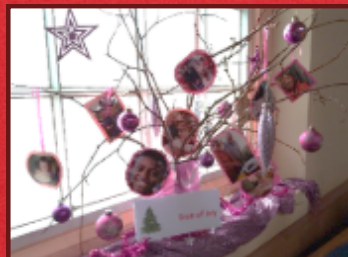
The Tree of Hope was spearheaded by the Monday Group, supported by other Georgetown members, to illustrate the many ways we can use our hands to spread God's care and love



The Tree of Peace referenced just some of the current conflicts in our world. We can still help as individuals in our support of agencies like Medecins Sans Frontieres or the British Red Cross.



The Tree of Knowledge is a reminder that, as humans, there will always be many huge gaps in our knowledge but we can still keep reading and learning



The Tree of Joy portrays family events like birthdays, graduations and baptisms and reflects the happiness and joy of friends and family



The Brighter Futures Tree was put together by the children, parents and carers who meet weekly at Georgetown.

St Helier



SHMC, the URC and Ebenezer shared a very special 'Deck the Halls' Service on the first Sunday of Advent (1st), led by Rev Keith. Each Church lit a candle on their own advent ring and members from the three congregations shared in the readings and reflections, with



wreaths, poinsettias, cards, baubles and a very special manger created by Rev Keith and made out of glass, placed at the front of the Church.

Sue de Gruchy led the singing of 'While Shepherds watch' to 2 alternative catchy tunes and the congregation did a count down to the lighting of the Christmas tree, symbolising the light of the world and life-giving presence of Christ.

The young people shared their craft activity, a beautifully created Advent Ring poster, which brought to an end a wonderful and uplifting service.



Bethesda



Creative Nativity

Led by Naomi, a very successful Creative Nativity service was held on the 15th of December for families led. Several families and older generations came together to craft characters and scenes from the Christmas story and placing them in a stable (shoebox) to take home. This was followed by the Christmas story being read by the children and singing some carols.



Carols by Candlelight

Peter led a wonderful service of readings and carols all lit by candles. The congregation all had LED candles to light during the final carol.



Christmas Day

A joint service with Bethlehem was a joyous celebration of our Lord's birth. A packed church shared the presents they had been given and listened again as the Christmas story was told by Peter using modern symbols. All praised, prayed and shared together in the coming of Jesus.



CIRCUIT DIARY FOR THE NEXT MONTH:

WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Monday: Drop in at St Aubin's Methodist Church - 1pm to 4pm
- Wednesday: Coffee Buzz at Samares - 10.30am
- Thursday: Community Coffee Morning at St Aubin's Methodist Church - 10am to 12.30pm
- Thursday: Community Coffee Morning at Georgetown Methodist Church - 10am to 12 noon
- Thursday: Bible study & soup lunch at St Helier Methodist Centre

SPECIAL EVENTS

January:

- 11th - Bethlehem Film Night (Sound of Freedom) - From 6.00pm
- 13th - Messy Bears at Philladelphie - 9.00am
- 14th - Exploring the Bible with Dr Nola Webster at St Aubin
- 14th - Circuit Stewards Meeting - 7.30pm
- 15th - DPC Meeting via Zoom - 7.30pm
- 18th - Alive & Well at Georgetown - 9.00am
- 20th - Messy Bears at Philadelphie - 9.00am
- 21st - Messy Vintage at Philadelphie - 2.30pm to 4.30pm
- 21st - Circuit Meeting at Ebenezer - 7.30pm
- 27th - Messy Bears at Philadelphie - 9.00am
- 28th - Exploring the Bible with Dr Nola Webster at St Aubin
- 28th & 29th - Ministers Conference - Southampton
- 31st - Generations at Ebenezer - From 2.45pm

February

- 3rd - Messy Bears at Philadelphie - 9.00am
- 4th - Messy Church at Philadelphie - 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- 4th - Circuit Stewards Meeting - 7.30pm
- 8th - Bethlehem Film Night (Soul Surfer) - From 6.00pm



Remember to also check out the Circuit calendar on the Circuit website for a collection of all events happening across the circuit. If you want to have an event added, just email the circuit administrator with details of the event.

ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER?

Please do get in touch if there are any events, stories or general information that you feel would be good to share with the rest of the circuit (circuit.office.jsy@gmail.com).

