

*The Parish Magazine
of
St Stephen's Church
Guernsey*



August 2026

You all know how much I love my quotes and one that has been spinning around in my head over the last few weeks is:-

"I don't agree with what you say, but I will defend with my life your right to say it."

The reason it has been on my mind is that I find it more than tragic that we live in a community where a defenceless elderly lady can be bludgeoned to death in her own home because somebody didn't agree with her opinions. I can't decide if I am more angry or more frightened.

The quote, by the way, is attributed to Voltaire and Abraham Lincoln quoted it too. Which, as he was also assassinated, is food for thought.



Putting aside these unhappy thoughts for a minute, I'm thrilled to say we have a packed magazine this month. I am so grateful to you all for your many contributions which make for an interesting and varied read, something that I have always aimed for so, thank you again and please keep them coming!

Have a lovely month. Love Nikki

General Synod Elections – Could God Be Calling You?

Later this year, the Guernsey Deanery will elect one lay representative to serve on the **General Synod of the Church of England** for the next five years.

General Synod helps shape the life, mission and future of the Church of England and this is an important opportunity for Guernsey to have its voice represented nationally.

If you are a member of your church's electoral roll, are a communicant member of the Church of England, over 18 and sense God may be calling you to this role, we would encourage you to prayerfully consider standing for election.

Nominations close at **12 noon on Monday 7 September 2026**.

Full details, including eligibility criteria and nomination forms, are available from the Acting Dean, Jon Honour via email: jon@trinitygsy.org

Please pray that God will raise up the right person to serve the Deanery in this important ministry.

**All contributions for the September magazine
will be gratefully received!!.**

**Copy deadline will be Friday August 21st 2026
Send to nikkiattwooll@gmail.com**

Holy Days and Holidays



One of the most precious Feast Days in the calendar of the Church – the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary– falls in this month on the 15th of August.

Many Anglicans have an interesting relationship with the Blessed Mother of our Lord (please read the article which appears later in the magazine).

Over the centuries, the various beliefs in Mary have abounded across different denominations, each with their own emphasis: the Blessed Mother brings an understanding, a patience and a love for the Christ that echoes deeply within us. The words of Simeon, uttered shortly after his praise of God, resound with the pain and agony she would face as the mother of the Christ, **“And a sword will pierce your own soul too...”** (Luke 2:35). The enduring picture is of Mary standing at the foot of the Cross, and looking up into the face of her beloved son...

The most basic aspect of our faith is that it is about relationship. The Old Testament suggests continuously that God was desperate for His people to love Him as He loved them... and the people waited for calamities to strike before crying out and questioning His presence (sounds rather similar to our culture today). Finally, God looked for a young woman, who would be willing to help Him in His quest, and so prove once and for all time, that He was serious about wanting to hold us close to His heart.

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” (Luke 1:38).

There was a time when Holy Days meant a break from the usual routine, an opportunity to draw aside and attend Church to be refreshed by God. That thought got me pondering the role of holidays in our culture. They are also meant to be a time when we pause from the busyness of our usual lives and do something we don’t often get the chance to do, such as going away or visiting family.

As I write this, my Mum has joined us in Guernsey for the first time, along with my brother and his family, who are no strangers to Guernsey. What a wonderful joy it is to have an opportunity to show off our island home in the glorious splendour of summer!

The vibrant colours of the flowers, and the beauty of the sea, all make such an impression when seen through the eyes of another. Too often, we take our surroundings for granted, don’t we? And sometimes we can take our relationships for granted too... And that is one of many reasons why I love the Blessed Virgin Mary, because she was constantly aware of the responsibility that she had in caring for the Christ. **“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”** (Luke 2:19). Mary is such an amazing

example to us of what it means to love God in every circumstance we face. We live in a society that has become so stressed and so needy, often because we do not make time to work on our relationship with the Almighty. I would encourage everyone to make a time to come into St Stephen’s Church (if you are able to) and to sit quietly in prayer. If you want something to focus on in your quiet time, stare up into the face of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Lady Chapel. This quiet time will seem like a holiday and leave you refreshed.

May God bless each of us as we draw closer to His heart.

Sending you all my love. God bless. Love Fr Joe

FROM OUR DEACON'S DESK

Sunday, 26th of July 2026



I was reading a book recently which spoke of faith in this way:

"Faith takes many forms, not just the official religious ones. It is a language of trust and meaning. It seeks to express itself in belonging and commitment.

But, most of all, it shapes and is shaped by our imagination.

We have a natural desire for God which means that our hearts are always on the look-out for vision, for love, for fullness, for surprise - if we can only emerge from our self preoccupations. There is a readiness for the real God within us."

The author Michael Paul Gallagher laments that we are living in a time when - people are agreed - we are facing a crisis of faith. His solution is that people need to discover their questions before being given any of the great answers of the Christian tradition. He argues that religion too often jumps into the realm of creeds and codes which, although they may be vital, are not the starting point of the religious adventure. In his ministry he discovered that he had to leave aside the typical language of theology and connect the struggles of faith to ordinary life and especially to the realm of relationships. It became clear to him that when he used stories, or slides or symbols or some mention of his own inner struggles, what he was seeking to communicate came alive.

In 1 Kings 3:5-12 God appears to Solomon in a dream, and He asks Solomon what He should give him. Solomon does not ask for a long life or riches but he asks for an understanding mind able to discern between good and evil to enable him to govern God's people with justice. Solomon has seen God's faithfulness to his own father, David, and was honest with God about his own needs. Solomon loved the Lord and had faith in His goodness and mercy.

Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 8, is surely the favourite chapter of all who know the letter to the Romans well. Paul writes this letter as he is on his way to Jerusalem to deliver the collection he has raised for the impoverished church there from the churches he has founded. He writes as one who has already endured great suffering and who faces the prospect of further, even mortal danger as he returns to Jerusalem. He writes to a Christian community in Rome whose own existence is precarious, and which would soon suffer the reality of persecution - a persecution which would claim the life of Paul himself and of Peter. The first half of the letter spells out both the plight of a sinful humanity and a fallen world, and what God has done to remedy this; to free humankind and the whole of creation from the consequences of sin and death.

Tom Wright, in his commentary on Romans says that this passage is, in fact, a summary of Paul's whole theme of chapters 5 to 8, presented now not as a step-by-step argument, but as a thrilling rhetorical statement. Look what God has done, look what Jesus has done, and is still doing even as we speak. Look around and see the many things that threaten to separate you from the powerful love which reaches out through the cross and resurrection, and learn that they are all beaten foes. It is a glorious passage, perhaps, like me, it is one of your favourites for its vision and poetry, for its hope and assurance. Well, familiar as it is to me, it is only recently that it really 'came alive', when it was no longer just an inspired passage written two thousand years ago - but became a relevant and living word for today.

One of the things that you will learn about me, as time goes on, is that I am Welsh, my late husband was the Guernsey-man, and although I have lived here for quite a few years now it has not robbed me of my Welsh heritage. Being Welsh I still remember quite clearly the Aberfan disaster, the day when 144 people died, 116 of them children, when the village and its school were engulfed by a landslide of mud and coal waste. Some years later I was listening to a remembrance service for this disaster on Radio 4 when they interviewed the minister for Aberfan at that time. He lost one of his own sons that day, who was 9 years old, and died with the rest of his class and their teacher. This is what the minister said:

"The disaster happened at 9.16 in the morning, and then through that Friday and Saturday we were doing the pastoral work. We were setting up relief centres, arranging help for various people, houses had been destroyed, then on the Sunday morning I took the services as normal and then on the Wednesday following the disaster I buried my son in the afternoon and then we conducted a memorial service to the Sunday School scholars in the evening. Then on the Friday I had the funerals of 14 victims privately in 5 different funerals. We started at 9am and finished at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. After the disaster I don't think I went to bed for about 4 nights."

People marvelled at how he could take services at this time, but for him, it was simply the right thing to do. And what was remarkable about this man was not just what he did through his grief in those first days, it was the way he stuck to the village staying on for another 25 years, becoming a natural leader. His courage and compassion rooted in a faith that was simple and profound.

The bible passage that he chose for the service that first weekend after the disaster was Romans chapter 8. A passage that is as true here, in that horrific context as it is where war and terror destroy today, where families risk death on flimsy craft to escape repression, where the most vulnerable are abused and ignored.

"Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen.

The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15th August

What do WE believe about the Blessed Virgin Mary?

An online article written by Bishop Robert Todd Giffin



Classical Anglican Mariology is characterized by a commitment to the teachings of Scripture as interpreted within the consensus of the early Church, while remaining cautious toward later dogmatic developments lacking clear biblical or patristic warrant. As a result, Anglicanism historically occupies a mediating position between Roman Catholic and Reformed Protestant approaches to Mary.

The Anglican tradition affirms the central Christological doctrines articulated by the early ecumenical councils. Mary is recognised as the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ and is commonly designated Theotokos ("God-bearer" or "**Mother of God**"), following the teaching of the Council of Ephesus (431). This title is understood primarily as a safeguard of orthodox Christology, affirming the unity of Christ's divine and human natures in one person.

The Anglican formularies and liturgical tradition honour Mary as "**blessed among women**" (Luke 1:42) and as an exemplary model of Christian faith, obedience, and discipleship. She occupies a prominent place in the Church's worship, creeds, and calendar, and receives a degree of veneration appropriate to her unique role in salvation history.

At the same time, classical Anglican theology distinguishes sharply between the honour accorded to Mary and the worship due to God alone. The Thirty-Nine Articles reject what they describe as the "**Romish doctrine**" of the invocation of saints, reflecting the Reformation-era concern that certain devotional practices obscured Christ's unique mediatorship. Consequently, classical Anglicanism generally directs prayer exclusively to God through Christ.

With respect to later Roman Catholic Marian dogmas, classical Anglicanism has traditionally refrained from granting them authoritative status. Neither the Immaculate Conception nor the Assumption has been regarded as a doctrine binding upon Anglicans, although individual Anglicans have been free to hold such beliefs as theological opinions. The prevailing rationale has been that these doctrines lack sufficient grounding in Scripture and the consensual teaching of the undivided Church.

In summary, classical Anglican Mariology may be described as patristic, Christocentric, and moderate. It affirms Mary's perpetual significance within the economy of salvation, honours her as Theotokos and exemplar of faith, and preserves her place within the communion of saints, while rejecting doctrinal and devotional developments judged to exceed the authority of Scripture and the witness of the early catholic tradition.



NERD CORNER



Some of you Nerdlettes will know that a few months back, I had an 'incident' involving my E-bike and a curb. This resulted in a damaged knee which requires physio.

A couple of sessions ago, I asked the physio, "How long will it take for my leg to get back to normal?" He looked at me and said, "What for you is 'Normal'?" Well folks, at this moment perhaps I should have directed him to the last 25 episodes of 'Nerd Corner'. Yes, this drivel has been going on for that long! but I think the physio already considers me to be a 'character'* and I didn't feel the need to dig myself in any deeper.

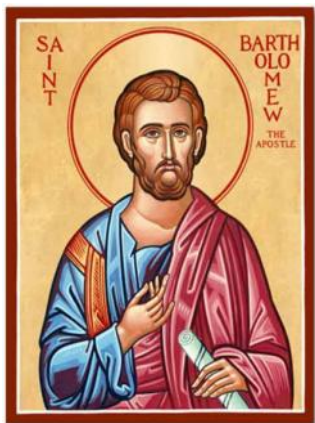
*This fact was established fairly early on when I asked him if there was anything that I 'must not do'.

He asked me what I had in mind. I must have looked a bit sheepish and hesitant because he leant towards me and in a hushed tone whispered, "Don't worry, we've heard it all before. " The answer he got was probably not what he was expecting. "Well," I replied, "I need to replace my bathroom fan and in order to wire it in, I will have to stand on the sides of the bath so I can reach." He was a bit taken aback, but asked me two questions, both of which I replied in the affirmative. 1. "Have you done it before?" 2. "Do you feel able to do it with your leg like it is?"

As I hadn't been told 'not to' I started to make plans to carry out the task. This involved me considering the risks and making steps to eliminate them. To reduce the risk of falling due to the 'getting up and down into position' aspect, I enlisted the help of a long suffering friend who would be there to hand me things and also to be on standby to dial 999 in the case of a disaster. I would also carry out all my safety precautions in terms of wearing non-slip shoes and ensuring the electricity was turned off (including neighbours and requesting a power-cut although States Electricity would not oblige me on that front.)

The event took place last Wednesday and I'd love to fill you in with another drama occupying many a happy 'Nerd Corner', but I'm sorry/pleased* (delete where applicable) to say it went very smoothly.





Saint of the Month

ST BARTHOLOMEW

Almighty, everlasting God, who this day have given us venerable and holy joy in the festivity of your blessed apostle Bartholomew:

Grant, we beseech you, unto your Church both to love what he believed and to preach what he taught. – Sarum Missal

Again this month, we know so little about the life of St Bartholomew. What we do know for certain is that he was one of the Twelve Apostles.

Bartholomew is mentioned by name in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. And many scholars identify him as Nathanael, in the Gospel according to St John (John 1: 45-51).

Initially sceptical about anyone coming from Nazareth, Bartholomew/Nathanael nevertheless still accepted the invitation of St Philip to come and meet Jesus. On seeing him approach, Jesus remarked to those around Him, **“Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”** (v47).

A question was asked recently by a visitor, “What was Nathanael doing under the fig tree?” It was customary for devout people to pray under trees, and that is why Jesus recognised him from that space. Nathanael means “Gift of God” and Bartholomew means “Son of the Furrow” (an agricultural link).

Bartholomew was present throughout the public ministry of Jesus. He would have witnessed the miracles, the arrival into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, and the blessing of Easter. He would be with the others in the Upper Room, at the Ascension and at Pentecost.

Following on from there, it is believed that Bartholomew carried the Gospel message to India and Armenia (modern day Iran). It is thought that this is where he was martyred for his faith – according to tradition, he was flayed alive (hence his symbol is a butcher’s knife). Accordingly, artists have depicted him holding his own skin – see The Last Judgement by Michelangelo. St Bartholomew’s feast day is the 24th of August.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Saturday August 1	10.00am – 11.30am Coffee, Cake & Chat
Sunday August 2	The Ninth Sunday of Trinity 9.30am Mass 11.00am Sung Mass 12.30am Family Picnic
Monday to Friday	8.00am Morning Prayer
Tuesday August 4	11.00am Weekday Mass
Wednesday August 5	4.00pm – 5.30pm Rainbows
Saturday August 8	10.00am – 11.30am Coffee, Cake & Chat
Sunday August 9	The Tenth Sunday of Trinity 9.30am Mass 11.00am Sung Mass 12.30pm Baptism
Monday to Friday	8.00am Morning Prayer
Tuesday August 11	11.00am Weekday Mass 12.00pm Friendship Lunch
Wednesday August 12	4.00pm – 5.30pm Rainbows
Saturday August 15	10.00am – 11.30am Coffee, Cake & Chat
Sunday August 16	The Eleventh Sunday of Trinity 9.30am Mass 11.00am Sung Mass
Monday to Friday	8.00am Morning Prayer
Tuesday August 18	11.00am Weekday Mass
Wednesday August 19	4.00pm – 5.30pm Rainbows
Saturday August 22	10.00am – 12.00pm. Garden Tea Party for Breast Cancer Now
Sunday August 23	The Twelfth Sunday of Trinity 9.30am Mass 11.00am Sung Mass
Monday to Friday	8.00am Morning Prayer
Tuesday August 25	11.00am Weekday Mass
Wednesday August 26	4.00pm – 5.30pm Rainbows
Saturday August 29	10.00am – 11.30am Coffee, Cake & Chat 10.00am – 11.30am Toddlers' Group
Sunday August 30	The Thirteenth Sunday of Trinity 9.30am Mass 11.00am Sung Mass Bake Sale after both services
Monday August 31	8.00am Morning Prayer

BAKE. BUY. BREW.

CHANGE STARTS HERE



**BREAST
CANCER
NOW**

We welcome your support
for our Garden Tea on Saturday **22 August at 10.00am**
at St Stephen's Church to raise funds for
BREAST CANCER NOW

BAKE cakes or savouries for the tea

BUY tea and cake and bring family and friends with you
to join us for a lovely morning tea in the garden

BREW tea with us and help serve tea and cake on the day

Please contact **Linda**
if you are able to assist us in anyway for this
community fund-raising event

07781 416305

norton@cwgsy.net

CHOOSING SHOES

Frida Wolfe



New shoes, new shoes,
Red and pink and blue shoes.
Tell me, what would you choose,

If they'd let us buy?

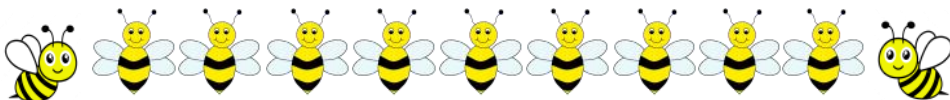
Buckle shoes, bow shoes,
Pretty pointy-toe shoes,
Strappy, cappy low shoes;
Let's have some to try.

Bright shoes, white shoes,
Dandy-dance-by-night shoes,
Perhaps-a-little-tight shoes,
Like some? So would I.

BUT

Flat shoes, fat shoes,
Stump-along-like-that shoes,
Wipe-them-on-the-mat shoes,
That's the sort they'll buy.

Poem submitted by Shirley Greaves



The Bee



Watch how a fuzzy bumble bee
bumbles and buzzes his way into a foxglove,
he fits inside so perfectly!

And how a snapdragon opens its lips
to offer its nectar so generously,
The bee, in his bumbling fluffiness,
quickly brushes up pollen from his back
fallen from the blossoms of apple and cherry
and flowers of all sorts
and stores it all carefully in his sack

But I wonder how that buzzing sound
helps the bees on their rounds?

The stopping and starting
for each flower they're visiting,
the bees lull me into a dream as I watch them,
busy in the sunshine making sweet golden honey,

So if you've a chance, scoop up a nice spoonful
pop into your mouth or spread on warm toast,
for when you're tired yourself after work
remember the bee, how he's out all day long,
fussing and buzzing till it's time to go home,
for the bee, his purpose in life is to buzz,
and for me and for us, it's to taste.





ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Boules Evening!

ALL AGES WELCOME - COME JOIN THE FUN!

Wednesday, 2nd September at 5.30pm

St Stephen's Church Garden

RSVP by 25th August:

joe.thompson@deanery.gg

or call 01481 720268



Guided Walk “7 Lamps, few Bills & a Kidnap”

Sunday 13th September 2.30pm – 4pm
Meet at St Stephen's Church,
Les Gravées, St Peter Port

Bus Route 41, 42, 51, 52
Parking available at the Church

Step into the hidden history around St Stephen's Church on the western edge of St Peter Port, from prehistoric standing stones to the Victorian era, and enjoy a visit inside the church to discover the work of celebrated Victorian craftsmen before they became internationally famous.

Cost £10, Length under 1 mile

Contact: Rosalyne Le Huray

Gold Accredited Guide

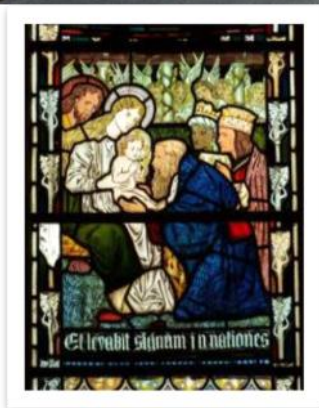
Facebook:

HiddenGuernseyWalkingTour

Tel 07781 127263

rosalynelehuray@yahoo.co.uk

Wheelchair accessible on request





THE DREAM OF THE ROOD

Long ago was it that I was cut down at the edge of the forest, moved from my trunk. Men bore me on their shoulders, they set me on a hill. I saw then the Lord of mankind hasten with great zeal that He might be raised upon me.

"Then the young Hero--- He was God almighty--- firm and unflinching, stripped Himself: He mounted on the high cross, brave in the sight of many, when he was minded to redeem mankind. Then I trembled when the hero clasped me; yet I durst not bow to the earth, fall to the level of the ground, but I must needs stand firm.

"As a rood was I raised up; I bore aloft the mighty King, The Lord of heaven. They pierced me with dark nails; the wounds are still plain to view in me, gaping gashes of malice. I was bedewed with blood, shed from the Man's side, after He had sent forth His Spirit. I saw the God of hosts violently stretched out. All creation wept, lamented the King's death; Christ was on the cross.

Now the time has come when far and wide over the earth and all this splendid creation, men do me honour; they worship this sign. On me the Son of God suffered for a space; wherefore now I rise glorious beneath the heavens, and I can heal all who fear me.

"Now I bid thee, my loved man, to declare this vision unto men; reveal in words that it is the glorious tree on which Almighty God suffered for the sins of mankind and the old deeds of Adam."

Then glad at heart, I worshipped the cross with great zeal. Now I have joy of life that I can seek the triumphant cross do it full honour. Great is the desire for that in my heart, and to the cross for the sin of men, be a friend unto me; He has redeemed us and has given us a life, a heavenly home.

Grant each of us the grace
never to bear the slightest grievance against another
the humility to acknowledge our fault
and ask pardon when we have offended anyone,
the strength to banish forever from our memory
the remembrance of past bitterness.



Guided Walk “Just William”

Saturday 26th September 2.30pm – 4pm
Meet at St Stephen’s Church,
Les Gravées,
St Peter Port

Bus Route 41, 42, 51, 52
Parking available at the Church

Step inside St Stephen’s Church and discover the stunning, internationally significant Pre-Raphaelite windows designed by William Morris in 1864. Explore the stories and inspirations behind these remarkable memorials and uncover fascinating local family links to “The Lady with the Lamp”, an Academy Award-winning film, and the world of international trade and commerce.

Cost £10, Length under ½ mile.

Contact: Rosalyne Le Huray
Gold Accredited Guide

Facebook:

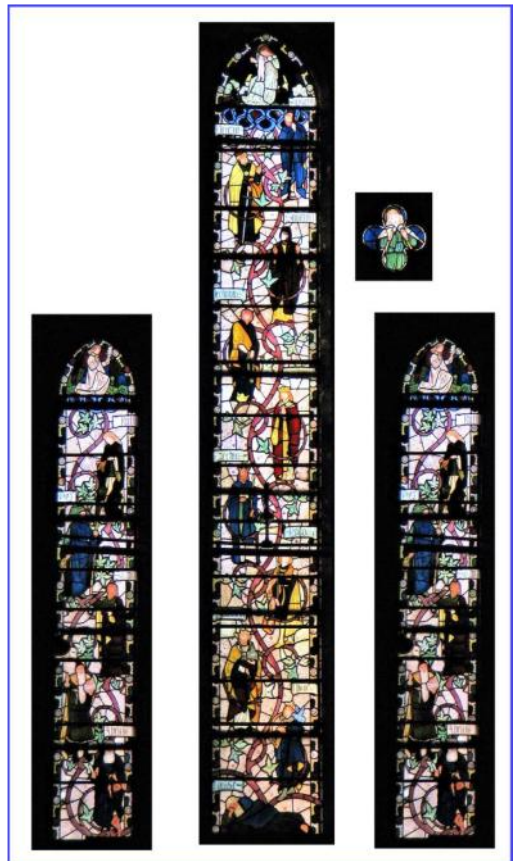
HiddenGuernseyWalkingTours

Tel 07781 127263

Rosalynelehuray@yahoo.co.uk



Wheelchair accessible on request



Social Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 2 AUGUST	12.30 p.m.	Family Picnic
Saturday 22 AUGUST	10.00 a.m.	Garden Tea Party in support of 'Breast Cancer Now'
Wednesday 2 SEPTEMBER	5.30 p.m.	Boules Evening
Sunday 13 SEPTEMBER	2.30 p.m.	'7 Lamps, a few Bills and a Kidnap' Walking Tour
Friday 18 SEPTEMBER	6.00 p.m.	Opening of the William Morris Art Exhibition
Saturday 19 SEPTEMBER	6.00 p.m.	Guernsey Choral Festival
Saturday 26 SEPTEMBER	2.30 p.m.	'Just William' Walking Tour
Sunday 4 OCTOBER	12.30 p.m.	Dedication Lunch
Saturday 17 OCTOBER	3.00 p.m.	Line Dancing
Saturday 7 NOVEMBER	6.30 p.m.	Quiz Night
Saturday 21 NOVEMBER	3.00 p.m.	Wreath Making
Sunday 6 DECEMBER	7.00 p.m.	Glee Singers Concert
Sunday 13 DECEMBER	3.00 p.m.	Only Fools and Donkeys
Sunday 20 DECEMBER	4.00 p.m.	Christmas Cheer in the Vicarage after Nine Lessons & Carols at 3.00 p.m.
Saturday 26 DECEMBER	11.30 a.m.	St Stephen's Day celebration after Mass at 10.30 a.m.

For more information, please contact:

Linda Barnes 07781 416 305

ITEMS FOR A GOOD LIFE?

An eraser, so that you can make your own mistakes disappear.

A coin, so that you can never say you are broke.

A marble, in case someone says that you have lost yours.

A rubber band, so that you can stretch yourself beyond your limits.

A piece of string, so that you can tie things together when they fall apart.

A heart to remind you that someone loves you.

Few people realize that one of the world's first s*icide crisis hotlines exists because of a tragedy so heartbreaking it changed how millions of people receive help.

It began with a 14-year-old girl who believed her life was over. She had just started menstruating for the first time. No one had explained what was happening to her body. Instead, she became convinced she had contracted a sexually transmitted disease. Terrified of the shame she imagined awaited her and unable to ask anyone for help, she took her own life.

Her death stunned an Anglican priest in London named Chad Varah. As he conducted the funeral, one question refused to leave him:

How many other people were carrying unbearable fears simply because they had no one they felt safe enough to tell?

The more he thought about it, the more disturbing the answer became. Britain in the early 1950s was filled with silence around sex, mental health, pregnancy, family conflict, and despair. People were expected to cope quietly. Many never did. So Varah did something radical.

In 1953, he placed a newspaper advertisement offering a telephone number and a simple promise: before making a final decision; talk to someone. He expected a handful of calls.

Instead, the phone rang almost nonstop.

Volunteers soon had to be recruited just to keep up. That small room with a single telephone grew into Samaritans, one of the world's first crisis hotline organizations, proving that sometimes the difference between life and death is not a miracle or a medicine, but another human being willing to listen without judgment.

The identity of the young girl has never been publicly confirmed, and some details of the story have faded into history. What remains undeniable is that her death inspired a movement that has answered millions of desperate calls around the world, a reminder that silence can be fatal, while a single conversation can change the course of a life forever.



Staggering Increase in Slavery Today".

By Peter de Sausmarez and Julie Anne Headington



Globally modern-day slavery has had a horrifying increase in incidence, largely of women and children, of over a million more a year, with a total of around 50,000,000, largely in the sex industry, domestic servitude, and in the cultivation of coffee and chocolate.

These individuals have no choice in what they have to do for up to 14 hours a day, no holidays, no family life or hope, often in appalling conditions whether they are well or ill.

This has been exacerbated by climatic disasters, conflict, earthquakes and this unprecedented migratory urge that is happening, and insatiable greed, and public ignorance and indifference. Even Britain, one of the most slave-free countries, has nearly 2 per 1000 of its population.

Regrettably, the exploitation of individuals has reached the shores of Guernsey. With the increasing need to fill employment vacancies from outside of Guernsey, this has led to some taking advantage of individuals wanting to start a new life here. The promise of a new job, living accommodation and the opportunities Guernsey can provide, can lead those to fraudsters marketing themselves as facilitators, who request financial payment up front, for the victim only to find that once they arrive on our island, the job does not exist (or is not what was offered) and accommodation is not fit for purpose. Afraid to speak up, victims are exploited.

The local charity, '**Guernsey For Freedom**', is here to offer a safe space, to listen, to understand and help in any way they can, with the intention of enabling change and revision to the current legislation to ensure there is protection in place. Whilst this proposed change in legislation is not yet in effect, be assured that we are speaking with the authorities and, with your stories, we can show that a change in the law is vital to stop this exploitation and hold those culprits accountable.

If you would like to contribute towards this worthwhile cause, please help us by donating to:

Guernsey For Freedom

Bank name: Lloyds International

Sort code: 30-93-73

Account number: 33361268

Account name: Guernsey For Freedom

We also accept cheques:

Please make payable to '**Guernsey For Freedom**' and post to:

The Treasurer - GFF

Le Scealet

Torteval

Guernsey





St Stephen's Community Centre

Is a great venue for happy summer events and exciting new ventures!

There is availability for weekend functions and activities during the day (Monday to Friday from 09:00am to 02:30pm) and some week day evenings.

During term time, the centre is busy with youth groups for primary age children and teenagers, as well as weekly clubs,

Monthly Event:

St Stephen's Friendship Lunch:
£10.00 per person

Tuesday, 11th August, 12.00 p.m.

Contact: Jill Mabire or Linda Barnes or Aileen Thompson
07781 416305 01481 720268

A note from Shirley about our Friendship Lunch

*I would like to share how much I enjoyed the last
Friendship Lunch on Tuesday the 14th of July!*

*The "Chicken in Port & Merlot Jus" was absolutely delicious.
I don't "do" dessert but the people I spoke to said it was lovely.
Well done everyone involved with the choice and preparation.*

*We all remember with fondness the Friendship Lunches cooked and
served by Jean Le Huray and her daughter, Rosalyne, and we will
always be grateful to them for such a good job they did for so long.
We owe them a debt of gratitude for starting this monthly lunch event
every second Tuesday that we continue to enjoy!*

SHIRLEY GREAVES

Weekly events at the St Stephen's Community Centre

Please contact the leader if you are interested to participate:

Clubs, Activities and Uniform Groups	Day(s)	Time
The French Workshop : Juliana Chapellier : thefrenchworkshopgsy@gmail.com	Weekdays (term time)	15:15 - 17:15
Yoga : Michael Wegerer : yoga.gsy@gmail.com	Monday	19:00 - 20:00
Dancing in the Dark : Louise Croft : facebook.com/danceguernsey	Tuesday	18:00 - 19:00
Dance Fit : Caroline Mauger : www.zumba.com/en-US/p/caroline-mauger/1359453	Monday & Thursday	09:45 - 10:45
St Stephen's Players : Chris Dragan : facebook.com/ststephensplayersgsy	Tuesday & Thursday	19:30 - 21:30
Beavers : Rosalyn Le Huray : firstgsybeavers@outlook.com	Monday	17:30 - 18:45
Cubs : Leon Gallienne : firstgsycubs@outlook.com	Monday	19:00 - 20:30
Brownies : Tamara Beach : ststephens.girlguiding@gmail.com	Wednesday	17:30 - 18:30
Sea Scouts : Rosalyn Le Huray : firstgsyscouts@outlook.com	Wednesday	19:00 - 21:00
Rangers : Sophie Leale : 7thststephensrangers@gmail.com	Wednesday	19:00 - 20:30
Guides : Debbie Robilliard : 7thststephensguides@gmail.com	Friday	18:00 - 19:30
Zumba : Emily Young : emily@eneevo.com / www.eneevo.com	Thursday & Saturday	18.30- 19.30 09:00 – 10:00

For enquiries and to secure bookings, please complete an electronic booking form via this link: <https://st-stephens-guernsey.org/459/Booking-Form>

Alternatively, contact Jenny Lambert directly on 01481 711701 or via email: ststephenscommunitycentre@gmail.com

Final sermon as Dean of Guernsey from the Very Reverend Tim Barker

I am most grateful to the Town Church choir for singing the Te Deum laudamus, We praise thee O God, in that glorious setting by Stanford. It is one of the ancient hymns of the Church, dating back to the fifth century, which has been reinterpreted in many musical styles over the centuries.

You may have noticed that Stanford's music features in various places in the service. Apart from the fact that it is splendid music, I am grateful to Stephen Le Prevost for spotting my, admittedly rather obscure, personal link with Stanford. Charles Villiers Stanford was a student at Queens' College in Cambridge – which is my college. We both went to Queens' on Classics scholarships (a minor scholarship in my case). Stanford is described as 'immersing himself in the musical life of the university to the detriment of his Latin and Greek studies'. I have some sympathy, as there were many distractions during my time in Cambridge, such as rowing, singing, and work on the running of the university newspaper – with several contemporaries who have since achieved fame and fortune in the media and publishing. But I won the prize of coming to live and work in Guernsey.

The two hymns were sung in November 2015 at the service in which I was instituted and installed as Dean. And the introit was composed by a former assistant organist at Salisbury Cathedral.

I realise that I am just the latest in a long line of men (and thus far they have all been men) who have had the privilege of serving as Dean of Guernsey.

The challenges that Jean de Sausmarez had to face when King Charles II appointed him as the Dean in 1662, the first Dean of the modern era, put any difficulties I have encountered into perspective. He had the responsibility of encouraging the reluctant population, and equally reluctant clergy, to embrace the Anglican settlement after over a century of Calvinist polity, and introducing Anglican liturgy. This was not an easy task. Apparently, the Lieutenant-Governor accompanied the Dean as he went to each parish church, taking with him six soldiers armed with swords to prevent disorder.

I am in awe of Thomas Bell. Fifty years Rector of St Michel du Valle, he died in office as Dean at the age of 97 in October 1917 – which means that he must have seen the mustering of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, but not their heroic stand at Masnières a month after his death, and the tragic consequences for too many Guernsey families.

There is a moving passage in the biography of Cyril Forster Garbett, Bishop of Winchester in the early years of the Second World War and subsequently Archbishop of York. In June 1940, as the news came through that Guernsey was to be demilitarised, Garbett was granted a 15 minute telephone call – seven minutes with each of the Deans of Guernsey and Jersey. The clergy were to prepare the candidates for Confirmation and admit them to Communion; and to hide the church plate and registers if the need arose. The deans were empowered to act for the bishop. He dictated a message for the deans to communicate to the clergy and concluded with a blessing. What went through Dean Giffard's mind as he, and so many more, faced the reality of five years of occupation?

Each of my predecessors has faced both challenges and opportunities, as have I. So far, without the need to resort to being accompanied by armed soldiers. But I have appreciated more than I can say the support and wisdom of Lieutenant-Governors; Bailiffs; Deanery colleagues, lay and ordained, and churchwardens; my colleagues in the other Christian churches and fellowships in Guernsey; and so many more.

The words of the prayer of confession at the beginning of this service speak powerfully of the human condition:

We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done.



Indeed. As you know, I tick those boxes. In human terms, I am all too conscious that, in St Paul's words, I am 'a clay jar', fragile and temporary. Just one in a long line of priests who have served as Dean of Guernsey. But entrusted with a precious message: to proclaim Jesus as Lord. And time after time, deeply conscious that I do this in God's strength. As Isaiah tells us in the glorious poetic language of the first reading,

[God] gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

And so, despite my many failings, I have been entrusted with this great responsibility. I am deeply conscious that, especially in the difficult times, I have been sustained and upheld by God's strength. To quote more of St Paul's words in the second reading, 'It is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.'

And that is what Christians try to do.

Last Sunday, I had the privilege of baptising six month old Freddie at St Andrew's church. As I anointed him with the oil of baptism before taking him to the font, we said to him, 'Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.'

And that is what Christians try to do.

As I prepare to take leave of Guernsey and Alderney and Sark and their people, and hand on the baton, and one or two challenges, to the next Dean, I find some consolation in words attributed to the fourteenth century Italian mystic, St Catherine of Siena: 'God does not ask a perfect work, only infinite desire.'

TOWN CHURCH; 21 June 2026

AUGUST HYMNS

SUNDAY 11.00am	2nd Trinity 9	9th Trinity 10	16th Trinity 11	23rd Trinity 12	30th Trinity 13
HYMN	436	200	408	Servant Song	357
PROPER	704	705	706	707	708
RESPONSORIAL PSALM	145 (v15- end)	85	67	138	26 v1-8
OFFERTORY	271	433	439	473	I the lord of sea and sky
COMMUNION	64	494	480	305	341
POST COMMUNION	368	427	186	272	372





The Guild of Intercession

Frank Dalla Johns 22/8/1917; Arthur Thomas 8/8/1926; Wilfred Henry Horne 18/8/1937; Jane Tourtel 2/8/1938; John Wakeford 28/8/1938; Reta Ivy Piesing 4/8/1949; John Thomas Hamon 9/8/1950; Mabel Augusta Pickford 1/8/1951; Cades Alfred Middleton Smith 2/8/1951; Frances Emily King 19/8/1952; Ada Bailey 6/8/1953; Joseph Thomas Williams 5/8/1954; Mary St Andrew Coldwell 23/8/1954; Louise Elizabeth Henschman 15/8/1956; Beatrice Mary Marquand 30/8/1956; Charles Henry Toms 23/8/1957; Frederick Locke 31/8/1957; Percy William Bird 2/8/1958; John Thomas Barber 14/8/1958; Frederick William Bourgaize 26/8/1958; George Udle 27/8/1958; Elsie May O'Toole 4/8/1959; John Frank Bertram 7/8/1959; Gwendoline Edith Sidgwick 26/8/1959; Eleanor Christine Mitchell 19/8/1960; Cyril Claridge Chambers 29/8/1960; Margaret Frances Palmer 11/8/1961; Leona Hart 30/8/1961; Walter Henry Greening 22/8/1962; Keith Martin 15/8/1965; Edward Louis Frossard (Priest) 13/8/1968; Harriett Winifred Quehen 14/8/1971; Clara Alice Horrell 27/8/1977; Clifford Frank Pinney 16/8/1978; Patrick William Gargan 15/8/1982; Albert Frank Fallaize 29/8/1986; Albert John Cochrane 22/8/1987; William Davison 18/8/1988; John (Jack) Carrington 31/8/1988; Phyllis Galliers-Pratt 31/8/1989; Mae England 1/8/1990; Doris Amy Hunt 11/8/1993; Mildred Edith Fallaize 30/8/1995; Jennifer Winifred Moore 18/8/1998; Margaret Winifred Cooper 3/8/2000; Ann Elizabeth Franklin 21/8/2005; Louise Alice (Phoebe) Le Vallée 11/8/2006; Martin Le Page 28/8/2008; Noorali Dewji Dhanji 20/8/2009; Ellen (Nell) Rosa Jane Hamon 28/8/2010; Royston Charles Ogier 20/8/2011; Peter Martin Cohu 27/8/2012; Ruth Butler 30/8/2012; Joan Rawson 19/8/2013. Monica Brook 21.07.21 Robert Jennings 27.07.21 Jeanne Groves 25/08/21

May They Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

READINGS FOR AUGUST 2026

Sunday 2 nd Aug	Ninth Sunday after Trinity Proper 13	Isaiah Ch 55 v1-5 Romans Ch9 v1-5 Matthew Ch14 v13-21
Sunday 9 th Aug	The Tenth Sunday after Trinity Proper 14	1 Kings Ch19 v9-18 Romans Ch10v 5-15 Matthew Ch14 v22-33
Sunday 16 th Aug	The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Proper 15	Isaiah Ch56 v1, 6-8 Romans Ch11 v1-2a, 29-32 Matthew Ch15 v21-28
Sunday 23 rd Aug	The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Proper 16	Isaiah Ch51 v1-6 Romans Ch12 v1-8 Matthew Ch16 v13-20
Sunday 30 th Aug	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Proper 17	Jeremiah Ch15 v15-21 Romans Ch12 v9-21 Matthew Ch16 v21-28



WAFFLE'S WISDOM

Don't keep telling me to stop barking because
'there's no one there'
There is no one there
BECAUSE I am barking!.



Guilds, Clubs & Activities at St Stephen's

CREATIVE CHILDREN'S CHURCH (MESSY CHURCH)	Andrea Bateman andrea.bateman@yahoo.co.uk	First Sunday of the Month 2.30pm – 4.00pm	Family Service and Godly Play St Stephen's Church
TINY 'PILLARS' TODDLER GROUP	Andrea Bateman andrea.bateman@yahoo.co.uk	Last Saturday of the Month 10am – 11.30am	St Stephen's Church (at the same time as Coffee, Cake & Chat)
RAINBOWS	Tamara Beach ststephens.girlguiding@gmail.com	Wednesday 4.00pm – 5.00pm	Church Vestry 5 – 7 years old
BROWNIES	Tamara Beach ststephens.girlguiding@gmail.com	Wednesday 5.00pm – 6.30pm	Community Centre 7 – 10 years old
GUIDES	Debbie Robilliard Tel: 714850 + 07911 132440 7ststephenguides@gmail.com	Friday 6.00pm – 7.30pm	Community Centre 10 – 14 years old
RANGERS	Sophie Leale Tel: 714850 & 07911 132440 7thststephensrangers@gmail.com	Wednesday 7.40pm – 9.00pm	Church Vestry 14-21 years old
1st VICTORIA SEA SCOUT GROUP Group Scout Leader Rosalynne Le Huray Tel: 07781 127263	Rosalynne Le Huray firstgtsybeavers@outlook.com	Beavers Monday 5.30pm – 6.45pm	Community Centre 6 – 8 years old
	Leon Gallienne firstgsyscubs@outlook.com	Cubs Monday 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Community Centre 8 – 10 years old
	Rosalynne Le Huray firstgsyscouts@outlook.com	Sea Scouts Wednesday 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Community Centre 10 – 14 years old
ST STEPHEN'S GUILD	Marg Kaines Tel: 254858	As arranged	Church 'housekeeping'
SERVERS Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary	Tony Kaines Tel: 254858	As arranged	Info: www.GSSonline.org.uk
CHURCH FLOWERS	Ann Goss Tel: 728433	As arranged	Church
SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE	Linda Barnes 07781 416305 norton@cwgsy.net	As arranged	Church Vestry
ST STEPHEN'S PLAYERS	Steph Dragun Tel: 255654	As arranged	Community Centre

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH
Vicar: Father Joe Thompson
Email: joe.thompson@deanery.gg

St Stephen's Vicarage • Les Gravées • St Peter Port • Guernsey • GY1 1RN

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SUNDAY MASSES

9.30am

Said Mass

11.00am

Sung Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to Friday

8.00am

Morning Prayer

Tuesday

11.00am

Said Mass