



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 14th November
Town Church Christmas Fayre
10 am – 2 pm

November 2026, Issue 9

TOWN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



From the Leadership Team

A huge thank you to everyone who arrived armed with feather dusters and rubber gloves on the 17th. Once again, your hard work, enthusiasm and willingness to help made a tremendous difference. You never fail to amaze us with what can be achieved when we come together!

Over the years, we have accumulated quite a collection of artificial Christmas trees for exhibitors to use during the Christmas Tree Festival. As storage space has become increasingly limited, we have made the difficult decision that we can no longer keep them all. We will therefore be offering the trees to charities on 14th November, with any remaining trees being available for purchase at the Christmas Fair.

We are also delighted to share that a generous member of our congregation has donated a beautiful Fortnum & Mason hamper as a raffle prize. Tickets are just £2 each and are on sale now. The lucky winner will be drawn on 17th December at 8.00 pm, during the final evening of Late-Night Shopping. Good luck to everyone who enters!

Please do join us in church on 10th December from around 7.30 pm for an evening of festive cheer. There will be drinks, nibbles and plenty of opportunity to enjoy each other's company as we celebrate the season together.

We are also planning some improvements to the small garden area in the south-west corner of the church, which forms part of the original churchyard. We are especially grateful to some lovely members of the Latvian community who have kindly offered to help care for and maintain this special space in the future. Thanks also to Evita and her friends who have kindly offered to run the Christmas Raffle. We will be asking members of the congregation to help us sell tickets.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the church wind and water tight in the recent storms.

There's certainly plenty happening this month, and much to look forward to. We hope you enjoy this edition and thank you, as always, for being such a wonderful part of our church community.



Come and Sing Evensong

I include a wonderful quote and some images from the Guernsey Choral Festival's Facebook page;

"What a wonderful way to bring the festival to a close! On Sunday, we were delighted to welcome Hugh Morris, Director of the Royal School of Church Music, to Guernsey for our RSCM Come and Sing Evensong at The Town Church of St Peter Port. Singers from across the island came together for a full day of music-making, with some travelling from the UK and Sark to take part.

The event welcomed people of all experience levels, including some who had never sung in a choir before. After rehearsing with Hugh throughout the afternoon, the choir led Evensong, performing Circle This Place by Jo Forbes L'Estrange, Brewer in D and Batten's O Sing Joyfully.

As the closing event of the festival, it was especially lovely to end on such a strong community note, bringing together singers from across the island to share in the joy of making music. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped make it such a special occasion."

We are so fortunate to have such a wealth of musical talent in Guernsey, and we are very proud to have been able to host this fantastic event at Town Church.

The Installation of The Ven. Matthew Trick as Dean of Guernsey

What a wonderful event! Here are a few photos, courtesy of Anthony and Susan Clarke.



The Ladies' Breakfast

Eight of us met for a most enjoyable breakfast at Les Cotils, on October 3rd. Our next get-together is scheduled for 21st Nov, at 10 am, at Les Cotils and will be for coffee and / or breakfast. If you are interested in coming, we would love to see you, just let Sarah know



All Saints & All Souls Weekend at Town Church

All Hallows Eve

Saturday 31st October – 5.30 pm

The church will be open to visitors. We will be offering soul cakes once again and decorating with lit pumpkins. We will be encouraging people to explore the church and find out a bit about our traditions and to add a name to the Tree of Remembering. This is a great event for children and the children's area will be turned into Saints Corner for the evening, with colouring activities, pictures and stories about some of the saints. If you



would like to be involved, please speak to Penny.

All Saints Day

Sunday 1st November - 11 am

All Saints' Day is a time when we thank God for the men and women whose lives have shown His grace in a special way. It's a chance to celebrate how God can shape an ordinary life into something beautiful, and to be encouraged by the example of those who have gone before us. The saints remind us that holiness can grow quietly in everyday moments, as well as in the big challenges of life.

All Souls Day (2nd November)

Sunday 1st November – 6.30 pm

In this special service we remember loved ones and friends who have died. Their names will be read as part of the service. If you would like your loved ones remembered in this way, please add their names to the list at the North door, on or before 25th October.





Lots of opportunities to join in the fun:-

Saturday 31st October - All Hallows Eve 5 pm onwards.

Welcomers needed from 4.30 pm to set up, serve refreshments and welcome families. If you can make some soul cakes for the event, that would be greatly appreciated.

Saturday 14th November - Town Church Christmas Fayre 10am-12pm

The Shop will be having a 'sale extraordinaire'. Stock up on stocking fillers and enjoy a mince pie or two at our main fundraiser of the year! We'd love your help to make this wonderful event happen. There are lots of ways to get involved:

- gathering donations of non-perishable food items for raffle prizes
- making up the hampers
- selling raffle tickets
- setting up and clearing away on the day
- running stalls
- serving refreshments
- welcoming visitors
- baking cakes and mince pies

If you enjoy Christmas, community, or simply being part of something joyful, this is your moment!

Thursday 3rd, 10th, 17th December Late Night Christmas Shopping in Town.

The church will stay open later on these evenings, offering tea and coffee and shopping opportunities. Please let Sarah know if you can help, even if it's just for one evening. **Join us on the 10th from 6 pm, to celebrate the season with a glass of mulled wine and some Christmas cheer.** Yes, there will certainly be mince pies!



Retirement, Rediscovered: Life in Rural France

by Glenys Roberts

There's a particular kind of morning that only rural France seems to offer. The light comes in slow and golden, and there's nowhere you need to be. This is retirement life in the French countryside - and it might just be one of the many best-kept secrets in Europe.



A Different Rhythm Back home, a walk was something you scheduled between meetings - brisk, purposeful, over almost before it began. Here, a walk is something else entirely. It's a stroll, dog at your side, no destination in mind beyond wherever the lane or trail happens to lead. The roads are quiet and two cars can pass with room to spare, and the views stretch out for miles - rolling fields, distant church spires, a horizon that never seems to end.

The Garden Becomes a Vocation For many retirees, gardening stops being a weekend chore and becomes something closer to a calling. There's always a bed to dig, a wall to repair, a fence to mend. Small home improvement projects - the kind that got postponed for as long as possible - finally get their due, tackled at a pace that suits rather than rushes and they are done properly.

The Rituals of the Local Town Every rural French town seems to run on its own quiet economy of quality. The butcher knows your name and how you like your usual orders. The fishmonger has something fresh in, always. And the

patisserie - well, the patisserie is reason enough to get up in the morning, the inside is filled with pastries, 2 dozen varieties of bread and cakes & tarts that are both beautifully irresistible and delicious. All look more like a work of art than everyday produce, all with the fantastic flavours that can't be reproduced.

Afternoons have their own rhythm too: a coffee and a slice of cake, or perhaps a small kir, taken at a café table with a clear view of the main square to the right and the church to the left — watching the town go about its business, in no particular hurry other than to complete its needs.

Staying Active, Staying Social

Retirement here doesn't mean slowing to a stop. The local pool often runs a variety of aqua classes, a gentle or energetic but sociable way to stay fit and meet new friends. Between the pool, the local market and the café terrace, there's no shortage of company — just none of the rush.

The Verdict What rural France offers isn't luxury in the traditional sense. It's something more comfortable, quieter and, for many, far more valuable: space, time, and a gentler pace that lets ordinary days feel genuinely good. Where people respect you for who you are and not what you have or earn.



Introducing Marianne Muduviwa

Africans have an ethical philosophy called 'Ubuntu', translated literally as 'humanness' better encapsulated in the phrase "I am, because we are". This worldview emphasises human interconnectedness, compassion and collective responsibility. An everyday practice in Marianne's work, life and community. Marianne Muduviwa, a Zimbabwean born, former South African resident, first moved to the UK in 2004, Liverpool specifically, and 8 years ago to Guernsey. Marianne is the second of two parish representatives on the Town Church Property Management Board. Her links with the church from a young age to present day are important to her. She has an extensive background, working with multiple charities in Liverpool; including the British Red Cross as a Refugee Generalist Advisor, Liverpool YMCA's Homeless Shelter, Liverpool Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation programmes and the C of E Street Pastor's Programme among other social inclusion programmes within UK.

Marianne, who now works locally in healthcare, expressed that her evolving community work is reflected in her new life in Guernsey. She currently leads art and design for her team, working with service users, doing creative stuff with therapeutic goals. She and her colleagues come up with projects that resonate with Guernsey people and tell the story of the island's heritage, an island which she says is fascinating to her.

Marianne has a good working relationship with the Guernsey branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society and proudly celebrated Commonwealth Day this year at an event to Celebrate South Africa as the Country of Note where the Lieutenant Governor was the Guest of Honour. I was not surprised to hear that Marianne who is a 'Red' and proud, (a Liverpool FC supporter) is also very well informed about the local African social football team, the Kalahari Simbas FC, who have annually challenged their Jersey counterpart, INFC since 2023. Whilst the team is comprised largely of African expatriates, some of their players have joined more established Guernsey clubs over the years which has helped with integration into the wider community.

Marianne is no stranger to politics. She worked with Nelson Mandela on one of his legacy programmes between 1998 and 2000. She now has a particular interest in local tourism and culture. 'Community' is very important to her and underpins the contribution she now makes as a Douzenier of St Peter Port. She has historically always worked closely for the benefit of wider community and has collaborated with other leaders and local volunteers who represent specific demographic groups, as a trusted community voice, including liaising with the Guernsey Neighbourhood Police on community affairs. She is part of a local initiative assisting new arrivals with transitioning into island life, by supporting social interaction, implementing a buddy system

and explaining where to get hold of the all-important 'heritage' foodstuffs! All her efforts are underpinned by the realisation that, at the heart of any individual success, is a strong vibrant community.



Dates for the Diary

OCTOBER

Sat 31st **5.30 pm – 6.30 pm** Hallowe'en Event

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st **6.30 pm** All Souls Service

Sunday 8th **11 am** Remembrance Sunday Service

Sat 14th **10 am – 2 pm** Town Church Bonanza Christmas Fayre

Sunday 29th **6.30 pm** Darkness to Light: Advent Carol Service

