



Church Chat

**St Aubin Methodist Church's
Minister's Letter**

August 2016

Issue 56

Dear Friends,

In July I had the privilege of attending the Methodist Conference in London. The Conference meets every year and discusses all manner of things relating to the governance and mission of our church. Sometimes there are many things to get excited about, other times there are less so; this year was the latter.

However, it was good to experience Conference again as I had not been for 12 years.

The first weekend when Conference gathered to welcome and ordain new Ministers and Deacons was truly inspirational and a reminder of the strength of Methodism and the privilege of serving the Church.

So often in our local churches, we see the work that has to be done and we feel the burden of carrying a load that feels heavy – and it is at times. But part of the reason for the weight comes from looking at the task itself. When we remember who it is that we are serving the burden becomes more of a pleasure.

Many years ago, the Conference was held in Ipswich and I went along for a couple of days as a volunteer. I was allocated the job of 'Runner.' It meant sitting behind the top table and running messages for those who were leading the Conference. You could sit there for a long time with nothing to do, then someone would turn and hand me a piece of paper with a name and off I would go to deliver it. Sometimes I would wait for a reply to return with.

Even as I write the story now, I still feel the pride and privilege that I felt that day in being able to serve something so much bigger than me. I only had a small and unrecognised part to play, but such was the pleasure of serving that I would jump at such an opportunity again. It's a little bit like the Isaiah story, where he is so thrilled to be standing in the presence of God that as soon as he hears a request for someone to go and serve, he jumps up and responds, 'here I am, send me.'

Standing at the doors of our church and welcoming visitors gives me similar feelings. In some small way, in that simple act of welcome and greeting, we are inviting people to enter a place where God can be encountered; we stand next to Christ who says "Come" and we share his joy.

How would you like to experience the pleasure of serving?

With love and prayers,



Conference worship in Westminster
Central Hall

The journey to work!



Mothers and Toddlers Group



What else would you do on a day off from your day job—but go to St Aubin’s Mother and Toddler group on the last day of the school year!

It was a very busy morning and wasn’t just a “Good bye” to children moving to school in September but an enormous “Thank you and farewell” to Sandra Roe (pictured here on the left) who has led the group for the last 3 years.

We are very pleased to say that this is not the end of our Mothers and Toddlers group (I hear a big cheer from all the parents/grandparents and carers) as Mia on the right of the above picture, will be taking over with a little help from fellow parents from September.

The encouragement that I took away with me from my morning was from one of the grandparents “My granddaughter is going to school in September and I will be very sad not to be coming to the group as we really enjoy our time here. I have another grandchild on the way and I am looking forward to when he/she is old enough and I can bring them to the group.”

Sally



The Queen's 90th Birthday Afternoon Tea!

What a wonderful day we had on June 12th 2016, when St. Aubin's Church hosted an afternoon tea party on the event of Her Majesty the Queen, turning ninety years of age.

Invitations were sent out and the organisation began in earnest.

Tables, crockery, table cloths and cutlery all had to be brought in. The hunt for cake stands was causing stress. Menus were arranged, cake and sandwich makers notified, tea pourers booked, and washer uppers secured. Flowers arrangers were kept busy, music and entertainment agreed, talkie bit at the end finalised. Table layers and arrangers diligent. Projection pictures ready in the power point. Books for everyone celebrating the Queen arrived, templates printed, and stuck in.

Greeters at the door, tea pourers and PA knob twiddler at the ready.

Hooray, we have enough cake stands. Phew!

Our invited guests arrived, just under one hundred of them, and sat down to a lovely tea of finger sandwiches, scones, jam and cream, and an array of scrumptious cakes and biscuits including crown shortbreads. Tea was constantly being poured and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Annette and Will entertained us with a jolly sing song which we were encouraged to join in with, and Billy rounded the whole event up with some final thoughts about the Queen.

It was a perfect opportunity to be with each other and catch up with folks who hadn't been to church for a while.

As people left they were given a copy of a book which explores the Queen and her faith.

There were a lot of very exhausted people at the end of the day, but each felt that it had all been worthwhile and look forward to more events at the church.

As part of our church mission, if you have any more suggestions as to how we can engage with our local and church community then please have a talk to one of the church stewards.

Let's keep the 'Feel Good Factor' going.



Due to incredible demand, I can now reveal the secret of the Crown Shortbread!!

Ingredients

125g/4oz butter

55g/2oz caster sugar, plus extra to finish

180g/6oz plain flour

Method

1. Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.

2. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.

3. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/½in thick.

4. Cut into whatever shape you want and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.

5. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown.

6. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.

Tip. There is a fine line between cooked and burnt, they can 'catch' very quickly. I spent a lot of time opening the oven near the full cooking time to make sure they didn't burn.

These will keep for a few days in an airtight container.

Enjoy Pauline



The Queen's 90th Birthday Afternoon Tea!



Just a little note to say an enormous
THANK YOU

to everyone who put a lot of time
and effort into a fantastic afternoon
and we hope you will join us again
at the

Pianothon on September 17th.





IT'S TIME TO PLANT

First, plant five rows of Peas

Prayer, Purity, Politeness,
Promptness, Perseverance,

Next, plant three rows of Squash

Squash gossip
Squash fault finding
Squash indifference

Then plant five rows of Lettuce

Let us be faithful
Let us be unselfish
Let us be truthful
Let us love one another
Let us follow Christ

No garden is complete without a Turnip

Turn up for worship
Turn up with a joyful heart
Turn up with determination
Turn up with creative ideas

Then, reap a harvest of Blessing



Please join us at our
Harvest Festival Service
Sunday 25th September
At 11.00am
Led by Rev. Billy Slatter



Get to knowJohn Le Marquand



The third in our series of getting to know people within our church. We continue with those involved with the leadership of our church. John Le Marquand is one of the Church Stewards.

Mum tells me that I first attended Sunday school at First Tower at the age of two and a half. It would therefore seem

that the Methodist Church and I are destined to serve a life sentence together. Early childhood memories include Candlelight Carol Services, Sunday school lorry outings and Summer BBQs on the sand dunes. I was confirmed in 1991 having attended the same confirmation classes as our very own Sally Noel. As far as I am aware neither of us were unduly traumatised by this early encounter. It seems to have been little more than an unkind rumour that Sally attempted to block the transfer of my membership after I began worshipping at St Aubin in late 2013.

Being blessed with a supportive family with strong Jersey roots it was always my intention to return to the island after completing my history degree. I only ventured as far north as Exeter where I attended the Mint Methodist Church. It was here that I came into the pastoral care of the larger than life Rev Norman Wallwork. My fellow Church Stewards may have spotted that on the shelf in the vestry we have copies of both volumes of his book of Vestry Prayers.

Arriving at the door of the room that became my home for my first year at Exeter University I was greeted by two smiling members of the Methodist Society (Methsoc). Evidently the Methodist grapevine had been working overtime. I served on the Methsoc committee during my latter two years at university and was appointed treasurer of the Combined Christian Society (CCS) for my final year. Although I organised the annual CCS mixed five a side football tournament I failed to inspire my team to victory. I remain convinced that the footballing warriors from the Christian Union team that Methsoc encountered that day could teach Messi and Ronaldo a trick or two. I was fortunate enough to form a number of strong friendships during my time in Exeter and still visit university friends two or three times a year.

Returning to Jersey and to First Tower (latterly The Bay following amalgamation with Galaad) I served

initially as a Welcome Steward and then Treasurer until our sudden but necessary closure in late 2013. It was at this point that St Aubin threw caution to the wind and kindly welcomed a number of members of the displaced Bay congregation with open arms.

No doubt there have been a few mutterings amongst St Aubin stalwarts wishing they could turn back the clock. I maintain however, that once you get to know Mum, you will find that she is a very nice lady.

In 2010 I was recruited to the Circuit Stewards team. I have found this an interesting, and at times, challenging role. I am not practically minded and can struggle with the finer details around a maintenance issue that has arisen at a particular Manse or Church building. I am unlikely therefore to be readily prepared with a helpful suggestion concerning how best we might rectify the problem. The positive aspects of the role outweigh the negative ones and I consider myself fortunate to be a member of a strong and committed team. We might not always make popular decisions but we do work to the best of our abilities to facilitate and promote the work of the Methodist Church in Jersey and beyond.

Outside of Church life and after seventeen or so years working in the finance industry in Jersey I am only in my second job. The first twelve years were spent at Abacus, latterly RBC. For the last 5 years I have worked at Computershare in Hilgrove Street. Please do not be fooled by the name of the firm. I am not an IT wizard and would be less help to you than a chocolate fireguard should your computer develop a fault.

I am a keen supporter of the Jersey Rugby team and it is five years since I missed a home fixture. I also endeavour to attend two or three away games each season. I try to take in a couple of football games each season as well as I slowly work my way around the 92 football league grounds. Although I will sit in the home end, aside from rare occasions following the mighty Exeter City on their travels, I enjoy attending matches as a neutral. I leave a football ground after watching 90 minutes of competitive sport without the potential disappointment of having seen my team lose or play badly. Many readers will be aware that I am a big fan of rock music. I have attended upwards of 200 rock concerts on the mainland. Thankfully my hearing remains relatively intact. It only tends to falter should there be a knock on my front door a short time after I have spotted some enthusiastic distributors of the Watchtower magazine whilst out and about.

Pop In Tuesday afternoon from 1.00pm to 4.00pm

This has been running since February. The regulars who come, which consists of men and women, enjoy having a chat and doing puzzles. This seems to be very popular and there is always one on the go. We have had our regulars but also many visitors have joined us, doing the puzzle, card making and having a cuppa.



If you would like to join us you would be very welcome to 'pop in' just for a chat, bring some lunch, knitting, crochet, sewing or join in with some card making. There is also games to play. The kettle is always on for teas and coffee so if you are at a loose end or just fancy some company please join us.

For further information contact Mary on 743198 or Marlene on 744374.



Pianoathon Saturday 17th September

The day will start at 9.00am with music accompanying the "Ladies breakfast" which will be open to all. Just come along at 9.00 to enjoy a light breakfast and some music.

If that is too early for you then do pop down at anytime during the day and enjoy some refreshments and music.

St Aubin's Charity of the Year: Jersey Street Pastors—Update

The Street and Prayer Pastors are looking for new recruits so if you feel you can help contact either Heather Morton as Street Pastors Co-ordinator (email jersey@streetpastors.org.uk) or Sally Noel as the Prayer Pastor Co-ordinator (email prayerpastorsjsy@gmail.com).



Currently there are 2 new recruits for Street Pastors in training but also we have lost a Street Pastor and Prayer Pastor as they have moved to the UK.

HELP NEEDED for Church Opening.

At St Aubin we have a wonderful opportunity for outreach and mission by having our Church open 7 days a week. This is only possible with YOUR help. A big THANK YOU to those folk who already do a session, but as you will see from the rotas there are many gaps.

Over 4,500 people have come through our doors since January 2016.

If you feel you can help and want to know more please speak to Mary or phone on 743198

The editors welcome articles for the next Church Chat which will be produced at the beginning of November. Contact John, Angie or Sally on tel 851571 or noelsands25@gmail.com.



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