

St Martin's Cloak

April & May 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	Daniel Madden	715010
Men's Society	Patrick Banfield	patrick@cwgsy.net
Ladies of Faith Together (LOFT)	Carol Guille	258364
Music Group	Daniel Madden	715010
Cloak Magazine Advertising	Stuart Lawson	235470
Church Flowers	Vacant Post	
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

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
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Discipleship & Small Group Coordinator	Sarah Snell	07911 718812
	Helen Mahoney	07911 712271

Welcome to the April edition of the Cloak

In these turbulent and threatening times we take as our theme 'hope' rooted in the Easter story. Both Rev Daniel and Rev Anne explore this in more detail.

There is an interview with Peter de Sausmarez about his work with the 'Guernsey for Freedom' charity helping those in bondage to slavery. It is heartening to hear that Guernsey is 'punching above its weight' to make a positive difference.

I am also pleased to include an interview with Janette Tardif which describes the transformative work of the Adult Disability Centre based here in the St Martin's Community Centre.

For the historians, there is an informative piece covering parish pillboxes created during the German Occupation and for parents, some encouraging words from our Community Chaplain.

We hope you enjoy reading this latest edition and as always, we would love to hear from you.

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

St Martin's Cloak

Covering the Whole Parish



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Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

Easter arrives each year as a quiet yet profound declaration that life is stronger than death, that light overcomes darkness, and that hope is never lost, even when it seems most fragile.

For many of us, Easter Day may have already passed by the time you read this. The celebrations may be over, the chocolate eaten, and life returned to its usual rhythm. Yet in the life of the Church, Easter is not just a single day. It is a season that stretches for fifty days, from Easter Day to Pentecost, inviting us to continue living in the light of the resurrection.

This matters, because hope is rarely formed in a moment. It grows slowly, often quietly, over time. We live in uncertain times. The world can feel unsettled, and many carry private burdens, anxiety about the future, grief over what has been lost or simply the weariness of daily life.

It is easy, in such moments, to feel that hope is distant or unrealistic. Yet the message of Easter speaks directly into this uncertainty, not by denying it but by transforming it.

The first Easter was not a single moment of clarity and joy. The risen Jesus appeared to his followers over time, meeting them in their confusion, their fear and even their doubt. He walked alongside them on the road, sat with them at the table and spoke peace into their uncertainty. Hope did not arrive all at once. It unfolded, gently and persistently.

This is the invitation of the Easter season for us as well. Not simply to celebrate that Christ is risen but to explore what that means in the reality of our daily lives. To discover, perhaps slowly, how the resurrection can bring hope into our own circumstances.

You would be very welcome to join us at church during this Easter season as we reflect together on these questions. Whether you are full of faith, full of questions, or simply curious, there is a place for you. Together, we take time to pause, to listen and to consider how the hope of the resurrection might meet us where we are.

"the resurrection can bring hope into our own circumstances"

The resurrection reminds us that hope is not built on circumstances but on the living presence of Christ. It is not a fragile optimism that everything will simply work out, but a deep assurance that God is at work, even in the darkest moments. The resurrection tells us that no situation is beyond redemption, no failure beyond grace, no ending beyond the possibility of new life.

This hope does not remove life's challenges but it changes how we face them. It gives us courage to keep going when the path is unclear. It gives us peace when answers are not immediately found. It reminds us that even when we cannot see the way ahead, we do not walk alone.

As we continue through this Easter season, may we allow its truth to take root in our hearts. Whatever uncertainties we face, whatever questions remain unanswered, we hold onto this, Christ is risen. Because he lives, hope lives also.

May that hope sustain you, strengthen you and guide you in the days ahead.

God bless,
Rev Daniel

Parish Matters

Spring is in the air finally, after what has been continuous rain, and we are already out with working parties keeping the maintenance of the parish as a priority. We hope you are all enjoying the cliff walks throughout the warmer months.



Working parties maintaining the parish

We welcome Peter Stables to the Douzaine, the Constables look forward to working with him over the coming years.

By the time you read this the second wine tasting will have been held and is fast becoming a popular evening and we thank Hayley Le Boutillier and Peter for organising this event.

The Freemasons have offered a working party and we thank them for getting involved in the parish. They will shortly be helping clear the debris that's washed up over the winter at Petit Port. There are 300 plus steps to climb so it's going to be for the fit only but it will see our beautiful south coast bay back to its best for the summer.

Phil from our floral team organised the planting out of over 150 whips (hawthorns, hazel, blackthorn etc) in the Moulin Huet area to encourage nesting birds when they have grown. Volunteers again gave of their free time to carry this out and will be back out again in a few weeks to start clearing the fountains around the parish.

Plans are already in progress with the flowers ordered for the summer season and anyone wishing to help plant out can contact us at info@stmartinsconstables.com

There will be no parish Liberation party this year but Education, Sport & Culture ("ESC") are holding events in town which we suggest you could support.

We want your email

We have a system that sends out emails with information of what's happening in the parish. If you want to be on this list please email: info@stmartinsconstables.com and give us permission to add your details to the mailing list.



Kayak's left at Saint's Harbour

Anyone wishing to leave a kayak at Saint's harbour this year, please get in touch as we will not be allowing them to be left on the slipway anymore as it affects the fisherman getting their dinghies down.

We also would like to build a record of who has a kayak there because if one got loose and floated out of the bay it could trigger a full emergency call out.

Enjoy the spring, summer is on the way.

Dave Beausire
Senior Constable

Easter Sunday Worship in St Martins

St Martin's Parish Church:

6.30am Sunrise Service (Jerbourg)
8am Book of Common Prayer
10am All Age Holy Communion
6:30pm Holy Communion

Methodist:

7.30am Worship at Icart
8am Breakfast at St Martin's Mission
St Martins Mission 10am Easter worship
4.30pm Holy Communion
Les Camps Methodist Church: 10.30 am Easter
Celebration & 6pm Holy Communion



Need more info? Parish contact: church office: 231197
Methodist contact Rev Anne:07781 118435

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St Martin's Parish Church

Special Services and Events:

- Thursday 2nd April** **6.00pm** Maunday Thursday followed by a meal
- Friday 3rd April** **10.00am** Good Friday walk of witness; **10.00am** craft morning; **2.00pm** vigil
- Sunday 5th April** **Easter Sunday**; **6.30am** Sunrise at Jerbourg; **10.00am** All Age Service followed by Easter Egg hunt
- Sunday 12th April** **10.00am** Easter Songs of Praise
- Sunday 3rd May** **10.00am** Gaz Hiller, Care for the Family
- Sunday 10th May** Christian Aid Week
- Sunday 17th May** Ascension
- Sunday 24th May** Pentecost
- Sunday 31st May** Trinity Sunday

Regular Services and Events:

Our regular Sunday services are:

- 8.00am** 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 (term time)

More details on church notice board or email 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.

Easter Sunday Services

7.30am	Worship at Icart
8.00am	Breakfast at St Martin's Mission
10.00am	Easter Worship, St Martin's Mission
10.30am	Easter Celebration, Les Camps Methodist Church
4.30pm	Holy Communion, St Martin's Mission
6.00pm	Holy Communion, Les Camps Methodist Church

*For further information please contact
info@lescamps.com or 01481 239144*

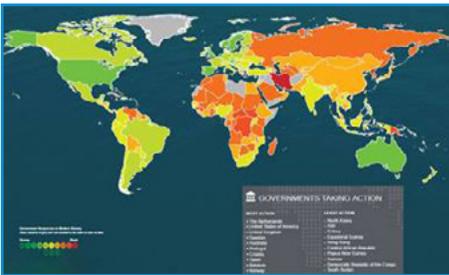
Guernsey For Freedom

At a recent St Martin's parish church service, Rev Daniel interviewed Peter de Sausmarez about the work he is doing with "Guernsey For Freedom" committed to eradicating slavery through advocacy and education.

Peter kindly provided a transcript of the interview (with pictures) reproduced below. Some of the content is unsettling but describes the enormity of the problem and gives some practical steps we can all take to help.

Q1. Many think slavery has been eradicated - is it a problem?

Slavery has been present in the world since recorded time and reached a peak of 30 million. The majority were in the Americas in the early part of the 19th Century when in 1833 it was banned in Britain and the empire. This was followed by most of the major powers.



This is a world distribution map where slaves now total about 50 million. The most prevalent countries (in red) being Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Africa, N. Korea and Arabia. Even the UK, America and Europe have slaves.

In the last decade, numbers have increased by 1m a year, because of climate catastrophes, earthquakes, civil wars and illegal immigration. The driver is greed on a huge scale, combined with apathy and ignorance by us, the general population.

Q2. How are slaves restrained?

Shackles, drugs, being locked into a cage or cupboard and hideous violence and threats. Fear of the Police and Authorities is drummed into them.

Q3. What are slaves used for?

Domestic service, labouring up to 14 hours a day growing and harvesting crops, fishing, shrimp farming, clothing and shoe factories, solar panels, parts for mobile phones, gold mining and even soldiering, quarrying, charcoal production, forestry and rubber plantations.

Q4. What are restavecs* now prevalent in Haiti?

Because of the earthquakes, hurricanes and because Law and Order has broken down, people are starving. Many are persuaded that their children, who they can no longer feed, will be sent to stay in a better-off person's house and will be fed and educated in return for doing chores. The reality is very different and they are used for everything around the house, abused, terrified and if attractive, casual sex.

*restavec from the French "rester avec" which means "to stay with"

This is a pattern that is prevalent around areas that are suffering from famine from one cause or another: mainly from the effects of climate change.

Q5. Where are restavec slaves mostly to be found?

Over many devastated areas in the Caribbean and used as shown here, getting water for their master's many needs.



Q6. Are a high proportion of slaves young women?

About two thirds of all slaves are women and children and, in most cases are females aged from 16 to 25 who are used in the sex industry. They are usually tricked into travelling to another country with the promise of well-paid jobs in modelling, entertainment or selected from desperate immigrant families. They have a relatively short life and when worn out, diseased, or insensible are just dumped in the street somewhere in whatever they are wearing with no ID, no idea where they are, probably little knowledge

of the local language, a terror of authority (especially the police who they have been brainwashed not to trust) and hooked on drugs. Drugs are a very powerful restraint while they are being forced to cooperate.



If they are still relatively fit, they are sold off as domestic slaves for around the equivalent of between \$10 and \$100, or in some countries, farmed and used for body parts.

Q7. What is debt bondage?

Debt bondage, common in places like India and Pakistan, occurs because of a bad harvest or a collapsed business venture. Somebody goes to the village money lender who supplies money at anything up to 95% interest per annum. And of course, this can never realistically be paid off and so it becomes hereditary. Whole families are locked in generation after generation. Much of the brickmaking and quarrying in India is a product of this. Children are put to work from around 5 years old for up to 14 hours a day.

Guernsey For Freedom - continued

Q8. What are sweatshops?

It is a sad fact that again, mainly women and children are used to make cheap clothing for the West. They are often shackled to their beds at night. Carpets are often woven by children kept in little hutches in stifling temperatures with scarcely room for the loom and a space to crouch or curl up to sleep and never let out until their eyesight finally fails, usually when they are aged about 12. They are under sized, under nourished, often crippled and not much use other than for begging, often being mutilated a bit more to curry sympathy.

Q9. How are slaves forced to work and what happens when they try to escape?

Many are flogged unmercifully in front of the other slaves to deter them. Other tortures like thumbscrews and all manner of different punishments are used, usually not as obviously as this, because "damaged goods" have little or no resale value. Those in the sex industry have the additional coercion of the threat to their families in their home countries and the terrible shame they are made to feel.

Q10. What can we do to help?

One of the things that can be done is not buy slave produced products, like these tomato paste tubes which come from huge tomato fields on the edge of the Gobi Desert.

They are farmed by whole enslaved populations in China, like the Uyghurs, sent to Italy and marketed as Italian produce.



The drying fields are so vast, covering tens of square miles, that they can be easily seen from space. Many times the size of Guernsey. Believe it or not, in this way, China grows over a 1/4 of the world's crop of tomatoes.

Q11. Where does Guernsey fit in?

Well believe it or not little Guernsey is punching way above its weight under the guidance of one of the world's top experts, Professor Kevin Bales (supported by his dedicated wife Jenette) and has managed the release and rehabilitation of just under 1,000 debt bond slave brickmakers in India during 2024. They are providing aid to a restavec settlement on an off shore (and relatively safe) island off the coast of Haiti. Here children can be housed, loved, fed, educated and given their self-respect back and importantly, a good start in life.

Professor Bales has written several books and produced videos on YouTube which go into more detail about the work we are doing. There is also a website www.abolitionist.org.gg which describes what the Guernsey charity stands for.

Peter de Sausmarez



Children relocated to the restavec sanctuary

If you would like to donate to "Guernsey For Freedom" in support of the anti-slavery work Peter de Sausmarez is promoting, this can be done by cheque made payable to:

Guernsey For Freedom
and posted to:
**The Treasurer – GFF,
Le Scevalet, Torteval,
Guernsey GY8 0PA**

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Parish Pillboxes

Located within a quarter-mile radius of Hotel Bella Luce are nine relics of the 1940-45 occupation of Guernsey by German military forces. Depicted in the photos below, these relics are fortified shelters that, typically located at key entrance points to guarded positions, served as sentry posts and strongpoints from which to shoot and thereby defend commandeered buildings and infrastructure within their vicinity. Hastily built by the soldiery in accordance with a 'field order' issued by the commander of the regiment that occupied the area, the shelters are of varying design and constructed of a generally rough grade of reinforced concrete. Accessed and exited by a single, low and narrow doorway, the walls feature embrasures, small openings or ports from which machine guns, rifles or revolvers could be fired. (The embrasures, incidentally, bear a resemblance to and are often mistaken for the niches that, built into the upper gables of many old Guernsey farmhouses and barns, afford domesticated pigeons access to and egress from the lofts directly behind and beneath the roofs of those rustic buildings).

Designed as small, enclosed battlefield redoubts or strongholds and designated *Mannschafts Eisenbeton Unterständen*, such fortified shelters were first constructed at strategic locations along the extensive German defensive fortification known as the Hindenburg Line on the Western Front in France during the First World War.

From as long ago as mid-1917, however, British and Commonwealth troops, likening them to the small boxes used to contain medicinal pills in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, nicknamed them 'pillboxes' though that nickname may have derived from a comparison to 'pillar boxes' (free-standing post boxes).



The above photo depicts the front view of probably the best known and most easily identifiable of the fortified shelters in St Martin. Located at the southern end of La Rue des Frênes opposite Hotel Bella Luce, they flank the driveway of a house that, formerly named Beau Pré, is now known as Courtil de la Vallée. The two structures sheltered soldiers who, assigned sentry duty, would have guarded occupants of the commandeered house behind. Among senior German officers for whom the house was requisitioned was Oberstleutnant August Rünge, a Lieutenant Colonel who commanded the Head Quarters (HQ) of Flak-Regiment 39, part of the *Luftwaffe* forces that managed air defence communications throughout the Channel Islands.

The photo below depicts the rear doorway and an embrasure in the northeastern elevation of another fortified shelter in the garden behind Courtil de la Vallée. Bordering La Rue des Frênes, it afforded sentries a vantage point from which to observe comings and goings in the lane. The front and southwestern side of the square-shaped structure, however, are now so overgrown with ivy and screened by a high hedge of evergreen shrubs that they are barely visible.



The photo below depicts the rear view of a fortified shelter that is located at the western end of the grounds in which the Masonic Temple is situated and clearly depicts the narrow doorway that was long ago sealed with blocks of concrete.



The next photo depicts the front view of a fortified shelter that, located at the northern end of La Rue de la Vallée, outside the southeastern gate of St Martin's Primary School and opposite the Masonic Temple.



Of a unique design, the shelter features a steeply pitched roof of reinforced concrete that was intended to deflect bombardments. The low, narrow doorway at the western end of the structure was sealed long ago and the front of it is now so overgrown that it is difficult to see the embrasures.

The next photo depicts the two embrasures of a shelter that, built into the roadside, is the boundary wall of Claremont Cottage at the western end of Les Camps du Moulin, afforded sentries posted therein observation of and a field of fire into La Rue Jacques Guille, the lane directly opposite.

Parish Pillboxes - continued

The roof of the structure was made of wood that long ago collapsed after succumbing to rot.



Courtesy of George and Lizzie Cozens, the next two photos depict external and internal views of a small, fortified shelter that, low, squat and partly underground, is located within the rear garden of their home, a house by the name of Le Jardinnet that stands at the junction of Les Camps du Moulin and La Rue Jacques Guille.



The design of the low, narrow, outer doorway and short passageway creates a choke point, which would have thwarted the advance of attackers attempting to enter the structure.

A slit-like embrasure high up in the wall to the right of the low, inner doorway is strategically placed in that, affording sight of the passageway from within, it would have allowed the defenders to disable or kill attackers who managed to enter the outer doorway.



The photograph below depicts the external view of a low and squat fortified shelter that borders the northern side of a field off La Rue Jacques Guille. The portal is of a similar design to that in the garden of Le Jardinnet in that it features a choke point and an internal slit-like embrasure from which defenders could have disabled or killed attackers who managed to enter the structure



A parishioner told me that, during the occupation, St Martin's School was commandeered and housed work-shops for the maintenance, repair and servicing of mechanised transport. Much of the area within the quarter-mile radius of Hotel Bella Luce, however, was occupied by officers, personnel and troops of the Flak-Regiment 39 that was deployed to Guernsey between August and November 1941. While the commander and other senior officers of the regiment's HQ were billeted in the house opposite Hotel Bella Luce, staff of the associated signals unit were housed in large, nearby properties left vacant following the occupiers' evacuation from the island.

Notable among those properties, many of which are located in the area of La Fosse, was Hotel Bella Luce in the front garden of which stood yet another fortified shelter. Long ago demolished, that shelter is depicted in the photo below kindly furnished by published author and occupation historian, Simon Hamon who I owe a debt a gratitude for imparting his impressive knowledge.



Gary J Vaudin

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It Takes a Village...

Lately, I've been reflecting about our instinct as parents to "fix" things for our children. Is this impulse innate, or learned - shaped by our surroundings and the world we live in? Many parenting questions return to the familiar debate of nature versus nurture. Are our children shaped more by DNA, or by how they are raised?

My father used to say he was thankful that children turn out the way they do - not *because* of us, but *in spite* of us. At the time, I didn't quite know what to make of that. With years of parenting behind me, I now recognize the humility in his words.

I've spoken with countless parents - new and seasoned - who wrestle with the same questions:

- am I spoiling them?
- am I raising them to be entitled?
- am I teaching resilience?

We wonder how much responsibility we should carry for our children's mistakes, and how much credit we should take for their successes. Research confirms that parents matter deeply - through attachment, emotional support and the patterns we model. Yet genetics, personal choices, peers, and lived experiences also shape who our children become. Our influence is significant - but not sovereign.

I find peace in that truth.

There is comfort in knowing the full weight of my children's future does not rest on my shoulders.

That peace comes partly from acknowledging my limitations, but mostly from trusting a wiser, kinder, more powerful Heavenly Father - one who knows the end from the beginning. Because of Him, we can trust. Because of Him, we can hope. Because of Him, we can extend grace to ourselves and to our children.

And because of Him, we are not meant to parent alone.

Our Chosen Family

Over the past twenty years, as our family has moved from place to place, I've become deeply aware of the importance of family - not only the one we're born into but the one that chooses us. Having someone choose to be family despite the difference in DNA, race, culture or country of origin is quite profound. Let me take you back to where it started for us.

The phrase "it takes a village to raise a child" became real the day we brought home our first baby. We stood in our living room staring at one another, thinking, *what do we do now?*

In the weeks that followed, meals began appearing at our doorstep, homecooked and thoughtfully prepared by our church's care team. Along with the food came willing hands to hold the baby while I showered, help with bath time when Daddy had to work late or simply offer a hug and ask, "What can I do?"

Those small acts meant more to me in those early days of motherhood than I would ever be able to put into words. When we were brave enough to return to church services, there was no shortage of people eager to hold our baby so I could sit, breathe and rest. For a brief hour, I stepped out of the constant rhythm of feeding, nappies, sleepless nights and found time to refresh and refocus .

As months turned into years, some friendships deepened. Others were seasonal. These were people who noticed needs and met them quietly, expecting nothing in return but shared life. From school pickups to forest walks, from carol evenings to Sunday lunches, we did life together - the good, the hard and the messy in between.

In those relationships, we glimpsed a reflection of the early church - a community where faith was not only spoken but lived. Our children learned that love is active, support is practical and belonging is sacred.

Our parenting journey would have looked very different without those who stood alongside us.

Grace for the Journey

Before I finish, I want to honour the families we are born into. They are foundational. They raised us, loved us and gave us roots strong enough to grow wings.

Though distance and circumstances sometimes limited their presence, their influence remains deep and often cherished. They also celebrate those who stood in the gap.

It truly does take a village.

We are called to love, guide and nurture our children with intention. We are called to model kindness, compassion and humility, as Jesus did and as God continues to do with us. But we are not called to control outcomes, nor to carry the burden alone.

Our children will be shaped by many hands and many experiences - by family and friends, mentors and teachers, joy and hardship. And ultimately, by a Heavenly Father who loves them even more than we do. May we raise our children with open hands rather than clenched fists. May we embrace the village God provides. And may we rest in the truth that while our role is significant, it is not sovereign.

That responsibility belongs to Him.

Hester Botha

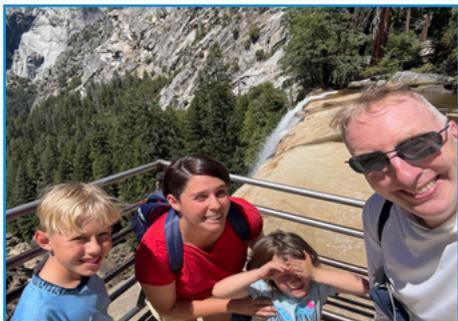
Community Chaplain

Hesterb@stmartinschurch.gg



Make a Joyful Noise!

Many parishioners will already know that St Martin's Church has a new organist. We welcome Danny Madden, his wife Amy and children Blaise and Annie.



Danny and I recently enjoyed a couple of coffees at Waitrose. He, wife Amy and children Blaise and Annie previously worshipped at St John's Church. Danny and Amy came to Guernsey in 2009 when he became employed by the Guernsey Music Service. Guernsey was a welcome change from the many hours spent driving on the roads of Northamptonshire. He enjoys all forms of music but is especially interested in the baroque style and the compositions of Bach.

Amy writes software for various local companies, including seeker.gg. She is also heavily involved in Girlguiding, she has been running St Martins Guides for over 16 years and she serves at a national level as lead volunteer for Adventure for Girlguiding UK. Danny and Amy had many reasons for him taking up the role which include the traditional pipe organ.

They were also attracted by the children and young people's work.

I was struck by Danny's openness. He is friendly, outgoing and I was reminded of Jesus saying of Nathanael "Behold here is an Israelite in whom there is no guile." There is certainly no agenda with him, just a desire to do a good job and to be effective in assisting with the leading of worship in the Church. He does have some ideas; indeed, he has already implemented one, being the choir sitting around the piano to make singing a more collective, less formal, experience. However, it is clear that whatever changes he may introduce will be done for good reason, with sensitivity and for the benefit of the church community, rather than to suit a personal dogma. He would welcome participation from players of other instruments and additional members in the choir.

Danny respects the technical capability and history of the organ and he is keen to release more of that whilst absolutely preserving the instrument. He is busy working on some technical electronic enhancements which will enable him to provide additional sounds to support worship. He also plans to invite guest musicians who will add variety to the musical accompaniment.

We can look forward to new and exciting adventures in worship with Danny at the helm!

Richard Corbin

How to cook a Pancake with the 10th SM Guides



Mix
it
well

a bit
more



cook,
high
heat

taste
mmm



wash
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Minister's Musings

Recently I took the first morning flight from Guernsey to Southampton. Getting up early is not something I enjoy, but when the plane takes off and you start to see the ground below in the fresh morning light, it's quite mesmerising. Moving through to fly above the clouds looks inviting - if only you could jump out and play on those fluffy pillows - but I don't advise you try it unless you want to be arrested or killed!! The reality and the perception are two very different things.

Coming over the land, tiny dots gradually transform into houses, ants moving below into vehicles. What seems to be one thing transforms into another as we get nearer. But it all seems so small or far away, removed from our everyday reality. Then we come back to earth with a bump, as tyres connect with the runway.

Some people regard God as far away, removed from our everyday reality. After all, with everything that is happening in the world, where is God? Yet the events of Easter show us a different story. They change our perception and show us a different reality. They show a God deeply involved with us, willing to walk step by step in our pain and suffering, dying and being buried. The resurrection of Jesus we celebrate on Easter Sunday would not have been possible without the previous events.

In St Martin's Parish, we mark Good Friday with a walk from Les Camps

Methodist Church, via the Parish Church, and then travel together to worship at St Martins Mission. We carry a large cross, walking alongside quietly. It's not comfortable or easy - death never is - but we walk as people of hope, knowing that Sunday is coming. Find out for yourself and join us this Good Friday, 3rd April, starting from 10am and see the difference this can make in your perspective this year. The sorrow at the death of Jesus transforms into joy of the resurrection, celebrated at all our church events on Easter Day. Whether you are a regular attender, a visitor, a not-been-for-a-long-timer or a first timer, you are all very welcome, for Jesus died and rose for you.

Rev Anne Richardson
Methodist Minister

GOOD FRIDAY WALK & WORSHIP

10am leave Les Camps Methodist Church

Arrive at St Martins Parish Church

10.30am Worship at St Martin's Mission

*You are welcome to join in the walk at any point
or go straight to the Mission.
We walk quietly, remembering the walk Jesus took,
carrying his cross.*

Need more info? Rev Anne: 07781 118 435





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Young People

Good Friday Craft

Good Friday Craft morning is held from 10am to 1pm on 3rd of April for 4 to 16 year-olds at St Martin's Community Centre. Any under 7s will need an adult to stay with them. It is a fun, creative and messy morning, looking at stories from the bible and turning them into colourful displays for the church.

We hold this craft morning yearly looking at a different theme. Last year we looked at the Beatitudes which lists characteristics and blessings starting with 'Blessed are the...' which can be found in Matthew 5:1-12. You do not need to be a Christian to come along and learn about some different stories! This year we are looking at the Easter Story.

Booking is essential and can be done on our website under 'what's on' tab and selecting 'holiday activities'. We please ask that everyone who has booked brings a packed lunch and wears old clothing.

Easter All Age Service

On Sunday 5th of April, we have our Easter All Age Service at 10am at St Martin's Parish Church. This service is followed by an Easter egg hunt for the children. You would be very welcome to join us for this service.

Claudia Evans Cox
Youth and Children's Minister



Pictures of last years craft morning

Back from the BRINK



FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2026
6.30pm

St Martin's
Community Centre
menconnectsy@gmail.com
07781 129 446

Generous Hot & Cold Buffet
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One man's compelling story of stepping back from a suicidal jump off a railway bridge and towards a fulfilling life of faith.

Gasky

Paul Gask speaks with candour and humour about his eventful life in the police force, his personal struggles and the inspirational and dramatic experience which turned his life around.

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**MEN
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Adult Disability Service

Q1. Why St Martin's Community Centre?

HSC* moved into the Community Centre when it first opened 18 years ago as part of an agreement for Adult Disability Services to have purposebuilt dayservice and office facilities on site. Being based in the heart of the community, rather than in a hospital setting, has always been important. It allows people with learning disabilities and/or autism to be visible, included and supported in everyday community life, which is exactly where they should be.

Q2. How would you describe the work your team does?

The teams at St Martin's Community Centre support people with learning disabilities and/or autism to live as independently, safely and confidently as possible. The service brings together a wide range of professionals such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists, learning disability nurses, social workers, speech and language therapists and enabling staff who work closely with each person and their family.

They help people:

- Develop everyday skills: from cooking and drama sessions linked to reallife experiences, to travelling safely, using public transport, managing personal care and taking part in community activities.
- Communicate in ways that work for them. The Speech and Language

Therapy team helps people who have difficulty communicating to express themselves and understand others using tools, symbols or personalised strategies.

- Improve mobility and physical wellbeing through movement, exercise and safe use of equipment, supported by physiotherapy when needed. This helps people stay active, build strength and improve balance.
- Make environments accessible. The Occupational Therapy team assess homes, workplaces, community settings and recommend adaptations or equipment to make life easier and safer.
- Build confidence and independence. The Therapy and Enabling Team focuses on each person's strengths, helping them work towards their own goals and take part fully in everyday life.
- Support families and carers by offering guidance, training and reassurance so everyone feels confident in how to best support their loved one and help them thrive.

Q3. Describe a typical day?

A typical day for the Therapy and Enabling Team is full of meaningful, enjoyable activities that help people stay active and build skills. Many days include a movement or wellbeing session, followed by activities such as cooking, art, music, drama or swimming.



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The Snoezelen sensory room is also used regularly, offering a calming, immersive space for relaxation and exploration.

Every activity is tailored to the individual, helping people grow in confidence and independence. Our service users provided these comments;

Dean: “Being with friends, listening to music and delivering the post for the office, getting out and about.”

Ewan: “Going out for a drive, being with friends and looking forward to a disco.”

Q4. What do you enjoy most about being based at the Centre?

Being based in a community setting helps people feel included and part of everyday life. It gives opportunities to meet new people, join local activities and build independence, whether that’s visiting nearby shops or taking part in community events. Most importantly, it creates a sense of belonging and connection.

Dean: “Being with staff every day and using the music room.”

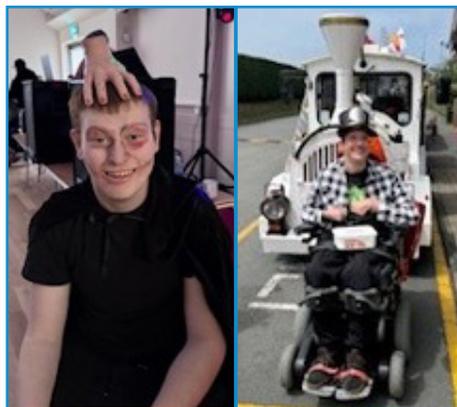
Ewan: “Seeing friends and Marco (staff) who makes me laugh and makes me happy.”

Q5. What makes the Centre feel like home?

The Community Centre feels like a second home for staff and service users because it’s such a warm, welcoming place. The friendly atmosphere and the support of the centre caretakers

helps people feel comfortable from the moment they arrive. The function rooms are used for celebrations like the Halloween disco and Christmas party, which bring everyone together.

Special moments, such as visits from the Petit Train, add fun and excitement throughout the year. These shared experiences make the centre feel like much more than just a building.



Ewan - Halloween Disco Dean - Petit Train

Dean: “It is like a second home,” giving a big thumbs up.”

Ewan: “Singing and playing music, especially the drum kit.”

Q6. What do you enjoy about being part of St Martin’s parish?

The best part of being part of the St Martin’s community is the sense of connection it brings. It helps people feel recognised, included and valued for who they are. Everyday interactions, meeting others, being out and about, taking part in local life, make a real difference to wellbeing.

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Dean: “Going out in the lanes in my chair.”

Ewan: “Seeing the rally cars.”

Q7. What will surprise parish readers about the work you do?

People are often surprised by how varied, creative, and joyful this work can be. While there is important therapeutic and practical support involved, much of the work includes hands-on, enjoyable activities like cooking, drama, art, music and swimming. Another surprise is how small steps, supported with the right encouragement and adaptations, can lead to lifechanging progress. Many people also don't realise how strong the relationships become between staff and service users and how rewarding it is to see someone grow in confidence and independence.

Dean: “How happy everyone is.”

Ewan: “How emotional and happy everyone is, it's a really nice place with singing and dancing.”

Q8. What are your hopes or plans for the future of your service?

The service hopes to continue building on its strong foundations while creating even more opportunities for the people it supports. This includes welcoming new service users, expanding creative and meaningful activities and making the most of the community setting. A key priority is raising awareness and understanding of learning disabilities and autism across the wider community.

This will help to promote inclusion, visibility and positive connections.

A new parent/carer group will soon be starting at the Community Centre, open to anyone caring for a person with a learning disability and/or autism.

It will be a space to share experiences, gather ideas and offer mutual support. To join, please call 224010 and ask for Janette, or email:

HSC.ADSESAAdminTeam@gov.gg.

Q9. How can the parish and community continue to support your work?

The community plays a vital role in helping this work thrive. Small acts of welcome, such as saying hello, getting to know people, including them in everyday life, make a big difference.

Local groups and businesses can support by offering shared activities, volunteering opportunities, or accessible spaces. Taking part in awareness events or learning more about learning disabilities and autism helps build understanding and reduces stigma.

Every gesture, no matter how small, helps create a community where everyone feels valued and included.

Rebecca Silk Operations Manager

Janette Tardif ADS Admin Lead

PARISH INFORMATION 2026

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				07911 729761
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. R. Clark	232852	Mr. L. Hill-Tout	07781 427747
	Mr. P. Merrien	236831	Mr. P. Dorey	235845
	Mr. M. Prialx	238442	Mrs. C. Cormack	237576
	Mr. I. Pallot	236120	Mr. J. Wilkes-Green	238008
	Mr. D. Rix	07781 414500	Mr. G. Naidoo	07781 102845
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