

## A Prayer for Courage

by the Reverend Graeme Halls

Dear Lord, help us to grasp with enthusiasm what is uncomfortable,  
so we may truly follow the example of Jesus,  
and reach those places in our community and our world  
where we can truly fulfil our calling.

Amen

## The Extra Mile



This May I was honoured to have been nominated by the former Lieutenant-Governor to go to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. It was an interesting experience: but more than that, it was about the regard in which the Church is held in Jersey and the role each of us, individually and corporately, has within Island life. So whilst it had

a personal element to it, it was more about representing the Church here, and specifically the Methodist Church. It made me think, too, about the Queen, and her often stated belief in doing her duty, but also that her faith is the foundation of all she is and does. Her commitment is unquestioned, and seeing her 'in action', doing what she has done thousands of times around the world and here, as if for the first time, was awe-inspiring.

But what of our duty, and our faith? We do things we enjoy and things we don't. We welcome the former and try to avoid the latter. But what if our faith calls us to places that are difficult, controversial, painful, unsettling, risky, 'out of our comfort zone'? Doing things we like, worshipping only with people we agree with, engaging with those 'like us', wishing things were different but not being willing to do what is necessary to make the change, comforting ourselves by doing what we have always done and feeling we have done well, is not enough.

To go the extra mile, to read of the martyrs in every generation, to open our eyes to see through God's eyes, will change us, and ultimately the world.

Rev Graeme Halls,  
Methodist Superintendent

## St Paul's Church 200th Anniversary

On December 14th 1817 the first service was held at St Paul's Church. The church was built because of the growth of the town population (and some political division within the Town Church) and an Order in Council was passed. The preacher at the consecration service was the Reverend François Ricard, the Rector of St Ouen.

To help us celebrate our 200th anniversary, we are welcoming a number of our mission partners to speak throughout the year, and are sending a team to Romania with Mustard Seed in the autumn. In the next year or so, we hope to send teams to other places where we have links.

There is a celebration event planned at the Opera House on Thursday 14th December, when members and friends of St Paul's can gather together to give thanks to God for the church's ministry over these last two centuries. Former ministers Mike Field and Mike Stear hope to be present, as will the Bishop of Dover. The Sunday before, the Reverend Ray Speck (Rector of St Ouen 1985-98) will be preaching at St Paul's on 1 Kings 8, verses 27-30, the same passage as his predecessor at St Ouen did 200 years ago.

To further mark the anniversary, we will be producing a book later in the year of the faith stories of some of the members of St Paul's, and holding a Black Butter day in September. We are also constructing some new office space and a meeting room above our existing coffee area, which we hope will be completed by October.

We have much to be thankful for and celebrate, but above all we give thanks to Almighty God for His faithfulness and goodness to this part of Christ's Church.

Rev Paul Brooks  
Minister of St. Paul's Church

## Our Lady of Fátima Centenary Celebrations



In May 1917, in the parish of Fátima in Portugal, three young children reported apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These were subsequently declared 'worthy of belief' by the Catholic Church and Fátima continues to be a major centre of pilgrimage.

Widespread celebrations of the centenary of the apparitions were held this year, not least in Jersey. On 13th May, over 600 people joined in a candlelit procession through the streets of St Helier, following a Mass at St Thomas. Parishioners of all nationalities took part – Portuguese, Polish and English. It was an inspiring evening and wonderful to see First Holy Communion children, confirmation candidates and the Knights of St Columba all joining in with our clergy for this special and memorable event. Monsignor Nicholas France was pleased also to welcome the Constable of St Helier, Simon Crowcroft, to take part in this procession.

*Delia Hardiman*

## New Local Co-ordinator for Christian Aid

My name is Jennifer Le Rossignol and I am the new Regional Co-ordinator for Christian Aid in Jersey.



In my new role, I am looking to meet other people in Jersey who are interested in the aims of Christian Aid and work with them to spread awareness of how we support communities living in poverty around the world. I would also like to get to know the church communities of the Island so that we can work together to pray, act and give for our brothers and sisters in their times of need and

beyond. Our first endeavour is the 'Island to Island' Appeal, where we will be supporting the ongoing work of Christian Aid in the Philippines, to help remote communities prepare for and recover from the devastating effects of the typhoons they experience.

If you would like to get in touch to find out more I would be delighted to hear from you; [jlrossignol@christian-aid.org](mailto:jlrossignol@christian-aid.org), Tel: 07829 908247.

## Making a Difference in Romania

"This family is very thankful and appreciates your support over the years, especially during their very difficult time. Your money helped them to have food on the table for the children, to pay heating during the winter and also to receive bread!"

So wrote the Romanian social worker, and he continued: "The children now are bigger, and the oldest one is working as well as the mother and father. Now that there are three persons in this family earning money to support themselves and the younger children, we believe your sponsorship can stop. We are so happy when we see a family rise above the hardships of life and manage to support themselves".

*As I read through that report I smiled with happiness – this is exactly the vision behind Mustard Seed Jersey's sponsorship programme, to give a helping hand to someone in need till they can stand alone. Sadly there are many other families in Romania who still need help, in spite of their best efforts to support themselves, especially those who are chronically sick. But for this family a Jersey sponsor was the channel that gave hope and help in a dark time through our sponsorship programme.*

*Rose Helie,  
Mustard Seed Jersey*



Caritas Jersey held its third Annual Lecture on Tuesday 13 June at the Radisson Blu Hotel, after a sandwich lunch. This year's subject was 'The Eradication of Poverty in Jersey – Aspiration or Delusion?' Guest speakers were Chief Minister Senator Ian Gorst and the Very Rev Robert Key, former Dean of Jersey, who was the first Chair of the Living Wage Advisory Committee.

# Question-time with the new Dean of Jersey

The Rev Mike Keirle, presently Rector of St. Martin's in Guernsey and Vice-Dean of that Island, is to be installed as Dean of Jersey on 7th September, 2017. The Rev Martin Dryden recently put to him some questions about himself, which he has answered as follows.



What led you from agriculture to God?

**I have wanted to be a Priest since the age of nine, so my Agricultural career in crop research was always with one eye on ordination in the future. One day my Rector knocked on my door and rather theatrically said: 'Look at the fields, they are ripe for Harvest'. Six months later I was at a selection conference for ordination.**

First Guernsey and now Jersey – what attracts you to island life?

**A marked sense of community and belonging, and the Islands have a distinctiveness and culture which we enjoy and with which we resonate. That and the sea food ! Of course, Guernsey isn't Jersey but we are looking forward to discovering how we have been pronouncing things wrong for the past 14 years!**

How will you be relaxing from the responsibilities and commitments of being Dean?

**Emma and I love walking our dog. I enjoy playing golf, photography, bird and wildlife watching and the company of friends, old and new.**

Who did your children inherit their musical talent from?

**Both Emma and I are musical. Emma plays piano and trombone and, as long as you promise not to tell anyone, I play the piano accordion.....so, the answer is Emma.**

Is there a particular Bible verse that has been speaking to you over the past few months?

**Yes, Psalm 127:1. 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain'. It is a reminder that all of life's work (and play) is best expressed with God at its heart.**

Tell us (if you can) about your most embarrassing moment.

**I once tee'd off on the first hole of our local public golf course, with about 30 people queuing behind me. I was so nervous that I took a divot that you could have planted a row of Jersey Royals in and the ball didn't move a millimetre off its tee. I've got a whole lot better since then!**

Commitment to visible unity among the churches has cooled over the past few years. Do you have a vision of how we can best be "Christians Together" in Jersey?

**I'm looking forward to exploring together how we might model Christian unity with my ecumenical colleagues but the key word is 'visible'. We live in a world where language**

**is being used by leaders to polarize people and communities between 'us' and 'them' and there is a danger that Christians fall into the same trap when we disagree. How we speak of each other and what we say speaks volumes about our commitment to unity.**

Who would you most like to share a trip on the Condor Liberation with?

**That's a really easy one: with Emma my wife, James and Sarah my two children and our dog..... on our way to Jersey!**

What would your wife say are your best and worst traits?

**Emma says that there just aren't enough words...**

You have a great interest in the skies as an observer with CI Air Search and as a bird-watcher. If you could be a bird for 24 hours, what sort would it be and why?

**As I love speed (I'm a huge F1 fan too!) and soaring in the air, I would choose a peregrine falcon, a bird I have observed many times in Guernsey. Once on an Air Search flight, as we flew along at cliff height, I saw one overtake the plane – amazing!**

What do you hope that people will remember you for as Dean of Jersey?

**A bringer of joy, a passion for mission and a love for God and his people.**

If you were to put on an exhibition of your photographic work, what would the theme be?

**It would have to be nature and landscape. I once camped out for three days in a hide, to take some photos of a kingfisher at its nest, only for the local farmer to open a sluice gate upriver and for all my camera gear, which was planted mid-river on a tripod, to be washed away by the wave that followed!**

What makes you mad?

**Farmers who open sluice gates upriver.**

Tell us about your hopes and fears for Africa.

**My hope is that communities in Africa will continue to be transformed from within and that is where I put all my support and resources in a Charity of which I am a Trustee in Kenya. Africa needs an African solution to its challenges, not one imposed from the West or anywhere else.**

Will you be going on holiday to Guernsey?

**Where?**

# What is a Julian Meeting?

Would you like to have some time just to be with God?  
A quiet time in a busy stressful life?  
A time to focus on God?

We are surrounded by noise. Julian Meetings allow you to set aside time to sit in silence and 'to remain still and let God speak and act in you'; so said Meister Eckhart, a theologian and mystic who lived in the thirteenth century!

Julian Meetings are named after Julian of Norwich, the fourteenth century contemplative woman whose view of a generous and homely God struck a responsive chord in the minds and hearts of the founders of the movement.

Julian Meetings do vary. The main guidelines are:  
each meeting is centred on contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition  
it welcomes people of all denominations  
it welcomes those seeking a place for silent prayer

Numbers vary from two or three to up to twelve people of various denominations. A meeting starts with music or a short reading

followed by about thirty minutes of silence and finishes with a short prayer or the grace. If people want to share fellowship or talk about their time that is fine, perhaps over a cuppa, or if you prefer to leave in silence, that's fine too.

Today there are over three hundred Julian Meetings in the UK and a growing number worldwide. The Jersey Julian Meetings are affiliated to the national Julian movement and meet at 2.00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Lady Chapel inside St Martin's Parish Church. We shall meet on the following dates: 1 August, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November and 5 December 2017. We look forward to hearing from you, or seeing you soon.

For further information contact:  
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Mobile 07797 939692 or Email [stmartinschurchjersey@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinschurchjersey@gmail.com)

*Jackie Edwards*

## New Rector of St John 'Comes Home'

Originally from Jersey, I attended Les Quennevais and Hautlieu Schools before studying physics at Oxford University. Following this I worked in the oil industry, managed a Christian bookshop and spent several years as a stay-at-home mum. In a sense, I am coming home, although I expect much will have changed since I last lived in Jersey over 20 years ago.



After encountering God during my marriage to Graeme at St Lawrence Church in 1999, I chose to follow Jesus. Since then, we have been part of churches in Hampshire and Yorkshire where I have been on the church council, edited the parish magazine and served as churchwarden. In 2009 I explored a call to ordination and God has led me from one opportunity to another. I trained at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and was ordained in 2013. I am currently Assistant Curate at St John's Church, Yeadon, in Leeds Diocese and have recently been seconded for nine months to St Augustine's Church in Leeds as Acting Priest-in-Charge.

I am looking forward to returning to Jersey with Graeme and our three children, Barnaby (16), Eve (13) and Ivan (11), to take up the post of Rector of St John in September 2017 and share the Safeguarding Portfolio for the Island. I have a passion for running and musical theatre, with Michael Ball a particular favourite!

*Rev Beverley Sproats*

## New Church of Scotland Minister

My name is Graeme Glover, I am forty three years old, and in May I started as minister at St Columba's Church on Midvale Road. I grew up in Scotland, although I spent twelve years working for humanitarian organisations around the world, in places such as Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Nepal. One of my most formative experiences was managing a food distribution warehouse in southern Tajikistan. The time I spent in that cold warehouse with its ninety warm members of staff is one of the most special times of my life.



Until relatively recently, I had no plan to go into ministry. However, it increasingly began to feel like what I should be doing. I now consider myself very privileged to be doing this job. I also feel fortunate to be minister in a church as friendly as St Columba's. I have three main hopes for my ministry here in Jersey. Firstly, that it is a fruitful time in St Columba's; secondly that St Columba's works with other churches as part of God's plan for Jersey and beyond; and thirdly, that the years my wife Carly, son Isaac and I spend on this beautiful Island will be happy ones for our family.

*Michelle Champion*

# Reflecting on the Feasts and the Saints: St Thomas the Apostle, 3rd July

Which words do you immediately associate with St Thomas the Apostle?

For many of us they are doubt, faith and belief. It is St Thomas who is often referred to as 'Doubting Thomas', as he is especially remembered for his incredulity when the other Apostles announced Christ's Resurrection to him:

'Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my fingers into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' (John 20:25)

These words, however, are followed later by his confession of faith, 'My Lord and My God', on seeing Jesus' wounded body. It is these words in Latin 'Dominus Meus et Deus Meus' which are over the outside main door of St Thomas' Church here in Jersey. If you visit St Thomas' you will see one of the stained glass windows where he is looking pensive, as if with doubts, and we may remember him saying before the Last Supper 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' (John 14:5). Have you seen the large painting of St Thomas by Mark Blanchard? This shows the scene in the Upper Room,

where Christ appears to the disciples after the Resurrection. The painting shows the moment when 'Doubting Thomas' has just been invited by Christ to place his finger in the wound in his side.

It is interesting to remember that when St Thomas' was built in the 1880's, it was originally intended to be dedicated to the Sacré-Coeur, but the Bishop insisted it retained the title of the former church in New Street which had been dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle. This was in recognition of the great support given to the French priests at that time by Bishop Thomas Griffiths, Vicar Apostolic of the London district.

Yes, St Thomas is an interesting saint and although little is recorded about him, his personality is clearer to us than that of some others of the Twelve, thanks to St John's Gospel where he plays a distinctive part. He seems very human, as just like us today he had doubts and questions about beliefs.

So let us give thanks to St Thomas the Apostle, and remember him especially on his Feast Day.

*Delia Hardiman*



## A Fresh Start

In January 2017 a group of enthusiastic volunteers launched a new organisation to take Bible stories into our primary schools. Previously we had been members of the Open the Book group, which was absorbed by the Bible Society a few years ago. As time went by it became apparent that the format devised for use in mainland schools was not appropriate for Jersey conditions. After much discussion with the Bible Society in England, prayer, and consultation with our headteachers in the Island, we reluctantly took the decision to establish Open the Door in Jersey. With the approval of the Education Department, the encouragement of Christians Together in Jersey and the whole-hearted support of the schools we visit, we agreed basic rules to govern all team members. These include strict adherence to safeguarding requirements, courtesy towards the schools we visit, and the request that all members should have the endorsement of his/her minister or priest.

The results have been wholly positive. Having established closer working relationships with the staff, we are better able to provide the kind of interaction that each school values. The change has allowed us the opportunity to be more flexible in the ways that age-old Bible stories can be presented to children. Many will not hear these stories in any other place, so it is important that we make them memorable and intelligible. The children love our visits, and we derive fun and satisfaction from introducing children to the knowledge of the love of God.

If any reader would like to know more, with a view to becoming a volunteer, please contact the editorial team or Robin Dupré at [robindupre@icloud.com](mailto:robindupre@icloud.com). There are existing teams in search of new members, as well as some schools waiting to be included on our visiting list. The time commitment is not onerous, usually a couple of hours once a week or once a fortnight, but we can be accommodating. It's enjoyable and worthwhile, so please consider joining Open the Door.

*Donna Vibert, Co-ordinator*



## Celebration of the 400th Patrol Street Pastors Jersey

On Saturday 10th June 2017, Street Pastors Jersey completed 400 patrols. Street Pastors started in Jersey in November 2009; it is an international Christian organisation which grew out of churches' concern for safety of people in our night time community. We have been out every Saturday night since, from 11 pm-3 am.

After 50 hours of training, uniformed Street Pastors are there to care, to listen, and to help.

Removing bottles and glass and other potential weapons from the streets, providing flip-flops to girls who have abandoned their killer heels, and water to those who need help for dehydration, first aid or to sober up for a taxi, the team has time for people, talking to about 100 people each night. Over seven years, the team has provided 2,489 pairs of flip-flops, 2,958 bottles of water and countless hours of listening.

Starting with just eight volunteer pastors in November 2009, we now have 17 Street Pastors with 6 new Pastors in training. We also have 21 Prayer Pastors working alongside the Street Pastors, praying for situations, peace and safety. The prayer team is invaluable and we would not patrol without their cover.

*Donna Vibert, Co-ordinator*



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

Editorial Team: Canon Geoff Houghton, Mrs Fleur Benest, Rev Martin Dryden, Miss Delia Hardiman, 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.

## Diary Dates

### Sunday 16th July St Helier's Day

Annual Pilgrimage to St Helier's Hermitage at Elizabeth Castle: Leaves St Helier Parish Church at 3.30 p.m.

### Sunday 16th July

Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge sings Choral Evensong at St Helier Parish Church: 7.00 p.m.

### Monday 17th July

Concert by Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge at St Helier Parish Church: 7.30 p.m. followed by refreshments in Church House

### First Tuesday of each month

Julian Meetings at St Martin's Parish Church, 2.00 p.m.: contact Church on 07797 939692 or [stmartinschurchjersey@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinschurchjersey@gmail.com)

### Sunday 6th August

Service for Lammass (festival of the first wheat harvest of the year): 10.30 a.m. at Les Près Manor, Grouville

### Week beginning Monday 7th August

Flower Festival at St Thomas' Church with lunchtime musical recitals

### Thursday 10th August

Evening concert at St Thomas' Church, details tbc

### Thurs. 7th September

Installation of new Dean of Jersey: Service at St Helier Parish Church, 7.30 p.m.

### Saturday 9th September

Grouville Parish Church Country Fayre at Les Près Manor, Grouville: 11.00 a.m.

### Friday 22nd September

De La Salle College Centenary celebrations to be attended by the Rt Rev Crispian Hollis, Bishop Emeritus of Portsmouth

### Saturday 23rd September

Annual Kindness Day: [www.facebook.com/KindnessDay/](http://www.facebook.com/KindnessDay/) Kindness Festival with 24 local charities at St Aubin's Harbour: [www.facebook.com/kindnessconnects/](http://www.facebook.com/kindnessconnects/)

### Friday 6th to Sun. 8th October

Jersey Keswick, St Helier Methodist Centre [www.jerseykeswick.com](http://www.jerseykeswick.com)

### Saturday 25th November

Jersey Retreat Ass'n Quiet Day led by Rev Mark Barrett, Vicar of St Andrew's. Venue tbc. Contact 875800 or [biancochris24@gmail.com](mailto:biancochris24@gmail.com)

### Thursday 14th December

St Paul's Church 200th Anniversary Event at Jersey Opera House, details tbc

For further information about events in the local Christian community, visit the website of the Jersey Christian Calendar, [www.christiancalendar.org.je](http://www.christiancalendar.org.je) – a good way of avoiding clashes. To submit details for listing on the Calendar or to join their mailing list, please contact [pilgrim@localdial.com](mailto:pilgrim@localdial.com)