

February & March  
**2025**

# St Martin's Cloak



*Free Copy*

## St Martin's Parish Church Directory

Rector	Revd Daniel Foot	238303
Rector's Warden	Laura Stockwell	235498
People's Warden	Paul Steele	233203
Honorary Treasurer	Neil de la Mare	237816
Organist & Choir	Joan Le Flem	201108
Men's Society	Patrick Banfield	patrick@cwgsy.net
Ladies of Faith Together (LOFT)	Sara Dorey	235845
Music Group	Joan Le Flem	201108
Cloak Magazine Advertising	Carol Guille	258364
Church Flowers	Susan Banfield	susanb@cwgsy.net
Cloak Coffee Mornings	Sally Sara 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	Revd Stephen Dallin	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 February edition of The Cloak

A warm welcome to the winter edition of St Martin's Cloak which covers February and March 2025. A season which includes Valentines Day, Pancake Day and of course, Mother's Day.

This edition has a strong environmental theme. The Rector provides an update on the community food project and the Constables celebrate the completion of works on the Parish Hall complete with solar panels.

We have also included some practical articles which cover tips for keeping chickens and for planting hedges using native species to enrich local habitats.

There is also a delicious recipe to provide some culinary indulgence in the winter months, an update on the Church building and some history about St Martin.

The editorial team are always keen to hear from you. If you have any local stories or group updates you would like us to consider, please get in touch.

### Photographs Wanted

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)

*Cover photo by the Editor*

# St Martin's Cloak

Covering the Whole Parish



Rector's Letter.....p.4

Parish Matters.....p.6

Church Diaries.....p.8

Keeping Chickens.....p.10

Church Repairs.....p.12

Who was St Martin?.....p.16

A different Easter Cake.....p.18

Young People Update.....p.22

Native Hedges.....p.24

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# Rector's Letter

## Dear Friends

Our Church has recently had a new bench installed at the bottom of the path in memory of the late Dudley Derbyshire.

Dudley moved to Guernsey in 1956 and taught at St Andrew's School before moving to St Martin's Primary. He became deputy headmaster at St Saviour's Primary School before returning to St Martin's as headmaster, where he stayed until retirement in 1982. He was a very popular teacher, known for his patience and kindness, with many former students saying he was the best teacher they ever had.

He and his wife, Joan, were also committed members of our church and were involved for many years on the social committee. They organised many social events, concerts and pantomimes, which many members of the church remember with fondness. I had the pleasure of meeting Dudley shortly after my arrival in Guernsey in 2018, where he told me with great enthusiasm about some of the sketches he had created and how he wrote them whilst sunbathing on the beach in the school summer holidays. The bench has been crafted with granite and installed by Vaudin Stonemasons, and it sits nicely around the curved wall at the bottom of the path.



*Examples of sketches which Dudley wrote in the holidays*

As well as being heavily involved in the church, Dudley was a keen vegetable grower and tended an allotment at Rue de Grons. This brings me nicely to provide an update on our Community Food Project. I have been unable to give an update on this for a while, but I can confirm that things are moving forward, and we are planning on getting started this spring.

I first introduced this idea in April 2023, but the basic idea is that we would come together to grow food, not in individual allotments, but in a larger communal area, sharing in the work to plant, tend and harvest. At the end of which we would share out the produce, sell some of the produce cheaply to the local community and then use the surplus to provide cookery workshops in the Community Centre kitchen. If you would like more information, or would like to get involved, please email me at [revdaniel@stmartinschurch.gg](mailto:revdaniel@stmartinschurch.gg) with "Food Project" as the subject.

God Bless,

**Rev Daniel**



*Stone Bench in memory of Joan & Dudley Derbyshire*

# Parish Matters

Dear Parishioners,

Firstly, I wish you all a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

The end of last year saw Jeff Wilkes-Green step down after six years as Constable, a term no one has served in that position for decades and his dedication and love of the parish was clear to see. I thank him on behalf of the Douzaine for all he's done for the parish especially in bringing the financial records up to a modern-day standard.

We welcome Carla Bauer as the new Constable and she brings her experience as a past States Deputy to the role and will be lead on our new "Community plan" for St Martins, more to follow later.

## Parish Hall

Last year saw the completion of the solar panels and re-slating the parish hall along with the new enlarged Douzaine room which also now incorporates a disabled toilet, kitchen and store that we plan to rent out for meeting to the public. A stair lift will be installed in the coming weeks for access. Work on the Constables office has started to repair the floor re-structure the office and to move the library into the office side of the building so it will become accessible weekday morning in a warmer environment that it is currently.

A massive thanks goes to Ben Gregg, Peter Dorey, Martyn Priaulx, Ian Pallot and Phil Merrien from the Douzaine who between them have given hundreds of free hours to this work saving the rate payers tens of thousands of pounds, take a bow guys.



*Parish Hall with solar panels*

## Christmas Market

The Christmas Market saw the largest number of stalls ever and we introduced a brass band for the carol singing which due to its success are already booked for this year. Santa again drew the crowds and was very generous and put smiles on many children's faces along with the snow that seems to fall in St Martins at this event. This event is only possibly due to volunteers, but they need a leader to organise them and plan the event, so a big thanks to Hayley Le Boutillier for running the event.

## Community Plan

This year sees St Martins putting together a "Community Plan" to be completed in under a year to present to planning with the views of parishioners, businesses and users of the parish. If you want to help, please email answers to the following question to [info@stmartinsconstables.com](mailto:info@stmartinsconstables.com).

- ◇ What aspects of St Martin do you most like?
- ◇ What aspects of St Martin would you like to see changed?
- ◇ Do you have any ideas for improvements that you would like to share as part of the Community Plan process?

Considering the built and natural environment of the parish, please respond to the following questions:

Have a great year.

**Dave Beausire**  
Senior Constable



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# St Martin's Parish Church

## Special Services and Events:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 6pm** Ash Wednesday followed by a meal at the Taste of India, L'Eree

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Mar** First Sunday of Lent

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 10am** Mothering Sunday

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 9.45am** Palm Sunday

*Arrive at the community centre to meet the donkey*

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April** Maunday Thursday - TBC

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 9.45am** Good Friday walk of witness; **10am** Craft morning; **2pm** Vigil

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April** **Easter Sunday; 6am** Sunrise at Jerbourg; **10am** Church Service followed by Easter Egg hunt

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 10am** Easter Songs of Praise

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

## 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

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

### Youth Group

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



# 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.

*For further information please contact Revd Stephen Dallin 01481 239144  
or Helen Mahoney, Discipleship and Small Group Coordinator 07911 712271*

[helenmahoney@methodist.org.gg](mailto:helenmahoney@methodist.org.gg)

### 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 Claire Teed 07781 416124*

# Keeping Chickens

I wonder how many of you keep chickens or have done so in the past? Whilst not experts, we have kept chickens for many years and have picked up a few tips along the way. We are fortunate in Guernsey as the chickens have very few predators; it must be difficult to make a chicken coop fox proof.

The first choice is the chicken coop, they need a house, somewhere dark to lay their eggs, to roost out of the wind and rain and to keep their food dry. It doesn't need to be huge as they cosy up on their perches. If you are buying one you will be told what size you need for your flock. One thing we've learned about the house is that it pays to keep it off the ground, we have ours balanced on an old trailer. If it's left on the grass the bottom of the house will soon rot. Depending on how high the house is you can make a ladder for them, a small plank of wood with a few cross pieces of wood nailed on to give them grip. A chicken will easily jump in and out of a house a foot or so off the ground.

The next thing to consider is their run. It doesn't matter how large or small you make it when the chickens have been in residence for a while there won't be a blade of grass left. You will need fencing and fence posts to give them an area in which to run around. Our fencing is about 5ft high but we also throw a net over the top to stop them flying out.



*White Leghorn*

You will really need a proper feeder to be filled from the top and the chickens peck out of the bottom. We feed ours with layers' pellets and leave the food for them all the time. We also throw them a handful each of mixed corn to entice them back into their pen each evening. We have a meadow behind our house so each lunch time, once they've laid their eggs, we let them out for a scratch around the meadow.

It's a good idea to hang the feeder up in the house about a foot off the ground to discourage the rats. I'm afraid we have to have the rat conversation, if you have chickens you will have rats from time to time (rather like if you have bird feeders).



Commercial Brown

The water container can be left outside but again it is better to have a proper metal one rather than just leaving an open container, they tip them up and they do become very messy.

The chickens can be bought from Simon Langmead, a very helpful young man if you have any queries about the breeds. Simon's number is 07781 450984. He brings chickens to the Island from March to September.

Like any animals, keeping chickens can be a tie if you go on holiday. What you really need is, like us, a friendly neighbour to keep an eye on them.

We have experience of 3 breeds:

- ◇ White Leghorn, now they are egg laying machines, you are certain to have an egg a day from them. The downside of is they are flighty and not easy to catch.
- ◇ Black Rock, they are not very friendly but good layers.
- ◇ Commercial Browns, they are very friendly, anyone with children would do well to have these, you can pick them up and they also lay well.

We have 6 chickens and every September we order 2 more, with natural wastage and old age our number seems to stay around 6. We often have 2 of each the above breeds.

There are other breeds such as Calder Ranger, Speckled and Bluebells. All these chickens are hybrids this means they are bred for egg laying and they would be no good to eat. The other type are pure breeds, these are the old farmyard chickens who are lovely but don't lay nearly so many eggs and spend a certain amount of time being broody.

I hope this is helpful to anyone thinking of keeping chickens and I wish you all the best with the venture.

**Carol Guille**

Do check the States of Guernsey "Guidance for the Welfare of Backyard Poultry."

# Church Repairs

Anyone visiting St Martin's Church during the last six months may have noticed some substantial building work going on in the eastern part of the church building. You may be wondering what has been going on and so here is a brief explanation.

The plaster around the east-facing window in the Clergy Vestry was severely salt contaminated due to longtime moisture penetration. There were cracks between the limestone tracery (ornamental stonework) and the granite window opening which needed to be filled with lime mortar. In addition, whilst the scaffolding was in place, the opportunity to access the valley gutter was taken. It was inspected (as part of the Quinquennial Inspection which the church surveyor carried out in 2023) and it was possible to repair a few broken and slipped slates, as well as clear all the rainwater goods from leaf debris. Internally, a scaffolding was erected and then clad with polythene to protect the nearby organ from dust. The plaster around the window reveals was removed and lime plaster and breathable mineral silicate paint applied. Some minor repairs to the limestone window tracery where embedded iron fixings were corroding and causing the stone to fail were also repaired. The opportunity to lift the floorboards and carry out some minor repairs to the suspended timber joists was also taken.



The total cost was approximately £14,000. When substantial work of this nature is required, it is necessary for the church to obtain permission from the Parish Constables and the St Martin's parishioners in order for it to be funded by the ratepayers.

The scaffolding was erected in late June 2024. The decoration was completed in December and the scaffolding came down before Christmas.

This was a relief to worshippers at the church. The work rendered the altar rail normally utilised for the administration of communion unavailable and it was necessary to use a much smaller area further west in the church. The serving of communion in a relatively confined space occasionally resembled a mixture between a dressage event and Strictly Come Dancing!

**Richard Corbin**



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**ST PETER PORT & ST SAMPSON**

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# Who was St. Martin?

You could say Martin had a varied life, soldier in the Roman army, hermit, monk, and then reluctant Bishop. He was said to have performed many wonders including healing, seeing visions, talking to animals and even raising the dead. Worth a closer look!

Well, he was born in what is now Hungary in 316AD at about the time Christianity was made a legal religion by Rome. At age 10 he sneaked off to Church (against his parents wishes) which sparked his Christian faith. Never-the less, his dad, a high ranking Roman soldier, had young Martin drafted into the Roman cavalry at the tender age of 15. Three years later he was stationed in what is now Amiens in France as part of an elite cavalry force feeling more and more disillusioned with military life.

During this time, he had a famous encounter with a beggar on a cold winter's day where he felt compassion for the man and used his sword to cut his cloak in two and share half with the beggar. That night he had a dream that Jesus was wearing the other half of his cloak. He was baptized next day, became the first known conscientious objector and wrote to the emperor insisting "I am Christ's soldier: I am not allowed to fight". He ended up in prison charged with cowardice but was released after he offered to go unarmed to the front of the troops. Seems those in charge were up for the offer but Martin was spared when the enemy surrendered just in time.

This had been a rather stressful time for Martin, so he quit the army to become a hermit travelling to an Island in the Gulf of Genoa. He appears to have had a few adventures on the way including opposing the Imperial Court in Tours and being exiled, converting various people to Christianity (including his mum), being whipped, being expelled from Milan by the Archbishop, and generally getting into trouble.



He finally made it to his Island and lived quietly with a few wild chickens and a diet of herbs and wild roots. He went on to set up a hermitage in Liguge, France which later became a Benedictine Abbey, possibly the oldest in Europe. The people of Tours had a change of heart and tricked him to come back by asking him to pray for a sick person, lured him into Church and made him Bishop! Some claim he ran away and hid in a barn full of geese. They made so much noise that he was found and made Bishop despite looking dishevelled. He died in 397AD and some 800 years later, St Martin's Church in Guernsey was consecrated on 4 February 1199.



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# A Different Easter Cake

So the Christmas cake has been made – and probably consumed by now and "what next" is the question?

Cake can of course be baked and eaten at any time of the year but there are certain occasions when a special cake is needed, the aforementioned Christmas, Birthday and Wedding to name but a few!

In the April/May 2021 edition of the Cloak, I wrote about Simnel Cake and its history. Easter Delight has no such history, but it is simple to make and tasty to eat with plenty of CHOCOLATE in it! I hope it may prove to be a simple, alternative Easter Cake for you to try.



**Rosemary Bishop-White**

## Easter Delight

- ◇ Chocolate cheesecake
- ◇ Makes 1x 20cm cheesecake or 6x 12cm individual cakes.
- ◇ Preparation time: 25 mins.
- ◇ Cook: 10 mins. (to melt the chocolate)

## Ingredients

- 2½ cups Chocolate Biscuit Crumbs
- 1 cup Desiccated Coconut (toasted)
- 160g butter
- 850g cream cheese
- ½ cup Caster Sugar
- 500g Milk Chocolate (melted & slightly cooled)
- 3 cups thickened cream (very slightly whipped)

**To Make:**

1. Combine the biscuit crumbs, coconut and butter. Press into the base of the greased springform tin. Chill for approximately 10 minutes.
2. Beat the cream cheese and sugar with an electric mixer until just smooth. Add the chocolate and mix until evenly coloured and smooth. Fold through the whipped cream.
3. Pour the mixture evenly over the prepared base. Chill for 2 hours or until set. Decorate with mini-eggs, chocolate curls and berries.



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- » Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families.
- » It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-croissant-fuelled, 30 minute kids and families adventure every Sunday!
- » Here's the deal: you turn up at 9:15 am at the Community Centre for a croissant or pain au chocolat and a coffee; then when the service starts you'll be guided to a 'bubble', you and your little ones will share in 30 mins of song, story, puppets and prayer.

Book online, [www.stmartinschurch.gg](http://www.stmartinschurch.gg) ⇒ WHAT'S ON ⇒ BUBBLE CHURCH

## Get Involved!



- We need help to deliver the Cloak
- There are three vacant rounds:
  - La Ruelle Lane – 50 houses (La Villette Hotel to Forest Road)
  - Les Pages – 26 houses (off Les Hurettes)
  - Calais Road & Calais Lane – 30 houses (+Clos Falaize)
- Full instructions & map provided
- We would be very grateful for your help
- Contact Carol Guille for details
- E: [guilles@cwgsy.net](mailto:guilles@cwgsy.net) ☎ 258364

# Young People

Last year St Martin's Parish Church alongside other churches across the island took a group of young people to a weekend away called Spree South West that takes place in Exeter, Devon.

This is a great weekend packed with activities including craft, fair ground rides, sports, food stalls, music and much more.

It's great for the group to get to know other like-minded young people from the island and across the South West.

There are also tailored teaching sessions in the morning and evening for different age groups.



*Teaching and worship venue*

These cover those with no faith to those wanting to dig deeper in the Christian faith and those in between.

Last year St Martin's took three young people and this year we are hoping to double it and take at least six.

## Fund-raising

To make this weekend more affordable and accessible to our young people we do fund-raising. We have prepared tombola, treasure map, name the elf and other games to play at markets.

So far, we have organised a raffle as part of a quiz, attended numerous Christmas markets at St Martin's Community Centre engaged with December late-night shopping. We have raised just over £1,000 from all our activities to date but would like to raise more.

The more we raise the more affordable we can make the trip for the young people. If you would like to donate, please contact Claudia at [claudiaec@smartinschurch.gg](mailto:claudiaec@smartinschurch.gg) for details.



**Claudia Evans-Cox**



*Fun and Fund-raising*

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# Native Hedges

Since the late 18th Century, there have been various surveys systematically recording the fauna and flora of Guernsey.

Released by the Guernsey Nature Commission only last October, the State of Nature 2024 report draws on the best and latest data from biological monitoring and recording schemes to provide a benchmark for the current status of the natural environment.

Among habitats surveyed are hedgerows that are further classified as species-poor or species-rich. Species-poor hedgerows often delineate the boundaries of domestic gardens, and tend to comprise a single non-native species, also known as exotics. Among non-native hedging species that are currently fashionable

are *Elaeagnus x submacrophylla*, *Euonymus japonicus* (Japanese spindle), *Griselinia littoralis* and those among the genera *Escallonia*, *Olearia* and *Pittosporum*.



**Kapuka** (*Griselinia Littoralis*)

Local nurserymen promote these species because, in Guernsey, they are fast-growing and, therefore, quick to establish and all of them are highly tolerant of the salt-laden winds that blow from the Atlantic.

Such species, however, are not native to the island and are of ecologically poor value in that hardly any wildlife depends on them for cover or as a source of food and shelter.

By contrast, species-rich hedgerows, according to much work previously carried out under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, are defined as those that contain a mix of five or more native woody species of trees or shrubs per 30-metre, or maintain a rich variety of herbaceous plants at their base.

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Within Guernsey, such hedgerows would almost invariably comprise Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), members of the bramble family (*Rubus* species), Common Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), the Dog Rose or Field Rose (*Rosa canina* or *Rosa arvensis*) Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and, where space permits, various willows, for example Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) or Eared Willow (*Salix aurita*).



**Common Hawthorn**  
*(Crataegus monogyna)*

Mixed, species-rich hedgerows enhance biodiversity by providing niche habitats, sources of food, cover and shelter, and serve as corridors that facilitate movement between wildlife populations separated by roads and buildings. A third of terrestrial habitats in Guernsey comprise domestic gardens. This means that homeowners, as well as professional gardeners are well placed to make a difference.



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# Native Hedges - continued

As a result of urbanisation, habitat fragmentation poses an increasing threat to biodiversity but such wildlife corridors, help to mitigate some of the harmful impacts. Classed as a 'Priority Habitat', species-rich hedgerows are locally in decline and, according to the State of Nature 2024 report, have decreased by a factor of 52% since 1999. Owing to the ecological value of species-rich hedgerows, this trend is likely to indicate an associated loss of biodiversity.

Compiled by Andrew Lee of the Guernsey Biological Records Centre (GBRC), copies may be obtained via the GBRC at [GsyBioRec@cwgsy.net](mailto:GsyBioRec@cwgsy.net).



**Blackthorn** (*Prunus spinosa*)



**Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera periclymenum*)



**Eared Willow** (*Salix aurita*)

By making the Islands domestic hedgerows as wildlife friendly as possible we can all contribute to halting or even reversing the decline in biodiversity. I encourage interested readers to refer to the following guides:

- ◇ Guernsey natural tree and shrub guide,
- ◇ Natural field borders for Guernsey and
- ◇ Guernsey wildlife friendly hedging and borders.



**Common Ivy** (*Hedera helix*)

**Gary J Vaudin**

## PARISH INFORMATION 2024

The Constable's Office is open 10am until 12 noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
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
X/Facebook	@ConstablesofStM/Constables of St Martin

Cemetery Enquiries	Mr. P. Merrien	07781 140831
Constables	Mr. D. Beausire	238008
	Ms. C. Bauer	235966
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
	Mr. I. Pallot	236120	Mr. J. Wilkes-Green	238008
	Mr. D. Beausire	237878	Mr. G. Naidoo	07781 102845

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