

L'ÉTAILE DU NORD ★ STAR OF THE NORTH

Parish of St John



ISSUE 38

April 2016



St John Youth Project Bake Off of 2016

Over the last two months we have been running a Baking Competition. Some of the best included team 'JSK' for their excellent Lemon Drizzle cake and team 'Cooking Bakers' for their imaginative decoration. Well done to all that took part!

As part of World Book Day we ran a creative writing challenge, we encouraged young people to tell a story through comic strips, short stories and poetry. We had some brilliantly imaginative pieces. We may even get one published in the Star, watch this space...



The Bake Off and Creative Writers collect their awards



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Sponsored Jump

Part of our summer programme involves young people making decisions about which activities we will run and fund raising to pay for these. After last year's success we have decided to run a sponsored jump again. Last year we jumped the equivalent height of the Eiffel Tower, this year we've gone large, really large. Burj Khalifa in Dubai measures 829 metres. Our intention is to jump from the top diving board at Aqua Splash the equivalent height. That's 276 individual leaps! If you are asked to sponsor us please give generously.

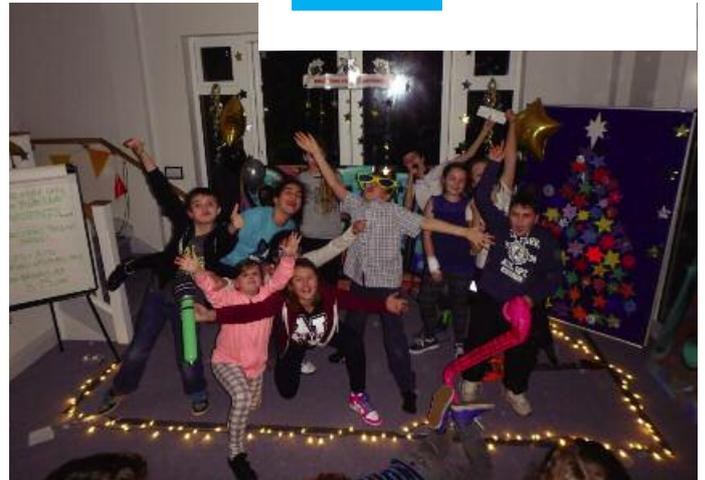


Kenan on the stage

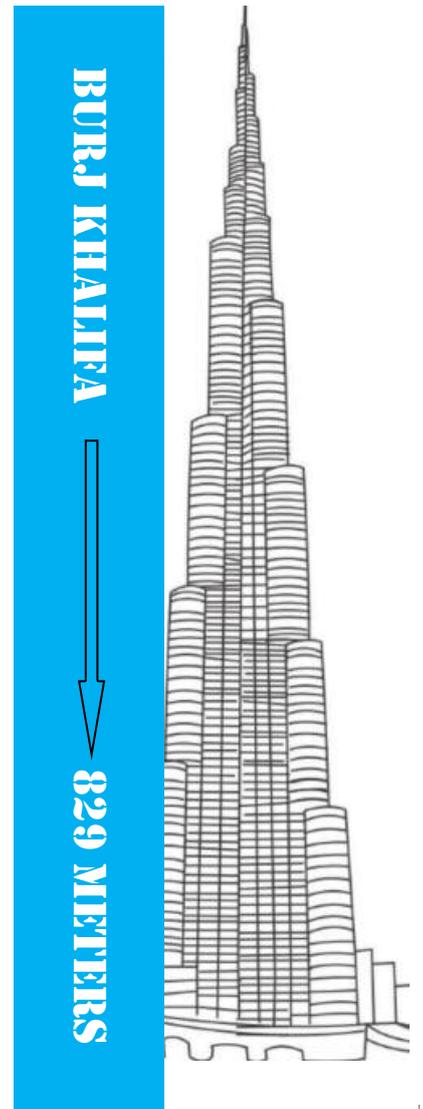
St John's Youth Project XMAS Factor

A group of young people wanted to have a talent show so with help they organised the XMAS factor. Everyone was involved in some way, judging, organising the acts and of course performing. We have some very talented young people in the parish and we were blessed to see a variety of acts from dance, rap, storytelling and comedy. Thanks to all who helped out and well done to the performers.

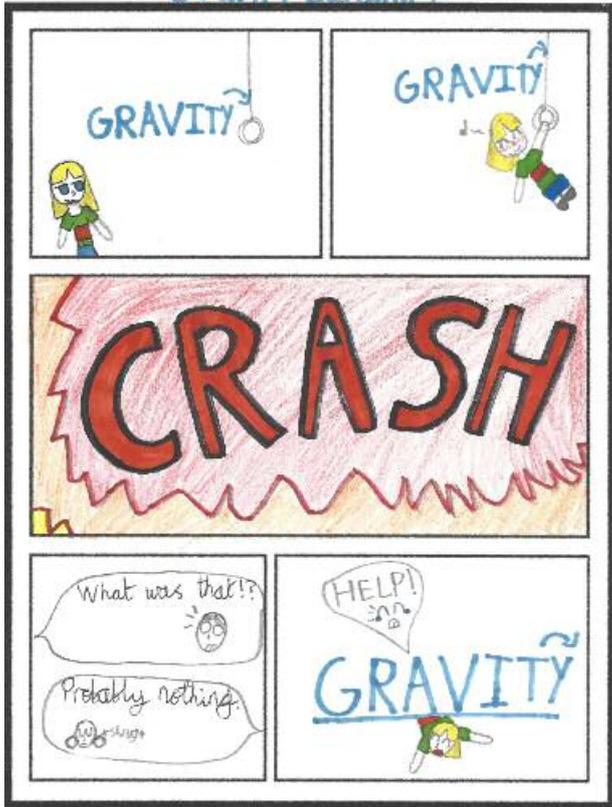
The Judges table



Six Months into the new building at the Recreation Centre we are now open three evenings a week catering for ages from 10 through to 19. We have a current membership of over 100 young people with more than 1000 attendances in the last six months. All this would not be possible without the help of volunteers. If you would like to get involved please call Bill Moore 07797 819958 or email billmoore@jys.je



Gravity Calamity.



Natalia Wojcik-Smith

Comic strip by Natalia Wojcik-Smith

WE NEED YOUR HELP

St John's Youth Project is fast becoming a well-established and attended service for the young people of the parish.

With activities ranging from slacklining, blast zone and a "Bake Off" competition, we are now looking for volunteers to help with the sessions. If you could spare a couple of hours on a Wednesday or Friday to help out, we'd love to hear from you.

We are also looking for new committee members to join the Advisory Committee. The current team have been on the committee throughout the building process, which seemed to go on for a very long time and although excited that the Project is up and running, we'd love to see some new faces with some new ideas.

The committee meets once every couple of months, just to make sure that everything is running to plan, help with fundraising ideas and to make sure that the paperwork is up-to-date.

Although not a time consuming thing, the committee is a really important factor for the project so if you feel that you could join our jolly team, our next meeting is on Thursday April 28th at 7.45pm in the Youth Project area.

If you would like to have more information on volunteering for the project or joining the committee, please contact either Bill on 07797 819958 or myself on 07797 750479 (louiseminier@hotmail.com).

St. John Youth Club

Opening times

Closed for Summer 22nd August till 7th September 2016

Free membership — £1 entry

TUESDAY	SENIORS	SCHOOL YRS 9 - 13	7.00—9.00
<hr/>			
WEDNESDAY	INTERS	SCHOOL YRS 7 - 9	7.00—9.00
<hr/>			
FRIDAY	JUNIORS	SCHOOL YRS 5 & 6	6.30—8.30

St. John youth project delivered in partnership with the Parish of St. John and the Jersey Youth Service

Contact the St John Youth worker Bill Moore 07797819958 or billmoore@jys.je





Lady Butlin – a tribute

Lady Butlin passed away peacefully on 30th January



caption

The Butlin family's association with the parish goes back many decades. The family moved to Jersey in 1968 and after a short spell in St Brelade they moved to St John. This was the start of a long-standing relationship with the parish. The Butlins are renowned for their generosity and the Parish was soon to experience this first hand when, in the late 70s, Sir Billy donated money to enable the parish to purchase a new football pitch.

After his death in 1980 the family was keen to continue to support parish activities and in 1981 they generously agreed to fund 50% of the cost of building the St John Recreation Centre. Lady Butlin (or 'Lady B' as she was affectionately known) was instrumental in the fund-raising efforts and in 1983 the Centre was formally opened by His Royal

Highness Prince Philip. The centrepiece attraction was the Billy Butlin Memorial Hall which was a multi-sports facility and included the first ever indoor tennis court on the Island.

The Centre thrived for many years but by the mid 2000s was beginning to look rather dated. In 2005 a new management team identified an opportunity to rejuvenate the Centre. They produced a business plan and once again Lady B proved to be a stalwart supporter by offering to contribute £0.5m of the funding providing the team could access a similar amount from other sources.

The implementation of the plan was slightly delayed as a result of a debate in the Parish over the future of the Centre. Lady B took a very close personal interest in this issue and even attended a lively debate at the Parish Hall to lend her support.

Her support acted as the catalyst for a major fund-raising campaign and once again she put her heart and soul into the project. She was the guest of honour at the opening of the redevelopment which was attended last summer by more than 100 guests. Lady B was always very interested in supporting youth activities and the project was of particular interest to her as it included a new Youth Project wing.

Thanks to her support the Centre is enjoying a major new lease of life and now hosts more than 20 different activities ranging from archery to yoga.

Her funeral took place at St John's Parish Church on 11th February and was attended by a significant number of representatives from the Centre. The Reverend Andy Thewlis conducted a very personal and moving service. A packed church heard about her upbringing in Liverpool, her family life and the generous support given to a wide range of island-wide charities and parish causes. These included a donation towards the Children's play area in the church grounds and the gift of the beautiful 'Jesus and little children' stained glass window in the Parish Church.

The management team at the Centre are pleased to formally record their gratitude for the incredible support provided by Lady B and her family over almost 40 years. We also extend our sincere condolences to her family.

*Craig Stewart
Committee, St John Recreation Centre*





Deputy Tracey Vallois and Chris Taylor, Connétable

Dear Parishioners...

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you all and it would appear to be an appropriate time to provide an update.

As you may all be aware from various media coverage, I no longer serve as an Assistant Minister at Treasury and Resources after my resignation in November. The decision did not come lightly and consisted of various issues faced during my time in the executive.

On a lighter note, it has been an absolute delight working with the Constable, parish staff and members of the municipality during this time. We have had some wonderful events which have seen the community come together, support each other and made everyone's day that little bit brighter.

Much of my work within the Parish has been focused around assisting individuals with wide-ranging issues, whether it be planning, housing, social security or health. The Constable and I have formed a cohesive working relationship to support each other which enables us to find solutions more readily or approach states departments (if needed) in a more unified fashion on behalf of parishioners. I currently serve on the committee of management for the St John's Youth Club, who have been doing a fantastic job in their new facilities engaging and supporting the youth of St John.

Moving forward, I will continue to work on a ministerial oversight group for Health with Senator Andrew Green considering new strategies and the future hospital project. I now serve on two Scrutiny Panels namely, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny and as Vice-Chair for Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny. Having served on scrutiny previously, I know first-hand this is an extremely important mechanism in ministerial government for holding the executive to account. We welcome views and requests from the public for reviews so please consider submitting something to scrutiny should you have a burning issue.

The Constable and I have decided to start a Parish Surgery inviting parishioners to engage with us face to face as your political and parish representatives. These will take place on the first Wednesday of every month from 5pm – 7pm at the Parish hall. Our first one took place on the

2nd March 2016 and although not many people attended, it was an informative and helpful session to establish and assist with any concerns whether they be parochial or island wide.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me either via email t.vallois@gov.je or telephone 07829831902 should you need any assistance or to discuss any particular matters of interest to you.

Deputy Tracey Vallois

From the Constable

It seems a little late in the year to ask if you had a Happy Christmas, but I hope you did and are like me looking forward to the summer and some warmer weather.

However before we get there we need to soldier on with a number of other matters. On Wednesday 10th February I held an open afternoon to discuss plans for a Memorial Garden and Car Park opposite the Parish Hall. I am pleased to say the event was well attended and the general feeling was most positive. I shall now discuss the various issues raised with the Comité Rurale, the Roads Committee, Honorary Police and Procureurs, then get a set of architectural drawings which can be costed. Once I have a firm set of plans along with the likely cost, they will be displayed in the Parish Hall for a week and then brought to a Parish Assembly. As this is an important project I hope as many Parishioners as possible will attend.



After last year's success of a Gold Medal in the Parish Hall in Bloom competition we are looking this year at the next category up which is the Village in Bloom. Anyone with some spare time and an interest in flowers and would like to help (you don't even need to know about flowers) please contact Sue at the Parish Hall.

I would like to make a plea to all Parishioners to keep an eye out for litter. Sadly I have noticed, and a few Parishioners have reported to me, cases of litter in the hedges along the roadside. More seriously there have also been a number of cases of fly tipping. I also appeal to Parishioners to report anyone they see carrying out these despicable acts.

Talking of roadside hedges the dates for this year's Branchage have been set. The first visit will be on Thursday 7th July and the second visit will be on Thursday 15th September. The bad news is that the Parish has collected very few fines recently – meaning the good news is that everyone, with some exceptions, is doing their Branchage.

While talking about dates, I can inform everyone that the annual Parish Rates meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th July. This is an important meeting and I would urge Parishioners to attend. This is, as it were, the AGM for the Parish when I present the Parish accounts and budget for the year ahead and

also set the Rate for the year. This therefore effects everyone which is why I urge you to attend.

St John is twinned with Le Teilleul and we will be hosting our French guests this year in late September. We are always looking for anyone who wishes to improve their French, or just join in for fun. Please contact Myrtle Malzard on 862931 for further details.

The Parish Deputy, Tracey Vallois, and I will be having Surgeries or drop in and talk to us sessions every first Wednesday of the month from 5 to 7pm. So anyone with an idea, a problem, or just a concern please drop in and discuss it with either or both of us.

Finally I would like to wish everyone good health, and keep smiling.

Chris Taylor, Connétable

Parish surgeries that will be held at the Parish hall.

April 6th 5pm..... 7pm
 May 4th 5pm 7pm
 June 1st 5pm 7pm
 July 6th 5pm 7pm
 August 3rd 5pm.... 7pm



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SECOND SEASON FOR BONNE NUIT CAFÉ'S NEW OWNER RAM PURI



Following the closure of Bonne Nuit café in 2014 it was taken over last year by Imram Puri. Following his first successful season, I interviewed Ram (as he likes to be known) prior to the reopening of the café for the 2016 season on 23rd March.

Ram was born in Nepal in 1982 near to Lumbini, the birthplace of the Lord Buddha (born in 623 BC), and the area is now a UNESCO world Heritage site. The area where they lived was in the countryside; basically forest land, a beautiful place. Ram's father worked on the land, but his grandfather was a gifted healer in the area, with many sick people queueing at his door for his help. His grandfather told Ram when he was little (when blessing him) that he would be a lucky person and would do something good for all the family.

Ram remembers going to school; not like we would be used to, they had to sit on the floor for lessons. He did not like this and went to the capital Kathmandu for further education. At 17 he started work to earn money for the family, and started to work in a kitchen, in Kathmandu, as he loved cooking and wanted to be a chef. He was very successful at this, and later jobs, as Ram puts 100% into all that he does and is an easygoing person wanting to please his clients.

In 2001 he moved to Goa and while working as a chef there he met the lady who was to become his wife Nicki, who had been brought up in Jersey. Nicki went to Goa for holidays each year and a relationship devel-

oped. They were married in Nepal in 2006. Sadly they lost their first child who was born prematurely and lived only for six days; hospital care in Nepal is quite poor. As a consequence of this they moved to Jersey where Nicki and Ram thought it more conducive to having children. They now have two children, Cameron (aged 7) and Angelina (aged 6).

When Ram first came to Jersey he worked first as a chef in the upstairs restaurant in BHS, then at de Gruchy in the upstairs restaurant from when it first opened. Later he moved to the Salty Dog, eventually joining Hotel L'Horizon, before achieving his longed-for ambition to own his own business, at Bonne Nuit.

Over the winter Ram has been back to his home country and was shocked by the devastation caused by the earthquake that happened last year. Although other countries poured aid money into Nepal, not much has been distributed to the ordinary people. His sister's house was completely destroyed, but she has received very little help to rebuild her life.

Ram has been able to retain the same staff for the coming season. They are a very multicultural bunch – In the kitchen the staff are from the UK, Thailand and Romania, and our good friends Constantine and Georgia are back to serve the customers. Ram looks forward to seeing all old and new patrons in the 2016 season.

Richard Dupré





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LES MATHIONNETTES – ‘Northern Lights’

Mike Ruskin, stalwart of URC and founder committee member of Star of the North, talks to Angela Le Sueur

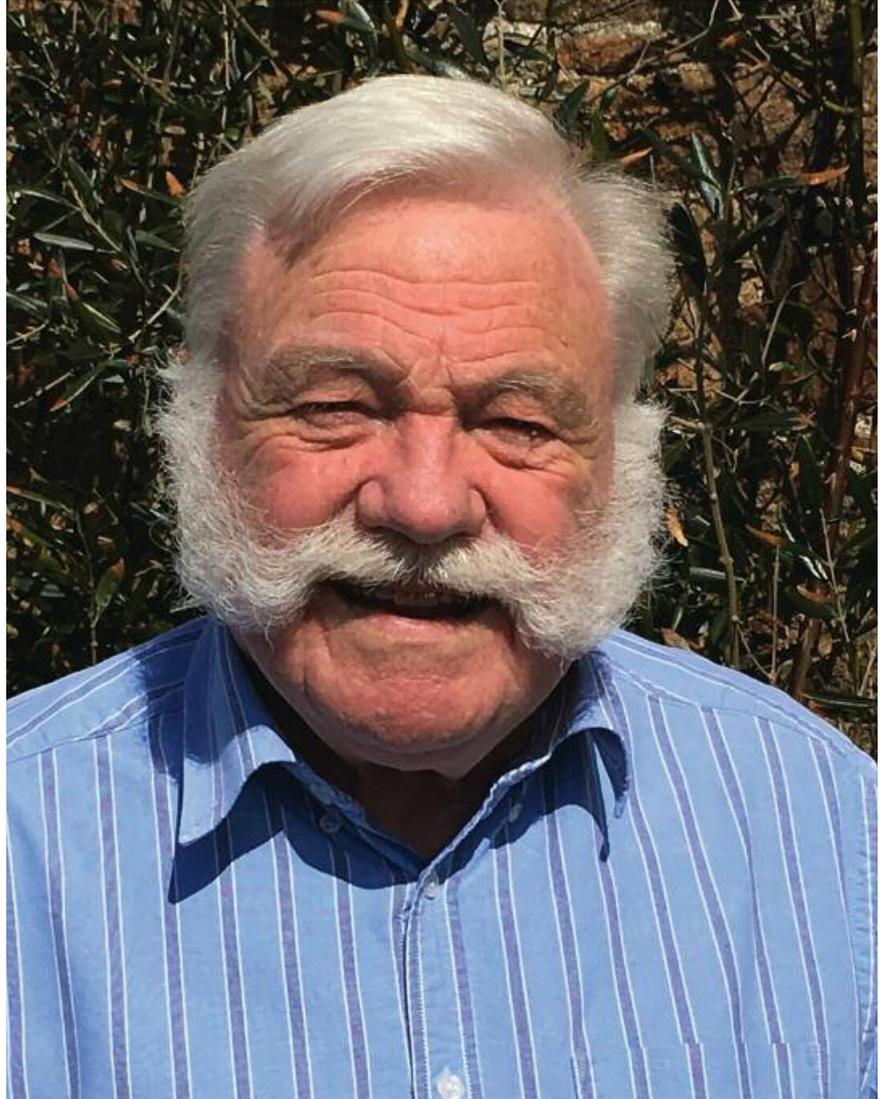
Mike Ruskin, our Star of the North, has never lived in St John and didn't even want to come to Jersey – thereby hangs a tale...

Back in March 1984 when Mike was Investment Manager at Barclays Bank in Eastbourne his boss called him into the office, said there was a job going in Jersey and would Mike take it. In those days one didn't turn down a move and relocation expenses were very generous but Mike, who was single, refused. He refused again when the boss asked him to reconsider two weeks later. Part of Mike's reluctance stemmed from church affairs. Mike was secretary of the United Reformed Church in Eastbourne which at the time was 'between ministers' and in the interim Mike had to 'fill the pulpit' each week.

'Go and see them,' was the bank manager's request third time round – so Mike did 'and they gave me a nice lunch!' However he was still not convinced that he should move to Jersey – and the new minister had not arrived. Mike changed his mind after talking over his dilemma with a visiting minister who asked what his problem was with Jersey, remarking, 'The Lord might have a job for you there.' So Mike came – just for three years – to gain good experience in a larger office – and 32 years later he is still here!

At the time of Mike's arrival in May 1984 the URC in St Helier had just merged with the church in Sion. Mike visited the Sion church and found the congregation very welcoming, but he didn't get involved because he had no intention of putting down roots in Jersey.

About a month later, when passing the reception desk on his way to dinner at the Ommaroo Hotel where he was staying, Mike heard a woman's voice asking, 'Is there a Mike Ruskin staying here?' The woman was Jacqui Tarrant, an Elder at URC, who had been in England for a month on a nursing course. She had been told of Mike's visit and, finding out that no one from the church had followed it up, said she would. Jacqui, a school nurse with two sons from a previous marriage, had moved to Jersey in the 50s, having first visited the island on holiday.



Mike Ruskin

And, as they say, the rest is history. Mike 'ditched the idea of going back to England' and he and Jacqui married in 1985 when they moved into the house at L'Étaq where Mike still lives. They had 24 happy years together until 2009 when, sadly, Jacqui died.

Inevitably Mike became involved with URC in Sion where he was Secretary from 1987-1999. He resumed that post in 2012 when Rev. Patrick McManus left Jersey and was not replaced. Now Mike feels great satisfaction in organising the Sunday services. Each week a different person takes the service. On the first Sunday of each month Rev. Phil Osborne takes the Holy Communion service. On the second Sunday a variety of people might be in the pulpit – including Mike himself. Rev. Graeme



Halls, the Methodist Superintendent, is a frequent visitor because since Sion Methodist Church closed, members of that congregation have joined the URC congregation. Rev. David Prothero takes the third Sunday services and Mike Sheldrake the fourth. The URC congregation greatly enjoys this variety. On a Sunday this April Rev. Andy Thewlis and Mike will be 'exchanging pulpits' as each will lead the service in the other's church, an occasion both ecumenically and parochially satisfying.

Mike's membership of URC has led him to involvement with other affairs of St John's Parish. Currently he is Treasurer of St John's Group of Churches. He has been involved in Remembrance Sunday and Liberation services in the Parish Church – either preaching, reading or leading prayers.

One thing leads to another – and Mike is partly responsible for the existence of the magazine you are now reading. In 2002 an inter-denominational meeting was held at Highlands College where most of the Island's churches agreed to participate in a movement called 'Community and Church', its object being to become more involved with the wider community. Mike, always ecumenically minded, and a member of Christians Together in Jersey (he is now CTJ Treasurer), attended some of the meetings with Rev. Fred Noden, then Minister at URC. At that time residents of Sion had been heard to say that they felt cut off from the rest of St John and this gave Mike an idea because, as a parishioner of St Ouen, he was involved with their parish magazine 'Le Gris Ventre' which he helped to deliver. Mike brought a copy to a meeting at St John's Parish Hall, suggesting that St John might benefit from a newsletter.

At first this was regarded as too ambitious and too expensive, but the idea took hold. Rev. Fred Noden suggested asking the then editor of the 'Jersey Link', the Island's ecumenical newsletter, if she would take this on....and I did! The first edition of 'Star of the North' was published in December 2003. The Anglican, Methodist and URC churches in St John funded the first three editions, after which advertising has covered the production costs. Mike was the first Treasurer of the magazine.

So Mike – the man who did not want to come to Jersey – and has always lived in St Ouen – was a founder member of 'Star of the North'. He feels part of both parishes, though he tends to know the St John's Constables better. Way back in 1984 he didn't envisage any of this happening. He has never missed England – largely because he met Jacqui just a month after arriving here. He has never been bored, in fact his varied involvements mean that he has always had too much to do – a very happy contrast, he feels, to the many he knew in the banking world with no outside interests who just 'retired and died'!

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A good start to the year...



25th Brownies have started off the year by gaining their "Mission Promise" badge. They renewed their promise to each other, challenged their friends and also got to meet new members. We were invited by St Mary's Rainbows to celebrate Burns Night. A bit of a highland fling and a nibble of haggis set the scene for the evening's entertainment.



No15 bus to Liberation Station. Finally we have a reservation at Coco Ricco to celebrate completing the World Traveller badge.

On a wintry Wednesday night in March the girl guides were joined by their Mums for a marshmallow and spaghetti tower building challenge. A little TLC at the end of the evening with a hot drink and cupcake which the girls served up.

Why don't you take a look at Girlguiding Jersey facebook to see what else is going on in the island. If your daughter or you would like to know more about joining or helping please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested.

*Donna Tupper
Brownie Leader*



Girlguiding South West England Roadshow came to Jersey and some of our girls were able to attend. There was lots of fun involved as well as learning new skills. The winter months are long and bleak and the Brownies wanted to go on holiday – so we said "Why not?".

So far they have been to Australia, New York, China and Borneo. It doesn't stop there! We are on our travels to Jersey airport for a tour and then hopping on a



St John Emergency Planning Committee

The Committee continue to meet and discuss plans in the event that St John suffer emergencies not dissimilar to the fire St Aubin experienced in recent months in one of the shipyard businesses.

As a Committee we have established a plan that caters for the whole Parish with rest centres near Sion and the Parish Hall. The plan seeks to give guidelines on how we would react to an incident, how we would manage a temporary rest centre and a detailed list of contacts and volunteers who could support the Parish. Whilst we have not been fully tested, fortunately, with any significant incidents we do take our role seriously and have met the Island's Emergency Planning Officers. Last year this meeting took the form of a desktop scenario where we discussed extreme weather conditions that could isolate our more vulnerable parishioners.

Our previous Connétable, Phil Rondel, established this group of volunteers and our current Connétable, Chris Taylor is very supportive of our work. A small budget was allocated to the Committee and we have some basic emergency supplies held in the Parish Hall which include blankets, torches, long life food and beverages should we have to manage a night time incident. Should we need to invoke our plan we also have the Red Cross available as an Island support. Their vehicle can attend incidents and carries emergency supplies such as clothes and first aid, should Parishioners have to leave their homes without time to dress properly, for example. Our Chairman was pleased to meet the Red Cross recently to establish how supportive and prepared this excellent service is.

As a Committee we are keen to explain what our role is and what it isn't:

- **We are** a 'soft' support to the Emergency Services in so much as we aim to offer, warmth, rest, reassurance and tea to any Parishioners that have been evacuated from their residence for whatever significant reason. We recognise that in many cases this would be temporary as friends and families took over.
- We aim to ensure the welfare of our Parishioners in the event of severe weather or isolation because of snow.
- **We are not a blue light emergency service. That is clearly for the professionals. We are also not emergency tradesman.**

None of the support we aim to offer can happen without willing volunteers. We currently have several

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Parishioners who have put their contact details forward and would help make the tea or whatever was reasonably asked of them if Parishioners required help following fire, snow or other significant incident. We always need more however and if you would like to offer your time, if there was an incident, please complete an application form at the Parish Hall.

We are pleased to confirm that to date we have only had to mobilise ourselves during the snow some three or four years ago. So the task is not onerous.

There are also those we aim to support so if you know a Parishioner who would be vulnerable or at risk if they were cut off because of the weather, or would need support in the event of an incident near to their home please give the Parish Hall their details. Of course you could always put yourself forward as well.

Finally our sincere thanks to the Directors of the Recreation Centre and the URC Sion who have agreed we can use their premises as rest centres if we should need them.

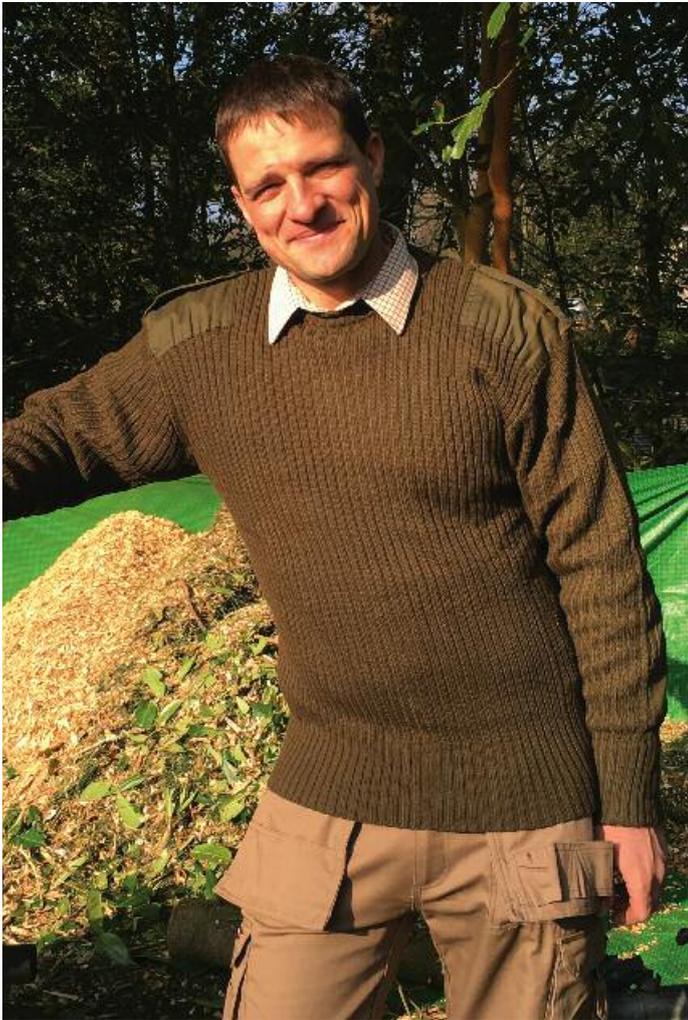
Here's to a safe 2016.

Martin Whitley
Chairman,
Emergency Planning Committee



A day in the life of...

Parish Gardener James Bonny



James Bonny

James Bonny is the gardener responsible for tending the gardens at St John's Parish Hall, St John's shopping precinct, Maison Le Vesconte, St John's Church, Cemeteries, Ville de Chen, Pres de Chen and various other gardening jobs in the parish.

It was at the age of sixteen that James left school to attend a two-year course at Highlands College.

The first year was devoted to general vocational studies, which helped pupils decide the career path to take. As James preferred the outdoor life it was no surprise that he chose a career in gardening. The second year of the course was at the Philip Mourant Centre where he learnt the basics and practical side of gardening, although he admits his learning has mainly grown from experience; but he is always willing to learn more and is open to new ideas. After leaving college he pottered around doing the odd gardening job, until in 2006 after meeting his future wife, he started a small time gardening business.

This led in 2007/8 to James forming a company after taking over the gardening business from Eric Caurel who was retiring.

His day begins around 5.30am, six days a week. After a coffee, he checks which jobs have to be completed that day, and leaves home at 6.45am to meet his three employees at Bonny's Country Garden. After checking their work schedules the vans are loaded up with tools required for the day's work. They split into two teams; both teams do a fixed maintenance round, however either team will also carry out additional jobs when the need arises as well as combining forces on large maintenance jobs. Sometimes James has to down tools to visit clients to discuss their requisites.



2015 flower displays



Working hours in the summer are 7:00am to 7:00pm and in the winter 7:00am to 4:30pm. James said the best part of the winter is getting home to his lovely wife, two children and a warm environment, he said "family is what it's all about, they are my reason for success." A typical day during the summer months entails grass cutting and border work, but in the winter months decking, fencing and landscaping is the order of the day. James finds the most exciting part of his job is when something does not go according to plan. He remembers the time when several machines broke down during the day and he had to run round trying to repair them. Looking back it seemed impossible, but it gave him a great degree of satisfaction as it was a challenge. James has designed gardens but he would not call himself a designer, even though every year he tries to think of something different for the garden at St John's Parish Hall. His favourite time has been the day of the Parish in Bloom competition when he received a gold award for the parish.

At the end of our meeting James said "my wife Joanna and two children are my rocks, all I need is their love and that's what gives me strength".

Mary Rouillé

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Flowers as well as produce at community allotments

It has been another successful year for our group of allotmenters. Phase two of the project to prepare the other half of the field gave us some challenges in design and layout, but we are now well established with 38 busy plots and a fantastic community of friendly people. The success of the allotments has to be down to good St John soil which with the right amount of effort, an open site and an abundance of light can produce some great crops. The Probation Service have also been extremely helpful with community service individuals regularly helping us with the larger tasks that a field of this size requires. Our allotmenters have also had their needs catered for as we have been given permission to use the Maison Les Vesconte gardener's toilet if they are caught short.

The 2015 season was particularly challenging with significant rain and sun in equal measures but often not timed with the working week. So the weekends when our allotmenters wanted to relax on their plots it rained and the weeds quickly filled the gaps. Though relaxing may not necessarily be an accurate definition of growing a range of vegetables and shrubs. I have seen many families labouring hard into the evenings to get the onions lined up on parade and their strawberries covered before the night insects move in. Though it is clear that the look of satisfaction with occasional frustration is as abundant as the weeds that wait to dominate the unsuspecting allotmenter.

Courgettes and beans were as prevalent as in 2014 for those who planted them but we have also seen the successful growth of globe and Jerusalem artichokes which I am told make excellent soup. Raspberries and strawberries have been popular with one of our most experienced allotmenters, at

the height of the season, getting about 1.5kg a week of strawberries out of 40 plants of various varieties. I would say that anyone growing potatoes has also had a good crop with beans, peas and onions as well as winter vegetables having been pretty successful as well. We regularly have an expert check the site for blight and were pleased this year to have contained this awful disease. Whilst we aim to protect the efforts of our allotmenters we also have a duty to ensure we don't encourage diseases that could affect our neighbouring farmers, whose livelihood could be affected by blight.

Our wildlife has not been forgotten and the bees were clearly pleased to see some allotments introduce flowers such as sweet peas and marigolds.

Toward the end of 2015 we were grateful to receive a grant from the Greenwood Trust to build some raised beds to enable our less able Parishioners to enjoy growing vegetables and flowers. As a non-profit organisation we would not have been able to have established the Community allotments without the support of this Trust and its Trustees. On behalf of our allotmenters a big thank you to the Greenwood Trust and of course our Connétable who invited allotmenters to help themselves to his very own crop of Plums.

As we go into 2016 the preparation has begun and it will be interesting to see how the crops grow on the allotments that chose the old methods and covered their plots with vrac. A few have been seen out in the rain preparing the land and there is excitement from those that have just joined us and in some cases new to growing. As people move Parish or discover that allotments needed more time than their busy lives allowed we see a small number of allotmenters leaving us. We wish them well and



2015 good season for allotmenters





look forward to holding our summer barbecue in 2016 which was sadly cancelled last year because of poor weather. It is rumoured that we will have a competition for the vegetable that most looks like its owner! If Parishioners would like an allotment we have started a waiting list. Application forms are available at the Parish Hall.

Oh and that artichoke soup:

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 5 Jerusalem artichokes, peeled, chopped
- 50ml/2fl oz white wine
- 150ml/5fl oz hot chicken stock (vegetarians may substitute vegetable stock)
- 50ml/2fl oz double cream
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- fresh chives, to garnish

Method

1. Heat the oil in a medium saucepan. Add the onion and cook gently for three minutes until they have softened.
2. Add the garlic to the saucepan, stir and cook for one minute.
3. Add the artichokes, white wine and stock and cook for eight minutes or until the artichoke has softened. Place the mixture into the bowl of a food processor. Add the cream and blend the mixture until smooth. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
4. To serve, spoon into a bowl and garnish with fresh chives.

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NEW CARS FOR OLD!

ERIC CAUREL has been renovating old vehicles for the last ten years at his home in Ville des Chesne. His neighbour, Richard Dupré, made notes, took photographs and copied some of Eric's old pictures.

Following retirement after many years of running his successful gardening business, Eric Caurel decided he needed a hobby. He enjoyed working on vehicles, so in 2006 he purchased a 1972, Jersey-registered, MG Midget in order to renovate it. It required a fair amount of work, in addition to which he decided to change the mustard colour of the bodywork to a British racing Green. With the help of friend and another neighbour, Doug Ozouf, it was stripped it down to the bare metal and after renovation painted in the new colour.



1972 MG Midget



Roof of the Morris Commercial

After this first successful project Eric purchased, from the UK, a Morris Commercial van in very poor condition, which had to be completely stripped it down to the chassis; the cargo compartment needed a new roof, and the body needed repairs to a lot of rusty metal. The van's engine was replaced with a MG Midget engine, with a five-speed gearbox, and front disc brakes were fitted. The whole vehicle was then painted in a maroon and cream finish.



The van after renovation

Over fifty years ago, when Eric was 17 he bought a 1957 Standard Super 10,998 cc car. Now that the Morris van had been completed, and in memory of his earlier car, he purchased (from the UK) an identical 1957 Standard Super 10, as his next renovation project.



Morris Commercial van under repair



Eric and Pauline with his original 1957 Standard Super 10





The 'new' 1957 Super 10, before renovation . . .

This was again a huge task, the vehicle requiring a complete strip down, It, too, was fitted with new front disc brakes and brake servos. When completed the, the whole car was painted in what is now becoming Eric's livery of maroon and cream.



. . . and after

For his latest project Eric has bought a 1972 Morris 1000 cc pick-up truck painted black and needing total renovation. Sadly this has meant the departure of his first project – the MG Midget – as he is



Load-bay of the pick-up truck under reconstruction

running out of space in which to keep his vehicles. The Midget has now left Jersey having been sold to an enthusiast in Newcastle. The Morris pick-up was again a lot of work, the load bay having to be totally remade from the chassis up, was reconstructed in steel, timber and aluminium. The front has been decorated in the maroon colour, with the wooden sides of the load bay smartly varnished. It is not quite finished but probably will be by the time this article appears print.



1972 Morris Pick-up after renovation

The picture below is of Eric with his latest vehicles, of which he can be justly proud.



Eric, with his three latest vehicles – 'as good as new'

The Inn Sponsorship of St John FC first team



THE INN sponsoring St John Football team

St John FC are excited to announce that THE INN Hotel, Restaurant & Bar is now sponsoring St John Football Club.

With many of THE INN's customers coming from the neighbouring parish of St John, including some of the football team's supporters, the offer of sponsoring the First team was welcomed by Stephen Clipp, Managing Director of THE INN. "We are excited by the chance to sponsor St John's football club and strengthen the link between the parish and ourselves. The team are doing really well so far this season, and THE INN is looking forward to sharing in a successful season of football with such a passionate local Club."

Nigel Perrée, President of St John Football Club added "We are delighted with our partnership with Stephen Clipp and his team at THE INN, they have been extremely helpful. When Stephen mentioned that he was looking to support local sport, it was only a short discussion before we realised we had many things in common. Their support will be hugely beneficial to our Club, players and committee in helping us to achieve all our objectives moving forward."

St John FC – Premiership

Great news, that St John First Team achieved the status of a Premiership football club when the clubs were split into two divisions in January 2016. St John had won the Championship in the 2014–15 seasons, however due to a number of clubs dropping out of the league in the summer of 2015, all 15

clubs were included in one large division from August to December 2015. St John lost a couple of games early on in the season but managed to maintain their Premiership status after a run of good results in November 2015. Unfortunately St John had not played a Premiership match between January 1st to March 13th due to waterlogged pitches. This will mean more than six rearranged matches to be played towards the end of the season.



St John FC Ladies winning the Zenith Cup

St John Ladies win Zenith Trophy

St John FC ladies team retained the Zenith Cup at the end of October, twice coming from behind in the tie held at Springfield. Kelly Hughes got the winning goal after goals from Marta Ascensao and Jodie Botterill.



The team go towards the end of the season joint top of the league with St Pauls with four games to go and also seek to defend the Colin Welsh trophy that they have retained for a record six successive seasons.

Focus on – St John Under 14

St John Under 14 are coached by Vince Roberts and Rui Marques. A dedicated bunch of players, they train every Thursday evening, alternating one week in-doors, the next week outside. The core of the team has its origins in St John's school days and Vince Roberts has been able to keep this group of friends together, while encouraging new players to join. The lads are very committed and fulfil the ethos of both the club and the coaches, to be a community club where we come together to learn and play as a team.



*Head coach Vince Robert (right)
and Rui Marques (left) with the Under 14s*

St John's U14 Squad have enjoyed a very successful 2015/16 season. Currently sitting at the top of the U14 White League, they have also reached the Cory Cup Final.

They had a tough passage through to the Cory Cup Final, in the later rounds the lads beat St Brelade's FC by 12 goals to 1 in the (quarter final), then went on to beat St Clement in the (semi-final) by 2 goals to 1. The boys are very much looking forward to the trip to Springfield which takes place in late April 2016, it is an evening kick-off and billed to be a real crowd pleaser; St John are playing arch rivals St Peter.

Recently to add to their experiences on the pitch we played in the Brian Beckett Cup going out in the quarter-final to St Peter; however they battled all the way, without the assistance of our regular goalkeeper due to holidays. The team had their fair share of opportunities, scoring one penalty, and then missing another in a hotly contested game.

The boys have scored more goals this season than the last two put together, which shows their growth in stature and confidence, both on and off the pitch. Coaches Vince and Rui have instilled the need to talk, work and play as a unit. The training focuses on various scenarios in our training sessions each Thursday night; however the lads' favourite is a game called Jailbreak, a game of penalty shooting and team work. All this hard work appears to be pay-

ing dividends for Vince, Rui and the team, and we wish them all the best for their Cory Cup Final at Springfield.

Junior Academy

St John FC are excited to announce that they are in the process of starting a Junior Academy based at St John Recreation ground. As President, Nigel Perrée has several times met a number of talented and committed individuals who are preparing to launch a coaching Academy this summer. The Academy would offer specific skill training, conditioning and fitness instruction and opportunities to improve skills under the supervision and guidance of qualified and experienced senior coaches. The age groups to which this will be offered is still under consideration and may well be dependent on the number of committed coaches/helpers. The organisers are hoping that the Academy will be of great benefit to the development and advancement of our teams and the Club. As St John continues to promote a family ethos and sense of participation, we always encourage parents to take part in some way through helping with communication and administration, volunteering to help at training sessions and games or in fact being a part of the coaching staff. As we are a self-funding club we are always interested to learn of fund-raising and sponsorship opportunities to help us support our goals within the community. If you or your children are interested in a great footballing opportunity, please contact St John FC President – Nigel Perrée Tel: 865113

The exact make-up of the Academy, will depend on the requirement of the community and the requirement for certain age groups. We are confident that we will be able to run most age groups, but are particularly interested in Under 10 – Under 12 players, some of whom will still be at St John's school.

Committee members required

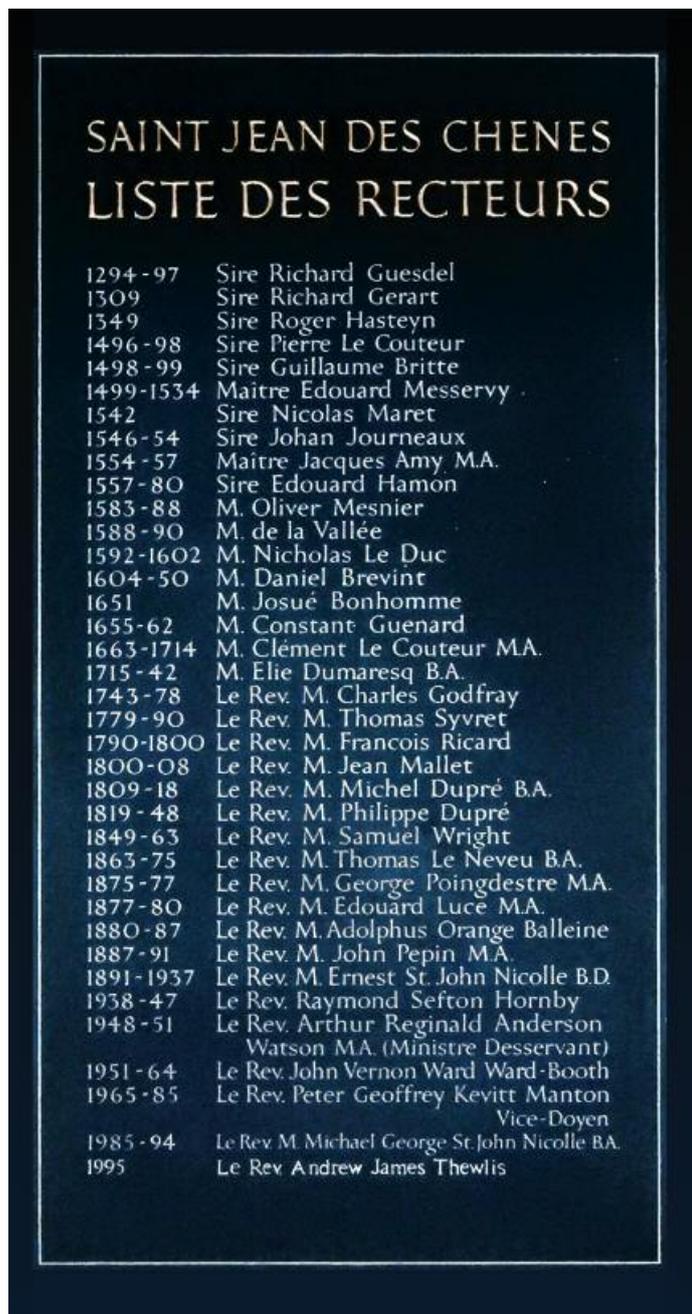
St John FC are seeking committed and energetic people to join our committee in order to continue to support and promote our St John's teams and Club. Ideally, the committee are looking to broaden the range of skills and commitment of the committee members. Previous experience of committees is useful, but not necessary, as we are after the desire to be involved building the club as a central part of the community. We will shortly be looking to fill the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, the former requiring the ability to organise and manage communication, while the latter requires skills like balancing your own cheque book. Neither role requires a great deal of time, as the specific tasks are shared. It doesn't matter what age, whether you are young and looking to gain some experience, or older and looking to give something back, we would love to hear from you. Please contact President: Nigel Perrée 865113 if you are interested in joining the club.

*Nigel Perrée, President
St John Football Club*



Roots of Methodism connected to Jersey

Over Christmas, I was reading a book about Charles Wesley's hymns, when I read this in it, '...Hymns on the Lord's Supper (a Hymn book which was published in 1745 by the Wesley brothers)...had a long preface 'extracted from Dr Brevint', who was a native of Jersey'.



Panel in St John's church

This stirred my interest and I asked Jean Treleven, a local historian, Methodist and tour guide, if she had heard of him. She had not, but had heard of his father and grandfather, and there began a fascinating journey. It connects the Church of England

and Jersey with the very roots of Methodism, and beliefs which remain true to this day.

Native of Jersey

Daniel Brevint was born in Jersey in 1616, and was baptised at St John's Parish Church on the 11th May of that year, by his father, Rev. Daniel Brevint, who was born in 1573, presumably in Sark, and was Rector of the Parish of St John, Jersey for 46 years from 1604 to 1651. He was married to Elisabeth le Sebirel. The Rector's father was Cosmé Brevint, who was a Huguenot refugee. Cosmé was chosen by Helier de Carteret to be the first Rector of Sark after it was colonised, he was there for 35 years, from 1570 to 1605. He had studied in Geneva and met John Calvin. So young Daniel was to become a third generation Protestant minister. Like his father, Daniel studied at the Protestant University at Saumur, graduating in 1634 aged 17. He married Anne de Carteret, daughter of a Bailiff and Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, in 1643; she died in Lincoln in 1708. They had a daughter Charlotte who was born 20 years after their marriage.

In 1636 Daniel was awarded a Fellowship at Oxford by Charles I and stayed nine years. Daniel was a staunch Royalist and was imprisoned and deprived of his Fellowship during the Civil War but finally made it back to Jersey in 1648 and became Rector of Grouville. At this time he was ordained as a Presbyterian, but in 1651 he was ordained an Anglican Priest in Paris alongside fellow Islander Jean Durell. On 25th November 1649 he had preached before the (future) King Charles II, in French, in the Town Church. He remained Rector of Grouville until 1652 when Parliamentary forces reoccupied Jersey, and he went again to France. In 1660, under Charles II, he returned to England and became prebendary of Durham and then, on the 7th January 1682, he was appointed Dean of Lincoln, an office he held until his death in 1695.

John Wesley's father an admirer of Jerseyman Dr Daniel Brevint

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was born in Epworth Lincolnshire in 1703, followed by his hymn writing brother Charles in 1707. They too had a father who was a clergyman, who was himself an admirer of Brevint. By 1738 they had been to and returned from America, they had been ordained as Anglican clergymen and had begun to question the state of the Anglican Church at the time. They were made fun of, getting the nickname Methodists because they followed a methodical life. They had concerns for social justice, the poor and imprisoned, but they were also concerned about how rarely Holy Communion was administered to congregations,



and started to receive Communion more regularly, indeed as often as possible, much to the scorn of their contemporaries. In 1738 both brothers experienced Christian faith for themselves in a new way and the evangelical revival of the 18th century gained its two most famous leaders.

But in the 17th century the harsh Calvinism of James had been rejected by Church and State here, and although some (including the Rector of St John) disliked Elizabeth I's Prayer Book, a more gentle (French) Presbyterian Calvinism remained within the Parishes. Many Rectors continued to come in from France.

Charles Wesley's hymns poetical reworkings of Dr Brevint's statement and beliefs

Brevint was a writer, and was vehemently anti-Catholic. He became what is known as a 'Caroline Divine', which means at some point before his Ordination in France, he rejected his Presbyterian/Calvinist roots and joined the followers of Archbishop Laud, although Laud was pro-Catholic and he was not. Brevint did not believe that the Bread and Wine changed into the Body and Blood at the Mass, but were signs of his real presence in the world in all places and at all times, and for the Wesleys, for all people. So the connection in all of this is that he

wrote a book with the title 'Christian Sacrament and Sacrifice' in 1673, which 50 years later John and Charles Wesley, who would read it as part of their theological training in preparation for their own Ordinations, took as their stance on the Sacrament of Holy Communion, or as they called it 'The Lord's Supper. So in 1745, when John edited a collection of his brother Charles' Hymns on the Lord's Supper, he included a large chunk of Dr Brevint's book as its preface. Many of Charles' hymns are poetical reworkings of his statement and beliefs. This understanding underpinned the Wesley brothers' stance on Holy Communion for the rest of their lives, and remains Methodism's core doctrine on the sacrament to this day. The hymn which best reflects the combination of Brevint's detailed writing and the Wesley's inspirational hymns is 'Victim divine, thy grace we claim'. Methodism has a lot to be thankful for this son of Jersey.

The success of Methodism in the middle years of the 18th century and beyond, here in Jersey, was that it was not Calvinistic, where God chooses who will be saved (exclusive), but Arminian, 'All can be saved' (inclusive), which follows Laud, Brevint and, through the Wesleys, to Methodists today.

Reverend Graeme Halls

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2016 JERSEY CLIPPER BURSARY

Applicants of all ages are invited to apply for the 2016 Jersey Clipper Bursary – a £1,000 cash award aimed at furthering maritime endeavour.

The bursary is designed to assist an Islander of any age to achieve a particular nautical ambition. This could be a trip on a tall ship, participation in a watersports competition, undertaking a marine biology field trip or competing in an ocean race – anything with a maritime theme.

The annual award, a legacy from the three Jersey campaigns in the Clipper Round-the-World Race, was established in 2007 through the generosity of Dandara, Les Pas Holdings and UBS.



Helen Richardson winner in 2015

Further funding to ensure the future of the award has recently been provided by UBS, enabling the trustees to increase the bursary to £1,000 and offer a runner's-up award of £400.

The 2015 winner was physiotherapist Helen Richardson who used the award to help fund a place aboard the Jubilee Sailing Trust tall ship Tenacious for the Central American leg of the three-masted barque's current circumnavigation.

The deadline for submitting an application for this year's award is the end of April 2016. No more than 200 words in length, it should be emailed to philipjeune@gmail.com.

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A new member of the parish team...

...meet Jack – BY PC DAVE BISSON

The States Police Parish Community Officer PC Dave Bisson has recently added a new weapon to his arsenal for tackling crime; Police dog Jack is a drugs, cash and firearms detection dog.

Jack is a 17-month-old English springer spaniel who undertook a 6-week training course in the UK, who was joined by PC Bisson for the last week in order to be assessed and licensed as a proficient team.

Jack has already made the pages of the local press having had some early success in detecting a quantity of drugs within an hour of first stepping foot on the island. Jack joins PC Bisson's other working Police dog Turbo, who enjoys chasing Jack around the fields near to where they live.

Jack has settled in very quickly at PC Bisson's St John's home and is enjoying being part of the family.

PC Bisson says of Jack, "He is a typical springer, he's mad and has endless energy, he's a real handful to work at the moment but has an incredible nose, so I know we are going to have lots of success"

Jack will work with PC Bisson for the next 6-7 years



*Long serving officers of St John Honorary Police.
Trevor de la Mothe, Chris Taylor, Phil Rondel and John Gallichan.
Presented on 8th December 2015 with photo reminders of the medal presentation
by the Lieutenant-Governor earlier in the year.*

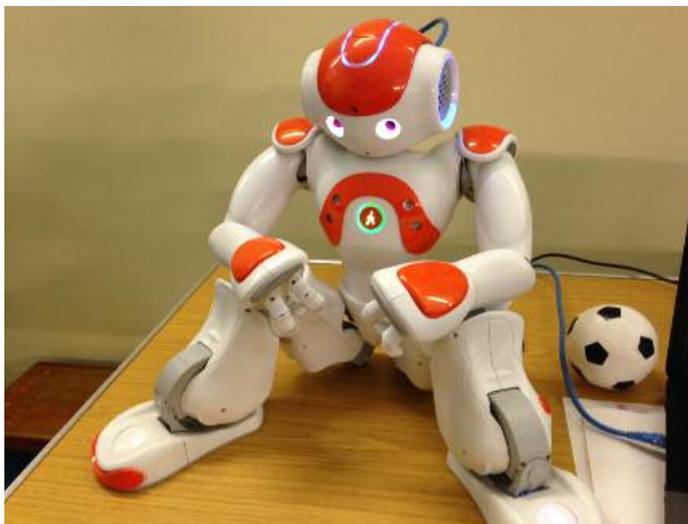


ROBOT WEEK



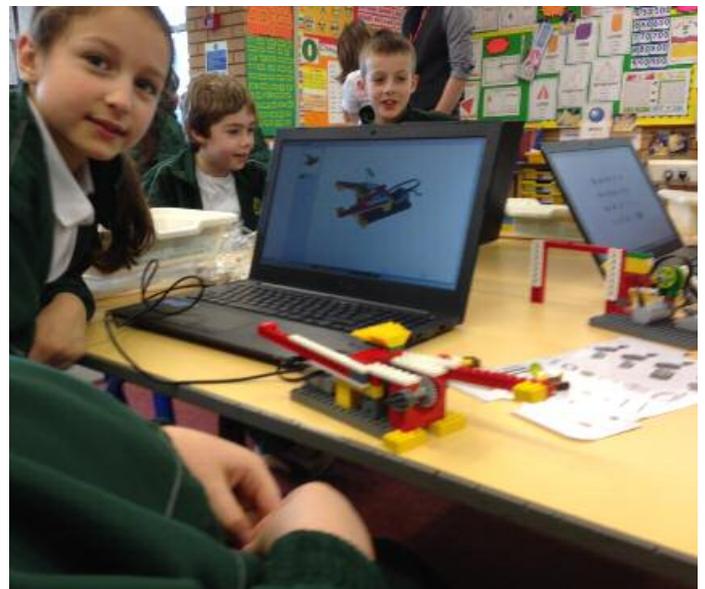
Mr Gregory and a Robot called Nao

The first week back this term was 'Robot Week' at St John's School! This year we are working with a UK-based consultancy firm called Hi-Impact who are working along-side staff and pupils to help develop the new Computing curriculum. Robot Week came about as part of their provision in helping schools to develop their computer science strand of the curriculum with a particular focus on coding and programming. The week started with an assembly from Mr Gregory and a Robot called Nao who treated us to a quiz as well as a series of dances! Following this, Nao made his way around each of the year groups where the children were given the opportunity to explore more of his functions.



Nao resting

During Robot Week we were also joined by Mr Griffiths from the Hi-Impact team. Both Mr Gregory and Mr Griffiths worked with each of the classes on developing skills in basic coding and programming. This ranged from operating small floor robots (Blue-Bots and Sphero's) in Early Years and Key Stage 1 to inputting a series of commands and algorithms to control a series of external devices in Key Stage 2. Thursday afternoon was when we got to showcase all that we had learnt with our 'Tech Fair' in the school hall. On show were moveable robot models constructed out of LEGO but controlled through software on the laptops, to interactive solar systems and even a fully operational drum kit which could be operated purely by touch. If you weren't watching where you were going you may have also nearly tripped over one of the many floor robots whizzing around the floor!



Moveable robot models constructed out of LEGO

In all, Robot Week was a huge success and helped both the pupils and adults in school understand the importance of computer science in education today. So much of what we do on a day-to-day basis has involved someone, at some point, writing a piece of code, and teaching skills such as this is one way in which we are preparing our pupils for the future.

James Matthews



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News from the Pews

The early months of 2016 have been an exciting time in the life of the Parish Church with the launch of several new initiatives.



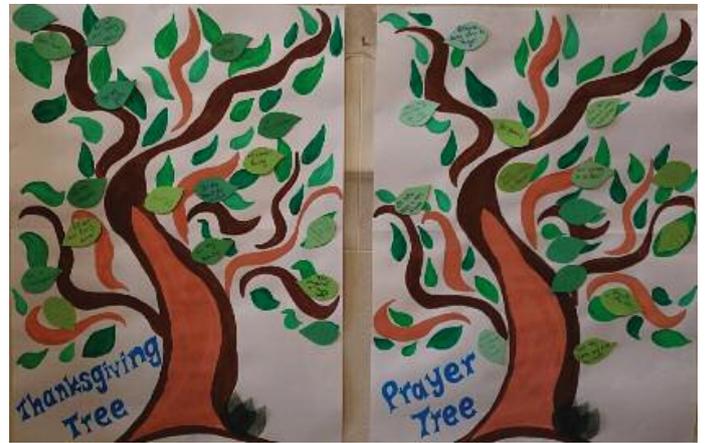
FIRST SUNDAY, at 11am on the first Sunday of each month, was launched on January 3rd and is a fun interactive time of worship and learning for all ages. In recent months, we've had: quizzes; made a poster from drawing around our feet and drawing our shoes; completed word searches; coloured pictures illustrating bible stories and verses of scripture. On Mothering Sunday we made, from cardboard tubes, pipe cleaners and foam shapes vases of flowers to take away. The creative time is over by noon, when we enjoy time together over a simple lunch of sandwiches and cakes donated by church members.

We would love you to join us for an alternative Sunday morning when you are free.

At our first "FIRST SUNDAY" service we created a **THANKSGIVING TREE** and a **PRAYER TREE** upon which to note our thanks to God for the wonderful things that he has done for us and to also document our prayer requests. The trees hang in church and we invite you, throughout the year, to join us by adding your own leaves of thanks and/or prayer needs. Simply help yourself to prayer leaves and adhesive squares from the welcome table opposite the main entrance.

The **CHURCH PRAYER GROUP** meets weekly in church from 11.00am to 11.45am, on a Thursday morning. In addition to praying for our Parish, our Island and world needs, they pray regularly for the topics on the prayer leaves. If you have anything you would like prayer for, but don't want to leave it on a prayer leaf, please feel free to drop a note through my letterbox at the Rectory or by email and we will happily bring it to God for you – we'd love to help.

The group is informal and friendly and would welcome new members for whom this time is convenient and who would like to take an opportunity to meet with others for prayer.



Little Oaks, our new group for those aged between 3 and 11, was launched in January and has had a good start with a small group of children having fun whilst learning about the Easter story. Each week involves doing something creative and most weeks have food!! The group meets on a Sunday morning, when after spending a few minutes in church at the start of the 11am service, the children move to the brightly redecorated vestry for their own teaching and learning, using arts and crafts to bring familiar bible stories and Jesus's teaching alive. If you have children aged between 3 and 11, we'd love to see them.

Reverend Andy Thewlis



A service for everyone

8.00am – Book of Common Prayer Communion

9.30am – Holy Communion with Traditional Hymns

11.00am – Contemporary Worship



Meals for Memories



Government House lunch for key supporters of Jersey Alzheimer's Association

Supporters of Jersey Alzheimer's Association (JAA) are holding a series of Meals for Memories to raise awareness of the issues surrounding dementia and highlight the support that is available locally.

They're also looking to encourage islanders to sign up to this new initiative and to hold their own Meals for Memories in support of the JAA's fundraising efforts.

The campaign, the brainchild of Sue Le Gallais, was launched at the end of February when His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor Sir John McColl and Lady McColl, the Association's patron, hosted a lunch at Government House for key supporters of JAA who will, in turn, provide the initial springboard for these events.

In Jersey, there are thought to be approximately 1,400 residents living with dementia, but it's increasingly becoming a global health issue, affecting around 44 million people worldwide, according to Alzheimer Research UK. And, because the likelihood of developing dementia increases with age, it is expected the number of people in the Island with dementia will double in the next 20 years.

Miss Le Gallais, a former professional cook, said the idea of the Meals for Memories project was to provide a forum for people to learn about dementia in a social setting, and to show their support for the work of the JAA.



"I have had personal experience of dementia, as both my grandmother and my father lived with the illness, and so I know of the amazing work being done by the Jersey Alzheimer's Association to support not only those living with dementia, but also their families, friends and carers," she said.

"We're hoping that anyone affected by dementia, or who wants to know more about the condition, will invite family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to get together to eat and to talk about the issues surrounding dementia,

and to learn about the work of the JAA, and what they can do to help. It doesn't have to be a formal event, it can be a breakfast, brunch, barbecue, Sunday lunch, picnic or afternoon tea, whatever is the easiest way for someone to bring people together and to talk about what we're doing."

And she's hoping that the Parishes, businesses, schools, churches, and other community organisations will also get involved.

Dementia is an umbrella term for the symptoms associated with a number of progressive diseases affecting the brain, the most common of which are Alzheimer's disease and Vascular Dementia.

It can affect anyone regardless of background, education, lifestyle or status and symptoms include loss of memory, confusion, problems with speech and understanding, and an increasing inability to perform everyday tasks.

Jersey Alzheimer's Association is an independent charity which provides help and support to anyone affected by dementia, including the friends and families of individuals living with dementia and those who provide care.

To find out more about the Meals for Memories project, which is sponsored by the Le Gallais Group, or to register your interest in either hosting or attending a Meals for Memories event, please email m4m@jerseyalzheimers.com or visit <http://www.jerseyalzheimers.com>



WORLD TOUR

MANY TICKS OFF THE BUCKET LIST! (PART 1)



Kayaking on Lake Taupo

At this time two years ago Rob and I were on our world tour. We had a two days stopover in Hong Kong where we did all the usual tourist things, such as a visit to a pearl and jade factory, dinner on a floating restaurant and strolling around Victoria Park and the harbour. Next we took an overnight flight to Australia, landing at 8am. After a short train ride we were having breakfast with a spectacular view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. I have wanted to visit the Opera House since first seeing pictures of it when it opened in October 1973. We went on the guided tour and it was wonderful to be able to get up close and personal with this iconic building. By 5pm we were back at the airport for check-in to our flight to New Zealand. How many people can say that they have been on a day trip to Australia?

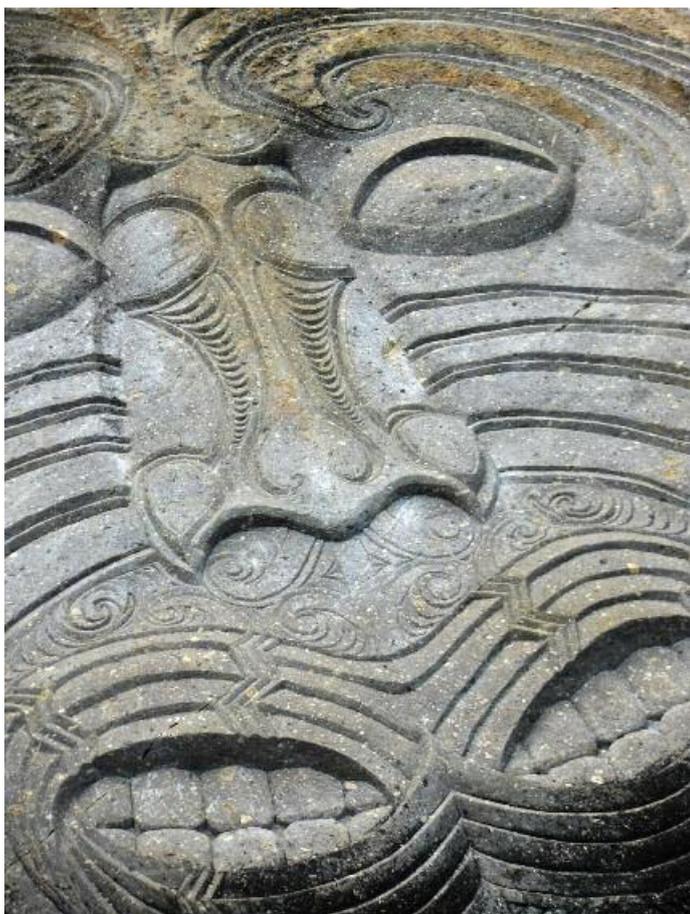
We landed in Christchurch at about 11pm, it had been a long day so we were very pleased to get to bed and did not surface again until late the next day! We were staying in a newly built hotel opposite the Christchurch Cathedral which had been badly damaged in the earthquake of 22nd February, 2011 and left a once beautiful city in ruins. The city is slowly

being rebuilt, but will take many more years to complete. We had a relaxing day walking around the beautiful Botanic Gardens alongside the River Avon and visiting an amazing cathedral made out of cardboard, bamboo and perspex. Next day, after collecting our hire car we set off for Queenstown stopping overnight on the picturesque shores of Lake Tekapo. Just before Queenstown we spotted a sign "Panning for Gold". So we decided to have a go and I was lucky to find a very tiny gold ingot. Queenstown is the place for fun and adventure! We went on two jet boat rides up the rapids, went up the mountain in a gondola for fantastic views over the town and we both did a bungee jump. The historic Kawarau Bridge is where the world's first commercial bungee jumps took place so was definitely on the list. It was thrilling, exhilarating and totalling terrifying, but we wouldn't have missed it for anything! From Queenstown we wanted to visit Milford Sound, but as it is a round trip of 10 hours by car we flew over the mountains in a small plane which took 35 minutes. It was a beautiful day for a cruise on the stunning fiord with impressive sheer rocky cliffs towering above and beautiful waterfalls cascading down.



Maori Carvings and Mud Pools

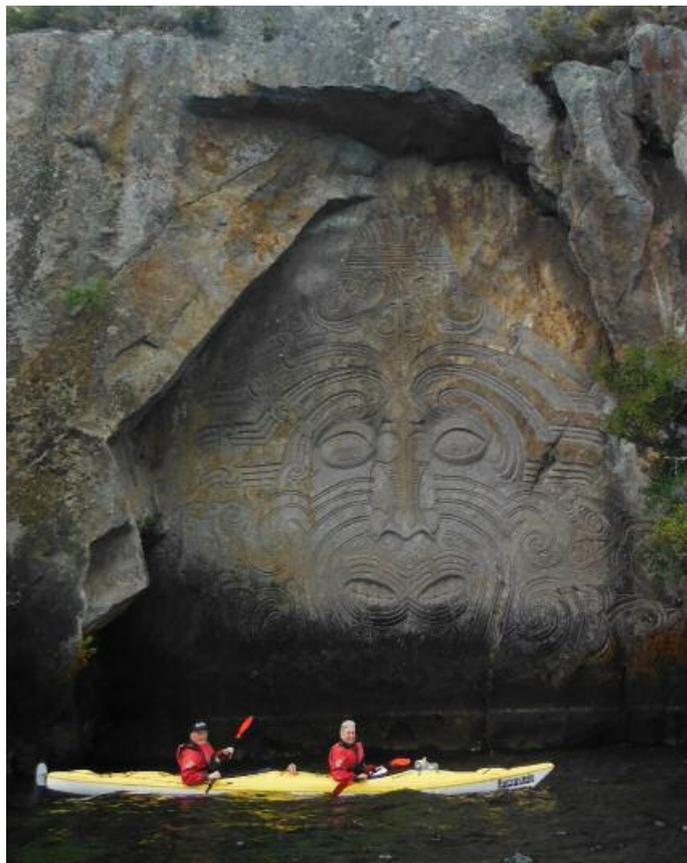
As we travelled up the coast we stopped at various places on the way until eventually reaching the Abel Tasman National Park. We had a wonderful day kayaking around the lovely little bays and a seal colony, stopping for lunch on a deserted sandy beach. Idyllic. Then we sadly said goodbye to South Island, crossing from Nelson to Wellington for the next stage of the adventure. After a long drive through a barren landscape we reached Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. We wanted to see the 10-metre high Maori carvings etched in the cliffs and only accessible by boat. So we hired a kayak and a guide who took us on the four-hour round trip to see these amazing carvings. Next stop was Rototua to see the famous geyser which erupts about 20 times a day spurting hot water up to 30 metres high. We spent four enjoyable hours seeing the geyser, the bubbling mud pools and various Maori attractions. In the evening we learnt more about the Maori culture and enjoyed a traditional hangi feast of food cooked beneath the ground on hot stones. Delicious!.



Maori carving

Pod of Dolphins

Next we headed for the east coast and Tauranga as we had booked a boat trip to see dolphins the following day. After about two hours out to sea, dolphins were spotted! We were so very lucky to have



found a pod of about 100. It was truly magical watching them leaping and playing and generally showing off to their delighted human audience.

We continued our journey further up the coast to the Coromandel Peninsula and the lovely Hahei Beach. We spent a couple of days relaxing and swimming and enjoyed a lovely walk to see the beautiful Cathedral Cove and its gigantic stone arch.



Visiting the bays of Abel Tasmin National Park

All too soon we arrived in Auckland for the final three days. Impossible to miss was a trip up the 328 metre high Sky Tower. The lift took us up in 40 stomach lurching seconds. If that was not exciting enough, the lift had a glass floor! We enjoyed every moment of our month in New Zealand, a land of stunning scenery, friendly people and so many exciting things to do. Back to the airport and the next stage of our journey.

Beryl Vautier



LA COMITÉ DU COMMUNE RURALE DE ST JEAN

The Comité was elected at a Parish Assembly and formed over four years ago with the initial aim to respond to the 2011 Island Plan that sought to develop within the rural countryside. It became evident early on that as a Comité there was also an opportunity to establish a group that could respond and act on issues beyond the bureaucracy of the Planning Department and its transient flow of Ministers. So what have we been doing?

Many of you will recall a survey that went out to the Parish asking for opinion which was followed some time later and more recently by a consultation carried out by the Transport and Technical Department (TTS). From these we have reaffirmed some key themes that we have been working on for some time.

- Consulting on Parish planning applications (particularly those sensitive applications)
- Planning now acknowledge us as a key stakeholder in any Parish development application. We continue to work toward the Planning Department accepting that the Parish and subsequently its Parishioners have its own Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) which would enable St John to have some control over the Planning Departments views on how our Parish is managed, both in our urban and rural areas. This in turn

would enable an element of control over speculative development within the green zones of St John. The Comité have commented on a number of high profile building applications and where considered useful, visited as a key stakeholder.

• Traffic Safety

- This has been an important part of Comité discussions with all our recent Planning Ministers, who have attended Comité meetings, and we currently have significant concerns with the safety of Parishioners walking along La Route des Issues toward the M&S store. We have had a meeting with the Infrastructure Minister on this who appears less concerned. Many of you will have noticed the speed 'smiley' in this area during January. We continue to develop a case to present to TTS to convince the Minister that a pavement in this area is needed.
- We also continue to lobby for more traffic safety measures around the Parish, not least in Sion. La Route du Mont Mado with its new and 'interesting' road surface continues to be an area of speeding and we look to find ideas to manage this. The Comité is guided by the survey results from our Parishioners.

How important is it that this measure is introduced in the parish?	% Very or quite important	% Not very or not at all important	% Don't know
Pedestrian crossings near shops and schools	91	7	2
Methods to improve cycle and walking safety for children going to school	88	8	5
Reduction in speed limits or speed zones	73	24	4
Enforcement measures e.g. speed camera/checks	67	30	3
Safer bus stops	66	22	9

• Improving Public Transport

- Our relationship with Liberty Bus is good and they were pleased to support our attempt to provide an extension of the route to the car park near Les Fontaines to incorporate a park and ride initiative. However the take up from

neighbouring areas was not good and our aim to move the unofficial park and ride from the Church car parks was not successful enough to make it viable for Liberty Bus.



• Village Improvements

- A field has been identified for school recreational use near our Primary school and our Connétable continues to work on this with the Education Department.
- We are supporting proposals for a lawned public area, including a pétanque site and the better provision of car parking near the Parish Hall. The development of a memorial garden for the Cenotaph is a key part of this proposal.

• Allotments

- The allotments have increased in popularity and we now have 38 active plots and a growing community of growers. This non-profit-making Company has been extremely well supported by the Greenwood Trust and our previous and current Connétable.

• Protecting the green zone

- This is one of our key objectives and part of our *raison d'être*. To this end two Comité members have attended a number of consultations on the Jersey Coastal National Park: The Coastal National Park embraces all those parts of the Island that are of highly sensitive and valuable landscape quality which are vulnerable to change and damage, and warrant the highest level of protection against development.
- The Comité expressed some concern over the membership makeup of the consultation and whether St John businesses, within the Coastal Park, were aware of the significant conditions that would be imposed on their potential to expand premises if their business were to grow. This would also include residential property within the Coastal Park.
- Detail on the Coastal Park maybe found on www.gov.je

Martin Whitley

TINATHON APPEAL

To be shared equally between Mustard Seed Jersey (for the poor in Romania) and Shelter Trust (for those in need in Jersey).

Please donate one or more tins of food.
Collection at Friday May 20 at Wests Centre
from 8.00 till 2.30 pm.



Family Nursing & Home Care

Preventing illness and prolonging life – local charity to visit all 12 parishes in 2016

Family Nursing & Home Care (FNHC) is going on tour in 2016 to highlight the variety of services available to Islanders through the Charity. FNHC's Parish Wellness Roadshows will be visiting a different Parish each month.

"We have organised the FNHC Parish Wellness Roadshows to get out in to the community and talk to people about the variety of services we provide," said FNHC Fundraising Manager, Ivo Le Maistre Smith.

'Not many people know that we are a charity, and that we are the largest provider of health and community care in the Island. We have dedicated teams trained in health visiting, school and children's nursing, district and specialist nursing, as well as home care and palliative care. We're hoping the roadshows will give people who don't know much about us the chance to come along and find out more in a friendly and relaxed environment.'

The roadshows are free to attend and no pre registration is required. Attendees will be given the chance to talk to one of FNHC's community nurses and find out more about what services are available through the Charity and how to access them. The nursing teams will also be on hand to provide basic health checks such as BMI and blood pressure measurements, as well as offering guidance on healthy eating, smoking cessation, breastfeeding and other tips relating to health promotion and illness prevention.

"As well as helping people to discover what FNHC can do for them, the roadshows will also be a chance for islanders to receive up to date information on healthy lifestyle choices. Our fundraising team will also be there to talk about how people's donations are making a huge difference to the lives of thousands of Islanders, and provide information on how to get involved in our exciting fundraising activities throughout the year," added Mr Le Maistre Smith.

The FNHC Community Wellness Roadshow in St John takes place between 2.30 and 5.30pm on Tuesday 7th June at the Parish Hall. Complimentary teas, coffees and light refreshments will be available and there is free parking on site.

For a full list of upcoming roadshows in your Parish, visit <http://www.fnhc.org.je/news>

For more information about the roadshows, call Ivo Le Maistre Smith on 01534 443664.



L'ÉTAILE DU NORD

The magazine is published for the Parish of St John by the Editorial team:
c/o East Wing, Les Issues, La Route des Issues, St John JE3 4FA. Tel: 861611
Email: nijofalla@gmail.com

We do not necessarily hold the views that are expressed in the articles.

The magazine is printed by Mailmate Print.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor – Jo Falla
Assistant editor – Roger Long
Advertising manager (Acting) – Richard Dupré
Treasurer – Terry Le Sueur
Distribution – Rosemary Dupré
Editorial Committee members –
Rosie Bleasby, Angela le Sueur, Mary Rouillé,
Rev Andy Thewlis

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Eighth page – £30 Quarter page – £50
Half page – £95 Half back page – £120
Full page – £175 Flyer, inserting only – £50
For full colour rates, and to advertise please contact Richard Dupré, Advertising Manager (Acting) Tel: 866880; email: red@jsyonline.com

WEBSITE

Star of the North website:
www.starofthenorth.org.je
Kindly sponsored by C.I. Web Solutions.
The latest edition will be available on line as soon as it is published.
Archive editions will also be available.

Anyone who lives outside the Parish and wishes to receive 'L'Étaile du Nord' is invited to take out a year's subscription (3 issues) for £6. Please fill in this form:

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I enclose £6 cash/cheque made out to: 'Star of the North'.
Please send to: The Editor, c/o East Wing, Les Issues,
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Steve Hewlett**

RECTOR: **Revd Andy Thewlis**

CENTENIERS: **Jonathan Plunkett,
Trevor Pointon, Dave Ward
John Woodward**

VINGTENIERS

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Nord: **Trevor de la Mothe**
Douet: **Maxine Fergusson**

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Ian Syvret, Mya Florence, Sue Baudin,
Phil Rondel, Neil Haworth, Robin Le Boutillier**

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Bill Wheaton, Peter Pallot**

ROADS INSPECTORS

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Nord: **Nick Lane, Alan Coutanche**
Douet: **Stephen Masters, Andrew Godwin**

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Martin Whitley, Martin Farley,
David Ward, Andrew Morris**

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CHURCH WARDENS: **Andrew Lewis,
Rosemary Bleasby**

EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER:

Martin Whitley

PARISH SECRETARY: **Sue Rodrigues**

PARISH HALL

Tel 861999 Fax 864553 E-mail: posj@gov.je
Website: www.parish.gov.je/st_john/

PARISH HALL OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Friday
9.00am – 1.00pm 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Wednesday
9.00am – 1.00pm 2.00pm – 7.00pm
CLOSED ALL DAY THURSDAY



ST JOHN'S PARISH CONTACTS

Archery: Martin Pomroy – 855479
Bell Ringing: Justin Read – 888484
Bingo: Muriel Poisson – 863184
Bonne Nuit Boat Owners: Linda Carter – 864828
Bonne Nuit Harbour Festival: Neil Cotillard – 07797 797834
Brownies: Donna Tupper – 865728
Carpet Bowls: Shirley Caurel – 863825
Caesarean Handbell Ringers: Diane Nelson – 481898
Constable: Christopher Taylor – 864274
Deputy: Tracey Vallois – 867741
Football Club: Nigel Perrée – 865113
Friends of Bonne Nuit: Gary Romeril – 861972
Golden Age Club: Wendy Rondel – 863667
Honorary Police: 866560
Kickboxing: Tom – 07797 969522
Parish Hall: 861999
Rector: Revd Andy Thewlis – 861677
School: 861692
Shooting Club: John Renouf – 861908
Skateboard Association: John Fosse – 861688
Star of the North (Editor): Jo Falla – 861611
Tennis: Tina Spencer-Nairn – 861716
Twining Association: Ron Le Herissier – 862010
Women's Institute: Karen Cotillard – 863296
United Reformed Church: Secretary Michael Ruskin – 482366
Youth & Community Trust: Revd Andy Thewlis – 861677
Youth Project: Rosemary Dupré – 866880
Youth Worker: Bill Moore – 07797 819958

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN ST JOHN

THE PARISH CHURCH *Every Sunday*

8.00am Holy Communion
 9.30am Holy Communion with traditional hymns
 11.00am Contemporary Worship, with Little Oaks
 Children's Group

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH *Every Sunday*

8.00am Family Worship
 Holy Communion, monthly, as advertised

ST JOHN'S YOUTH PROJECT At The Recreation Centre

DAY	TIME	AGE GROUP
Tuesday	19.00 – 21.00	School Years 9+
Wednesday	19.00 – 21.00	School Years 7, 8 & 9
Thursday	18.30 – 20.30	School Years 5, 6 & 7

PARISH DIARY April to August 2016

APRIL

Tues 12th		Back to School
Tues 12th	7.30pm	WI 'It shouldn't happen to a vet', with Charles Gruchy, in Parish Hall
Sun 17th	2.00pm	Youth Project Sponsored Jump at Aquasplash
Tues 26th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 27th	2.30pm	Golden Age Club meet at the Parish Hall

MAY

Mon 2nd		Bank holiday – no school
Wed 4th		St John's School Beach clean
Fri 6th		St John's School Fund Raising walk
Sun 8th	10.30am	St John's Group of Churches Service for Liberation in the Parish Church
Mon 9th		Liberation Day – No school
Tues 10th	7.30pm	WI 'Resolutions meeting', in Parish Hall
Wed 25th	2.00pm	Golden Age Club Afternoon Tea, departs from the Parish Hall
Fri 27th		Last day of half Term
Tues 31st	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall

JUNE

Mon 4th		Back to School
Tues 14th	7.30pm	WI 'Get planting' with Alan & James Bonny, in Parish Hall
Mon 20th	7.30pm	Youth Project AGM
Thurs 23rd	2.30pm	St John's School pop in afternoon
Fri 24th		St John's School Sports Day
Sun 26th	9.30am	St John's Day Communion in the Parish Church with St John's WI Members
Tues 28th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 29th	2.30pm	Golden Age Club meet at the Parish Hall

JULY

Thurs 7th		Branchage
Tues 12th	tbc	WI 'Coach trip and dinner'
Fri 15th		Last day of Summer Term
Tues 26th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 27th	2.00pm	Golden Age Club Afternoon Tea departs, from the Parish Hall
Sun 31st	11.00am	Beach Service at Bonne Nuit, organised by the Parish Church

AUGUST

Mon 22nd		Youth Project closes for Summer Break
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Muriel's Bingo in the Parish Hall
Wed 31st	2.30pm	Golden Age Club meet at the Parish Hall



St John's Inn

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George and his team invite you to their popular restaurant

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Why not call us on 864690 to book a table now. Oh, and do not forget, we are open for a well priced and enjoyable Sunday lunch from 12 to 4p.m. Opening hours:- Tue to Sat from 12 to 2:30p.m. and 6 to 8:45p.m. Sun 12 to 4p.m.

We are closed on Mondays but will be open on bank Holidays



Spring in Bonne Nuit Bay

