



A Prayer

Lord, help us to reflect on the power of this great hymn. Grant that all your people may experience the assurance of your love and forgiveness, and raise their voices with conviction to sing Your praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Make a *Joyful noise* unto the Lord all the earth!

Psalm 98:4



And Can It Be?

Methodism's founder John Wesley saw hymn singing as an important means of both teaching people their faith and inspiring them in their worship, and John's brother Charles wrote more than 6000 hymns. Hence Methodists are well-known for singing their faith.

It was on a trip to Georgia in 1736 that the brothers first realised the power of singing to strengthen people's faith. During a terrible storm in the Atlantic, they were terrified, but a group of Moravian Christians inspired them by boldly standing and singing hymns to God. Two years later, back in London, both brothers had a conversion experience whereby they felt a deep assurance that they had received salvation. Shortly afterwards Charles penned the hymn 'And can it be?'

The song describes an experience of conversion and wonder 'That Thou, my God, should'st die for me?' The story behind it goes like this: On Whitsunday (Pentecost), May 21st 1738, Charles was convalescing in the home of John Bray, a poor mechanic, when he heard a voice saying, 'In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, arise, and believe, and thou shalt be healed of all thy infirmities.' The voice was most likely Mr Bray's sister who felt commanded to say these words in a dream. Charles got up, opened his Bible and read from the Psalms: 'He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God,' followed by the first verse of Isaiah 40 "Comfort ye,

comfort ye my people, saith your God." He wrote in his journal, 'I now found myself at peace with God, and rejoiced in hope of loving Christ'. Moved in spirit, Charles wrestled with these words until he came to rest in the knowledge that it is by faith we are saved. Soon after, he wrote 'And can it be?' in celebration of the 'amazing love' he had come to know.

The hymn expresses amazement at the redemptive act of God and his offering of free grace, even to those 'who caused his pain.' It captures the dramatic irony of the redemptive death and resurrection of Christ, saying that even the chief of the angels cannot fathom the depth of this love divine. It speaks of the incarnation, echoing Philippians 2:6-8, 'Emptied himself of all but Love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.' It compares humanity's newfound freedom from sin to that of Peter's miraculous release from prison. It borrows a line from Alexander Pope's poem 'Eloisa to Abelard' 'Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,' to symbolize God's love and power coming down to release the captives. And it speaks of the justification we now have in Christ and our future glorification in the life to come by alluding to Romans 8:1 'Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.'

Blessings,
Rev Danny Wheadon

Methodism - Born in Song from John Wesley to John Bell

The Methodist movement focused its activities on 'preaching the Word' and the singing of hymns, rejecting the formal liturgical music of the Anglican Church, and emphasising and encouraging unaccompanied congregational harmony hymn singing. The only music was that of the hymn tune, often with the words committed to memory to be sung at any opportunity, whether at work or in 'the chapel'.

The influence of John and Charles Wesley was immediately obvious, though John never intended the movement leaving the Anglican umbrella; he envisaged all his reforms to be made within the existing church. The powerful singing of new kinds of texts and music encouraged by Wesley gave the Methodist services an atmosphere totally distinct from the Anglican Church. Singing and meditating upon hymns has always been a characteristic of Methodism since its inception.

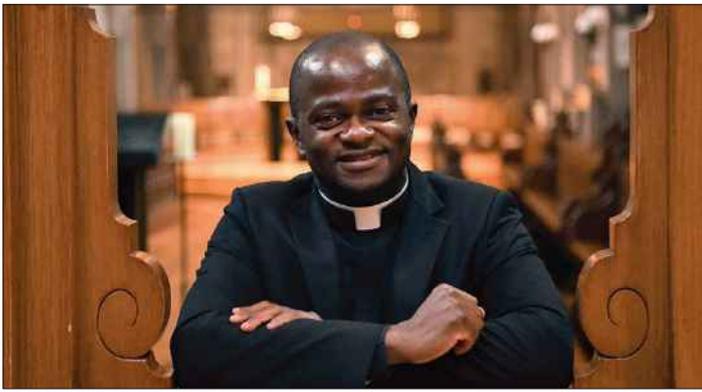
The eventual printing of the hymn books - tune books in Solfa - saw music with a broader culture than that of the Anglican Church at the time; for example, popular musical styles of the era were adopted. This broader approach is evident in the hymnody of today. When formal services began

to reappear in some Methodist churches, a struggle arose between those who desired a more traditional type of service and those who wished to remain true to the roots of Methodism - as they perceived them. There is this dichotomy to this day!!

Rowland Heaven



John and Charles Wesley



Welcome, Father Johnpromise

In September, the Catholic Church in Jersey warmly welcomed Father Johnpromise Umeozuru as a new Assistant Priest. Fr Johnpromise was ordained on July 20 by Bishop Philip Egan at St John's Catholic Cathedral in Portsmouth.

Johnpromise grew up as a practising Catholic in South-East Nigeria. Inspired by a religious teacher, and after completing two pontifical degrees as a seminarian in Nigeria, he travelled to England to get experience of the "real world". Following a Master's Degree at Cardiff Metropolitan University, and widespread travel in his social worker job, he joined St John's Seminary, Wonersh, near Guildford in Surrey.

Fr Johnpromise has settled in beautifully to our Island parish and is fast becoming loved by all as our own 'singing priest'.

Moyra Journeaux



A New Face at the Town Church

On 14th October 2019, James Porter was licensed as Associate Rector of St Helier Parish Church.

James, Katie and their family moved here after 4 years in Cromer, North Norfolk. Previously, James was Rector of St Mary's in West Horsley, Surrey. Both James and Katie trained as doctors before moving into Christian leadership following James' ordination. They have 6 children, 4 of whom are here 'full-time', and a lively black labrador.

James enjoys keeping fit, reading, music, and, recently, learning about astronomy. He also follows Manchester United, and the England rugby team.

'Team Porter', as the family are known, have spent many summer holidays in the Island, finding Jersey a beautiful place to be refreshed. They are excited about getting stuck into Island life and sharing in mission and ministry in the heart of St Helier.

James writes: "We see huge potential in the Town Church, with its core of people with good hearts, to share the transforming love of Jesus Christ with those in our community. And looking forward, we must be mission-focused, putting our trust in God who can do 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine'".

Rev James Porter



Grouville's New Rector Introduces Herself

I grew into my faith from childhood and as a teenager it became a central part of who I am. I became a Reader in 2007. I was based at St Paul's Church and involved in preaching and teaching.

In 2010 I went on placement to work with Jersey's first female Rector at St Martin's Parish Church and it was whilst working there as Lay Minister that I felt called to ordained ministry. After ordination in 2017, I moved to work as curate in St Ouen's Parish, mainly with St George's Church. My time with St Ouen's and St George's has been very happy and I've benefited greatly from working with and learning from different members of the three congregations.

Our family are all hugely excited about our move out East! We have only ever lived in the West of the Island so we are eagerly anticipating exploring the lanes, beaches and cafés on the other side of the tunnel. More importantly, however, I am looking forward to getting to know the people of Grouville and helping them encounter the transformative love of God, at whatever stage of life they may be.

Rev Helen Gunton



A New Rector for St Martin

The Reverend Jonny Scott was installed as Rector of St Martin on 20th September. He tells us:

"A vicar's son, I grew up in a mainstream Anglican tradition, first in rural Cumbria and then in Winchester. Following a Philosophy degree at Durham, I worked as a Community Organiser with Citizens: UK, where I learned how faith in action can achieve lasting social change through relationships of trust and understanding.

God's call to explore priestly ministry then led me to the role of Verger/Pastoral Assistant at the Town Church. In 2012 Fi and I married, and shortly afterwards moved to Oxford for my ordination training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Alongside the rigours of theological study, becoming a father to Tabby and Poppy grounded training for the priesthood in the realities of everyday life.

Having served my curacy in Poole, I am thrilled to be back in Jersey in the beautiful Parish of St Martin, where Fi grew up. I am delighted to be ministering to the whole community as their Rector, and look forward to engaging deeply with the place, people and patterns of life as we listen for God speaking in our lives together."

Rev Jonny Scott



Cantabile - Crossing Divides Through Music

Cantabile is an ecumenical choir of 25-30 voices that was formed at the end of 2004 specifically to sing church music. But what makes them ecumenical?

Martin Dryden, editor of the Jersey Link and a member of Cantabile, thinks there are four reasons: "The choir itself is ecumenical. Our members are drawn from across the denominations and from none. The thing that unites us, and makes us friends, is our love of singing choral music. Music is a universal language and Cantabile is proof that it can and does cross divides.

We are also ecumenical because of where we sing: in churches of different denominations here in Jersey as well as in the UK and in France. In September, for example, we sang for a Catholic Mass in the Eglise Saint-Méen in Cancale, Brittany and an Anglican Choral Evensong for Harvest for Christ Church in the Manche at Virey, Normandy. We enjoy learning how to fit into different worshipping traditions.

The third reason is because of the music we sing, which was written for different liturgical settings before, during and after the Reformation. Although we specialise in Choral Evensong, we also love to sing the great settings composed for the Latin Mass. We have, for example, sung Byrd's Mass for Four Voices and Victoria's Missa O quam gloriosum est regnum in St Thomas's Church, both very uplifting experiences.

Making History - but Not Quite There Yet

Last year the 25th anniversary of the first ordinations of women to the priesthood in the Church of England was marked throughout the Church, and on 12th November, Jersey Deanery held their own special celebration, "History Makers 1994-2019".

A reflective service of Holy Communion at the Town Church, led by the Reverend Gerry Baudains, was followed by an event at the Town Hall, attended by H.E. the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Stephen Dalton, and Lady Dalton. After a welcome by the Very Reverend Mike Keirle, a presentation was given by the Reverend Helen Gunton (shortly to be Jersey's third woman Rector) highlighting the women who had either served as priests in the Island or had left Jersey to be ordained to priestly ministry in the UK.

Subsequent proceedings were ably compèred by Radio Jersey's Cathy Le Feuvre. There were two videos from priests unable to be present: the Reverend Helena Cermakova, Jersey's Hospital Chaplain from 1999 to 2006, and the Reverend Rosie Woodall, born in Jersey and currently Chaplain to the Bishop of Leicester. In Rosie's interview, the Right Reverend Canon Dr. Guli Francis-Dehquani described her experiences as a woman Bishop (of Loughborough).

Cathy conducted an informal panel discussion with the Reverend Canon Geoff Houghton, the Reverend Mark Bond, and Jersey's first and second

Music written for Compline, a service which straddles the Reformation divide, has also become part of our repertoire in recent years.

Finally, I would say that the congregations attending the churches at which we sing are themselves becoming increasingly ecumenical. Hundreds of people of different denominations, and of none, cross the thresholds of these churches during the course of a year. Don't forget that the word 'ecumenical' comes from a Greek word which means 'the whole inhabited world!'

While the quest for visible Christian unity has made little progress in recent years, other ecumenical initiatives have managed to bypass the obstacles, enabling both individuals and Churches to develop closer relationships and a better understanding of each other. Martin Dryden particularly likes the way that Cantabile brings out treasures old and new (Matthew 13:52). "It is good to be reminded of things in our own traditions that we may have nearly forgotten. It is also good to be introduced to contemporary music that has the capacity to surprise, delight and, dare I say, unite us in worship." Choir and congregations alike have in recent years encountered the inspirational music of Bob Chilcott; Ola Gjeilo; James Macmillan; Arvo Pärt; and Judith Weir, to name but a few, who are composing 'contemporary classical music'. Visible unity may continue to elude us, but in the meantime, we can still make a joyful noise unto the Lord (Psalm 100) and do it together.

female Rectors, the Reverends Gerry Baudains (now retired) and Beverley Sproats. Audience group discussions then provided feedback at the end of the evening.

There was general agreement that much had been achieved in 25 years, but there is still some way to go, especially for women in senior leadership.

Gillian Woodall with thanks to Rev Gerry Baudains





St John Henry Newman and Music

St John Henry Newman (1801-1890) is one of our newest saints, having been canonised on 13 October 2019 - the first English Saint in almost 50 years. His eloquence as a preacher and a writer is renowned. However, perhaps less known is his appreciation of music.

Throughout his life he was a performing musician, being an accomplished violinist, composer and writer of music. He studied violin from the age of 10 and at Oxford University was active as a violinist in chamber music. His favourite composer was Beethoven but he had a love of the Classical and early Romantic eras, enjoying Haydn, Mozart and Cherubini.

By the age of 14 years he had already composed both the music and libretto for a comic opera. Whilst travelling in Europe during the year 1832-1833, he wrote 'The Pillar of the Cloud', better known as 'Lead Kindly Light'. Newman spent time in Rome with the Vatican music librarian to become better informed on Gregorian chant. However, his taste in church music was eclectic. On being ordained in the Catholic Church, he contributed to the 'Collection of Hymns in use at the Oratory of St Philip Neri at Birmingham'.

In 1836, his collection of poems and lyrical works was published under the title 'Lyra Apostolica'. Some of these poems came into use as hymns. These, along with his collection of Latin hymns, were published as 'Hymni Ecclesiae' in 1838. This is still in use and available today as 'Hymns'.

Moyra Journeaux

Music in the Catholic Church

Great importance is attached to the use of singing in the celebration of the Mass, originating in the ancient tradition of singing the Psalms. Jesus Himself sang Psalms with the apostles at the Last Supper. Music is part of the symbolic language of worship and has amazing power to evoke emotion.

There are two overriding purposes for music in the Catholic Church: to make the liturgy more beautiful and to emphasise its sacred character. Many laws and rules governing the use of sacred music at Mass can be found in various Church documents such as Sacrosanctum Concilium, Musicam Sacram, and Tra Le Sollecitudini. Not all music can be considered suitable for liturgical celebrations; sacred music must be obedient to the Logos of the Liturgy.

Gregorian chant is a real expression of beauty. While this is taken as the paradigm of sacred music, it does not rule out the use of more contemporary religious songs, provided these "have the qualities proper to genuine sacred music" (SC 121).

Within the diversity of musical styles, judgements should be made about which is suitable. In debating the use of contemporary compositions and instruments, St John Paul II stated that care must be taken to ensure that instruments are suitable for sacred use, that they befit the dignity of the Church and can accompany the singing of the faithful, serving to edify them. Music serves and prepares the table, but it is not the feast.

However, that is not to say that music must be traditional. John Paul also reminded us that sacred music needs to find its voice in enculturation. Due consideration should be given to the culture and abilities of the congregation. Instruments are welcome as long as they do not serve to drown out the human voice of prayer.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated music ministry within the Catholic Church in Jersey, with a diversity of church choirs from the more contemporary to the traditional. We have the Filipino choir, the Portuguese musicians and the Polish choir. All serve individual Masses whilst coming together as one for large parish occasions. Our musicians ensure that music fulfils its role in liturgy, corresponding to the solemnity of the occasion, whilst maintaining individuality and providing for the participation of the congregation in each of our seven churches.

Moyra Journeaux



Music Making in The Salvation Army

From the beginning of the Christian movement which became known as The Salvation Army, the early 'Salvationists' took the Gospel message onto the streets.

They weren't always well received and in 1878, in Salisbury, a small group of evangelists were having trouble with local hooligans so Charles Fry, the leader of a local Methodist orchestra, and his three sons offered themselves as bodyguards. They took along their brass instruments to accompany the singing and so, almost accidentally, the Salvation Army brass band was born.

When the founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth heard about this, he decided to use bands in his own campaigns, reportedly announcing 'Why should the Devil have all the best tunes?' In fact, many early Salvation Army worship songs married popular tunes with spiritual words, taking the Gospel message to people in their own 'language'.

Today, The Salvation Army is present in more than 130 countries and there are still many churches, or 'corps', which do have brass bands, some of which still go out on to the streets, as well as choirs called 'Songsters' and music groups where young people especially learn music making.

However, these days you're just as likely to find worship groups taking part in Salvation Army services. That's certainly the case in Jersey, where worship is a mix of brass, traditional and contemporary music.

But whatever the 'style', the heart of Salvation Army music-making remains the same - to bring glory to God and His message of love and salvation to anyone who will listen!

Cathy Le Feuvre



Organ Transplant!



Before - the removal team in Jersey

"It's not what you know, it's who you know!" The words of Jean Le Maistre were ringing in my ears as I met John Quayle at St Helier Harbour on a wet and windy morning on October 16th. John had come to Jersey with his van at short notice to pick up the electronic organ from Eden Methodist Church and transport it (via Guernsey and the UK) to the English-speaking church at Gratot-Homméel in Normandy.

Sadly, the Eden buildings were due to be sold by informal auction on October 18th, and the congregation had done everything in their power to re-purpose all the fixtures and fittings before the sale. They wanted to honour John Wesley's instruction: "Do all the good you can, by all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." But what about the organ? That question prompted Jean Le Maistre to email me to ask if I thought Christ Church in the Manche would like to have it. They certainly would! And so it was that John Quayle arrived to collect the said organ. Shifting it proved to be more of a challenge than we first thought, but fortunately Malcolm L'Amey (himself an accomplished organist) had volunteered his services and his organ trolley (I had no idea that such a thing existed!), and now I am pleased to report that it is safely installed in Gratot-Homméel.

As I reflect on these events, I am struck by the number of people who were involved in some way or other with the 'organ transplant'. It would not have happened without any one of them. It felt like divine providence. The Eden Methodists have lost their much loved church, but they know that their organ has a new life in Normandy. Methodism was born in song, so how appropriate that their final gift should have been the musical instrument that helped them sing their praises to the Lord. The organ, a Viscount Jubileum 245, is an excellent instrument. My grateful thanks go to the Church who met at Eden for their gift which was made in faith, hope and love and to all who helped to make it possible. I have subsequently been to Gratot-Homméel and can report that it is adding greatly to their worship. Voices are being raised in song to our God who fills hearts with joy and makes all things new.

Rev Martin Dryden



After - Rev Christine Smith blessing the organ, and organist Annette Quayle

The Quest for Organists

There was a time when going to church meant the music was led by an organ and choir. Over the past forty years, we have seen a move away from that monopoly, and a greater diversity in musical styles. Some churches have been able to tap into that and others have kept the organ central to their music. However, there has been a dramatic decline in young people learning the organ, and churches and universities have found it challenging to fill their organ posts: so while standards have risen, fewer people are playing. The organ scene in the UK today is one of dramatic contrasts: when the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester closed its organ department there was universal condemnation; yet not so far away, the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire has expanded to become one of the most exciting places in the world to study the organ. There are churches who have great programmes to support their choir and organ traditions and at others, there are superb instruments sitting soundless without a player.

What should we be doing to stop more instruments from falling silent? In Kent, I set up an organ school to help promote the instrument. With the Royal College of Organists' support, we assisted a number of pianists who found themselves on the organ bench on Sunday mornings. I know that we could do something similar here too.

How are things here in Jersey? Well, as a relative newcomer to the Island (albeit a returnee!) I have only scratched the surface; but there are some lovely organs to play and we should be encouraging more young players onto the instrument. Getting access to practice can be difficult, but at Victoria College, we have four pupils who currently learn the organ: do you have any young people playing in your church?

I remember meeting the late Stanley Sackett when I worked here 25 years ago, and his playing made the organ live: he encouraged people to sing with his playing. Malcolm Whittell is the only other Island organist I have heard play and he certainly has that knack too: pacing the speed to lull a congregation into full voice. Could you do that? There is nothing more uplifting than singing accompanied by the organ: as the swell box opens and the reeds soar, so does your voice to match the volume. Perhaps you need to encourage more people to play? Of course, vocal talents are needed as well. Church choirs are always seeking new members and if you are interested, would like to hear from you; for example, Trinity Church's Nick Cabot is currently recruiting additional singers.

Keep an eye out, as I plan a series of concerts around the Island's churches focusing on the diverse range of instruments that we have.

Francis Murton, Director of Music, Victoria College

Thursday Night is Music Night at Georgetown



When Georgetown Methodist Church found itself in debt in 2000 after a complete refurbishment, it turned to music for support. Amy Luce and Rowland Heaven began a series of concerts with the sole purpose of fund raising, and THURSDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT was born. Over the past nineteen years, many magical musical moments have been presented for audiences to treasure, with a mixture of vocal and instrumental music. The platform has been made available especially to younger musicians, to perform to a friendly audience who always appreciate their offering and whom they have the opportunity to meet over refreshments at the conclusion of the concerts.

In 2018 Georgetown celebrated the 200th concert and discovered that over £55,000 had been raised in retiring collections over that period, the majority of funds going to charities and appeals. The concerts continue to provide that platform, where some wonderful music may still be enjoyed.

Rowland Heaven



REBOOT Jersey

In July 2020 the Catholic Church in Jersey is excited to be hosting Chris Stefanick for REBOOT Jersey. This inspiring author, presenter and TV host travels the world, speaking and presenting the Gospel message in an energetic and exciting style. He has an amazing gift of presenting the Gospel message in a way which uplifts and encourages people to live, rediscover or renew a vibrant faith life.

Chris Stefanick is a consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. He created "Chosen," a Confirmation programme which is used by almost 100,000 teens per week, including candidates for Catholic Confirmation here in Jersey. Chris also founded Real Life Catholic, which is a Denver-based non-profit organisation that operates as the headquarters for his various initiatives, including his Real Life Catholic TV show on EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) Catholic channel.

After using the "Chosen" programme for Confirmation, a group of Jersey youth was inspired by Chris presenting live at World Youth Day Krakow 2016. Enthused by his style of evangelisation, they encouraged others to participate in 2017 at a Reboot event in London. It was at that event in meeting personally with him that the seeds for a Jersey visit were sown.

REBOOT! is fun, it's for all ages and helps you to apply the beauty at the heart of the Gospel to everyday life in a fresh and dynamic way. All will be welcome to come along. Please watch out for more information to be part of this exciting initiative. We are so proud that Jersey has managed to secure the visit. Please keep this project in prayer.

Mary Cahill

Spirit on the Rock 2019 - Be My Witnesses

In November 2019 the Catholic Church in Jersey held its youth weekend with over a hundred young people involved. These weekends help our young people to gather with fellow Catholic youth to explore church teaching, live in community and pray together. The event started with a moving drama presentation by some of our youngsters on the lives of some young saints and witnesses. We also enjoyed music from our wonderful Filipino choir.

Next day we were blessed with Brenden Alejandro Thompson from Catholic Voices, who spoke about being missionary disciples and continued the theme of being young witnesses for Jesus. Catholic Voices, originally created for the 2010 papal visit to the UK, is now a major project present in nearly 25 countries worldwide. Its model, training 'ordinary' Catholics to tell the Church's story, has created a whole new generation of confident media and public speakers.



Our moral teaching was explored with talks from Life UK's Liz Parsons, who addressed abortion and assisted dying. Brenden, along with Sarah Keogh and Niall Farrell of Portsmouth Diocese, helped them to consider issues of sexuality, gender and love.

With a strong band of volunteers, the whole team were fed well throughout the weekend. Our Service of Light on the Saturday Night was powerful and many sought the sacrament of reconciliation.

We spent time looking at social justice teachings and how to put faith into action. Despite little sleep we concluded with a closing Mass at St Bernadette's Church before heading home for much needed showers and beds.

Mary Cahill



Sun 2nd February

Cantabile sing Choral Evensong for Candlemas. 6.00 p.m. at St Brelade's Parish Church

Mon 10th February

Thy Kingdom Come training** 7.00pm at Ebenezer Methodist Church, Trinity

Sat 7th March

JRA AGM, 2.30 p.m.* Samarès Methodist Centre

Sat 28th March

JRA Lent Quiet Day* 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Samarès Methodist Centre

Sun 29th March

Ebenezer Chapel, Trinity: Words and Music for Passiontide and Easter, spoken by local young actors and sung by Cantabile. 6.00 p.m.

Sat 25th April

Jersey Festival Choir Spring Concert: Haydn's 'Creation' with guest conductor James Southall. St Helier Methodist Centre, 7.30 p.m.

Sat May 2nd

JRA Time Out* Quiet morning, no booking necessary 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon Lady Chapel, St Martin's Parish Church

First week of July

Reboot Jersey, further details tba

Sat 11th July

JRA Quiet Day* 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Samarès Methodist Centre

* Further information: jerseyretreats@hotmail.com or tel. Christine Le Marquand at 875800

** Further information: Rev Paul Brooks, St Paul's Church

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