



SAVE THE DATE!

27th September
Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Bring & Share Lunch

September 2026, Issue 7

TOWN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



From the Leadership Team

With so much happening in the latter half of the year, please keep an eye on the Save the Date section of the Newsletter.

We are already looking forward to the Harvest Service and Bring & Share Lunch. Invitations went out a couple of weeks ago, to all the artisans, tradespeople and consultants who contributed to recent work on the church building, and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us. Please let Sarah know if you will be attending the lunch and if you are able to bring a plate of food to share. This is a great opportunity for us not only to celebrate their skills but to thank them personally for their care and attention.

Plans are also underway to make the Christmas Sale Extraordinaire, on 14th November, a truly memorable occasion. This is one of our few opportunities to raise funds for the church. Many churches hold regular fundraising events, but without a church hall, this is logistically challenging for Town Church. As ever, we will be relying on your support to help make the evening a success. More details will follow - but rest assured, there will be mince pies.

Speaking of mince pies, we will be holding a Christmas social event in church on Thursday 10th December from 6 pm. Refreshments will be served and 'all are welcome'. This will coincide with the second evening of Late-Night Shopping. The church will remain open until late on the 3rd, 10th and 17th December, to coincide with Late Night Shopping in Town. If you can spare any time, however little, on any of the above dates, please let Sarah know.

An update of the most recent meeting of the Church Property Management Board; Charles Smith presented an exceptionally thorough report on fire-safety in Town Church and will accompany the Churchwardens to their next meeting with the St Peter Port Constables on 8th October to share his findings with them. We are deeply grateful to Charles for taking on this important work. There is an issue with the west doors, which blow open with the wind when unlocked. Stuart Pearce is currently exploring ways to resolve this. Charles Jolly will be starting work on the church floor which was damaged by vandals. He will be working around us, so no closures are necessary. Sarah and Stuart Pearce will be meeting to discuss the state of the church's small garden. There is evidence that the large palms are causing some damage and may need attention. We will also be meeting with a



new team who are interested in maintaining the garden. Finally, we are looking forward to the scaffolding coming down in the very near future!

Ian Burnett and Ron Fernandez have now been officially installed as Vergers and successfully navigated their first public duty earlier this month. A big thank you to both for taking on this important role.

The Refreshment Area will be relocated in mid-October to its original position in the South Transept. Rick James has kindly agreed to oversee the process. Two additional security cameras will be installed to monitor the area. We will be undertaking a deep-clean of the church at the same time and will be looking for volunteers.

Thank you all, as always, for your continued support!

website : www.townchurch.net

Town Church: townchurchgsy@gmail.com

Sarah : sarahannbamford@hotmail.co.uk
07781 112085

Martin : noirmont16@gmail.com
07911 102044

Hazel : hazelemarshall@aol.com

Introducing Chris Inder

Many of you will have seen Chris in and around the Town Church, or elsewhere across the parish, carrying out his duties as Parish Grounds and Maintenance Manager. His remit is extensive: he oversees 42 sites and 84 benches throughout St Peter Port, including Candie Cemetery, Cambridge Park, the Brock Road display, the Stranger's Cemetery in Upland Road, the Brother's Cemetery, and a small cemetery in the Green Lanes that the team inherited when no one else was available to care for it.

Chris has been involved in the upkeep of the parish since 2019, and this year he is particularly proud to have contributed to St Peter Port's entries in the Bailiwick in Bloom Community Competition. The team has created a beautiful herb garden off the Rohais, entered in the biodiversity category, along with two further displays at Candie Cemetery and the "boat" at the Salarie.

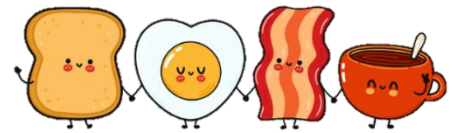
Until recently, Chris and the grounds team also unofficially helped maintain the Town Church garden. Although he has now handed that responsibility to new green thumbs, he remains responsible for keeping the exterior of the church building clean, tidy, and free of weeds.

As a St Peter Port Douzenier, Chris is deeply invested in preserving the parish he grew up exploring - his childhood playground - while also accommodating what he recognises as the inevitable changes to the town's landscape and its usage. His commitment to public service extends even further: he is a Special Constable and a member of Guernsey Civil Defence, providing 24/7 support to the Bailiwick. In addition, Chris is now entering his third year as a parish representative on the Town Church Property Management Board.

Chris is modest and unassuming and leads by example, always hoping to be a role model for those who follow him. His management style reflects his belief in the importance of colleagues feeling genuine ownership of the projects they undertake. He readily acknowledges that he does not always have all the answers and is happy to defer to those with more relevant knowledge and experience when needed. He does not simply "take things in his stride"; rather, his calm personal discipline, possibly a hangover from his days in the military, enables him to manage his responsibilities with efficiency and care, grounded in a sincere sense of duty as a 'Keeper of the Parish'.



Ladies' Breakfast



The Ladies' Breakfast Club will be meeting for the first time on the 3rd October. If you would be interested in joining us for an informal 'ladies breakfast get-together', please let me know.
Sarah



Cruise Ships in September

Cruise ships will be stopping at St Peter Port on the following dates this month:

5th, 9th, 17th, 18th, 23rd

Please speak to Hazel if you would like to be part of the informal team of Welcomers'.

8am Congregation

From 6th September tea & coffee will be served following the 8 am Eucharist. 'Coffee and Croissants' will still take place after 8 am services on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to help with refreshments, please let Sarah know.





Research on Local Flooding

Robyn Surcombe, an occasional Town Church choir member, ran a stall at the recent Seafront Sunday as part of her research into coastal flooding and borrowed a table and a couple of chairs from the church, making a generous donation by way of thanks. She has shared the following information about her research;

"This is a dissertation project for my Physical Geography BSc that I am doing at the University of Edinburgh. The research is essentially looking at which areas of the north of the island might be at greatest risk of coastal flooding under different future sea level rise scenarios. Further, I am researching which social and environmental systems/populations/assets would be affected in these hypothetical scenarios and discussing how this contributes to the overall risk posed to the north of the island. The reason I ran a stall at seafront Sunday was to collect data from the community about experiences of past floods (both at the coast and inland), places in the north that are of high value to the community, and to understand a bit more about the level of perceived risk to coastal flooding that is currently held by the public. The intention here was to integrate the knowledge and values of local people into the research, which is ultimately what climate-hazard related research and management is largely about. I will be processing and writing up the project over the next few months, and it is due around March 2027."

Robyn, we were delighted to be able to help and wish you the best of luck with your dissertation!

Save the Date!

Sunday 27th September - Harvest Thanksgiving



A special service, with special guests, followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch. Please sign up in church or let Sarah know if you will be coming to the lunch and if you are able to bring a plate of food. Wine and beer will be provided. We will be asking for donations.

Tuesday 29th September

Installation of The Venerable Matthew Trick as the Dean of Guernsey

It is a great honour for Town Church to be hosting this event. More details to follow. Please note seating for this event may be extremely limited.

Sunday 4th October – Come & Sing Evensong

A 'Come and Sing Evensong' with the Director of the RSCM, Hugh Morris, is a RSCM member organised event on Sunday 4 October 2026, with a rehearsal at 2.30 pm. The Evensong service will be at 5.00 pm. The event will be at the Town Church, St Peter Port.

Potential adult singers are very welcome and should register by 15 September with the Deanery Secretary, Nikki Harvey: nikki.harvey@deanery.gg

Tea and cakes will be available in between the rehearsal and the service, and we hope that it will be an enjoyable way of meeting singers from other churches and preparing some glorious evensong music which will be supplied on the day.

Saturday 10th October - Les Bourgs Hospice Afternoon Tea

Sarah is currently looking for additional people to make up a table for this event to celebrate World Hospice and Palliative Care Day and to raise funds for Les Bourgs. Tickets cost £35, please contact Sarah if you would like to come along.

Saturday 14th November - Town Church Christmas Sale Day

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 have plans for additional attractions. All offers of help to set up and on the day, gratefully received.



Saturday 10th December – Town Church Christmas Social

Join us in church from 6 pm, to celebrate the season with drinks and nibbles, festive music, good banter among friends and *more* mince pies! All are welcome.

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. Yes, there will certainly be mince pies!



JOIN US FOR AFTERNOON TEA

to celebrate World Hospice & Palliative Care Day

Saturday 10th October 2026, 2-5pm

The Farmhouse

Book your table of 10 (£350) or 11 (£385)

by emailing tickets@lesbourgs.com

Welcome drink on arrival.

Raffle & pop-up shop.

Kindly sponsored by:

OCORIAN

World Hospice Day: Afternoon Tea at the Farmhouse

Many of you will know Jane Kildahl, who is a regular attendee at the 11 am service. Jane has forwarded some information about a fund-raising Afternoon Tea at The Farmhouse on Saturday 10th October. Tickets cost £35 and tables are for 10 or 11 people. Sarah is currently making up a table and is looking for additional people. If you would like to join her, please let her know.

Funeral

The Revd. Gibson Nelson

Gibson's funeral will be held on 17th September at 11am in Castel Church.

Former Members of Town Church – the Late John & Jane Rihoy *by Peter Lane*

Seeing so much scaffolding around town, it is hard to believe that 35 years ago the builders had insufficient work to keep their employees busy. But in 1991 I was fortunate to introduce my brother to John Rihoy who, with his wife Jane, were members of the Town Church.

My brother Sebert, also a retired Headmaster, learned of an orphanage in the Dominican Republic where the electricity had failed. He himself, being a handyman, went and rewired the building, but discovered that the

Dates for the Diary

AUGUST

Sat 29th **7 pm** David Le Page & The Samphire Ensemble.

SEPTEMBER

Friday 11th **6.30 pm** Jonathan Radford & Dina Duisen Recital – Saxophone and Piano

Friday 25th **7.30 pm** Bel Canto Choir Concert

Sunday 27th **11 am** Harvest Thanksgiving Service followed by Bring & Share Lunch

Tues 29th **7 pm** Installation of the Venerable Matthew Trick as Dean of Guernsey

OCTOBER

Friday 2nd **6.30 pm** Octo Voces 'Birds'

Sunday 4th **5 pm** Come & Sing Evensong

Sat 24th **12 pm** Chinese Cookery Demonstration

NOVEMBER

Sat 7th **10 am** The Great Church Clean

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

Sat 14th Town Church Shop Christmas Sale

Friday 16th **5.30 pm** Elizabeth College Sings Evensong

children had no school. He therefore founded a charity (COPA), determined to build a school for them, and he set about raising money in Gloucester, Guernsey and in Florida.

The following year, in October 1992, John Rihoy was pleased to keep 4 of his staff employed by paying the wages and travel costs for a carpenter, a bricklayer, a plasterer and their younger son Gavin (now Chairman of the Board of J. W. Rihoy and Son Ltd) to go there and, alongside my brother, build "Guernsey Classrooms." They worked very hard for 6 weeks and also taught local men their skills, so that a school was completed in the village of La Hoya, 40 miles from the Haitian border; charitable fundraising paid for the teaching staff, equipment and books. Later, a clinic was also built there, and a second school was built in the village of Bombita for refugees who had crossed the mountains from Haiti. Now at last the D.R. government has taken over the funding of the schools, and some of the teachers are now former pupils of those schools.

The E. J. Rihoy Charitable Trust (named after Jane Rihoy) continues to provide financial support, thanks to Jane and John's children, Jeremy, Gavin and Liz, to improve the livelihood and opportunities of some of the world's most impoverished and marginalised communities, particularly in parts of Africa.