

A large, leafless tree in silhouette against a sunset sky. The tree's branches are intricate and spread across the upper half of the frame. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. In the background, other trees and a dark landscape are visible under the low sun.

# St Martin's Cloak

December 2025 & January 2026

## St Martin's Parish Church Directory

Rector	Rev Daniel Foot	238303
Rector's Warden	Laura Stockwell	235498
People's Warden	Paul Steele	233203
Honorary Treasurer	Neil de la Mare	237816
Organist & Choir	Vacant Post	TBC
Men's Society	Patrick Banfield	patrick@cwgsy.net
Ladies of Faith Together (LOFT)	Carol Guille	258364
Music Group	Vacant Post	TBC
Cloak Magazine Advertising	Stuart Lawson	235470
Church Flowers	Susan Banfield	susanb@cwgsy.net
Coffee/Craft Mornings	Sallysara Windsor	256342
Church Office	Claire Holliday	231197
Youth & Children's Minister	Claudia Evans Cox	07781 165077
Youth & Children's Minister	Natasha Luggar	07781 144222

Find us on Facebook pages:

'St Martin's Church, Guernsey'  
'Roundabout, St Martin's'  
'St Martin's Junior Church'



Details of St Martin's Parish Church and its services can be found at:  
[www.stmartinschurch.gg](http://www.stmartinschurch.gg)

## Les Camps Methodist Church Directory

Minister	Rev Anne Richardson	01481 239144
Leadership Team	Yvette Barbe	07911 733721
	Jean Carre	07781 427947
	Robyn Craig	07911 712272
	Don Lowe	07911 715712
	Vonnie Mahoney-Bougourd	07781 139992
	Andrew Redhead	01481 233150
	Sarah Snell	07911 718812
Discipleship & Small Group Coordinator	Helen Mahoney	07911 712271

## Welcome to the December edition of the Cloak

Have you ever wondered who Saint Nicholas was? We are told he was born in 270 AD to a wealthy Greek family in Patara, Asia Minor. Ordained a priest by his uncle and, following his parents early demise, he gave all their wealth away to the poor.

He once heard of a devout man who lost his money and so could not afford dowries for his three daughters. Hearing of the plight, Nicholas went to the man's house under cover of darkness and threw purses of gold coins through the window - enough for all his daughters to be married and be spared a life of prostitution.

On another occasion he spared three innocent men from execution, stepping in to lower the sword just before sentence was passed. He went on to chastise a juror for accepting bribes. Generosity & justice combined!



All at the Cloak wish you our readers a Merry and Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Photographs & Anecdotes

If you have taken any photographs\* or have any parish anecdotes you would like to have featured in the Cloak, please send them to:

[cloak@stmartinschurch.gg](mailto:cloak@stmartinschurch.gg)

## St Martin's Cloak

Covering the Whole Parish



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# Rector's Letter

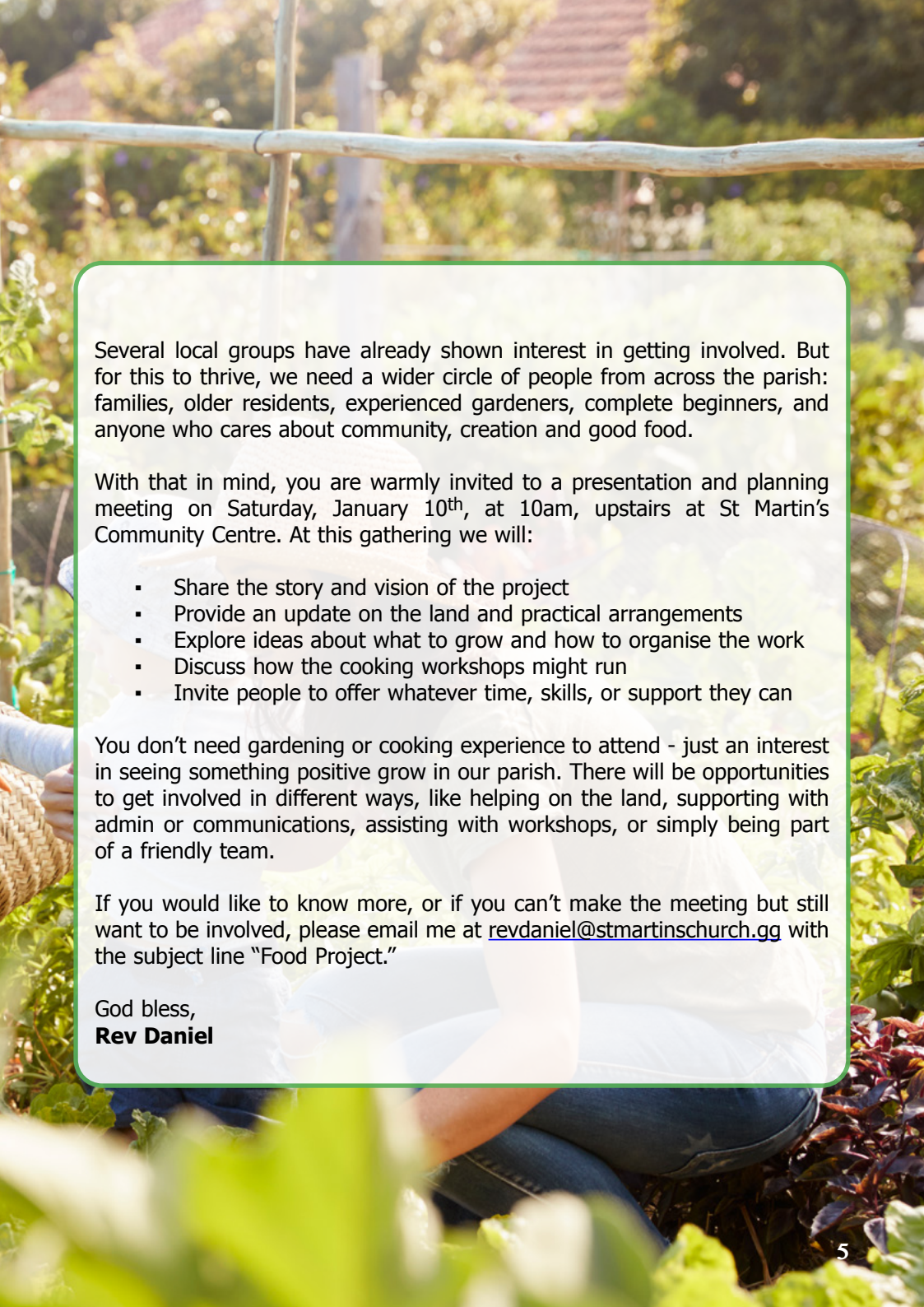
**Dear friends,**

Some of you may remember that in 2023 I wrote in this magazine about an idea for a community food project in St Martin. Since then, we have encountered a few obstacles, like land use, permissions, and figuring out the details properly. Progress has been slower than I hoped, but the good news is that we are finally ready to begin!

The vision hasn't changed. Guernsey is a great place to live, but we all know that food prices can be really high, especially for fresh fruit and vegetables. When I first arrived on the island, I noticed how much more expensive healthy food was compared to the UK. Meanwhile, processed and less healthy options were often the cheapest way to feed a family. Many of you have shared your own memories of when we grew much more of our food locally, making Guernsey feel more affordable.

Our project aims to rediscover some of that past in a way that serves our community today.

We are working with the parish to use a piece of agricultural land in St Martin to create a shared growing space. This will not be individual allotments but a community project where we plan, plant, tend and harvest together. The produce will be shared among those involved and any surplus will be used for cooking workshops in the Community Centre kitchen. These workshops will help people learn how to turn simple, seasonal ingredients into tasty, nourishing meals.



Several local groups have already shown interest in getting involved. But for this to thrive, we need a wider circle of people from across the parish: families, older residents, experienced gardeners, complete beginners, and anyone who cares about community, creation and good food.

With that in mind, you are warmly invited to a presentation and planning meeting on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10am, upstairs at St Martin's Community Centre. At this gathering we will:

- Share the story and vision of the project
- Provide an update on the land and practical arrangements
- Explore ideas about what to grow and how to organise the work
- Discuss how the cooking workshops might run
- Invite people to offer whatever time, skills, or support they can

You don't need gardening or cooking experience to attend - just an interest in seeing something positive grow in our parish. There will be opportunities to get involved in different ways, like helping on the land, supporting with admin or communications, assisting with workshops, or simply being part of a friendly team.

If you would like to know more, or if you can't make the meeting but still want to be involved, please email me at [revdaniel@stmartinschurch.gg](mailto:revdaniel@stmartinschurch.gg) with the subject line "Food Project."

God bless,  
**Rev Daniel**



# Parish Matters

With this year ending we can look back on the achievements of the parish. The building refurbishment is now complete and what an improvement it has been. The new library is becoming a bigger success than before with more people using it.

The Spring and Summer flowers have been some of the best we have ever had and we thank our Floral leader Phil who arranges them, along with his volunteer team. They brighten up the parish throughout the seasons.

Christmas sees John Garnham finally retiring from parish maintenance after more comebacks than an 80's pop group and we thank him for all the work he has done over the years, along with his wife Marilyn who has volunteered so much of her time with him. We wish them the absolute best.

As I write this, the Christmas market will have happened and we thank Hayley Le Boutillier for organising the event along with all the year's events for the parish. We are grateful for how many people come and support these events and look forward to planning more in 2026.

## Christmas & New Year 2025 Bin collection

- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> put out is now Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December instead
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December put out is now Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January instead

If anyone wishes to leave a tip for the waste collectors who do an amazing job, you can leave one in an envelope at the parish office.

The end of this year sees Ben Gregg stepping down after 26 years on the Douzaine and over a decade as Dean of the Douzaine. Ben has been a great servant to the parish with his leadership, building knowledge and hands-on approach quite literally, with his involvement in the refurbishment. You could see him several mornings a week for the past two years conducting all sorts of work.



*Ben Gregg retires as Dean of the Douzaine*

Ben was honoured with an invite to Buckingham Palace with his late wife Val a few years ago; a day he said he will never forget.

The Constables who have had the honour to be elected and stand under his leadership have learnt so much from him with his experience of the parish and much more and have always had his ear and support in conducting their role.

The new Douzaine meeting room was named the "Ben Gregg" room and was opened by him at the end of 2024, so his name will remain synonymous with the parish forever. It's not often someone leaves a mark on a role that Ben leaves, but it can be said that he will be missed by us all and we thank him for his services to St Martin and his friendship that will continue to last.

Both the Douzaine and Constables wish him all the best and while we think he will put his feet up we know that he intends to continue volunteering with work around the parish.

**Dave Beausire**  
Senior Constable



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# St Martin's Parish Church

## Special Services and Events:

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>10.30am</b> Children's Carol Service
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>6.30pm</b> Heartbeat 'Light up a Heart' Carol Service
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>2.30pm</b> Rotary Carol Service <b>5.00pm</b> Christingle Service
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11.15am</b> HSC Carol Service
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>6.30pm</b> Seven Lessons and Carol Service
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>3.00pm</b> Crib Service <b>11.00pm</b> Midnight Mass
<b>Thur 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Family Communion

## Regular Services and Events:

Our regular Sunday services are:

- 8am** Book of Common Prayer
- 9.15am** Bubble Church (at the Community Centre)
- 10am** Holy Communion
- 10am** Junior Church (at the Community Centre)
- 6.30pm** Evensong

**Thursdays** during the school term: **2pm** Holy Communion

*A short service held upstairs at the Community Centre, followed by refreshments.*

## Roundabout Parent and Toddler Group

*Wednesday Mornings (term time) at 10am - St Martin's Community Centre*

## Coffee/Craft morning

*Tuesday Mornings at 10am - St Martin's Community Centre*

## Youth Group

*Thursday at 7pm - St Martin's Community Centre*

*More details on church notice board or email [claireh@stmartinschurch.gg](mailto:claireh@stmartinschurch.gg)*



# Les Camps Methodist Church

## Services and Activities:

### Sundays:

Worship at **10.30am** with Lightbulb and Crèche for 0–16 years.

Worship at **6pm**

Youth Cell at **7.30pm**

### Cell Groups:

These small groups meet at various times during the day and evening throughout the week. They are an opportunity for fellowship alongside learning how to live a life centred around Jesus.

### Knit and Natter:

On the second & fourth Thursday of the month between **2pm & 4pm** is a chance to sit and knit and catch up with friends old and new.

### Saturday Pop-in:

On the first & third Saturday of the month between **10am & 12 noon** our church hall is open for people to meet for a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or two.

### Tuesday Toddlers:

In the hall next to Les Camps church **9.30am to 11.15am** (term time). Plenty of activities and play for the children. Refreshments are served, then song time is at the end of the session.

*For further information please contact Helen Mahoney  
[helenmahoney@methodist.org.gg](mailto:helenmahoney@methodist.org.gg) or 07911 712271*

# Sketch Club

On a slightly chilly but gorgeous sunny evening in mid-September, the churchyard was invaded by a rare breed of folk, armed with pencils, pens, watercolours, and an eye for detail. More than 40 members of The St. Peter Port Sketch Club spread themselves out around the church and the medieval hamlet of La Bellieuse and recorded the stunning ancient buildings and the glorious 13<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St. Martin.



*Debbie - pen & watercolour of Church porch*

Although the club usually gather in Town to draw on Thursday evenings through the Summer, they occasional venture further afield and pick a destination outside St. Peter Port. Previous drawing locations have been as far away as Jersey, Sark and even The Bridge!

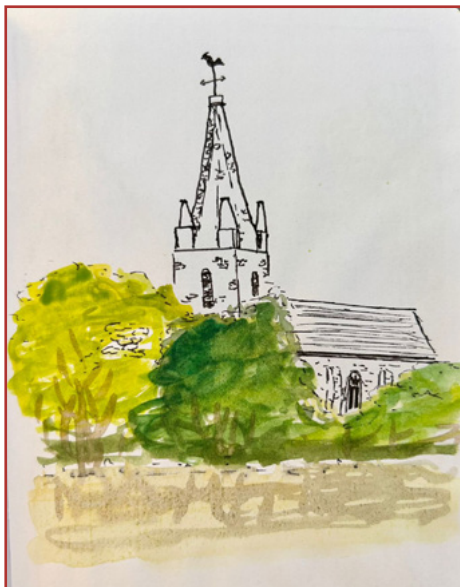
With over 150 members in the group, aged from 8 to 80, we meet every Thursday evening at 5.45pm at different locations each week during the Spring to Autumn. The point of the evening is to observe and capture the urban environment around us, in whatever drawing medium takes your fancy!



*Charlotte - pen drawing of Church porch*

The 'urban sketchers' draw for about an hour, then gather to show their work to the group. Sketchers are encouraged to say something about their drawings, if they want to, which often revolves around the challenges of drawing; getting the spire to fit on the page; was it the perspective that caused difficulties; the shading; the trees; what made you choose that

position and how you thought about composing the view; the hundreds of gravestones.



*Danielle - Church in charcoal & watercolour*

St Peter Port is such a beautiful town with so many different places to draw. The layout of the buildings, squares and open spaces are largely as it has evolved from the original medieval settlement which give the town an organic quality. The steep gradients which enclose the town on two sides result in spectacular views over the rooftops interrupted by occasional church spires.

It is wonderful to spot the church spires in the sketches, which act as little references points to the high ground in the landscape. We have some great church spires.

Particular favourites of the Sketch Club are:

- St Josephs (attributed to Augustus Pugin) which is one of the finest examples of a town scale gothic spire anywhere,
- Ebenezer Church, another fine example of a gothic church on a residential street which has a fine sculptural quality to the stone spire, and
- Notre Dame Church which is accessed via narrow alleyways but from further away appears as the sharpest of points on the horizon and is incredibly difficult to draw.

To make a trip to St. Martin's Parish Church, and to sketch its spire with the setting sun glistening on the beautiful granite stonework, made for a wonderful group of sketches, a few of which are shown here.



*Andy - pencil drawing of porch with La Gran'mere*

At the end of every year we exhibit some of the works. Next year we are at the George Crossan Gallery in the Market Building from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026.



# Sketch Club



*James - Church in pen and water colour*

The St. Peter Port Sketch Club is organised by Charlie Hodder and Stuart Pearce of CCD Architects, Surveyors & Heritage Consultants, who also advise on the maintenance and upkeep of St. Martin's Parish Church.



*Invasion of the St Peter Port sketch club*

If you would like to come along next year then please get in touch – Charlie 07911 729600, Stuart 07911 730950. Thank you to Reverend Daniel for opening the church for us.



**Stuart Pearce**  
Joint Organiser

The GVS Russels Social Club is located within Le Grand Courtil, Rue Maze, it is a social club mainly for the elderly to spend the day with friendly company where they receive the following:

- Morning tea or coffee with biscuits
- Morning music and entertainment
- Three course lunch
- Afternoon music and entertainment
- Afternoon tea or coffee with cake

Daily price for all the above is £8.50.

We have volunteers that can offer hairdressing services if required and have bus transport that can collect and drop off people (depending on availability).



The Russels also runs one of the islands bathing services for people who cannot have a bath or shower at home.

This is for people who have reasonable mobility and do not require any specialist care. Our volunteers are trained bathing assistants. It is a free bathing service for the Guernsey community.

This Christmas we will be having a Christmas week for all our clients with a visit from Father Christmas.

Please contact Mrs Niki Martin on 238055 for more details and availability.

**Niki Martin**  
Social Club Manager

# Christmas Quiz

with thanks to our quiz master, Gary J Vaudin

1. William the Conqueror was the first Norman King of England. On what day in 1066 was he crowned?
  2. What is the title of the nativity ode that English poet, John Milton, wrote in 1629?
  3. What is the name of the island in the Indian Ocean that William Mynors, English sea-captain, discovered on Christmas Day 1643?
  4. Charles Wesley was a prolific hymnwriter. Among over 6,500 hymns that he wrote was Hymn for Christmas-Day. By what title is it nowadays known?
  5. Who introduced Christmas trees to England around the advent of the nineteenth century?
  6. A poem published anonymously in 1823 under the title of Account of a visit from St Nicholas is better known by its first line. What is that line?
  7. What was the title of the novella written by English novelist, Charles Dickens, which was first published in London on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1843?
  8. Who is credited with devising the concept of sending greetings cards at Christmastime and, in 1843, introducing the world's first commercial Christmas card?
  9. What is a santon?
  10. One of the largest light trees in Europe is located where?
- Answers on page 28.*

## Repairs ? Questions ? Help is here.

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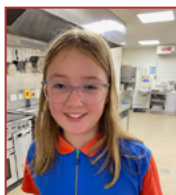


# Guides Update

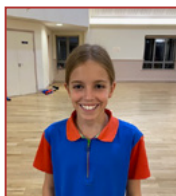
It was my great pleasure to pay a return visit to the 10<sup>th</sup> Guides at their Friday meeting in the Community Centre. It seemed (and was) a long time since I had seen the girls. The plan had been to visit them at their Island Guide Camp at Government House during the summer but unfortunately, I had an operation and couldn't drive.

So it was a treat to see the girls who had been at the last meeting I attended, plus a goodly number of new Guides. Their activity for the evening was making cookies but using some scientific knowledge and personal decisions, thus altering the given recipe to their taste. The girls worked in small teams and fortunately each batch of cookies looked good although different. They took their cookies home but a little broken piece from my team's offering was crispy and tasty!

While the cookies baked, I took the opportunity to ask four of the girls who attended the summer camp for their thoughts. They all agreed that it had been fun and they liked sleeping with their friends in a tent.



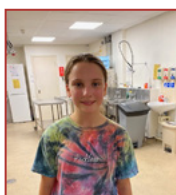
**Esther** enjoyed the games and learning a dance routine while the best part was putting on their performance.



**Arwyn** liked doing activities based on different years. She also enjoyed mixing with Guides from other companies.



**Zahra's** favourite part was the camping experience and nature-based activities. These included making toys out of natural materials.



**Fabiana** enjoyed sharing a tent with friends and the team games, especially the memory sorting activity.

I think Captain Amy has some very keen campers for future years.



**Rosemary Bishop-White**





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# Easy Christmas Cake

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put mixed dried fruit, zest and juice of orange and lemon, alcohol, softened butter and light soft brown sugar in a large pan set over a medium heat.
2. Bring to the boil then lower the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Tip the fruit mixture into a large bowl and leave to cool for 30 minutes.
3. Heat oven to 150C / 130C fan / gas 2. Line a deep 20cm cake tin with a double layer of baking parchment, then wrap a double layer of newspaper around the outside - tie with string to secure.
4. Add plain flour, ground almonds, baking powder, mixed spice, ground cinnamon and cloves, flaked almonds, eggs and vanilla extract to the fruit mixture and stir well, making sure there are no pockets of flour.
5. Tip into prepared tin, level the top with a spatula and bake in the centre of the oven for around 2hrs. After 2hrs insert skewer into the centre of the cake to test if it's done. If any wet cake mixture clings to the skewer, return the cake to the oven for another 10 mins, then check again and keep cooking, checking every 10 mins until skewer comes out dry.
6. Remove cake from oven, poke holes in it with skewer and spoon over 2tbsp of your chosen alcohol. Leave cake to cool in the tin.
7. To store, peel off baking parchment and store in a cake tin.
8. Feed cake with 1-2tbsp alcohol every week until you ice it.
9. Don't feed the cake for the final week to give the surface a chance to dry before icing.

## INGREDIENTS

- 1kg mixed dried fruit  
(use a mix of raisins, sultanas, currants, cherries, cranberries, prunes or figs)
- zest and juice of 1 orange
- zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 150ml brandy  
(you can also use sherry, whiskey or rum, plus extra for feeding)
- 250g softened pack butter
- 200g light soft brown sugar
- 175g plain flour
- 100g ground almond
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 2tsp mixed spice
- 1tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 100g flaked almonds
- 4 large eggs
- 1tsp vanilla extract

**James Martin**

Celebrity Chef



# Beavers Remember



During preparation for Remembrance Day, traditionally observed from All Souls' Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> November till Remembrance Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup> November, parishioners may have noticed that the main pathway leading to and from St Martin's Parish Church was lined with poppies.

Hand-crafted by boys and girls of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Guernsey Beaver Colony, each poppy commemorated a man or woman of St Martin's Parish who died in the line of duty during the First and Second World Wars.

Though most of the poppies in the churchyard were of their natural scarlet red colour, a few were purple.

Those purple poppies symbolised commemoration of the millions of animals such as carrier pigeons, dogs, horses, donkeys and mules that served alongside humans and died in those horrendous conflicts.

The names of the fallen are inscribed in bas-relief lettering on plaques of bronze affixed to the war memorial of granite that stands in the grounds of La Salle Paroissiale, as shown in the photos below.



**Gary J Vaudin**



*Poppies handcrafted by the Beavers lined the Church pathway during the period of remembrance.*



# Decluttering Debunked

OK, I admit it. Ask any member of my family and they will say that I am a hoarder. Of course, in my mind, I can justify holding on to anything and I have a rationale for every item which I keep.

Hoarding syndrome was recognised as a condition over 10 years ago. I hope that I am not fooling myself when I say that it is not that bad in my case. I do dispose of items which can either be recycled, donated or thrown away. In fact, I have a friend who lists a visit to the Longue Hougue Recycling Centre as a treat for me!

I am also an enthusiastic domestic waste recycler. Indeed, to my shame, I recently discovered that I had been a little too enthusiastic when Guernsey Waste reminded everyone of what could and should not be put in blue bags. I am sorry, I genuinely thought empty medicine blister packs qualified!

What is the point of all this introspection? Well, the house which I have lived in for the last 38 years is for sale and I will not have the same space once I am in my next abode. Therefore, I am sorting through everything with a view to paring it down to the minimum. Let us look at my options for disposing of the clutter.

First port of call is my children. The condition is that if they want it, they must take it. The next option is to dispose of it through recycling or dumping at Longue Hougue.

Of course that entails a 'goodbye' of some sort.

Then there is the valuable item, either aesthetic or useful, which has been damaged or broken. It is being held in the belief that I can fix it 'when I have time'. I am retired and without too many onerous responsibilities. There is never going to be a better time than now. Decision time, repair or dispose.

Then there are the left-over materials from various DIY projects which 'may come in handy in the future'. Hinges feature highly. Also locks, draft excluding strips, pieces of metal, glass, protective electrical tubing, coaxial and heavy electrical cable. Well, the future has run out, and it is either a charity donation or, more likely, the tip. A friend took some of that matting which prevents weeds and a pond liner - most satisfying. But they had been there for at least 30 years!

I also have a considerable stash of screws and nails, some of which I will never use. It is much easier to use Phillips screws with an electric drill than slot screws and so they are basically obsolete. The collection was sorted into Stanley organisers over some very rewarding afternoons. Some items were recycled.

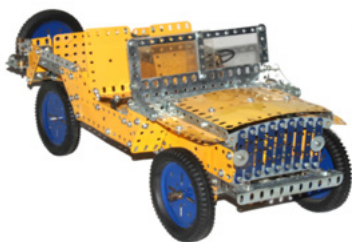
Books are tricky. Charity centres are becoming selective. The increasing use of Kindle must have something to do with it. I am keeping my favourite authors - Le Carre, Neil Stephenson,





Len Deighton, Hemingway. But sadly many books have had to go to the paper recycling.

The Meccano set was a special challenge. I had spent many happy childhood hours constructing vehicles with steering, gear trains and even a differential drive. It would be very hard to destroy them completely.



My eldest son had inherited my original sets which were still in their boxes. There was some additional equipment which he may have acquired second hand. This was loose in various boxes.

After a little research I bought two Stanley organiser boxes. I then set about sorting the loose pieces and putting them in sections which I had created according to size. The result was very satisfying. I then noticed that one of the lids of one of the older boxes was broken. The flap which fitted around the box containing the parts had been torn off in places.

After chewing over the problem in bed one night I found some empty boxes which had the right dimensions. I trimmed them up and glued them on to the lid. I then covered the flaps with

some red electrical tape to match the colours of the box - very pleasing.

I must admit that my motivation for this article was that a deeper meaning might emerge. I have tried to crowbar a couple of ideas into a coherent shape, but to be honest, they don't fully ring true. I have also been thinking about the de-cluttering gurus with their rules and processes. But I haven't needed a hangar-sized warehouse, or restricted what I have kept according to a trusty motto, or done it over two days.

I have genuine sympathy for those struggling to let possessions go but I have to say that I found the experience energising and invigorating. The more I did the more excited I became. Ideas for organising repairing and disposing of possessions flooded in.

My advice is to **relax**. If you really want to keep something, even if there is no practical or logical reason, keep it. On the other hand if you have no practical use, happy memory or other reason for keeping an item - dispose of it.

Somebody said that life is like a game of Monopoly. In the end everything goes back in the box. And spare a thought for those you might leave behind. They will have to deal with every piece which you don't.

**Richard Corbin**



# Community Chaplain

We took the opportunity to interview our newly appointed Community Chaplain, Hester Botha to learn a bit more about the person and the role. As well as being a biomedical sciences graduate, Hester is qualified in Pastoral Counselling.

Hi Hester - thanks for taking the time to speak to us...

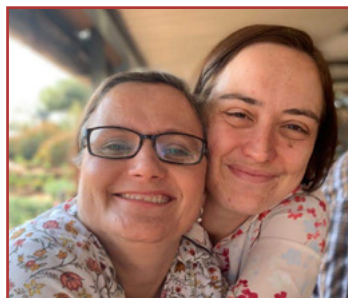
**Q1. Tell us a little about yourself and what brought you and the family to Guernsey?**

Well, I am the youngest of 7 and was raised in Pretoria, South Africa. My husband, Stefan, and I met each other in the laboratory while I was still training to become a scientist. We were engaged two months later and married soon after. It had always been Stefan's dream to go to England, so on our second anniversary we travelled to the UK on what was meant to be a one year working holiday. Little did we know that God had other plans. Without going into too much detail, the week before we were due to go back to South Africa, Stefan was offered a permanent position at North Middlesex Hospital. Even before this we both felt that our time in the UK was not over.

Fast forward 14 years; we are living in Loughton; Stefan is working at the London Clinic; I am the community family and children's lead for our church, and we have three wonderful girls.

By God's grace we had a community of people around us that chose to be family for us and shared life with us in the most extraordinary way. However, Stefan was under a great deal of pressure at work, and it was starting to take a toll on family life and his health. We knew that something needed to change and earnestly prayed that God would show us a clear way forward. It didn't happen overnight, but God's timing, as always, was perfect and Stefan was approached about a job in Guernsey. Being quite averse to change it was unusual for me to feel absolute peace about this opportunity. We knew that God was in it and held on to His promises. When Stefan and I came to the island for his interview we both had a strong sense that we would end up here and sure enough he was offered the job and here we are!

**Q2. Do you have a childhood hero? What was it that inspired you?**



My sister, 13 years my senior, was and still is my hero. Our mum passed away when I was 1 year old and my sister raised me.

She is an incredible person, strong in faith with an open heart and hand for anyone in need. I would not be the person I am today without her influence and constant support.

### Q3. What makes you laugh?

Our three girls. Every single day!

### Q4. What does your typical family week look like? Which parts do you look forward to? What is the biggest challenge?

Absolute chaos 😂!! I am quite scatty and my ADHD brain doesn't like routine so life can get quite interesting. Between Stefan working on call shifts, the girls having ballet, swimming or drama and me trying to keep the household going and everyone fed; it can get a bit overwhelming at times, but I wouldn't change it. The girls and I all enjoy doing crafts and baking so there is always a new project or recipe to look forward to.



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# Community Chaplain

**Q5. Explain what a Community Chaplain is and what attracted you to the role?**

Hmmm. First, I would say that my particular job is not a traditional chaplaincy job. This position is quite unique in that we are creating something new and building it as we go along. I have a real passion for children and families. Knowing how challenging and isolating parenting can be (particularly without close family around) my heart is to support parents (in particular) in any way. My job will include facilitating parenting courses, liaising with other charities, coming alongside families to support them with practical help as well as emotional support. The end goal would be to lead people to Christ through building relationships, because, in my opinion, it is the only way to do parenting right.

**Q6. Tell us a little bit more about the 'Care for the Family' organisation? How does it underpin what you do?**

Care for the family is a Christian charity in the UK that focuses on promoting strong family bonds and helping those who have difficulties within the family unit. They focus primarily on parenting, marriages and bereavement and use many different platforms and resources to reach as many families as possible. To begin with I will be focusing on the parenting courses which are a great resource to help parents connect with their children, set healthy boundaries and teach their

children emotional resilience through different techniques. I am still in the process of training, but we are hoping to kick off early in the new year with our first course focusing specifically on parents with primary school aged children.

**Q7. What do you have planned over the next 12 months?**

As mentioned, parenting courses will be a big part of what I will be doing over the next year. Part of this will include developing relationships with local charities, other churches and schools to make sure that we reach as many people as we can.

**Q8. Can you describe some of the challenges that families face in 2025?**

Even though life has changed a lot over the years I believe, fundamentally, we still want the same things for our children. We want them to be healthy, happy, well-adjusted human beings that make a positive contribution to their community. How we support our children in becoming those people is the challenge. There is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to parenting. There are many books, philosophies, courses and opinions and this is exactly why I feel that parenting should be done with God at the centre. Ultimately, He knows us and our children better than we could ever hope to, so who better to give instruction than the Manufacturer? We live in an age of information overload

and that brings its own challenges. Trying to be consistent in an ever-changing world, providing security and stability while also allowing children to find their own identities are but few of the challenges that cross our paths as parents. Trusting God that He not only has a plan for our children but will also guide them on the way is the easiest and hardest thing to do.



**Q9.** How does your Christian faith support your role?

My Christian faith is the thing that keeps me going. It is my centre, the place where I begin and end. It is my quiet, my strength, my wisdom, my joy. Without my faith I have nothing and am nothing. This includes and covers my work and my everyday life.

**Q10.** What is the best way to find out more or to contact you?

I love people and building relationships. Feel free to contact me via email or give me a call for a catchup. Doing life together is the goal!

**Hester Botha**

Community Chaplain  
Hesterb@stmartinschurch.gg



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# **ST MARTIN'S PARISH CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**10:30AM CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**6:30PM HEARTBEAT 'LIGHT UP A HEART'  
CAROL SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**2.30PM ROTARY CAROL SERVICE**

**5PM CRISTINGLE  
REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**11:15 HSC CAROL SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**6:30PM SEVEN LESSONS AND CAROLS  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS**

**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**3PM CRIB SERVICE  
11PM MIDNIGHT MASS**

**THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**10AM FAMILY COMMUNION**



# Young People

## Rotary Shoebox Appeal

Each year at St Martin's Church we contribute towards the Rotary Shoebox Appeal which delivers boxes to disadvantaged children mostly in Eastern Europe. These boxes are filled with essentials such as toothbrush and toothpaste, supplies including pens and notebooks, clothing such as socks and gloves and finally toys or games.



At St Martin's people donate full boxes, items for boxes or money that contributes to supplies. With the help of our children and young people we collected shoe boxes, sorted donations, wrapped the shoeboxes in Christmas paper and filled them. As a church we made 36 boxes.



## Christmas

We have lots of services that are aimed at children, young people and their families. First is our Children's Carol Service which is a family friendly service involving our children and young people at 10:30am on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Our Christingle is at 5pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> December which is another service enjoyed by the whole family.

On Christmas Eve we celebrate our Crib Service at 3pm which is where we go through the Christmas story inviting those who attend to become part of the story if they wish.

Finally on Christmas Day at 10am we have Family Communion. All these services are held at St Martin's Parish Church.

You are warmly invited to join us to celebrate Christmas at one or more of our popular family friendly services during the festive season.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year from the Children and Youth team at St Martin's Parish Church.

**Claudia Evans Cox**





# Christmases Past

This year marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Guernsey from almost five years' occupation by German military forces. With the festive season almost upon us, I considered it appropriate to reflect, in the most brief and general of terms, on what Christmases were like for those islanders who had declined evacuation and lived under siege conditions.

During the German occupation from 30<sup>th</sup> June 1940 till 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945, the celebration of Christmas became increasingly difficult owing to chronic shortages of food and fuel, culminating in near starvation by the final wartime holiday in 1944. Despite the harsh conditions, however, islanders endeavoured to make the best of the festive season.



## 1940

The sudden evacuation of around 17,000 people in June 1940 meant that the first Christmas under occupation, though heavily regulated, passed much like it had in previous years. Prior to the invasion, the States of Guernsey had established an Emergency Committee for the Control of Essential

Commodities that arranged provision of additional rations, including extra meat, butter, cooking fat, currants and raisins. A special fund was established to ensure that all the approximately 6,000 children that remained in the Island received at least one Christmas present. Concerts and other entertainments were permitted, and films for children were screened at the long bygone Regal Cinema. The German authorities announced on Christmas Eve that islanders' radios and wireless sets, previously confiscated, would be temporarily returned thereby enabling them to listen to programmes broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

## 1941

The celebratory mood of the previous year faded as conditions worsened. By way of respite, however, the German authorities extended the curfew from 11.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. While special rations were issued, they were meagre (only two pounds of potatoes per person) and did not extend to women. A boost to morale was receiving news of Allied victories gleaned from clandestinely listening to radios.

## 1942

Hardship increased significantly and the festive spirit was further suppressed. The Germans had confiscated all radios in June, leaving islanders to rely on illegal crystal sets to obtain news. Food was extremely scarce and prices on the black market soared. A turkey, for example, cost £25, equivalent to over £1,700 at current rates.



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# Christmases Past

The Germans reduced the curfew to 9.00 p.m. but permitted the performance of pantomimes and other traditional entertainments.

## 1943

The shortage of food became critical with islanders queuing for hours to obtain the most basic of necessities. Many of those at the back of a queue reached the front only to find that shops were completely bare.



Issue of a ration of two pounds of potatoes was authorised for Christmas week but afterwards, this led to a complete exhaustion of supplies. An evacuated girls' choir was broadcast by the BBC but few people in the island risked listening to illegal radios for anything but news of Allied operations.

## 1944

This was the bleakest wartime festive period with both islanders and occupiers suffering chronic hunger. Gas, the fuel on which many people depended for cooking, was exhausted by Christmas. Electricity and such fuels as coal of extremely poor quality and wood were severely rationed. A typical meal comprised fried potatoes, a meagre morsel of meat and a pudding made from apples and rice or just carrots and parsnips.

Facing starvation, aid came from the International Committee of the Red Cross with the arrival of one of its relief ships, the SS Vega. Watched by a throng of islanders, she docked at St Peter Port Harbour in the early evening of 27<sup>th</sup> December. She brought desperately needed parcels donated by Canada and New Zealand which contained tea, coffee, milk powder, sugar, butter, cheese, corned beef, pork luncheon meat, salmon, dried apples, prunes and raisins, hardtack biscuits, chocolate, marmalade and some condiments like salt, pepper, mustard and onion granules.

As we prepare to enjoy the festive season, let us, in the spirit of goodwill, spare a charitable thought for the thousands-upon-thousands of people across the world who are enduring the same kind of privation that islanders suffered between 1940 and 1945.

**Gary J Vaudin**

### Christmas Quiz - Answers

1. Christmas Day.
2. On the morning of Christ's nativity.
3. Christmas Island.
4. Hark! The herald angels sing.
5. Queen Charlotte, the German-born wife of King George III.
6. 'Twas the night before Christmas.
7. A Christmas carol.
8. Sir Henry Cole.
9. A small figurine used for creating nativity scenes.
10. The Weighbridge Roundabout in St Peter Port.



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join the love song this Christmas

## Sunday 14th December

Blue Christmas - because this can be a hard time of year - **10.30am**  
Enjoy - Fun Family Event with craft, activities and stories - **5:00pm**

## Wednesday 17th December

Community Carol Concert - **6:30pm**

## Sunday 21st December

Holy Communion for Advent - **10.30am**  
Jesus & Jumpers - Fun and Food, with a brass band - **5:45pm**

**Christmas Eve** - Traditional Carol Service - **5.00pm**

**Christmas Day** - Family service - **10.00am**  
**28th December** - All Ages at Rohais Methodist - **10:30am**

[methodist.org.uk/HushTheNoise](http://methodist.org.uk/HushTheNoise)



The **Methodist** Church

## PARISH INFORMATION 2025

The Constable's Office is open 9am until 12.30 noon Monday to Friday  
If you would like to speak to the Constables, they can be contacted through the numbers below.

Constables Office	238363
Parish Hall Caretaker	07781 140831
Email	info@stmartinsconstables.com
Facebook	Constables of St Martin

Cemetery Enquiries	Mr. G. J. Vaudin	07781 103580
Constables	Mr. D. Beausire	237878
	Mr. R. Prow	07781 153202
Welfare Chairperson	Mr. L. Hill-Tout	07781 427747

Douzaine	Mr. B. Gregg	237000	Ms. C. Bauer	235966
	Mr. R. Clark	232852	Mr. L. Hill-Tout	07781 427747
	Mr. P. Merrien	236831	Mr. P. Dorey	235845
	Mr. M. Priaulx	238442	Mrs. C. Cormack	237576
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