

November 2023









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Dur Mission

To build confident faith in God, to encourage Christian growth and to strengthen community life in Jersey





Prayer for the Week: November (Helen Higginson)

Week of 5 November

Grant us oh God, a greater obedience to your will, a more fervent love for our neighbour and a stronger thirst for your word; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Week of 19 November

Holy God, in the sign of the rainbow you promised life to all people, each one wonderfully made in your image. Lead us to fullness of life, which is your will and your gift, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Week of 12 November

God of peace, breathe on this fractured world and heal the divisions that grow daily wider. Breathe on those who hate, opening the clenched fist that it might embrace. Breathe on the influential, that their power might be used for the common good of all. God of peace breathe on this fractured world.

Week of 26 November

Lord Jesus may we feel your presence in all we do today. Help us feel calm when we feel anxious and strong when we feel weak. When the day is done may we feel at peace in your presence. Amen

A Prayer for New Places for New People

God of love, God for all, your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly imagine. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Help us to let go of all that holds us back.

Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility and faith, of change and growth. Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show us the way.

Amen

St Helier Methodist Centre Food Bank

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Foodbank through their recent Harvest services and those who continue to contribute on an ongoing basis, all donations are very much appreciated. All referrals come via Citizens Advice Jersey and due to the current financial crisis the demand on the foodbank and the need for electricity vouchers is increasing each month. For your information:

- Compared to 2022 (12 months) where we had 131 applicants for food and electricity vouchers, we have seen 143 applicants so far this year (9 months) an increase of around 33%
- In 2022 (12 months) we gave out 181 bags of food compared to this year we have given out 189 bags of food already (9 months), increase of 25%
- o In 2022 (12 months) we gave out £2,300 of electricity vouchers and so far (9 months) we have given out £2,530, an increase of around 35%



We understand that times are hard for so many people but we would really appreciate any support you can give going forward. We are always looking for tins or packet foods that have a long shelf life, especially tinned meats, tinned fruit, cereals, packets of crackers and biscuits.

Thank you everyone. Best wishes, Julie Noel (SHMC Administrator)

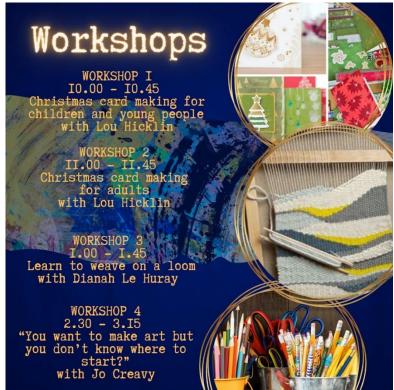




Kairos Arts

Creativity Festival





There will be a café run by St Andrew's, craft stalls to buy locally produced Christmas gifts by local artisans, Kairos Arts' pop-up shop of ethical handmade products, the launch of their Bolivia fundraising target and four workshops that are available to pre-book. Workshops cost £10 per person. All under 18s need to be accompanied by an adult. There are two cardmaking workshops led by Lou Hicklin in the morning, then learn to weave on a loom with Dianah Le Huray in the afternoon and last of all 'You want to make art but don't know where to start?' with Jo Creavy.

Advent Concert



The annual Advent Concert in aid of Kairos Arts' March 2024 trip to Bolivia will take place on Saturday 2 December ,7.30pm at St Helier Methodist Centre.

Amity Singers and Cathy Sara will prepare our hearts and minds for this special season with beautiful words and music. Tickets on the door £15.

https://www.kairosarts.org/





St Helier Methodist Centre



During the holiday we had two pop-in sessions at SHMC. The theme of these sessions was 'God made our beautiful world and we must look after it'. So during the two sessions we focused on how we can look after God's world by recycling, reusing, and reducing what we use in our daily lives.

In our cafe we had our craft area where families made trees and flowers with tissue paper, painted animal faces, and made bugs out of pegs and pipe cleaners and so much more. We then used all of these crafts to make the wall display in the Church. A great community project.

The centre of the wall display represents the world and all that is on it; people, animals, bugs, flowers and trees etc. Around the outside are animals asking us to reduce the rubbish we create, to not destroy their habitats. To Recycle, reuse and reduce whenever we can.

The most important point here is that it is 'our duty to look after God's world' (Genesis 2:15) So let's all do what we can!

Ellen Davey and Sue de Gruchy

The Les Freres Cross





Many of you will remember the wooden cross at Les Freres. The new owners wondered if any of the churches in our Circuit would like to have it. With its special connections to our local Methodist history, please let Audrey know if you think you could give it a home in your church.





Being Circuit: Chris O'Hagan

Joining the Sunday School at the tender age of 3 in Manchester, Chris has always been a Methodist. Her first formal role was as a steward in her 40's in a combined church with two buildings and two congregations - Afro-Caribbean and white English working class communities. Over time she watched as the two congregations melded together through getting to know each other and respecting each other's background and traditions.

Some 12 years ago, on a Christmas visit to her daughter Claire she so enjoyed the Midnight Communion service at Bethesda, alongside Val Macready, that she decided that if ever she moved to Jersey, that would be her church! And so 6 years ago Chris and her Ulsterman husband Donal 'immigrated' to live with her daughter and husband Barry in a quiet St Ouen lane. The only minor disturbance was from 'feral' peacocks or next door's rhea, Guernsey goats and geese until Storm



Ciarán ripped apart and ransacked their recently tidied and reorganised two sheds last week.



With a grounding in adult community education and then human resources at Cooperative Financial Services in Manchester, Chris relieved Val of the Treasurer's baton some 3 years ago. Although initially challenging, Rev Danny helped her master a new accounting package. Richard Quenault soon spotted how her skills could add value to the Circuit Stewards team, which she joined formally in March. Chris has otherwise immersed herself in Island life, volunteering for the National Trust (as a guide at the Georgian House in New Street and at Le Quetivel Mill) and treasurer for St John's WI. For some time she was also responsible for the Primary Art Section at the Eisteddfod.

The wording in Chris's embroidered sampler sums up her love of 'all things needle'. *Proverbs 31:* 13 - She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands.

Chris's mother "was a sewer", making all her clothes from coats to bonnets and Chris was handed her first knitting needles at the age of 3. Her mother owned a wool shop and the young Chris earned pocket money knitting little garments for sale in the shop. Later in life Claire nominated her Mum for and she was awarded a Blue Peter badge for



knitting an Icelandic sweater for a crofter in Iona, whose vital statistics called for a very large quantity of wool! (Chris, Donal and Claire have spent at least 30 Easters in Iona, plus many trips at other times of the year.)



Brought up to be "always doing something", Chris is unable to relax watching television without some needles or project to keep her hands busy. In the past it was knitting or crocheting (blankets for charity, waistcoats etc) but currently she is French knitting sustainable 'tinsel' in jewel colours for the WI tree at the St Peter's Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival in early December.













Unfortunately she doesn't have enough beds or wall space to display and enjoy her wide range of patchwork and appliqued quilts!







Chris hand-makes Christmas and special birthday cards, sometimes with intricate embroidery or patchwork designs and tiny, complex fabric boxes requiring high precision and accuracy









The first two cushions above are embroidered or tapestry and she made the third from her Dad's ties as a touching gift to her Mum. Pride of place is given to her upholstered stool made from Donegal tweed.



What does she enjoy most about her craft projects? The creativity, switching off from other things in life, being in a class with like-minded people from whom she learns or making something with relaxing music in the background. She doesn't tend to enter competitions, although she has displayed her creations in exhibitions (where there are "no stitch police"!).

Chris's one remaining ambition is to try out china painting so if anyone can complete the circle of crafts for this artistic lady, please contact her direct or through the Circuit Office.







Pause to pray and prepare for the Advent Season

Saturday December 2nd @ 3pm

Join us at St Martin's Methodist Church Rue de Belin, JE3 6BH

Image by Freepile





We shall not forget

We shall not forget the sacrifice of millions;
We shall not forget the bloodshed and the tears;
We shall not forget the loss of generations;
We shall not forget despite the passing of years.
Yet we shall walk on with courage
To a day when warfare will cease.
There will be a way all can flourish
When the bells ring out, ring out for peace.

We shall not forget the walls we build to separate; We shall not forget the steps that lead to war; We shall not forget the woundedness of all of us; We shall not forget what only love can restore. So we will work with humility For a day when hatred will cease. There will be an end to hostility When the bells ring out, ring out for peace.

We shall not forget God's mercy through the centuries; We shall not forget the signs of hope in bloom; We shall not forget Christ's victory through suffering; We shall not forget the life that burst from the tomb. So we shall sing of salvation, And the harmony will increase. Healing will embrace every nation, As the bells ring out, ring out for peace.

Words: © 2018 Andrew T. Murphy and Matt Allen

Cottage available for rental - St Oven



The one-bedroomed cottage next to the Methodist chapel in St Ouen will become available to rent later this year, although the exact date has yet to be fixed. The premises are very small and are best suited to a single person, who would need to have full residential qualifications. There is a private garden and a parking space is included for the exclusive use of the tenant. They would be pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in renting this accommodation. Please contact either of the property stewards to register your interest: Lloyd Le Gresley (gracelegresley@gmail.com) or Hugh Lincé (organist@gmx.co.uk)

Annual Missions Lunch

The lunch will take place on 18 November in the hall at St Martin, 12.00-2.00pm. Tickets can be purchased on the door (£12 and £3 for children under 12 years). In addition to the menu of soup, bread, cheese and dessert, there will be a bring and buy stall. Do come along and bring your friends. Funds raised will go to the London Mission.









Mini Christmas Fayre

St Aubin Methodist Church

Saturday 18th November

10am-1pm



Refreshments £2.00

Craft Gifts and Cakes

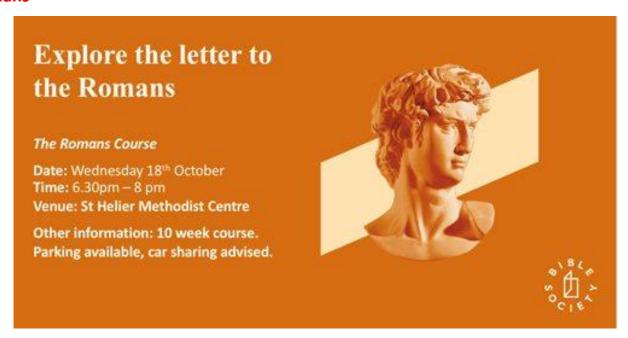






Bible Study opportunities around the Circuit

Romans



Philippians



You're invited to a six-week exploration of Paul's lovely letter to the **Philippians: More than Happiness,** which begins on Monday October 30th, 2.30pm at Ebenezer Methodist Church Trinity. This will run for 6 weeks finishing on Monday 4th December with mince pies. Helen and Tony will be leading with the hope of inviting people from all our Circuit churches. Arrive at 2.15pm for teas and coffees, and finish promptly at 3.30pm- and no prior knowledge is required, and no question too big or too small! There is plenty car parking, so why not give yourself a pre-advent spiritual boost.

Advent

Save the dates: Tuesdays 5, 12, 19 December, 1.00-2.15pm for the Advent study group at Georgetown to be led by Revs Dawn and Tony. Full details to follow.





St Martin's Methodist Church

There is not too much to report upon this month. Most events still lie in the future. On 10 November at 7.30pm, Tim Pollard will again be presenting his popular Remembrance programme in the Chapel. On Sunday 12 November, as usual, we will be sharing in the Remembrance Service at the Parish Church and Cenotaph.

Next comes our Missions Lunch on 18 November, with all the usual culinary delights and our hope is to raise funds for the London Mission.





Christmas services will then be upon us, starting with sharing in the 'Carols on the Green' with other parishioners 17 December in the afternoon, another lovely opportunity to share ecumenically with our neighbours.

Our own Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve is at 6.30 pm. The morning service that Sunday at 10.30am will be an LA of Carols, especially for those of us who find it difficult to come out of on a dark, winter's night. The next day, Christmas Day, there will be a short Christmas thanksgiving at 10.00 am.(not 10.30am as on the Plan)

Plenty to keep us busy before we welcome the New Year 2024, when Rev'd Pete Stone, the Rector, and his congregation have invited us to their 'Plough Sunday' service on 14 January.

Covenant Francisco Sunday Service

Then the following Sunday they be joining with us for our Covenant Service.



It has also been good to meet with our Steward colleagues from other churches, when Revd Tony has challenged us to set ourselves achievable targets for the coming year as we seek to share the Gospel and our faith in Christ in a meaningful way.

The Jersey Marathon reaches Bethlehem!





The Standard Chartered Jersey Marathon wound its way in perfect conditions around the Island last month and the members of Bethlehem were out supporting everyone, from the professional runners to the rhino costumed to the relay teams. Dianne Huddlestone said that "what you can't get from the photos is the uplifting praise songs that were playing at the time!"





SPOREATE SPORES CHILDREN IN NEED

WE'RE RAISING MONEY FOR BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

WHAT Delicious
Home Baked
Afternoon Tea

WHEN & WHERE

Friday 17th November 2.30pm - 5.00pm at Philadelphie Messy Centre St Peter's main road (next to M&S)

CONTACT

Katie: 482364

katie.bill39@gmail.com







Poor Noah!

And now for something quite different . . .! Some years ago, David Marett's former Circuit Steward colleague, Richard Dupres uncovered this original piece about Noah's Ark 'for our time'. David in turn very cleverly produced the Jèrriais version which was published in the St Martin's Parish magazine this quarter and he also used it as a Lettre Jèrriaise for BBC Jersey. See how far you manage to get in Jèrriais before defaulting to the English translation!

V'y-ous not scène nos dit qué dans l'année 2023, lé Bouon Dgieu vint à Noé, tchi d'meuther au Canada achteu, et li dit "Acouo eune fais, lé Monde est dév'nu mêchant et bein trop populé, et j'vait la fin dé toute la vie des animaux et des humains. Bâtis un autre Arc et sauve deux dé toutes les bêtes en vie, auvec deux-trais bouons humains." I' donnit à Noé touos les plians, et dit "Tu as siêx mais à bâti l'Arc d'vant qué j' c'menche eune avèrse dé plyie à d'lugi pour quarante jours et quarante nyits.

Siêx mais pus tard, lé Seigneur érgardit en bas, et vit Noé à plieuther dans san bel – mais pas d'Arc. "Noé!" i' lis dits enraiji, "J'sis prêt à c'menchi la plyie! Où'est qu'est l'Arc?"



"Oh, pardonne mé Seigneur," Noé bédgi, "mais les temps sont changis. I'm' fallé un pèrmîns dé bâti. J'ieu à ardgumenter auvec l'înspecteux entouor la nécessité d'aver un poudriyi contre les fliambes. Mes vaîsîns ércliâment qué j'ai violé contre la louai dé zôn'nie du vaîsinné par avait bâti un Arc dans man bel, tchi 'tait trop haut. J'ayons ieu à d'mander eune décision du Commité D'Entchête du Dêveloppement!

Et pis lé Départément du Transport d'mandit eune asseuthance contre les frais d'aver à bouôgi les câbl'ye dé pouver suspendues, et pour clièrgi lé c'mîn à la mé. J'lus dits qué la mé, nos veindrait mais i' n'voulez

pas nos êcouter. À trouver lé bouais en 'tait eune autre problème. Ch'est d'fendu d'abbatre les bouais local, pour sauver lé brun cahouain picoté. J'ai êprouvé à lus dithe qué l'Arc 'tait pour sauver les cahouains, mais pas d'succés.

Quand j'c'menchi à assemblier l's animaux, les groupes pour les Drouaits d's Animaux mé poussîte en cour!

l' voulaient dithe tchi s'raient embarrés contre lus d'sis et ch'tait cruel dé les garder dans un espace si p'tite. Lé 'EPA' à decider qué jé n' pouvais pas continuer auvec l'Arc jusqu'à temps tchi' l avaient condit eune entchête sus les conséquenches envithonnemental dé ton inondâtion proposé. J'sis acouo entrain dé rêsoudrer eune plieinte dé la Commission pour les Drouaits Humains sus lé nombre dé minorités qué j'dait empliyait pour mes travailleux. Les Unions disent qué jé n' peut pon faithe sèrvi dé mes garçons. Il însiste qué j'empl'yies seulement des travailleux dé l'Union tch' ont dé l'expérience à bâti les Arcs.



Pour en faithe piéthe, lé CRA a confistchi mes beins, en r'cliâments qué j'sis entrain dé m'sauver, sans permission, auvec des spécies endangis. Pardonne mé, Seigneur, mais i' prendrait dgiêx ans à bâti ch't Arc ichîn"

Tout d'un coup, lé ciel clièrgi, lé solé érlithi, et un arc-en-ciel s'êtendit à travèrs lé ciel. Noé fut êmèrveilli et d'mandi: "Tu t'envas pas dêtruithe lé Monde?" "Non," lé Seigneur lis dits, "Les Gouvèrnements m' y ont battu!!

Et bein. Tchi niolîn! Ou est-che tout à fait? J'vos laisse décider.

Davi Mathet





Do you see, our story tells us that in the year 2023, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in CANADA, and said, 'Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans. He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, 'You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights.'

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark.

'Noah!' He roared, 'I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?'



'Forgive me, Lord,' begged Noah, 'but things have changed. I needed a building permit. I've been arguing with the inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I've violated the neighbourhood zoning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Development Appeal Board for a decision.

Then the Department of Transportation demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power

lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it. Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, an animal rights group sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space. Then the EPA ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my

building crew. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, the CRA seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark.'

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, 'You mean you're not going to destroy the world?'

'No,' said the Lord. 'The governments beat me to it.

Well, that's enough of my nonsense! Or is it altogether? I leave you to decide.

David Marett







Donations will be given to

Saturday 18 November
Meal 6.00pm, Film 7.30pm
To book contact Mary on 483020
by Wednesday 15 November

The film is based on the true story of Nazi occupied island of Amorel (Sark). Venus is a pedigree cow whose ability to produce high quality milk is legendary. She has even come to the attention of Hitler who wants to send her to Germany to breed with the herds there! British special Forces mount a dangerous operation to rescue Venus and return her to England.







Tabernacles Weekend

With guest speaker John Perkins (Bearsden Baptist Church, Glasgow) and Margaret Young (Hatikva Dancers) the members of Bethlehem shared teaching, worship, Hebrew dancing, flags and lunch fellowship.







The photos show the sukkah, the challah bread they shared at the Shabbat meal on Friday. Although they had a wonderful weekend, if was marred by the shocking news coming from Israel on the Saturday morning. They all came together in prayer and sorrow and then continued to lift the Lord's name high.







Generations

As the next Generations gathering is not until 24 November, Amy's craft activity on 20 October was to make a large poppy ready for Remembrance Sunday. Generations have gained some new young families and they really enjoyed the afternoon. There is still room for more senior folk, so do go along this month (Friday 24 November, 2.45pm, Ebenezer) for a gentle afternoon of craft, craic, a cuppa and singing.





Ebenezer's church hall lost a row of roof tiles in Storm Ciarán and, as it was not felted underneath, rain will be coming through. But to find a roofer free . . . ?





For the person who has everything

We all have family members or friends who are 'impossible to buy for' at Christmas, either because they already have everything or genuinely don't want their lives cluttered with more 'stuff'. All We Can (the Methodist Relief and Development Fund) may offer some inspiration. A few ideas are included below but you can click into their online shop for many others Shop-All We Can













Circuit Diary - regular dates

Weekly coffee mornings

- ° Wednesdays: 10.30 11.45am Samares
- Thursdays: 10.00am 12.00pm Georgetown
- Thursdays: 10.00am 12.30pm St Aubin (concluding with a short service at 12.00pm on the second Thursday of each month)

Circuit Diary - special events

Tuesday 14 November

° Kairos Arts Pop-up, Salvation Army Café, 10.00-11.30am

Wednesday 15 November

Gentlemen's lunch, Tipsy Toad, St Peter, 12.30pm. Please let Richard Quenault know a couple of days in advance if you are attending: rq_uk@yahoo.co.uk or tel 744052

Friday 17 November

° Philadelphie Messy Centre, Children in Need afternoon tea, 2.30-5.00pm

Saturday 18 November

- Kairos Arts Creativity Festival, 10.00am-4.00pm, St Andrew's Church
- St Martin's Church hall, Annual Missions Lunch 12.00 2.00pm
- Bethlehem Film Night, meal 6.00pm, film 7.30pm
- St Aubin's Church, Mini Christmas Fayre ,10.00am 1.00pm

Tuesday 21 November

Annual General Meeting of Jersey Fairtrade Island Group, 6.30pm, Coopers Castle Quay

Friday 24 November

Generations, 2.45pm, Ebenezer

Saturday 25 November

Jersey Association for Retreats, Quiet Day, 10.00am-4.00pm, St Martin's Methodist Church Hall

Saturday 2 December

- St Martin's Church, Advent prayer session, 3.00pm
- Kairos Arts Advent Concert, St Helier Methodist Centre, 7.30pm

Please send in all dates for Christmas fayres and special events to appear in the December newsletter **by Friday 1 December.** Also any photos marking Remembrance in our churches.



