

From the Leadership Team

Welcome to Issue 6, another bumper issue! As always, please keep the articles coming, let us know what you've been doing, if you have been away, or have any special memories, thoughts or jokes to share with us.

If you know of anyone who would like a copy of the 'Newsletter' but doesn't have access to the internet, please let us know. Copies are left in church but are, gratifyingly, quickly snapped up! We are happy to reserve a copy for you or arrange to post one to you.

Flower Arranging

The Town Church Flower Arrangers recently spent a lovely afternoon at Faslene's where we enjoyed a fabulous tea and honed our arranging skills! This was the end result, a couple of weeks on! Thanks to Angie, Clare and Christabel. Sarah and Faslene are still learning!



TOWN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

HAPPY Birthday BEN



We were delighted recently to help Zoe's grandson Ben, celebrate his 3rd Birthday in church. 'Dinosaurs' were the order of the day! What an amazing cake!!!

Happy Birthday to the youngest member of our congregation!



General Synod Elections – Could God Be Calling You?

by Rev'd Jon Honour

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

e: jon@trinitygsy.org

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

Introducing; Rev'd John Austerberry

I originate from North Staffordshire; I live in Stoke-on-Trent, home of the Potteries. I studied Theology at Birmingham University; Pastoral Care & Theology at Salisbury & Wells Theology College and Leeds University. I was Ordained at Lichfield Cathedral, and I served in Parish ministry in Newcastle-under-Lyme, and the Peak District near Dovedale. I am a Retired Healthcare Chaplain, and I worked in Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne, Stoke-on-Trent, and Stafford.

I am married; I met my wife Nicola in Lourdes over 42 years ago. I was in a gap year before training for the Priesthood, and Nicola was a student nurse. She is a practising Roman Catholic, and our family is an Inter-Church Family. We have 3 children in their 30 years. Currently we have 4 grandchildren, with another one due in October. Our youngest granddaughter is profoundly deaf; we have been learning British Sign Language. We have just completed Level 2 BSL exams. Now I am a Locum Cover Priest, an Exam Invigilator, and a Tea Boy. We are looking forward to a return to Guernsey.



Music at Town Church

by Peter and Wendy Lane

For the 55 years that we have been linked with Town Church the music in worship has been of a remarkably high standard, and visitors have so often commented on it. Little did I think when invited 45 years ago to join the Oriana Trust that it might lead in some way to our being able to assist it.

The Trust used to meet 4 times a year to distribute interest on money invested by the late Charles Aeschimann, a wine importer. On the Trust already were Deputy Binny Lincoln MBE, Charles's daughter Babs, John Rolph, (Treasurer, former Bank Manager and football referee) and Stanley Green MBE. We did just that, by continuing to support in a small way those Charities which Charles himself had supported. Our number was later increased to six when John Stephenson was also invited to become a Trustee. However, sadly, by 2015 only John Rolph and I (both in our 80's) remained. John had assisted Charles in drawing up the Trust deed. By re-reading it we realised that we had the right, and really needed, to dispose of the invested capital sum according to the complex wording of the Deed. In 2016 we therefore felt we needed an Advocate's advice and asked Adv. Russell Clark to join us. Put simply, it was concluded that Charles wanted his money to be used to foster the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of children and young people.

After much deliberation John suggested making a generous donation to the proposed 'Village' for Le Murier School (which is now beginning to come to fruition), whereupon rather gingerly I proposed the idea of encouraging and supporting young people to join the Town Church Choir. Adv. Russell Clark agreed that both of these suggestions complied with the terms of the Trust Deed, and he helped us identify several other compliant, worthy causes, whereby all the funds were distributed and the Trust closed.

My belief that the Town Church Choir fitted all four of the specified criteria sprang from our three children (and two of our grandchildren) having all benefitted enormously from belonging to the splendid Choir from a young age (helped by several generous members of the congregation) and had been in great awe of the Organist and Choir Master in the 1970's and early 1980's, Roger Surcombe. In fact, so much so, that when we returned to our home in Rocquaine at around 5.30 one Wednesday evening to find smoke billowing from our upstairs windows and our kitchen on fire, their first concern was to ensure they would not be late for Choir Practice at 7.30. Indeed, we were unable at first to phone the fire brigade as the phone was already ringing; another choir member (Sally Pedlar) was asking for a lift to get her there.

When in 2016 the grant was made to the Town Church Choir our amazingly gifted organist, Stephen le Prevost, had the wonderful idea of establishing choral scholarships similar to those existing at such places as Westminster Abbey, where he served prior to his return to the Island. These enable 10 young people with good singing voices to enjoy the good discipline, training and experience of choral singing whilst also receiving free tuition on another instrument, (the organ being one possibility). In addition, we in the congregation find their enriching contribution to the worship during term-time helps lift our hearts and minds heavenwards.

Croissant & Coffee

The 8am Congregation meets after the service on the first Sunday of each month. It's a simple, friendly moment to pause over fresh coffee and croissants, to catch up, welcome newcomers, and enjoy one another's company before heading into the rest of the day.



Come and 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

Save the Date!

Sunday 27th September
Harvest Thanksgiving



A special service, with special guests, followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch.

Tuesday 29th September
Induction of the Dean of Guernsey

It is a great honour for Town Church to be hosting this event. More details to follow.



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!

*Congratulations to
Peggy & Martin
on their 70th Wedding
Anniversary!*



Harvest Thanksgiving



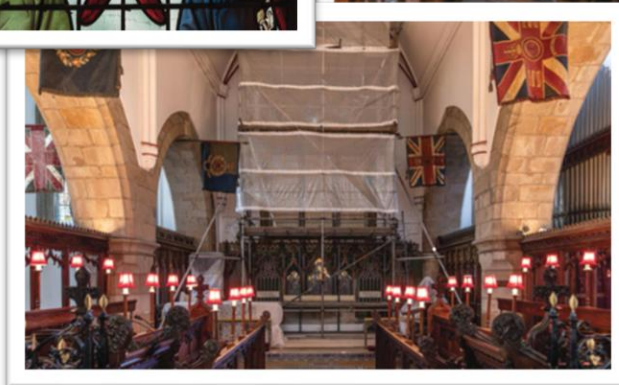
On 27th September, we will come together for a celebration of the harvest - not of crops, but of the wonderful skills, creativity and care that have transformed our church building and kept it safe for generations to come. We will mark this occasion with a special service, followed by a Bring & Share lunch.

We are delighted to be inviting all the artisans, tradespeople and consultants who contributed to this work. Their craftsmanship and dedication have blessed us richly, and we look forward to welcoming them as our guests for both the service and lunch.

If you have any spare time, please could you help with flowers and decorating the church for this event. Please contact Sarah or Angie. All help, gratefully received.

If you are able to bring a plate of food to the lunch, please let Sarah know. A sign-up sheet for lunch will appear in church in September. Wine and beer will be provided, and we will be asking for donations. We will also need volunteers to set up and to help clear away afterwards.

As always, thank you so much for everything you all do.



It's Your Move

by Rev'd Penny Graysmith

You may have heard the name PACE (it stands for Practical Assistance in Christian Education). It's a Guernsey inter-denominational organisation which has worked alongside teachers and students for over 34 years. Its aims are to connect schools and churches, to communicate Christian beliefs and to create space to explore faith. The PACE team offers school assemblies, prayer spaces, lessons and lunch clubs in schools.

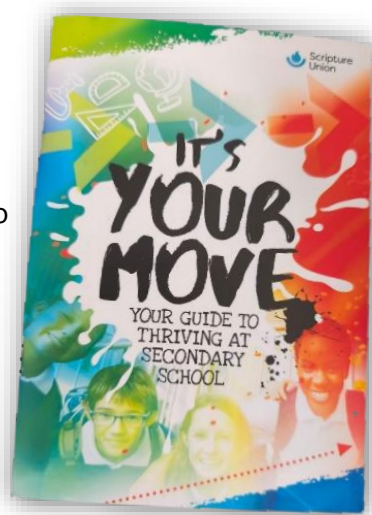
One of their initiatives is to give every child who is going to start secondary school a book called 'It's Your Move- your guide to thriving at secondary school'. It's got top tips such as making friends, dealing with bullying, finding your way around, homework and much more. There's space to write, draw and reflect and stories from young people who have made that move.

In order to finance this initiative, PACE invites local churches to contribute. As Town Church sent a donation for this, I was invited to Vauvert School to take part in the lesson when the books were given out and to present them to the Year 6 children there.

It was a really good experience, seeing the work that PACE does, interacting with the young people and hearing about how the book has helped some of the people who have been given it in recent years.

If you want to find out more about PACE, who are always hoping for both volunteers to join them in their work and for donations to make it happen, their website is paceguernsey.com.

I was asked to pass on a BIG 'thankyou' to Town Church for supporting this great project.



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Dates for the Diary

AUGUST

- Tues 18th** 7.30 pm The Staples Ensemble
1 pm Ian Burnett & Sally Henderson 'The Winged Hour'
- Fri 21st**
- Sat 29th** 7 pm David Le Page & The Samphire Ensemble

SEPTEMBER

- Fri 11th** 6.30 pm Jonathan Radford & Dina Duisen
- Fri 25th** 7.30 pm Bel Canto Choir Concert

OCTOBER

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

Thank You!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who serve tea & coffee following the 11 am service. Rick James organises a rota of volunteers, so if you would like to help out, please speak to Rick or Sarah.



Let there be Light

An extract from an article by Tamara Timothy, taken with permission from 'Guernsey Property and Construction'.

"Whilst work on the outside of the church is about restoring the building in as historically sympathetic a manner as possible, a recent project inside the church has been focused on using modern technology to improve its efficiency. The church was fully rewired about 15 years ago, with new light fittings put in at that time. Now a smaller but still significant, project has seen all the lights replaced with modern LEDs. It's not work that will be particularly noticeable to church visitors, but Stuart said it should make a significant difference to the coffers. "Renewing the internal lighting does mean a significant initial outlay, but it will be worth it in the longer term. The new technology that's being installed, not available 15 years ago, should bring a saving every year of around two-thirds of our current running costs."

The church's lighting scheme has been purposefully designed to be subtle – with the focus on the building itself rather than any light fittings. "We used up and down lighting in the design so that there is sufficient light to read a hymn book during a service, but it also reflects light downwards off the lovely vaulted white ceilings."

"Throughout the church we have focused on key features, so the spotlights pick out the stone columns, the granite arches and the vaulted ceiling. Then in certain windows we have lights hidden behind a plinth on the windowsill to

shine up the columns and highlight the architectural features of the church."

It's the type of work that makes a significant difference but is barely noticeable to most church users – drawing attention to the historic building rather than the modern intervention. For Stuart and his team, that's exactly how it should be."

Tamara was in conversation with Stuart Pearce of CCD.



Cruise Ships in August

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

4th, 5th, 8th, 11th, 16th, 23rd, 25th, 28th August.

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



'THE WINGED HOUR'

A lunchtime recital of song featuring soprano and tenor voices and soprano saxophone.

With:
Ian Burnett & Sally Henderson

Music by:
Handel, Schubert, Schumann, Faure & Grieg

Friday 21st August
Town Church
1 pm

Entry is free with a retiring collection in aid of the Choral Scholars' Fund

All are welcome!

*Deep in the sun-searched growths the dragon-fly
Hangs like a blue thread loosened from the sky: -
So this wing'd hour is dropt to us from above.*
Dante Gabriel Rossetti



Rev'd Gibson Nelson

by Peter Lane

Members of our 11 o'clock congregation and many other Islanders will have been saddened on learning of the death on 26th July of Rev. Robert Gibson Nelson at the age of 91 (whom we all knew as Gibson). He was husband to his late wife, Pamela, father of John, Rachel and the late Michael, father-in-law of Nin, grandfather of Rebecca, Tor & Lydia, and great-grandfather of Aife and Eliza.

After serving as Vicar of St John's Church, he became Rector of the Castel Parish until his retirement in 1989. Following the implant of a pacemaker in 2023 he moved into St John's Residential Home in Sausmarez Park and had to say goodbye to his lovely Labrador.

Despite his disablement he came to worship regularly by taxi until the Sunday before he died, greatly appreciating the friendship of many, the richness of the worship and especially the choral music.