

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD ★ STAR OF THE NORTH



# *Parish of St John*

Issue 50

Summer 2020

A parish full of.  
*memories*

see page 28



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# Dear Parishioners...

In my first ever editorial, in the Spring edition #49, I talked about community and the joy I get from being part of good news creation – meeting and hearing about interesting people, places, activities and events in our small community. That seemingly fell apart as this terrible virus and the economic impact, rampaged through the world and locked us in to our homes and our island.

Each of us have had a unique experience in this unnerving, unsettling and heart-aching times. What has bound us together stronger than ever, is the sense of community - whether this has been with the increase of greetings as we pass each other by on the road, really exploring our neighbourhood by getting out of our cars, centring our lives more around our homes, family and neighbours, discovering the diversity of local produce from sea and land, helping those in our community that needed a little extra help with shopping, a chat to ward off loneliness or frustrations from staying in the same space for too long, swapping books, puzzles, recipes, seeds for the garden and tips to cook bread without yeast!

In this edition, we celebrate how our community rose to the challenge of lockdown by celebrating Liberation 75. We hear from the St John's Liberation 75 Committee and their delivery of Red Cross parcels to all our VIPs in the parish; we have snippets of memories collected from those who were there when the island was liberated 75 years ago; we have a lot of photos showing off how you celebrated; a beautiful watercolour designed for Lib75; a fun word game; and for me, a highlight, a poem written in those final months of the occupation – both amusing and deeply touching in equal measures.

We are also back with important news from the allotment to support all you new budding gardeners, which includes me, I may

have gone overboard this year on the kale plants and thinking of setting up a kale only honesty box. Which brings us to our new addition to the magazine our 'honesty box corner'. We hear from one supplier

about their love of stocking the box, and we hope to keep this as a regular feature in future editions. We are given tips for great party games for all ages in a new socially distanced world and we hear news from around the parish and the school on how covid-19 and lockdown has affected businesses and pupils, with all eyes on the future and how to ensure we build a more resilient and sustainable community.

It takes 28 days to break a habit, let's take a moment to think what habits we changed since lockdown which made us happier, calmer, more content and see if we can keep them up as we climb out of this crisis. Please remember to support our local businesses, keep greeting your neighbours, and think twice before getting in the car!

Finally, please do get in contact, I'd love to hear from you, my email is [editor@starofthenorth.org.je](mailto:editor@starofthenorth.org.je)

*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about"*

*Margaret Wheatley*

**Editor**

*Hilary Jeune*



## In *this* issue

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# THE CONSTABLE

## Dear Parishioners

I sincerely hope everyone managed to have a great "Tea Party" or some such celebration over the Liberation 75 weekend. I have received some photos from parishioners and most of them are published in this Magazine. I have heard wonderful stories of neighbours having tea parties in their own gardens whilst socialising over the fence. Some families had Tea Parties by Skype or Zoom so all the family could take part.

we have now endured many weeks of lockdown as a result of the Coronavirus COVID-19. During World War 2 our Islanders suffered five years of occupation. It is difficult for us the younger generation to imagine just how relieved Islanders must have been to be free once again. I have heard so many wonderful stories from parishioners both about the dark days of the occupation, and the excitement and joys of Liberation Day itself. I would like to thank those who have come forward and told their stories which are printed in this Magazine.

Just over a year ago I set up a committee to arrange suitable celebrations for Liberation 75. The committee met regularly and worked hard to organise what I believe would have been a most memorable day. All their hard work came to a sudden halt, but on 19th March we still went ahead with our meeting, when I suggested we must do something special for all those parishioners who were here during the occupation. As a result we provided all 139 Parishioners with a "Red Cross" parcel, photos of which are in this Magazine. I am extremely grateful to all those hard-working committee members who made this possible. A truly remarkable team!

This same team were responsible for putting up all the bunting around the Parish Hall, Church, Precinct and Maison le Vesconte. Once again, I am most grateful. I would also like to thank the Bailiff's Office for providing some additional bunting which we were able to distribute to some 80 lucky parishioners. I intend to keep much of the bunting up for as long as possible so we can keep reminding ourselves this year is "**Liberation 75**".

I would also like to thank the large number of volunteers who came forward and offered to help during this Coronavirus pandemic. Thankfully we only had a small number of requests for help, so please don't feel ignored if I didn't call on your services.

Finally, I wish you all a happy summer, enjoy this beautiful weather, but above all please follow "**social distancing**" guidelines and **STAY SAFE**.



I must also thank our Parish staff: St John is the only Parish to have kept the Parish Hall open throughout this virus attack. In particular I would like to thank Sue our Parish Secretary who organised how we could stay open and worked unsociable hours to do so. Full credit to Sue and all my Parish staff.

*Parish Secretary, Sue Rodrigues who along with her team has kept the Parish Hall open throughout lockdown.*





# Reflections

## on home schooling and lock down

On Friday 20th March, St John's pupils left the classroom with instructions on home schooling and an expectation that we would all be back in a few weeks' time. Many weeks later, most of the children are still at home learning remotely through Google Classroom! These are some of their reflections on the experience so far.



Art work in the style of Kandinsky.

### XANDER

When we first left school everyone was so excited and could not wait until they could start home schooling because obviously no one had ever done this before and it was a new experience. Shortly after, everyone was bored. It had only been a few days and we could talk online, but mostly we would talk about how much we missed each other! Unfortunately, it had come to the stage that both girls and boys were saying they missed each other!

### ELEANOR

During home schooling, I really enjoyed being able to stay in my pyjamas to do my work. I liked having different food at lunch instead of having sandwiches every day. I liked not having to complete tasks within a certain limit like at school, when I'm rushed to finish in time for break or lunch.

Now I have got used to working at home each day, it is easier. I am better at organising my work for the day, and have stopped worrying if I don't get to finish all the tasks set for that day. I will leave it for the next day instead. Although I like being at home playing on my trampoline whenever I like, I miss playing and chatting with my friends at school, and all my teachers for their help when I'm stuck with my work. I really can't wait to return to St John's, so that I can see all my friends and teachers, and to enjoy being back in a proper classroom again.

### LUCY

Our teacher sent us the work on different topics each day and we did the work, sometimes with help from our friends and sometimes on our own. Sometimes my Mum and Dad helped as well, but they were doing their jobs from home as well as helping my brother in Year 1 so it was a busy house. This whole adventure has been tough but I am getting through it. I really hope I can get back to school soon as I miss everyone.

### BETH

I have found home schooling quite tricky and it can be a bit difficult to get started but I ask my parents for help so that I can understand all of the daily tasks. When the lockdown first started, I felt quite worried and anxious about missing school tasks by accident. I didn't really worry about COVID-19, more that I would miss my friends at school.

### OLIVIA

There are some good things about being in lockdown. My daddy usually works away a lot, but now we get to spend time with him a lot more. I have been doing some activities such as painting, baking and playing outside games. I like doing exercise with Joe Wicks on You tube with my mummy; my muscles are already getting bigger!

LOCKDOWN

Lockdown 2020

Often making me feel alone

Can't go and hug your friends and family

Kindness is needed when you are stuck with your family 24/7

Don't need to rush to get to activities

Don't wear school uniform

Worrying about getting the coronavirus and when I will go back to school

Needing to stay at home to keep everyone safe



# The pleasure of walking and taking the time to see



Despite the fact that we live on a tiny drop in the ocean and ultimately have a limited number of walks to try, I never get bored of revisiting favourite routes over and over again. Depending on the day, the weather, the light, the month, the season – there is always something different to see. A different perspective. A chance to see with new eyes.

One walk that never fails to take my breath away is the circular route out of Sorel Point to Mourier Valley. The north coast of Jersey is such a rugged, dramatic place to walk – the lush green escarpments dramatically meeting the foaming grey sea, under an endless sky. This is the part of Jersey National Park I love the most.

Leaving the small car park at Sorel we headed west, quickly entering into an enclosure that encompasses two headlands, La Plaine and Devils Hole, with the very picturesque Mourier Valley in between. In this space you can see conservation in action, first-hand. By trampling the bracken, the Manx Loaghtan sheep control the growth of competitive plant species and the resulting cleared grassland is then favoured by invertebrates, which in turn supports the Choughs reintroduction programme. It is vital that dogs are kept on a lead in this space.

We walked the coastal path to begin with as it meandered its merry way in a mirror image of the coastline. The path zig zags down the side of Mourier Valley, meeting the stream as it tumbles downhill.

We followed the gushing stream down through the valley, passing the remnants of an old water mill, before majestically hurling itself into the abyss. You can't actually see the waterfall, but you can hear it pound on the huge sea-worn gallows below. It's a pretty perfect place to stop with a flask of tea.

Backtracking a little you can carry on the coastal path through the heather clad escarpment, across Les Marrionaux toward Devils Hole. You would be walking in the footsteps of Mesolithic peoples: archaeological excavations in 2014 revealed evidence of the production of microliths (very small tools made from flint) and stone made bevel-ended tools.

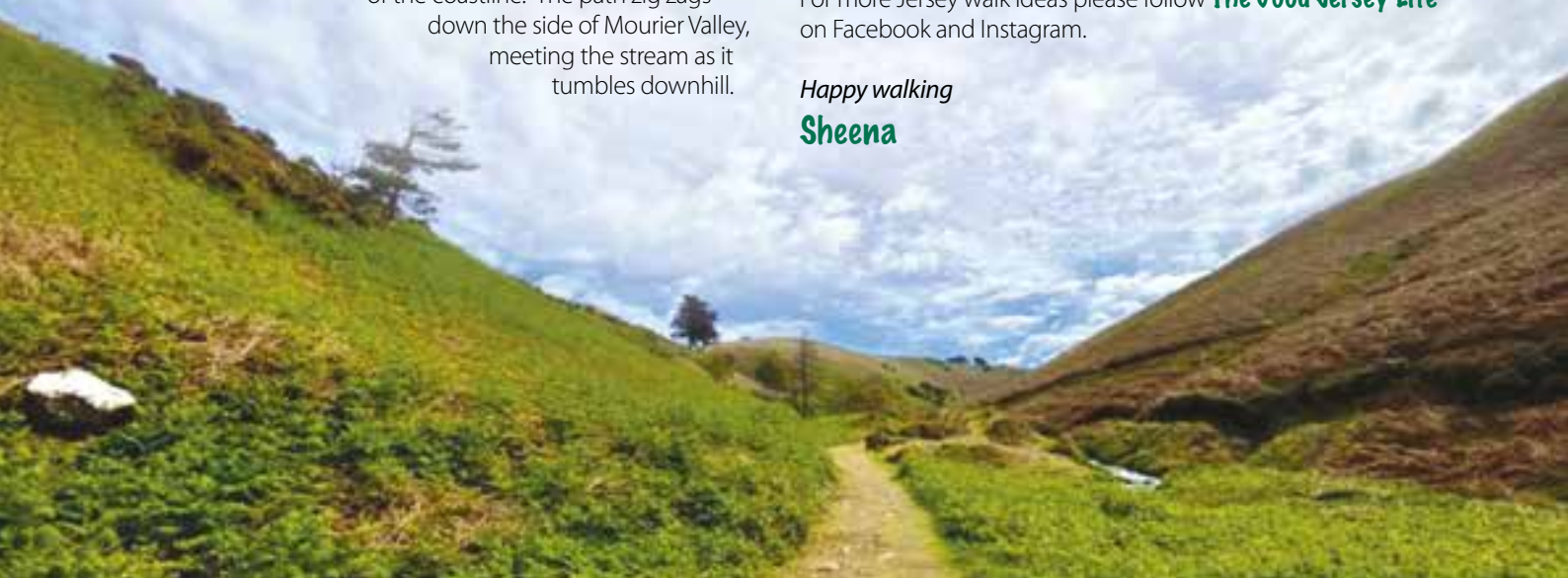


This time we headed up the path behind the small reservoir to look at the new woodland of 6,000 trees which have been planted in collaboration between National Trust for Jersey, Jersey Trees for Life, Jersey Electricity and Jersey Water, as well as miles of new hedgerows planted with the Jersey Conservation Volunteers (see article in the last Parish Magazine on this).

This is such a beautiful walk encompassing far reaching views, rugged coastlines, secret valleys, wildlife and flora and fauna galore. A real delight for the senses, and invigorating on the legs!

For more Jersey walk ideas please follow [The Good Jersey Life](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

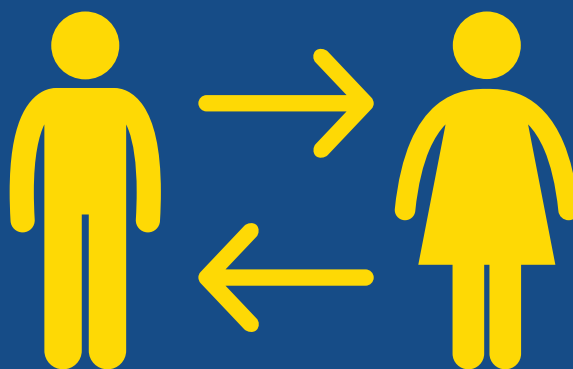
*Happy walking*  
**Sheena**





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Government of Jersey

# Honesty BOX

Shortening the journey from field to fork: News from an honesty box stall

**Sadie Bredonchel has an honesty box stall in La Rue Des Servais, Sion, St John.**

*"I have a passion for growing plants. I grow as many of my vegetables as possible from my own seed that I have saved from the previous year. I grow seedlings for ourselves and for my sister. It is always good to grow extras just in case. I hate waste of any kind and so I began selling the left overs and other little plants that I had nurtured. I was amazed at my excitement at getting fifty pence or a pound or so from the plants that I put out for sale on our driveway.*

*Recently I have started to put out some of my craft items- mainly pottery. I make pottery and other craft items purely for the love of doing it. Problem is - when you have been doing this for many years you have to sell some of it on.*

*In 'normal' times my husband does woodturning and I do pottery and we have a craft exhibition set up in the house and we do the occasional craft fair.*

*I love my honesty box stall and I go out several times each day to tend to it and collect any exciting rewards.*



Honesty Box Stall Sion

*Thank you to all those that have purchased items from my stall, I hope they give you great pleasure.*

*(I have put my bank details out on my stall to help with the lack of change these days)"*

Check out the **Jersey Honesty Box** and **Jersey HedgeVeg Facebook Pages** to find a map of all the honesty box stalls, farm shops and organic shops around the island as well as updated news on what produce has been freshly stocked that day. Support a more sustainable environment in our island by shortening the journey from field to fork. News on honesty boxes in our parish will become a regular feature in the magazine. Do contact the editor if you would like to be featured in the next edition.

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# A New look at **St Johns Inn**



As lockdown eases and businesses reopen, St John's Inn is all set to show off its brand-new look. Run by Charlie Krol, who took over the lease in January, the inn has been undergoing big changes during the last few months, with both its restaurant and pub getting a fresh look.

It's not just indoors, as Charlie describes he has been giving the alfresco areas a new look too. This long task has involved fencing the terrace for a more private atmosphere, freshly varnishing the benches, and adorning the surroundings with new plants and flowers.

This perseverance during hard times is characteristic of the new St John's Inn. As Charlie says: 'we didn't give up during the coronavirus, we still provided services delivering takeaways. The whole team was kept – the bartender became the driver, everyone switched roles!' Indeed, you can order takeaways either directly or on food.je, with a wide selection of food, whether you fancy a traditional fish and chips or a tasty chicken espetada.

However, if you want to experience the revamped inn itself, it will be open for socially distanced food service from 12 – 9pm on Tuesdays to Saturdays, from 12 – 6.30pm on Sundays, and closed on Mondays.

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Jersey Electricity



# Party Games

By **Julia Williams**

Greetings again from Party HQ. When planning this column, we knew summer games would present challenges that would be suitable for all ages, weathers and group sizes. But add 2 metre distancing and lockdown into the mix, sadly a beginners guide to 15-a-side rugby, stopped being an option.

One of my favourite films of recent years follows a group of grown men who have been playing a game of 'Tag' for the past 30 years. Based on a true story, it has a wonderful quote throughout the movie 'You don't stop playing because you get old, you get old because you stop playing'. I must thank George Bernard Shaw for this excellent piece of advice that has kept Party HQ sane these past months and seems perfect for times like these - I endeavour with this article to keep that sentiment alive.

So to the games, well, what haven't we played (aside from 15 aside rugby)? New games, classic games, quick games and silly games. We've improvised where we can, to keep to the lockdown rules and invented where we couldn't. There's been leaps in IT knowhow, we've reached around the world for cross family quizzes, rediscovered our beautiful island with treasure hunts and had one broken nose.

Luckily Liberation weekend provided us with glorious sunshine and a chance to spend time outside with a slightly eased lockdown. Games were called for and the classics saved our day. Egg and Spoon races at a distance, each with their own utensils, provided much mirth and a chance to make room for more cake. The kids had fun painting pebbles for a hopscotch pitch, which ended in a detailed discussion on the actual rules as it seems we've all been playing it differently for years. A perfect one for the beach for the summer ahead as a pitch can be whipped up quickly and stones found with ease. However, a very confident Mr Party HQ, when commenting on how easy this game was, did in fact manage to split his shorts the first time he bent down to pick up his pebble in the middle of St. Ouens.

But the over-riding winner has to have been Bingo. Played on tablets across the timezones, or distanced in a friend's garden. It really has been the game of the year so far and likely to continue to be so. Sure the number '19' will have its call changed forever, but the excitement that was caused on winning a Variety pack of cereal for a bottom row, was just about as much as for a bunch of fresh-home grown asparagus and a bottle of fizz for a full house. The former which now has to be posted to my brother-in-law in New Zealand. Who knows when it'll get there, but without this lockdown we never would have made that parcel and the smiles they will have when the parcel gets there would never have existed. So don't stop playing, you might get old, or worse, stop smiling.

“You don't stop playing because you get old, you get old because you stop playing!”



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# THE ASIAN HORNET:

## don't ignore it, report it.

As summer is upon us, that most unwelcome of invaders, the Asian hornet will step up its activities, and Islanders are being encouraged to keep their eyes open and report any suspected sightings.

Asian hornets arrived in Jersey in 2016, they have a voracious appetite for insects and honeybees. The impact on our native pollinators and diverse Jersey ecology is significant. Although at the end of June, the number of emerging queens and nests is down on last year it is thought that, following the late discovery of nests last year, the number of hornets could rise in 2020.

Jersey's Asian hornet Coordinator, Alastair Christie, said: "Over the last few years, Islanders have been responsible for the majority of reports and have been be our most valuable asset when it comes to controlling this invasive insect. Our main message remains the same: don't ignore it, report it!"

"By the end of June, the nests are usually round, creamy in colour and sized between a tennis ball and grapefruit. You will often find them in sheds, garages, car-ports and barns but they will also be built in trees, bramble thickets, buildings and low down in hedges."

At this time of year, the public are being urged to keep an eye out for both nests and insects. The hornets are distinctive, generally dark in colour with one yellow band across their backside, a brighter yellow thin belt at their waist and yellow tips on their legs. They are larger than wasps or honeybees.

Asian hornets can build their nests within populated areas. If disturbed, they have been known to be defensive. It is recommended that Islanders look out for any unusual insect activity while outdoors enjoying the garden, especially as branchage approaches.

If anyone sees anything of concern, they should stop work, report it and appropriate advice will be given

### Asian Hornets are in Jersey, and we need your help to find them

Also known as yellow-legged hornets, Asian Hornets pose a significant threat to Jersey's honey bees and other beneficial pollinators.

**Size:**  
larger than a honey bee or wasp (20mm to 30mm long)

**Head:** black with an orange/yellow face

**Body:** velvety dark/dark brown mid-body

**Legs:** brown upper part with distinct yellow lower leg

**Rear:** mainly dark brown with distinct mustard/yellow band

**Waist:** fine, bright yellow "belt"



If you suspect an Asian hornet sighting or a nest, you can report it by emailing [asianhornet@gov.je](mailto:asianhornet@gov.je), attaching a photo if possible. You can also call the Coordinator on 441633, or download the free Asian Hornet Watch App.

For more information about Asian hornets, how to identify and report them, visit [gov.je/asianhornets](http://gov.je/asianhornets).

# CATERPILLARS:

## a warning summer

Caterpillars of the Oak Processionary Moth can be dangerous to your health. Here's what you need to know.

Government is advising Islanders not to touch or approach the caterpillars of the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) because they can be dangerous to the health of you and your pets.



The caterpillars collectively build a silken nest in oak trees, covered in their toxic hairs, and they shed hairs into the tree they are feeding in, making the entire area hazardous. The hairs can be blown by the wind and they accumulate in the caterpillars' nests, which can fall to the ground. They stick to trunks, branches, grass and clothing as well as tree surgeons, forestry and ground-care workers' equipment, such as ropes. If any person or animal comes into contact with the hairs, it can cause:

- Skin irritation
- Allergic reaction
- Intense itchiness
- Painful rashes
- Eye problems
- Sore throat
- Breathing difficulties

Look out for cream to brown to black fibrous or webbing like structures on the trunks, branches and in forks of branches – these contain the caterpillars and the hairs and should not be approached or interfered with.



Don't touch or try to deal with the caterpillars. Instead email [environmentenquiries@gov.je](mailto:environmentenquiries@gov.je) to report any sightings, with as much detail as possible on their precise location.

For further information, please search for 'Oak Processionary Moths' on [gov.je](http://gov.je)

# For the Diary JAYF Open Garden 9th August at St John's Manor



JAYF is a small local charity providing safe and homely subsidised accommodation to young people who might otherwise be homeless in Jersey through no fault of their own, together with the support of 'houseparents' and an experienced Liaison Officer to guide them through their young adulthood and towards independent living.

Under normal circumstances we hold a number of Open Gardens throughout the Summer to raise funds for the running and maintenance of the hostels. We very much hope that we will be able to hold one Open Garden on Sunday 9th August by kind permission of the owners at St. John's Manor Rue de la Mare Ballam St John JE3 4EH

The Manor stands in ten acres of land, with an additional 40 acres of farmland and surrounding woodland. The magnificent grounds incorporate a lake, a chapel, a yew maze and a beautiful Japanese garden.

We very much hope that we will be able to welcome visitors to enjoy the magnificent gardens on the 9th August. Please see our [JAYF Facebook page](#) for updates.

Should you wish to make a donation to JAYF please send it to:  
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# Reflections on the last few months

from  
St John's Deputy, Trevor Pointon



Imagine my disappointment that Liberation 75 celebrations had to be cancelled. I was so looking forward to listening to the stories of occupation heroes, many of whom were trapped in the island or escaped to mainland Britain: bringing up children, supporting the war effort, or like Jane's father Allan Averty, serving in the armed forces.

Like so many others in the parish, Jane and I were advised to stay at home during these challenging times. This of course was sound advice and eventually affected the whole island in the form of lockdown.

Alexander Graham Bell invented a wonderful device, the telephone and it is the modern version of this device that has enabled me to speak too many of those older people who are in confinement.

It is really encouraging to hear folk sounding so upbeat in a time of crisis describing valued support from family, neighbours, the local retail community and a small army of volunteers coordinated through the Parish Hall.

It is very gratifying to be aware that our community has been pulling together. An example of the collective spirit arrived at our door step around the 9th of May. Our Connetable Chris Taylor thought the Deputy and his wife should have the one remaining St John Vega box that had been prepared for occupation heroes.

We maintained a safe distance for the hand over and he went as quickly as he had arrived. We felt immensely privileged, especially as our favourite chocolate digestives were inside.

Life is exceedingly busy with States business, utilising the successor to Alexander Graham Bell's invention, the internet. In May alone I attended four States sittings and Thirty seven briefings or meetings all conducted from home via Microsoft Teams. It is quite amazing that all forty-nine members can meet, hold a debate and decide on new or amended legislation all through a laptop computer or tablet.

Please take care of yourselves and your families as we gradually move into the new normal.

I can be contacted by phone or E-mail...

Mob: **07797-724625**,

Mail: **t.pointon2@gov.je**



# Liberation 75

## *Let's celebrate*



It's amazing how much can change in a few short months since we were last in contact with you. We had planned a large scale Liberation 75 Afternoon Tea Party with traditional afternoon tea served in the grounds of St John's Church and the precinct area. We had a packed schedule of entertainment planned and then unfortunately in March 2020 Covid-19 reached our beautiful island with devastating impact requiring us to enter lockdown.

## Parish Volunteers

We understood that we had to cancel the event and were obviously disappointed but the committee had formed a strong bond and still wanted to mark the event and help the parishioners. We became part of the band of volunteers assisting in the parish of St John.

## Red Cross Parcel

We worked closely with the Connetable to come up with a suitable way to mark the event for those Jersey born islanders who either lived in Jersey during the occupation or who were evacuated. After much thought and discussion it was agreed that a Red Cross parcel would be a memorable and appropriate way to mark this special date.

## Recording People's Memories

We were fortunate enough, with the assistance of our technical team, to organise a recording session at the parish hall on 22 February 2020 for parishioners to share some of their wartime experiences.

## Tea Party at Home 9 May 2020

It's not the street tea party we had planned but in these unprecedented times we asked people to stay safe and celebrate the event by having afternoon tea at home. Fun times were had and memories were made.

Celebrating this event in lockdown has meant that we have had a glimpse of what it was like to have our freedom restricted and made us pause and reflect on life. It has allowed us time to appreciate what we have and make changes where we need to and for that we are thankful.

Stay safe and stay strong  
and we hope you enjoyed  
your Liberation Day.

**Sam, Bev, Gwen,  
Sophie, Kate and  
Jayne**

Liberation 75  
St John's Committee





# Answer to a Red Cross Letter

Tina Tomas has kindly shared a touching poem found amongst some paperwork after the death of her grandmother, Iris Le Monnier, who used to work at Wolf's Caves. They are unsure if this poem is an original or whether it was known to others who were in Jersey during the occupation. If it is an original, then there is one section of the poem that mentions 'our staff' which may have referred to the Wolf's Caves Hotel which was owned by her grandmothers' family during the occupation.

## Answer to a Red Cross Letter

We are quite well but getting thinner  
Not much for tea still less for dinner  
Though not exactly on our uppers  
We've said good-bye to cold ham suppers

In peace-time those who wished to slim  
Tried diets, massage, baths & gym  
We'll tell the stout of every nation  
The secrets solved by occupation

Indeed it's getting quite the fashion  
To queue up for our daily rations  
Butter, sugar, tea or flour  
Salt we wait for by the hour

Men miss their beer we cannot get hops  
Children miss their lollipops  
What put most people in a hole  
Was when they had to ration coal

All well aware before the battle  
Famous we were for Jersey cattle  
When all is over in the news  
Famous we'll be for Jersey stews

Soon counting folk were heard to boast  
That they enjoyed a lovely roast  
That speaks with feeling & with pride  
About the pig which aptly died

More precious than gold one hath to beg  
Even one solitary new laid egg  
Oh! What an ode an able pen  
Might write to my wonderful laying hen

Our staff though living near & far  
Walk & cycle have no car  
If car there is that amounts to naught  
As petrol supply cannot be bought

We all look forward to the day  
Hoping it's not far away  
When we shall gather on the pier  
And meet the mailboat with a cheer

Little Jersey bombed & mined  
To us the fates have proved too unkind  
But after all the stress & strain  
To greater heights we'll rise again

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Children miss their lollipops  
What put most people in a hole  
Was when they had to ration coal

The original hand written poem

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When all is over in the news  
Famous we'll be for Jersey stews

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# Recreating the red cross parcel

During the Occupation, the Red Cross ship Vega brought food parcels and medical supplies to islanders in Jersey. It was fitting therefore, that a modern-day Red Cross Parcel was given to St. John parishioners as a memorable and appropriate way to mark the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey. The parcels were given to all Jersey-born islanders in St. John who either lived in Jersey during the Occupation, or who were evacuated.

The parcel was wrapped in brown paper and tied with string in a bow. Underneath was a beautiful white tin with the Jersey Flag, the dates, 75 years Liberation logo and the parish emblem. Inside the box was; a St. John's parish mug, the Royal British Legion Jersey commemorative pin, a pack of chocolate biscuits, a large bar of chocolate, a pack of tea bags and a bar of soap.

The Connetable and the Lib75 Committee worked closely together to make this happen and to keep it a surprise. They met socially distanced at the Parish Hall to pack and wrap the boxes and also to deliver them. The look of surprise and delight on people's faces when they were delivered was lovely to see. It was nice to, even in a small way, make people feel that we remembered them.

Terry Le Sueur receiving his red cross parcel



Pat Donne-Davis receiving her red cross parcel



Photo obtained from Imperial War Museum



Team packing the parcels following social distancing rules





# Memories

by Rosie Bleasby

Three of the St John Ladies who received the special Red Cross themed parcels from the Parish for Liberation Day, 2020, had very different experiences and memories of the Occupation and Liberation.

**Lucy Le Moignan** was 11 when the Germans arrived in July, 1940. The family home was at Havre Des Pas so she has vivid memories of the days leading up to the start of the Occupation on July 1st. She remembers the bombing of the harbour and Fort Regent very clearly. Her grandmother's home was on Green Street and Fort Regent above it was ablaze from the incendiary bombs dropped on it. During the Occupation they had German soldiers living next door in an hotel and she only remembers them being very polite and well behaved.

On Liberation Day in May, 1945, she and a group of friends, by now 16, made their way to a view point below Fort Regent from where they could see everything that was happening in the harbour area. She saw the British troops coming ashore and making their way to the square in front of the Pomme D'Or hotel and the raising of the flags there and on Fort Regent. They were there, caught up in the excitement of the crowd, for several hours. In the evening they all went ballroom dancing above a cafe in Don Street. It is easy to see how the normal Liberation Day celebrations at the Weighbridge Square have always been special to Lucy.

**Mary Lamy's** experience was very different. She was born in Guernsey and was a small child in her first year at school when the fall of France in June, 1940, had huge implications for the Channel Islands, so near to the French shore. The Guernsey authorities opted to evacuate all their schools to England thinking it would only be for a few weeks. Mary and her older brother left with their respective classes and their parents planned to follow them but the day after all the children left the harbour was bombed and it was five years before they saw their parents again.

Mary has fragmented memories of their journey by sea, train and bus. They first went to Wigan in the north west where they were put briefly in the old workhouse. They were then moved into the Cheshire countryside and were billeted, she and her brother, with various families, not together but nearby. She has very fond memories of her teacher who travelled with them and took care of them as her class for the whole five years.

Mary doesn't remember too much of the journey back to Guernsey at the end of May 1945, but one can imagine the joy of the Guernsey parents receiving their children back after a five year absence, a second Liberation Day for them.

**Mary Slack** was a babe in arms when she left Jersey in late June, 1940. Her parents had to leave as her paternal grandmother was petrified at the thought of the Germans coming and they had English relatives to go to. Mary has no memories of the journey but heard from her mother later that it was appalling. They left with only two suitcases, mostly filled with things for their baby. They left her grandmother in Essex with some family and she and her parents travelled on to Manchester where some other relatives had agreed to house them. Eventually they settled in their own accommodation in Ashton under Lyne near Manchester.

This is where Mary went to school and church. Her father acted as an ARP warden as there was significant bombing in Manchester and environs. Mary, herself, can remember the Doodlebugs ( V1 rockets ) towards the end of the war. They were at their most dangerous when they went silent at the end of their flight, just before they landed and exploded.

Mary and her family returned to Jersey in May, 1946. She had been told about Jersey, an island surrounded by sea, and her early drawings of it always showed a big sun. The reality when they arrived back was rather different. It was grey, wet and misty and the harbour area was still unwelcoming. She enjoyed meeting her cousins here but her parents had to start all over again as all their belongings had disappeared during the Occupation.

So three very different stories but the three ladies involved all have very individual memories and were delighted to be remembered by the Parish on May the 9th 2020.



# Liberation Word Game by Mary Slack

I hope you will enjoy filling the gaps to make sense of this little tale. All the words you use, one dash per letter (sometimes running over 2 or 3 words) relate to Liberation Day 1945, people, places, objects etc: The first one is done for you.

Enjoy !

Albert was a Jerseyman and very pious. He went regularly to **CHURCH, ILL** though he was. He was a keen gardener and grew roses in profusion.

His favourite was \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ was, he had walked the coastal paths, but he had problems with his feet. A hammer toe and a b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ stones were agony to walk on.

Extremely intelligent, but useless with money, he became bankrupt, the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ came and he lost his home. Neighbours rallied round, gave him fruit and VEG And even gave him the proceeds of a raffle. He had lots of supportive friends too.

He asked Dominic, "Are you \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , to come and eat at the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ d' \_ \_ carvery ?" Then there was his cousin, George. Li \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ rtually as his brother, he'd suggest "Let's go to St Martin's Pub, the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ - bashing as we did in the CCF, makes us great mates."

Then there was Jack, "Coming for a pint at the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ?" At 75, he was growing tired of being a bachelor. After much de \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , he decided to go to South America, where May came into his life. They met at the Rio Car \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Samba dancers the best. Soon they were wed and their son, Tommy, was born.

Albert was a hands-on father, but getting his son into a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ bodice was quite a struggle! As a teenager, Tommy, ("T" to his friends ) became addicted to Ecstasy. Reg, another cousin, was devastated. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ irely devoted his time, giving him among other things a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ puppy. He also gave him no \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ nings about what drug abuse might do to him.

Albert and May had quite a hard time, knowing poverty and privation, but they didn't \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ grudges. They lived to a ripe old age, shouting at each other, not in anger, but because they both had defective hearing aids: "Your pie, Albert, remains uneaten!." No response. Deaf again! " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ emains uneaten!!" He yelled back to her "Beethoven's Ode to Joy, \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Symphony, is on the BBC now!"

(answers on page 50)





# Liberation 75 *imagined in watercolour*

by Julia Renault

Back in the depths of winter I was quietly preparing a piece of artwork for Liberation 75. The group preparing for the parish party had decided that we would avoid disposable plastic. As an artist who has made artwork, about this issue, I was very excited when Chris Taylor decided that we would be as environmentally friendly as possible in the catering for the Tea Party. It was decided to produce a mug for the party which could be both used on the occasion and kept afterwards, either for regular use, or as a special souvenir, for each person attending. I offered to create a special design for the mug.

I decided to imagine the party which was due to take place between the Parish Church and the Parish Hall and shopping precinct. As the space on the mug is small I decided to keep it quite simple with lots of clean space and room for the essential words commemorating the occasion. This is the reason the painting is such a long rectangle.

a commercial project, it was something that I was freely giving in conjunction with the Parish of St John to the Occupation generation and my fellow parishioners.

During the stay at home period, I have been teaching art to some people over the Internet using Zoom. While I hope to go back to face-to-face teaching, I have realised that there are people who may prefer to be taught in the comfort of



Copyright Julia Renault (any reproduction please contact Julia)

The design began as sketches of both the Church and the Parish Hall made during very grey cold January days. I then re-drew the sketches onto watercolour paper and added a simple colour scheme which suggests the warmth of light falling on the granite. I also painted the trees in their marvellous shades of purple based upon my observation of these glorious Copper Beech trees over the years spent walking past them. The bunting was completely imaginary as I had not at this point any knowledge of how it was to be placed and for reasons of visual clarity, I needed it to stretch between the buildings rather than across the buildings.

The design was approved by the Connetable and the organisers of the Liberation party. A manufacturer had been found, they had accepted the design and sent us a digital proof of the design with the wording for the occasion on it. I was excited; this was the first time an artwork of mine would appear on a piece of ceramicware.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic meant that there was a question over whether the factory would be able to produce our mugs in time. Eventually we received the news that the factory was not going to re-open in time for 9th May 2020. While this is hugely disappointing, I have the original artwork and hope that at some time it can be reproduced for the benefit of others. It was never

their own home by me using the internet. I'm thinking particularly of people who are shielding and people who find it difficult to leave their home and travel to an art class. I would be interested to hear from anybody, of any age, and any level of artistic experience, who would might like to try a small group Zoom art lesson or a private one to one Zoom art lesson. I am considering offering this throughout the year even at the point when I am able to resume traditional face-to-face teaching.

I am also offering the opportunity for people to have a portrait painted from a photograph. Usually I prefer to paint from real life, but it is necessary to adapt to the times in which we live. Being an artist is my sole form of income, and I need to respond creatively to the restrictions. Examples of the portraits and other paintings that I have painted in recent years are on [www.juliarenault.com](http://www.juliarenault.com) I want to keep my portrait painting skills fresh and would be pleased to have the opportunity to paint some new faces.

If you would like to explore this with me please email [juliarenault22@gmail.com](mailto:juliarenault22@gmail.com)



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# A Parish full of memories

## Liberation 75

by Kieranne Grimshaw

Eileen Barette (nee Amy)

Who would have thought that only a few months ago we were sitting amongst a small group of parishioners at the Parish Hall discussing Liberation Day? Only weeks later, any large gatherings were prohibited and so much then changed due to COVID-19. We are very fortunate to have these precious memories through our recordings and interviews.

The idea of this project began after parishioner, Gary Grimshaw, started reflecting on some memories recounted by his mother, who was 14 years old on Liberation Day. "As a Jersey man, Liberation stories formed part of my childhood. I learnt, amongst many stories, that my mother had been an unsuspecting "courier" as she was used to pass on BBC news to the Allies – she would take a piece of crumpled paper, tightly in her hand, little realising this contained vital information transcribed from a crystal set."

With the above in mind, Gary and his wife, Kieranne, were inspired to become involved with the recently formed Liberation 75 St. John's Committee. They invited parishioners who were here during the Occupation to get together at the Parish Hall to share their memories. This all took place on Saturday, 25th February 2020.

There were so many memories and marvellous stories, but here are just a few which made an impression:

One parishioner, known to many of you and with an incredible memory, is Eileen Barette (née Amy) – She was 17 on Liberation Day and recalls the neighbours having horses for ploughing. "Our neighbours were given petrol, so we used this to go into town and celebrate together" Eileen said. About the Occupation years, Eileen who lived on a farm, particularly recalls enjoying doing things against the Law – "We always kept a bit more than permitted and we also kept pigs, which wasn't allowed." She probably wasn't the only family to tell "porkies" to the Germans.

Clare Duval (née Picot) had a most unique story to tell: She lived in Ville Guyon and remembers celebrating Liberation Day at the Harbour. However, a more vivid memory was when she visited a family friend, Mrs Bisson, who was living at a house called Runnymede in Samares Lane – the date, Friday 28th June 1940.

Clare Duval (nee Picot)



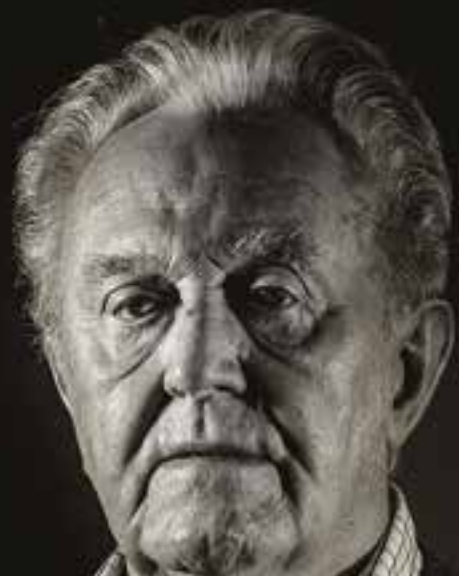
"I remember Mrs Bisson calling me to the door – from here we could hear a German plane come down so low we could see the pilot. He fired two shots, one came just at the side of me and it took a piece of wood away from the skirting board. The wood splintered, then landed on my Panama hat which was still hanging up. The other bullet went through the large bedroom window and right through a folded up bed spread."

Former Constable and Deputy, Carl Hinault, especially remembers the weekly visits to his home by the Rector, Reverend Hornby. "He was always disappearing into the cattle stable with my father." Carl said. It was only after the War when Carl's father came out holding a battery type radio, that he learnt they had hidden the radio in the hayloft all throughout the Occupation.

Another tale from Michel Larose was equally compelling. He remembers being with neighbours in his kitchen, listening to a crystal set which his family owned. "All of a sudden" Michel said 'we heard Germans who marched into our house, obviously searching for the set. My dad hadn't time to hide it properly, so he put the battery in the sewing machine and put the Evening Post on the top of the crystal set.' Unintentionally, a local newspaper had saved the day.

These are only some of the amazing memories from a collection of various stories described by some of our Parishioners. We wish to thank all of them for sharing such precious and interesting memories with us. It is a privilege to share these historic accounts with our readers and also to remind parishioners of the official Liberation 75 website for St. John, [www.liberation75stjohn.org](http://www.liberation75stjohn.org) This has been created and updated, including the stories and recordings, by Gary. He has also produced a book, about this special Liberation Celebration, which can be viewed at the Parish Hall.

This project is ongoing: 'Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.' (Churchill, 1942).



Carl Hinault



Michel Larose





14 - 23 Maison Le Vesconte - 9 May 2020

celebrating Liberation with social distancing "chin-wag"

Tony-Maureen, Jacky, Odette, Elizabeth, Rose, Doris, Annette, Bill, Phil-Nan, Pierre & sushe the dog









# Reflections of liberation 75 *from parishioners*

Many months of planning were disrupted by the arrival of the coronavirus to our shores. Plans for a marquee, varied entertainment and meeting up of old and new friends had to be abandoned. How can you dance the conga around the precinct whilst observing social distancing? Instead we were advised to hold afternoon tea parties in a garden with close friends and family - with a little imagination, these could still prove enjoyable.

92 year old Eileen Barette had been delighted to receive the Liberation Day parcel from the Parish of St. John the previous day. It brought back many memories and set the mood for the next day.

Eileen began her Liberation Day with a champagne breakfast at her grandson, Paul O'Hara's, house next door to her own.

Soon after she was surprised to see a vintage lorry stop outside her house. She was given yet another Liberation Day commemoration parcel, this time organised by Aaron Labey on behalf of the Lord's and Lady Taverners. What particularly delighted her was that the lorry was similar to the one in which she and half the neighbourhood had travelled into town on that first Liberation Day!

Eileen met in her garden with a good friend, Sylvia Roche (who supplied the scones) and family. Because of social distancing not all her close family could be present but her daughter, Gwen Ormerod, granddaughter, Kate Lannigan and great granddaughter, Kaia Lannigan made four generations of the family who were able to share in the celebrations.

Eileen had found a bottle of champagne from 1975 that she had stored for a special occasion. What could be more special than the 75th Liberation Day! However, when the colour of the liquid in the bottle was compared to a more recent bottle of rose doubts began to arise as to whether it had aged as well as its owner. When the cork came out with barely a whimper it was obvious that only the bravest would sample it. In fact the general verdict was that Donald Trump had been thinking of Eileen's vintage champagne when he had recommended drinking bleach-like substances as a cure for coronavirus!

Fortunately some very palatable alternatives were found and the afternoon was spent with much love and laughter, as is always the case with such a wonderful lady!



*Auntie Pat with her parents*

## My Great Auntie

*by Jessica Olliver (age 12)*

My Great Auntie is called Patricia Olliver and she moved to live near us in St John's a few years ago. One of my middle names is Patricia after her. My Great Auntie was born in Jersey on 10 December 1938 and in 1940 she was evacuated to Barnsley in England. When we were talking about Liberation 75 one of the stories she told me was that when she left Jersey with her family they put all of their furniture from their family home in to storage in a warehouse in St Helier. When they returned back to the island in 1945 there was nothing left to be taken out of storage as it had all been taken and used by the Germans!



# My Great Grand-parents by Matthew Olliver (age 15)

A few years ago when I was doing my Year 6 Occupation project for school I learnt about my great-grandparents World War II story. My Great Nannie, Jenny Gough (nee Daw) was born on 4 October 1929 and in 1940 she was evacuated to Barnsley, but then moved down to Poole for the rest of the war. My Great Papa, Dennis Gough, was also born on 4 October 1929 and stayed in Jersey during the occupation. After the war Jenny returned to Jersey.



In 1949 Jenny and Dennis met because Jenny's brother, David Daw, was Dennis's best friend. David had remained in Jersey because an Aunt had requested his help to get her ready to go to the boat. Unfortunately, they missed the boat which had his mother and siblings on it.

Jenny and Dennis began courting. Jenny spoke English and Dennis spoke some English but mainly Jersey-French. His family also mainly spoke Jersey-French too so that resulted in an interesting and challenging courtship. The happy couple were married on 6 October 1949.

My sister and I were lucky enough to spend lots of family time with our great-grandparents before they sadly passed away and we attended their joint 80th birthday party and helped them celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary. This Memory I have shared with you makes me think about the impact the war had on families in Jersey.



## Guide Dogs Volunteers Needed

### *Volunteers Needed in Jersey to Help People Living with Sight Loss*

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association needs volunteers in Jersey to help improve the independence of people with sight loss. In Jersey, Guide Dogs is starting to get more referrals from people looking for a sighted guide but doesn't have enough volunteers on the island to meet demand. One person has been waiting several months to get out and about.



My Guide is a volunteer-led service, where a trained, sighted guide is partnered with someone who is blind or partially sighted. My Guides accompany the person to help with things like running errands, practising everyday routes, using public transport, or going to the gym. Sometimes, they'll just spend time together and take part in activities they both enjoy. The volunteer usually spends about two hours per week as a My Guide.

Jennifer, a My Guide volunteer currently in two partnerships says, "The My Guide service offered by Guide Dogs has enriched my life considerably. It's very rewarding and gives me a sense of purpose. My partnerships are no longer just that, they're like old friends now, comfortable and genuine friendships."

While Guide Dogs are still accepting applications for new volunteers, please be aware that at the time of publication our face to face training sessions & services are on hold. This means your volunteering start date will be delayed, but we would still love to hear from anyone interested in supporting this service! Guide Dogs provides full training for all volunteers.

To apply, go to the Guide Dogs website [www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteering) or call the Southampton Team (which covers the Channel Islands) on **0345 143 0227**.



# MURDER mystery



## Who killed the Farmer?

By Stuart Langhorn

In March St John's Parish Players staged their first production. The evening was a murder mystery performance of 'Who Killed the Farmer?'. The play was set in a bleak farmhouse in the 1950's. The audience was invited to solve the grisly murder of farmer, Amos Ramsbottom, who is found stabbed to death amongst his chickens. Suspects include his wife, his son, the local mayor and the butcher. Miss Nippet, the local sleuth and busybody is called upon to solve the crime.

The mystery was played out over three acts, with a supper served during the intervals. Prizes were given for members of the audience who managed to solve the crime and for those attending in the best costumes. Funds raised on the night will contribute to the up keep of the Parish church. Thank you to all who attended and all who took part. It is hoped we can repeat the evening with a new mystery soon.





# "Imagine St John"

by Kate Sibcy

I live in Sion with my husband and three young children. Like many families, our lockdown lifesavers were the walks and bike rides near our home along peaceful lanes and quieter main roads.

The easing of lockdown has seen a return of heavy traffic, often travelling at more than 30mph. It once again seems dangerous to leave our house in anything but the car, even though we would rather cycle to work and school. And I fear it's only going to get worse...

We're thrilled Deputy Rob Ward hopes to return green lanes to the peaceful minor roads they should be, yet this could mean more traffic on main roads like Grande Route de St Jean.

The new Co-op could also mean more vehicles through Sion. I think families will want to walk, but pavements in both directions are inconsistent in width, too

narrow for pushchairs or wheelchairs in places and frequently overgrown, which means having to walk unbearably close to traffic in places – and that's without having to pass others coming the opposite way.

I've been inspired by the ways St Peter, St Martin and St Mary have been made safer and decided to campaign to improve Sion. I believe we should slow traffic to 20 mph. But how else could Sion be made safer? Could traffic calming be introduced as part of a scheme to widen pavements and create a cycle lane linking green-lane cycle routes? I hope to start a positive conversation about how we can come together as a community to make Sion safer. Even if you don't live in Sion, please sign and share my petition which aims to get more of us walking and cycling, reducing congestion and pollution for all.

If you would like to get in contact so we can get the conversation going, please email [katesibcy@gmail.com](mailto:katesibcy@gmail.com)

*Join Our Campaign  
to Make Sion Safer!*

Please sign the petition [www.petitions.gov.je/petitions/200455](http://www.petitions.gov.je/petitions/200455)

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# Supporting our local Riding School

As you are all aware the current climate and strain of the coronavirus pandemic has had significant impacts on individuals, unfortunately Le Claire riding school has had to scale down temporarily. Our riding school is home to 11 horses and ponies. We are a family run business that solely relies on rides being booked to cover expenses. The school teaches people of all ages and abilities and runs holiday camps to teach children how to ride and care for the animals, we also take 8 students each year for work experience, and are the only yard who supply ponies for the Riding for the Disabled charity.

We are trying to keep cost low, however, as many of you will know horses require a high standard of care. We are currently relying on savings and the greatly appreciated donations which have kindly been made to us through our Just Giving page to pay for the upkeep of the ponies until the stables can continue providing lessons to the public including those more vulnerable. All of our horses are missing their wonderful array of clients, we hope you are all staying safe, and thank you for all the help we have received so far and appreciate any further donations.

Just giving page  
[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/le-claire-stables](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/le-claire-stables)





# Parish Proposals to the Island Plan



In May 2019 the Parish elected members on to the "La Comite de la Comune Rurale de St Jean" better known as the Comite Rurale. One objective of the Comite was to survey the Parish with a view to making representation to the next Island Plan Review which is due to be debated in the States in the summer of 2021. I am extremely grateful to all the members for their hard work and in particular to the Chairman Ian Touzel and members who have been tireless in producing their survey and analysing the results. The overview presentation which they had intended to present at a Parish Meeting has been circulated with this magazine. The Comite Rurale is still awaiting the results of Planning's "call for sites" so it can look at other areas of the Parish.

## Sheltered Housing (Maison le Vesconte)

Currently the Parish has twenty two sheltered homes for the elderly members of our Parish, but sadly we also have an unacceptably long waiting list for Maison le Vesconte. I am therefore proposing to extend northward and provide twelve additional homes for our elderly Parishioners. This is the blue area on the map.

## Affordable Homes for the Elderly

Currently Parishioners looking to downsize simply cannot do so as there are no small houses in the Parish. This is important as it will free up larger family homes for young families, and also provide some extra cash for those downsizing. My plan therefore is to build about ten two bedroom bungalows in the small field on Rue Cimitiere (**orange on the map**). This is in easy walking distance of the shops and village. I have said affordable because I hope St John will be the first to offer "over 55's" homes on an "Affordable" basis. In simple terms the houses will be sold at cost, say £400,000 when on the open market they could fetch £550,000, so the Parish takes a bond over each property equal to the difference, in this case £150,000. This prevents the first owners from selling and making large profits whilst ensuring the price is kept low for future buyers, but also protects the buyer's investment in their new home.

## Affordable homes for First Time Buyers

Currently I have over 180 young Parishioners looking to buy their first home. There is an active Planning Application for 16 homes (**Field 525**) but I would like to provide more. I am proposing to build about 30 on field J531 (**purple on the map**) but at the same time I am looking to re-zone J534 (**yellow on the map**) for future first time homes. The Island Plan is for ten years and I feel it is prudent to plan for the future.

## St John's Wood

I would like to create a "Community Wood" on Field J167 (**dark green area on the map**). This field would be planted up with trees such as Oak, Ash, Beech and some pine trees, but more importantly with some apple, pear and plum trees. Parishioners can then not only enjoy a quiet peaceful area but also be able to forage for fruit, nuts and other useful household ingredients. A true Parish Wood!

Finally, the **pink** and **dark blue** areas are currently awaiting Planning approval. The **light green** areas are fields that should be kept as "protected open space". There are further plans being worked up which are a series of pavements and foot paths linking the various villages to the Parish Hall, School, precinct and M&S.



J167

J229

J236

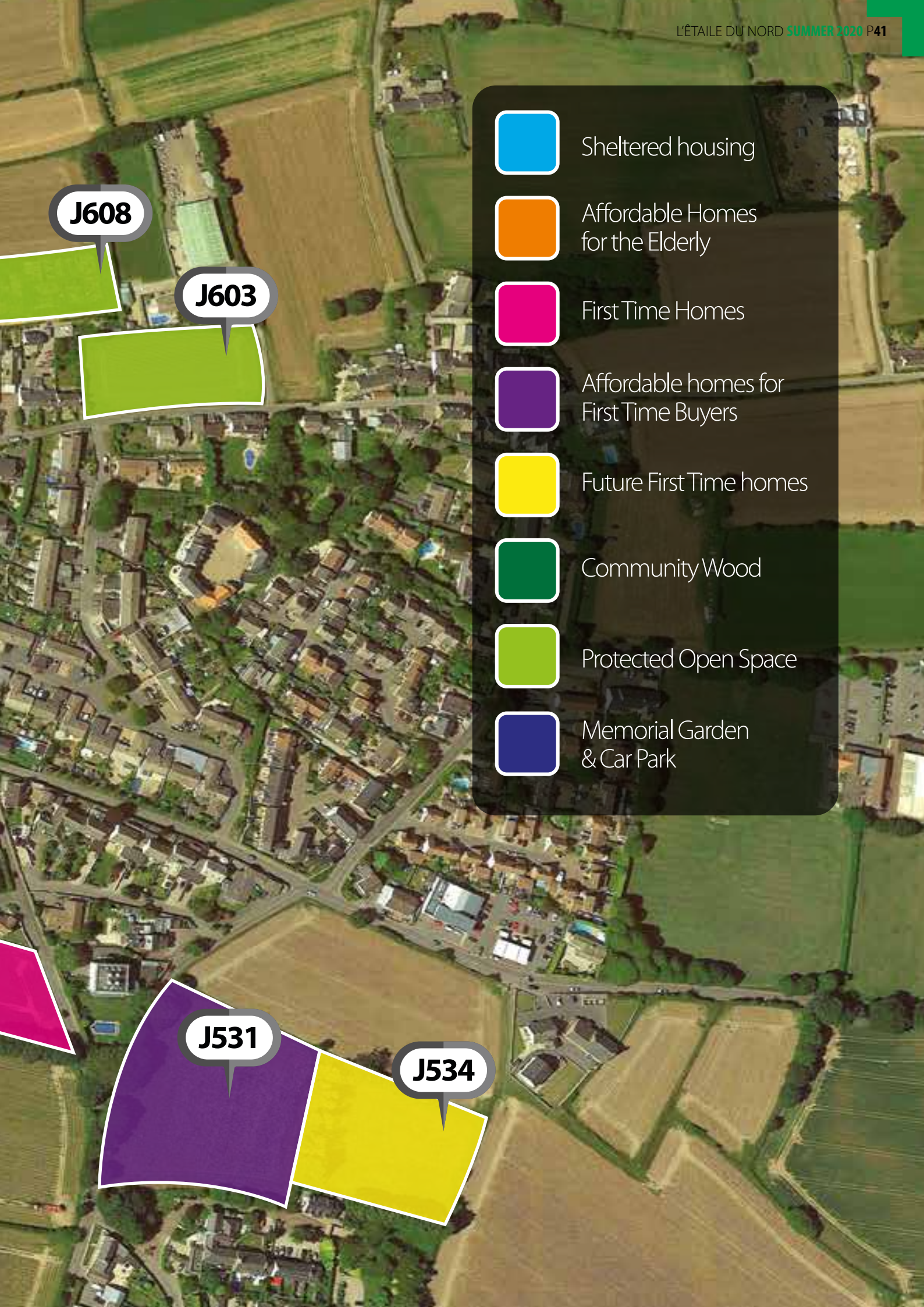
J370

J371

J525

# Parish Proposals to the **Island Plan**





Sheltered housing



Affordable Homes  
for the Elderly



First Time Homes



Affordable homes for  
First Time Buyers



Future First Time homes



Community Wood



Protected Open Space



Memorial Garden  
& Car Park

J608

J603

J531

J534



# SUPPORTING CLARA

## THE ST. JOHN'S VILLAGE 20P BOOK STALL

by Rosemary Dupré

Roughly 12 years ago, a used-book stall appeared in Ville des Chenes in order to raise funds for Mustard Seed Romania.

In the early days we (Gwen & Terry) would put the books out in a variety of boxes on top of neighbours' (Rosemary & Richard) garden wall, taking them in each evening, often with a watchful eye on the inclement weather. Thankfully we now, by courtesy of Richard, have a purpose built covered box where the majority of the books are sheltered from the elements making life a whole lot easier.

Originally the monies raised went towards helping with offsetting transport expenses etc. for sending humanitarian items to Romania, but for the last year, we have earmarked the takings towards sponsoring an elderly Romanian pensioner by the name of Clara. Clara lives alone in very meagre conditions and the monies raised help to supplement food, household equipment and medical prescriptions. Recently, she underwent surgery to remove cataracts, in order to save her eyesight, the cost of the surgery was extremely expensive and something neither Clara or her family could afford - our monies went towards her treatment and she is now marvelling at how strikingly bright and colourful she can see the world around her.

All our books are kindly donated. We feel that making a charge of 20p per book whether they be for children, adults, in paperback or in hard covers, is extremely reasonable and judging by our regular customers returning time and time again we feel they are also in agreement. On occasions we find that

a few titles that we have had on the stall have 'mysteriously' re-appeared back on the shelves once their purchaser has read them!

At the end of each year the money collected is totalled and due to our clientele's continued generosity normally yields something between £200 to £250.

Gwen & Rosemary would therefore like to send **A HUGE THANK YOU** to all our supporters whether you help us by donating your books or bringing us your continued custom **YOU** are **ALL** very much appreciated and we sincerely hope that the above gives you a little insight as to where and how your support helps to change lives.



Clara with her Christmas present





Earlier this year we discussed with the Government of Jersey whether Allotments could be considered as 'exercise' during lockdown. We were encouraged that they considered us suitable as long as we maintained social distancing. I am pleased to say that everyone stuck to the guidelines and managed to enjoy their plots in these difficult times. Their efforts are now showing the fruits of their labour.

We had a couple of new allotmenters join us this year and we thought the Parish Magazine was an ideal place to help those considering applying for an allotment think about how they would work on the site if they had limited experience.

So in good journalistic fashion I asked one of our most experienced gardeners for a few pointers. If you're thinking of an allotment for the first time consider:

- How much time you will devote to the plot recognising there may be times when the plants may need attention in the colder, damp months. It will take a lot more attention than a flower garden.
- Plan to prepare your soil properly, it pays to spend the time at the beginning. The allotment will undoubtedly need to have all its weeds removed and the purists will tell you to do this by hand. Rotavating can just chop the weeds up into lots of little new weeds. Even the fantastically rich St John soil may need some composting help depending on its previous use.
- Have a plan on how, what and where you want to grow your crops, regardless of plot size. Don't worry if it changes, you can alter the plan as you go. Things don't always grow how you imagine. Many 'newbies' think that several courgettes and tomatoes would be a good crop, which they are, but one Courgette plant and one tomato plant can generate more than you perhaps can eat. It's also okay to put in wood or bark paths and fencing.
- Do not try and do it all in a weekend, if you are not used to gardening on that scale, 2 hours maximum to start with, break regularly, drink tea, any gardening takes time and a lot of back breaking effort, but nothing is as rewarding as eating what you have grown.
- Buy your tools where you can handle them first, weight varies, so holding them will determine how comfortable you will find them to use.
- Remember winter preparation is just as important as Spring if you don't want to go back to my first point every Spring.
- Finally ENJOY it, nobody gets it right first time and we don't want it to turn into a chore.

We are also pleased to announce that our former Connetable and Deputy, Phil Rondel, is joining the allotment team as a Director of the Company. Brian McCarthy has resigned to focus on his day job but goes with our heartfelt thanks.

If you are interested in applying for an allotment please collect an application form from St John's Parish Hall.

# St John's Community Allotments

by Martin Whitley





# Rev. Beverley Sproats' ministry trip to Bukavu Diocese, Democratic Republic of the Congo

What connects the heart of Africa with Jersey? A link between St. John's Parish Church and Bukavu Diocese, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In early 2019, Rev. Beverley Sproats, Rector of St. John's Parish Church, travelled to DRC with Rev. Mike Stear (former Vicar of St. Paul's Church, Jersey) and Rev. Dr. Mike Rennie, as part of Eagle's Wings Ministry (EWM) to deliver training to church leaders.

The DRC is the second largest country in Africa. The link between Jersey and Bukavu started when Bishops from DRC came over to England for the Lambeth Conference several years ago and were linked to churches in Winchester Diocese. Since that time, Rev. Jane and John Ilton from St. Mark's Church have been to DRC three times and Bishop Bahati and Rev. Jules Balumbo from Bukavu diocese have been to Jersey. I was delighted to visit the DRC and take Bishop Bahati and Rev. Jules each an Ian Rolls print of St. John's Church as a gift from the church.

As part of EWM, John, Mike and I were training pastors from the Anglican Church and Assemblies of God. Until this trip, due to instability in DRC, all training had been delivered in Cyangugu in

neighbouring Rwanda. However, following elections in DRC and more stability, there was the opportunity to deliver the training in Bukavu, DRC and the module was on Faithfulness and Integrity.

Each day of the five-day course started with lively worship led by the pastors. Teaching was delivered in English and interpreted into Swahili and French which was a challenge but doable. I was pleased to meet Rev. Elodie, one of two ordained women in Bukavu Diocese.

About 20 pastors attended from the Bukavu area. The pastors are not paid, so they all have 'day jobs'. They experience many challenges in their ministry such as a different culture, polygamy, education levels of people and pastors. I was humbled to see how the pastors are so faithful, trusting God. One pastor, Jacques, had to walk 5 miles to then get the bus to come to the training. A stark contrast to the 10 or 20 minutes we might have to travel to get to church or work. Some of the pastors have been teaching the training material to small groups at church and seen people come to Christ







and be baptised.

It was my first visit to Africa and I was fascinated to visit Rwanda and DRC. In Bukavu, the people are dressed smartly and there is a lot of building work going on. However the roads and

infrastructure are in poor condition. The electricity and water is on and off. A lot of the country's money has gone into wars instead of development.

We visited the Bukavu Diocesan offices and the Cathedral. We saw a Mothers' Union project for daughters of women who had been raped in the wars. The young women are taught how to sew and then given their own sewing machine so that they can set up a business. We had a tour of the hospital that the Diocese runs. In the maternity unit women are two women to a bed and there are no cots, the babies are on the beds. You can't go home until you can pay your hospital bills, so we met several women with small children who couldn't go home until their family came to pay their bills. There was one dentist for the whole hospital. We asked if he had a light and he put on a headtorch!

I was shocked and moved by a visit to Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, run by the Pentecostal Church. We met the Director, Dr. Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2018 for his work with women who are victims of sexual

violence in war. He started his work 20 years ago yet, horrifyingly, sexual violence is still prevalent. Dr. Mukwege said that this terrible situation needs the awareness of the international community. We attended church services in Rwanda and DRC. I preached at Cathedral St. Pierre in Bukavu. Services are similar to those in Jersey but much longer. There are many choirs - children, women, men, with lots of joyful singing and dancing. There are no service sheets or screens. Everyone knows the words to the songs and some of the liturgy and prayers. People come up to the front to give to the collection.

While we were there we were blessed with wonderful hospitality. One of the pastors who hosted us for lunch said, 'Guests are a blessing from God'. I was pleased to convey the greetings of all at St. John's Parish Church to all those in Bukavu diocese and the diocesan staff sent their greetings to St. John's. I hope in the future that we can continue to develop the link between Bukavu Diocese and St. John's Parish Church and continue to support Bishop Bahati and the diocese through prayer, financial support and friendship.





# St. John's Parish Church

## *Church news and forthcoming services and events*



A lot has changed since my last Church News article. We hosted our first Lent Lunch in the Parish Hall at the end of February. People enjoyed a lovely lunch of soup, bread and cheese and we raised funds for Christian Aid and the ministry and mission of St. John's Parish Church. We also had great fun at our Murder Mystery evening also at the Parish Hall on 7th March 2020. The St. John's Parish Church Players entertained us all with the play 'Who killed the farmer?'. However, due to coronavirus precautions we had to cancel the other two Lent lunches that were planned and have had to stop the coffee mornings, Knit and Natter and Little Oaks Sunday Club.

Although the church building may be closed, and we are not sure yet when it will re-open for private prayer and public worship, the church as the people of God is continuing to worship God and serve the community.

Our Sunday services of worship have moved online to a Facebook live stream service at 9.30am on Sunday mornings on the St. John's Parish Church Facebook page @stjohnschurchje. We enjoy a short service of bible readings, hymns, prayers and a talk. It is great to have people join in the service online and say 'hi' in the comments. We are joined not just by folk from St. John and Jersey, but from further afield in Yorkshire, Newcastle and even France! The service is available to watch later on Facebook and on YouTube.

Being on lockdown during Holy Week made it even more poignant as we spent time reflecting at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, and celebrated the death and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day.

Our coffee mornings have moved online too! We now have coffee after the Sunday service at about 10am, and coffee at 11am on Fridays, both via Zoom, which is a video conferencing platform. It is a great way to catch up with everyone and stay in touch and see people. The links to the Zoom meetings are on our Facebook page.







We have a faithful team of people who between them are ringing round everyone from church and offering to support those in the community with practical help, putting the love of God into action and especially encouraging those who are isolating at home.

We have continued to build community spirit by having a Quiz Night over Zoom, and a 'Liberate your talents' evening over Zoom!

As a way of continuing to worship together, we are meeting over Zoom for Morning Prayer at 9.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is a lovely gentle way to start the day with bible readings, hymns, prayer and time for reflection.

We had an online service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey. Although we couldn't have the usual decorations in Church, we decorated the churchyard with bunting and the Flower Team made lovely arrangements at home and we included photos of these in the service.

Although it has been a steep learning curve to get services and meetings online, I am grateful for the way church members have taken this opportunity to bless one another and the wider community and how we have been able to engage with people beyond the regular Sunday congregation.

The work planned to repair the roof and gutters of the church is still scheduled to go ahead. Work to repair the church clock is postponed until the repairers can travel to Jersey. For both these projects thanks are due to the Constable and municipal Parish for their on-going support.

To find out more and explore the Christian faith, please connect with us on social media @stjohnschurchje or contact

**Rev. Beverley Sproats** on **861677** or **07700 731 114**  
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# PARISH DIARY



## July to September 2020

All events subject to the ending of the coronavirus restrictions, please keep checking noticeboards and the regular newsletters for updated information.

### July

*Every Monday* – St John Tea Dance Club 2pm at the Parish Hall

*Every Wednesday* – St. John Gym Sessions 10-11 at the Parish Hall

**14th** St. John's WI 7.30pm at the Parish Hall

**15th** Parish Rates Assembly 7:30pm

**28th** Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall

**29th** Golden Age Club Afternoon Tea from parish hall at 2.00pm

### August

*Every Monday* – St John Tea Dance Club 2pm at the Parish Hall

*Every Wednesday* – St. John Gym Sessions 10-11 at the Parish Hall

**9th** JYAF Open Garden St John's Manor

**11th** St. John's WI 7.30pm at the Parish Hall

**25th** Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall

**26th** Golden Age Club 2.30pm Parish Hall

### September

*Every Monday* – St John Tea Dance Club 2pm at the Parish Hall

*Every Wednesday* – St. John Gym Sessions 10-11 at the Parish Hall

**3rd** Second Visit du Branchage

**8th** St. John's WI 7.30pm at the Parish Hall

**13th** Motor X event Sorel Point

**20th** Motor X event Sorel Point

**29th** Muriel's Bingo – Parish Hall

### Mobile library

*Monday* – 1.30pm -2.15pm St John's Village

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Monday, Tuesday and Friday

9:00am - 1:00 & 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am-1:00 & 2:00pm-7:00pm

### Closed all day on Thursday

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# Liberation Word Game Answers

## Answers to the Liberation word game

Albert was a Jerseyman and very pious. He went regularly to **CHURCH, ILL** though he was. He was a keen gardener and grew roses in profusion. His favourite was **PEACE. TIME** was, he had walked the coastal paths, but he had problems with his feet. A hammer toe and a **bUNION. FLAG**stones were agony to walk on.

Extremely intelligent, but useless with money, he became bankrupt, the **BAILIFF** came and he lost his home. Neighbours rallied round, gave him fruit and VEG And even gave him the proceeds of a raffle. He had lots of supportive friends too.

He asked Dominic, "Are you **FREE, DOM**, to come and eat at the **POMME D'OR** carvery?" Then there was his cousin, George. Li**KING GEORGE** Virtually as his brother, he'd suggest "Let's go to St Martin's Pub, the **ROYAL. SQUARE** - bashing as we did in the CCF, makes us great mates."

Then there was Jack, "Coming for a pint at the **UNION, JACK?**" At 75, he was growing tired of being a bachelor. After much de**LIBERATION**, he decided to go to South America, where May came into his life. They met at the Rio Car**NAVAL, RATING** Samba dancers the best. Soon they were wed and their son, Tommy, was born.

Albert was a hands-on father, but getting his son into a **LIBERTY** bodice was quite a struggle! As a teenager, Tommy, ("T" to his friends) became addicted to Ecstasy. Reg, another cousin, was devastated. **FOR T, REG ENT**irely devoted his time, giving him among other things a **BEAGLE** puppy. He also gave him no **END OF WAR**nings about what drug abuse might do to him.

Albert and May had quite a hard time, knowing poverty and privation, but they didn't **HARBOUR** grudges. They lived to a ripe old age, shouting at each other, not in anger, but because they both had defective hearing aids: "Your pie, Albert, remains uneaten!." No response. Deaf again! "**ALBERT, PIE** Remains uneaten!!" He yelled back to her "Beethoven's Ode to Joy, **MAY, THE NINTH** Symphony, is on the BBC now!"

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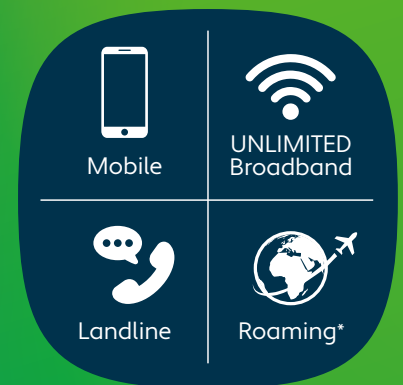
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