

# St Martin's Cloak

February & March 2026

## St Martin's Parish Church Directory

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Rector's Warden	Laura Stockwell	235498
People's Warden	Paul Steele	233203
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Men's Society	Patrick Banfield	patrick@cwgsy.net
Ladies of Faith Together (LOFT)	Carol Guille	258364
Music Group	Daniel Madden	715010
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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
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	Andrew Redhead	01481 233150
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Discipleship & Small Group Coordinator	Helen Mahoney	07911 712271

## Welcome to the February edition of the Cloak

You may have noticed that the Cloak colour scheme changes with each edition in line with the colours of our logo. This time we return to the bottom with purple which many churches display during lent.

We devote three articles to going outdoors; with Richard pondering his garden's water feature, Rev Daniel giving an update on community food and Gary out and about foraging.

Meanwhile, we celebrate events around the parish which include:

- World Children's Day with Clare Giles and our School,
- meeting the newly appointed Methodist Minister, Rev Anne Richardson, and
- the latest from the Community Centre - including Starlight Dance School and reminders about Soup Kitchen and Bubble Church.

We hope you enjoy reading the Cloak 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](mailto:cloak@stmartinschurch.gg)

## St Martin's Cloak

Covering the Whole Parish



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# Rector's Letter

## Dear Friends,

Lent is a season that arrives quietly yet carries a deep and steady weight. It does not shout for attention, nor does it promise quick answers. Instead, it invites us into stillness, honesty and prayer — into a journey that mirrors Christ's own path through the wilderness.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days, ending on the evening of Holy Saturday, just before Easter Day. These forty days deliberately echo the forty days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert, as well as other moments of waiting and testing found throughout scripture.

Sundays are not counted within the forty days, as each Sunday is considered a celebration of resurrection hope, even in the midst of penitence. Lent, therefore, is not simply about endurance, but about attentiveness — learning again how to listen for God.

Traditionally, Lent has been marked by the practices of prayer, fasting, and generosity. Some people choose to give something up; others choose to take something on. At its heart, Lent is not about self-improvement or religious achievement, but about creating space — space to notice what truly sustains us, and space to allow God to meet us where we really are.

In a world that often feels hurried, loud and anxious, this invitation feels especially timely. Lent gives us permission to slow down, to name our fears and our hopes, and to remember that we are dust, and yet deeply loved dust. It is a season that gently reminds us that transformation rarely happens in dramatic moments, but in faithful, daily turning towards God.

This year, you might like to journey through Lent using the Lectio 365 resources.



These short daily reflections are designed to help people pray scripture slowly and thoughtfully, following the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. They offer a simple rhythm of pause, listen, reflect and pray — a few minutes each day that can become a steady anchor throughout the season. The Lectio 365 team have prepared Lent-specific resources, the details of which can be found here: [smartinschurch.gg/lent](http://smartinschurch.gg/lent).

Alongside personal prayer, Lent also draws our attention outward, reminding us that we are part of a global body of Christ.

This year, we are particularly invited to pray for persecuted Christians around the world, and especially for those in Iran, where the situation for Christians is becoming increasingly dangerous. Many believers face surveillance, arrest, imprisonment and severe pressure simply for following Jesus.

Lent calls us not to look away from such suffering, but to hold it before God with compassion and persistence.

As we walk through Lent, may we do so honestly and gently. May we resist the temptation to rush ahead to Easter joy and instead allow this season to shape us — teaching us patience, deepening our prayer and enlarging our love for a hurting world.

Lent is not a race to the cross, but a journey with Christ. And even in the wilderness, God is present, faithful and at work.

God bless,  
**Rev Daniel**



# Parish Matters

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all parishioners and we look forward to a great 2026.

We cannot leave 2025 behind without saying what a fantastic Christmas Market we had, even with the weather against us. Thanks to Hayley Le Boutillier for all her hard work organising it and making it such a success.

We welcome Christine Guerin to the Douzaine and look forward to working with her over the coming years. Christine is a true St Martin lady, who is looking forward to her new role and bringing her wealth of experience to it.

We also have a new Dean, as Russell Clark has taken on the position after being Vice-Dean for the last decade. Many of us have worked with him for years and are pleased to have him lead the Douzaine into another chapter in its history.

Cynthia Cormack MBE and Peter Dorey stay on the Douzaine following November's election and are both fully committed members that we all enjoy working with.

We are now preparing for the remede (budget) for the year to bring to the ratepayers on March 11<sup>th</sup> at a parish meeting, along with the Church Property and Management Board bringing theirs also.

Whilst we aim to keep rates down, we have a lot of expenses coming up for the Rectory and the Church due to the age of the buildings, so it's going to be a "balancing act budget" that we are working on to keep increases to a minimum.

You will see that the hall has been repainted and that refurbishment of the seats outside Sausmarez Manor has been done with more to follow, thanks to Chris Moore our new caretaker/handyman who has settled into the role very well.



Refurbished seats outside Sausmarez Manor

Chris has taken over from Phil Merrien and John Garnham as the two roles have become one.

We thank Phil and John for all the work they have done for the parish in their roles over the years and wish them an enjoyable retirement.

We are putting together a "volunteer" email group, so if you wish to be part of this team please confirm in an email to [info@stmartinsconstables.com](mailto:info@stmartinsconstables.com).

Whilst we settle into the New Year, we (the Constables and Douzaine) will continue to do our best for the parish and for those living in it. I wish you all the very best for 2026.

**Dave Beausire**  
Senior Constable

### Portrait of a Marriage

**H:** You agree that a successful marriage is the greatest of human benefits?

**V:** Yes.

**H:** And that it must be based on love guided by intelligence?

**V:** Yes.

**H:** That an essential condition is a common sense of values?

**V:** Yes.

**H:** That the only thing that will stave off marital nerves are modesty, good humour and, above all, occupation?

**V:** Yes.

**H:** And give and take?

**V:** And give and take.

**H:** And mutual esteem. I do not believe in the permanence of any love which is based on pity, or the protective or maternal instincts. It must be based on respect.

**V:** Yes, I agree. The caveman plus sweet-little-thing theory is long past. It was a theory insulting to the best qualities of both.

Harold Nicolson & Vita Sackville-West discussing marriage on BBC radio in 1929.



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# St Martin's Parish Church

## Special Services and Events:

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> Ash Wednesday followed by a meal
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	<b>10.00am</b> First Sunday Lent; Prayers Pevtsite Bulgaria
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>11.30am</b> Church Annual General Meeting
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Mothering Sunday
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>9.45am</b> Palm Sunday <i>Arrive at the community centre to meet the donkey</i>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> Maunday Thursday followed by a meal
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Good Friday walk of witness; <b>10.00am</b> craft morning; <b>2.00pm</b> vigil
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> ; <b>6.30am</b> Sunrise at Jerbourg; <b>10.00am</b> All Age Service followed by Easter Egg hunt
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Easter Songs of Praise

## 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](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*

# World Children's Day

St Martin's Primary celebrated World Children's Day in style. As a Gold Rights Respecting School, this day has become a significant date in their calendar with a different theme each year but each one promoting togetherness and a sense of belonging.

Pupils' voice is strong at St Martin's and, following the highly successful 80<sup>th</sup> Liberation celebrations at the school, two pupils (Maria Y6 and James Y4 both from South Africa) asked me if they could celebrate some of their culture and traditions too.



James & Maria keen to celebrate their traditions & culture.

The school then chose a multicultural theme as a focus for this year's World Children's Day. The school's Rights Squad (45 children from Year 3-6) came up with many ideas linked to children's rights which could support the day including adorning our corridor with 490 pieces of children's work about a special place to them. These ranged from Guernsey, the Philippines, China, Ukraine, Latvia, Algeria and China amongst many others.

The day started with a special assembly where ex pupil, Alex Scott, sent a personal video message to the children explaining why Guernsey was so special to him. Children were invited to dress up in traditional clothing or clothing that represented an important aspect of their life or to bring in something special to show their peers.



Children in traditional dress

Many children tasted food from other countries for the first time: New Zealand hangi, Ukrainian apple sweets, Thai curry, Welsh cakes, Lebanese Baba Ganush and South African milk pudding to name a few.





Lacey-Jo with her traditional Guernsey tractor.

Meeting Juliette, a 5-month-old Guernsey Goat, was a highlight of the day for many of the younger children along with seeing a traditional Guernsey tractor from 1965 which had been used to collect 'vraic' (Guernesiais for seaweed) from the beach in the 1970s.



Naomi and Annalise's Grandpa brought Juliette in to meet the children.



Shenney-Anne and her Grandma with an original Cobo Alice Doll



South African feast by James and his mum.



# World Children's Day...



Aviella officially opening the new wall art.

In addition, an ex-pupil, Aviella, who is now in Year 7 at Les Beaucamps High School, had spoken with me when she had been in Year 6.

Her vision was to create a diversity and inclusion wall display so that every child in the school could be represented.

Aviella's vision came to life and was officially opened on this special day with the support of the PTA who had funded the project.

Celebrating a multicultural day on World Children's Day brought the whole school together and brought a sense of belonging for every child.

**Clare Giles**  
Headteacher

World Children's Day is UNICEF's global day of action for children by children, marking the adoption of the convention on the Rights of a Child on **20 November**. Around the world, children are standing up and talking about their lives, their hopes, and their rights.



# Parish Quiz

with thanks to our quiz master, Gary J Vaudin

1. What is the name of the anthropomorphically carved menhir that stands at the entrance gate of St Martin's Parish Church?
2. By what nicknames, in Guernesiais, were the inhabitants of St Martin's Parish historically known?
3. Into how many cantons is the Parish of St Martin divided?
4. By what name is *Le Pied du Mer* better known?
5. At three quarters of a mile in length and edged by steep cliffs that are around two hundred feet in height, what point marks the southeastern coast of the island of Guernsey?
6. Of fifteen loophole towers (often misrepresented as Martello towers) that were built around the coast of Guernsey between 1778 and 1779, only twelve survive.
7. By what number is the restored tower overlooking Saints Bay designated?
8. What was the name of the famous French impressionist artist who, during a holiday in Guernsey in the autumn of 1883, created around fifteen paintings that depict views from the beach and cliffs of Moulin Huet Bay?
9. When was *La Salle Paroissiale de St Martin* (the Parish Hall) built and opened to the public?
10. Constructed by German military forces during the occupation of Guernsey, what was the name of the Naval Artillery Battery located at Jerbourg?
11. At present, who are the Senior and Junior Constables of St Martin's Parish?

Answers can be found on page 28

## Repairs ? Questions ? Help is here.

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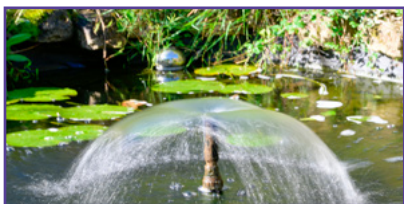


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# Pond-ering Life

I had always liked the idea of a pond filled with some fish and maybe a few ducks until I was fortunate to find myself with a garden big enough to accommodate one. It was at a time when vegetable gardening was less fashionable and we decided to give the vegetable garden over to what we grandly called 'The Italian Courtyard'. A pond with a fountain was to be the centrepiece of a square with flowerbeds in each corner and a gold-grey slate floor, bounded by a privet hedge and some random Italian pines waving in the wind.



I started by hiring a man and a mini digger to dig a central hole for the pond, being a circle big enough to accommodate a pond some three metres in diameter and over one metre deep. I then needed to calculate quantities of materials to order from builders' merchants. I must admit that I had always enjoyed calculating areas and volumes in mathematics at secondary school, but it was still a relief when the amounts of sand, cement, aggregate and breeze blocks turned out to be reasonably accurate. I laid a concrete foundation for which I mixed the concrete by hand - harder work than I had anticipated. I regretted not buying a second-hand mixer by the end of the project.

I then built a circular construction using breeze blocks placed at angles to each other to give the semblance of a circle. Plastering this to create a circular finish was a challenge, especially as I had included some granite outcrops for character and the lack of a mixer was taking its toll by then.

I built a central plinth on which to mount a fountain and left what I thought was enough room to plumb it to a submersible pump. I also created an electricity supply and space to connect a pump and filter using a Heath-Robinson arrangement from the house. One time I cut the wires without realising that the supply was on. Only the fact that I was wearing some rubber-soled Wellingtons saved me from a nasty shock. Instead there was just a discovering thud in the soles of the boots. I later had a proper electrician do a professional job during a bigger building project.

The next challenge was to find a waterproof finish to contain the pond water. I eventually settled upon mixing PVA bonding solution into cement which I was using as plaster. I say eventually. All of this work was taking some time and our friends were growing tired of listening to the progress report which I insisted on giving each time we met, so much so that one friend specially created an email address which was [g.gibson@hotmail.com](mailto:g.gibson@hotmail.com) (for the uninitiated Guy Gibson was the famous leader of the Dam-buster Squadron).



He sent an email to me noting the time that it was taking to build the dam-like construction and asking when the concrete megastructure would be ready so that he and his comrades could fly over and bomb it!

I can never resist killing two birds with one stone and as I had some rocks and concrete lying around and I needed some hard core to spread before laying the slate tiles, it seemed like too good an opportunity to miss. The only problem was that in my enthusiasm for disposing of some large pieces, I left insufficient depth to lay the tiles in some places. It was then a case of extracting boulders and disturbing tiles which were sitting perfectly well to achieve an even finish. This was further exacerbated by my ignoring the advice on laying tiles in sand because I thought mixing cement dust in would provide a firmer base. There is generally a reason for established building techniques!

The installation of the pump and fountain did not run smoothly either. Attempting to kill two birds with one stone was responsible again. I had a small water pump lying around which I thought could be useful. It proved too small and I had to replace it with a brand new one which was more powerful. Otherwise the fountain would have just looked like a small disturbance in the water. The job was also hindered by the gaps which I had left for plumbing not being ideal in shape or size.

We had been thinking about putting some goldfish in the pond now that it was holding water and the fountain was functioning. Then a strange thing happened. Some goldfish appeared in the pond of their own accord, so we started feeding them. They bred each year and their numbers varied between approximately ten and thirty. Another strange thing was that I never found the body of a dead one lying in the water. This could not be attributed to the heron which occasionally bathed in the pond and then struggled to make its ungainly way out. There is a strange symmetry to the mysteries surrounding the genesis and the demise of the goldfish.

And so the pond has provided the backdrop for morning coffee and afternoon tea on sun-drenched and other less glorious days. Children found feeding the fish endlessly fascinating when they were young and messed around with the pond as they do. We managed to ensure that none fell in when they were little. But sad to say we never got round to the ducks.....!

**Richard Corbin**



# Community Food Project

Following on from the article shared in this magazine in December, I am pleased to be able to say that the St Martin's Community Food Project has now moved from planning into action.

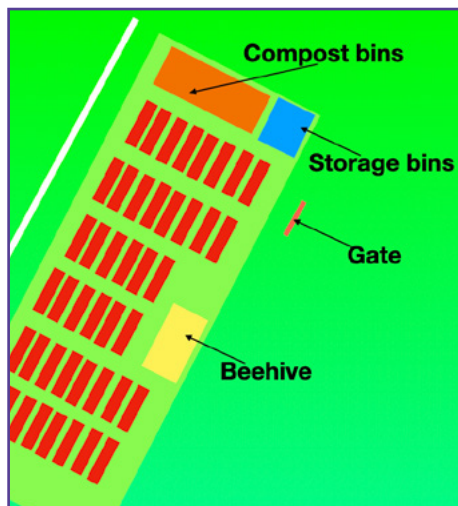
On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January, a small group met to confirm that we were ready to begin. That meeting focused on making some clear and simple agreements:

- how we would work together,
- what sort of commitment would be expected, and
- how the project would take shape in its early stages.

With those decisions in place, we gathered again on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, this time in the field itself, to mark the start of work on the land.

Rather than rushing ahead, we have agreed to begin steadily and sustainably. For the time being, the project will run on Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. These regular sessions will provide structure but it is important to stress that no one is expected to attend every session.

This is a shared project, built on cooperation rather than obligation. People are very welcome to join when they can, whether that is regularly or only occasionally, as life allows.



Proposed plan of the community field

One of the key decisions made at the initial meeting was the growing method we will use. We agreed to follow a no-dig approach, which focuses on improving soil health rather than disturbing it.

Instead of turning the soil, layers of organic material such as compost, manure and mulch are added on top. Over time, this encourages healthier soil structure, better water retention and increased biodiversity.

It is also particularly well suited to a community project, as it is less physically demanding and helps the land improve year by year. A simple diagram explaining this method is included at the end of this article.

Good communication will be essential as the project develops. Updates will be shared through an email list and a WhatsApp group, making it easy for people to know when sessions are happening and what sort of help is needed.

In time, we also hope to have a noticeboard on site, so that anyone passing by can see what is growing and what is planned next.

What has been encouraging so far is the way this project has begun. There is no sense of pressure or perfection, just a willingness to work together, to learn as we go and to see what might grow with time, patience and care.

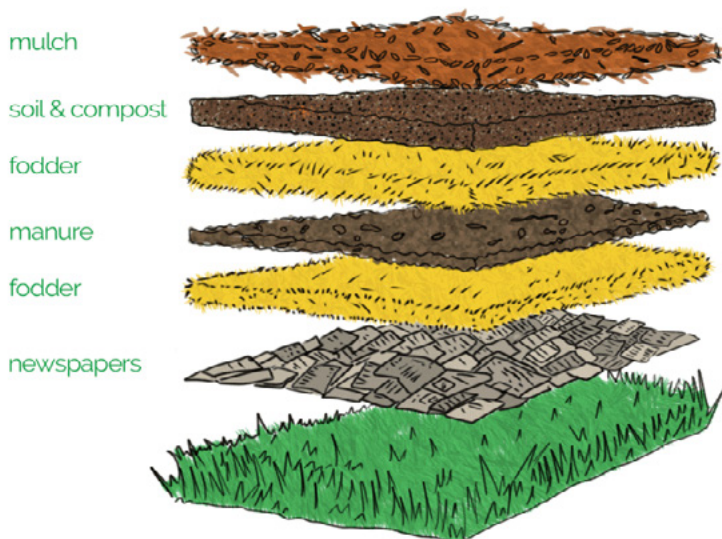
This is very much an early stage. Beds will be prepared gradually, plans will change and mistakes will undoubtedly be made. But that, too, is part of growing something together.

If you are interested in being involved, whether you have years of gardening experience or none at all, there will be plenty of opportunities to take part as the project continues to unfold.

If you would like to join the mailing list, please email me at [revdaniel@smartinschurch.gg](mailto:revdaniel@smartinschurch.gg) with "Food Project" as the subject line. More updates will follow in due course.

**Rev Daniel**  
Project Sponsor

Diagram of the 'no dig' approach which improves soil health and is less demanding.





# Springtime Foraging

Meteorologically, spring will begin in around four weeks' time on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Astronomically, however, it will occur at the vernal equinox around 21<sup>st</sup> March which this year, will mark my sixty-eighth birthday. As the sun appears to track northwards, the risk of frosts diminishes, the soil begins to warm and the natural world bursts into life. Relative to other parts of the British Isles, the generally mild climate of springtime in Guernsey encourages early and luxuriant growth. Locally, spring offers an ideal opportunity to forage and freely gather edible and nutritionally beneficial delights from a large variety of plants.

Among common edible plants are stinking onions, also known as the white bluebell or three-cornered leek (*Allium triquetrum*). Native to the western Mediterranean, it has locally become an invasive and prolific weed. A member of the onion family, all parts of the plant from the underground bulbs to the leaves and flowers can be used in dishes, either fresh or cooked, in much the same way as any cultivated variety of onion.



Stinking Onions

Another edible member of the onion family that is locally common is the wild leek (*Allium ampeloprasum*). The ancestor of cultivated leeks, large clumps of the plant can be seen growing on the National Trust of Guernsey land at Icart. Beyond St Martin's parish, there is a profusion of wild leeks on the sandy coastal commons of Port Soif. As the name of the plant suggests, wild leeks can be cooked and eaten in the same way as cultivated varieties.



Wild Leeks

Among edible shore plants is rock samphire or sea fennel (*Crithmum maritimum*) of a pleasantly hot and spicy flavour. A common, aromatic, succulent plant, it thrives in the salty environmental conditions of the island's rocky coasts and cliffs. Its fleshy leaves and stems, rich in Vitamin C, can be cooked like other vegetables. Leaves, stems and young seed pods can also be pickled. Fresh leaves may be used in salads. Dried and ground, rock samphire may also be used as a substitute for salt.



Rock samphire or sea fennel

Another common coastal plant is sea or wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) the taste of which is mustardy and peppery. There are several ways to prepare wild radish for consumption but all parts of the plant, whether roots, leaves, flowers or seed pods, can be eaten either raw or cooked.



Wild radish

Yet another common coastal plant in Guernsey is the mallow (*Malva sylvestris*). There are various ways to prepare mallows for consumption but all parts of the plant - roots, leaves, flowers and seeds - may be eaten either raw or cooked. When the leaves or kernels of the plant's fruits are added to soups or stews, they exude mucilage, a gelatinous substance that acts as a natural thickening agent.



Common mallow

Offering but the briefest introduction to foraging, the above does not touch upon the abundance of wild plants and seaweeds that may be locally harvested for food. Anyone interested in pursuing the subject further might consider undertaking one of the workshops on wild food offered by Tara and D'Arcy of Wild Guernsey (E-mail: [wildguernsey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wildguernsey@yahoo.co.uk) or call/message on 07781 122420) while Naomi and Ben of Guernsey Seaweed offer seaweed foraging tours (E-mail: [tours@guernseyseaweed.com](mailto:tours@guernseyseaweed.com) or call/message on 07781 120391 or 07911 753440).

**Gary J Vaudin**

# Methodist Minister

Our editor recently met our newly appointed Methodist Minister, Rev Anne Richardson and took the opportunity to find out a bit more.

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

I've been a Methodist Minister for 30 years and before that a primary school teacher. Coming to Guernsey was a bit of a surprise! All those ministers ready to move go into a big melting pot called a Stationing Meeting and our leaders try to match them with a vacancy. My only requirement was to be somewhere near the sea - so I was asked to come to visit the Island. A match made in heaven!

## **Q2. Do you have a childhood hero? What inspired you?**

Perhaps it's a bit cheesy but I'd say my hero was my Dad. He was always willing to help out, always ready to stop for a chat and a laugh. He was tall and I always felt safe and secure with him.

## **Q3. What makes you laugh? Do you have an amusing story to share?**

It's been my privilege to learn British Sign Language and to be welcomed by the Deaf Community. There's something about deaf humour which resonates and there's always a lot

of laughter at Deaf Church and deaf clubs. Lots of stories but not enough space here!!

## **Q4. What are your first impressions of Guernsey and St Martin?**

What a beautiful place to be! I have a little dog called Merlin and I've been exploring with him. We love the beaches and have been finding our way around the lanes too. It's not particularly easy to navigate to start with, though, is it? The lanes don't seem to go where you think they will! The place you want to go to is always on the edge of a Perry's page! I'm gradually getting to recognise places and routes and to ensure that I always observe filter boxes!



Rev Anne with exploring partner Merlin

## Q5. Tell us a little more about your role?

In the Methodist Church, we work for a Circuit - a group of Methodist churches. We have 10 in our circuit on the Island and we also include the churches on Alderney and Sark.

I have 4 lovely Minister colleagues to work alongside plus several amazing lay team members who have various roles supporting the work of our churches. I'm the Minister for the two Methodist churches in the parish of St Martin - Les Camps and St Martin's mission and I am also Minister at the Grande Bouet and Rohais churches.

My role is to resource and enable our Church members to work out their Christian faith in their own ways and situations, walking prayerfully alongside them and offering guidance and support as needed.

## Q6. What do you say to those who claim the Church has become irrelevant?

I would say come along to Church and meet us. You will find people from all walks of life, all drawn together because they have found a Great Love that gives meaning and purpose to life. Love is never irrelevant and we all want to be known and loved and to find a place we belong. This is at the heart of being the Church.

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### Q7. What are your New Year's resolutions?

I don't make them anymore - but I'm excited by this year and the opportunities it will bring. Easter is early this year, so we will be starting Lent in February. At Les Camps, we've decided to offer a morning service for Ash Wednesday (Feb 18<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am) to complement the evening service at the Parish and we look forward to welcoming anyone to come along (suitable for all ages).

Then on Good Friday, we have our Walk of Witness together starting at Les Camps, pausing at the Parish Church and finishing at St Martin's Mission. If I did make resolutions, it would be to work more closely together as churches to serve the people of St Martin.

**Rev Anne Richardson**

[anne.richardson@methodist.org.uk](mailto:anne.richardson@methodist.org.uk)



You can be assured of finding a hot bowl of soup each Thursday lunchtime between midday and 1.30 pm during the winter at St Martin's Community Centre (or the Parish Hall once a month).

It is the brainchild of Sara and Peter Dorey and has been running for three years. The idea is to provide a warm, tasty lunch in convivial surroundings with other people to chat with. There is no charge, but a voluntary donation may be made.

Soup is provided by various establishments in the parish being; Mill Street Community Cafe, The Queen's Inn, La Barbarie Hotel, Les Douvres Hotel, The Captain's Hotel and La Villette Hotel and some individual contributors on a rota basis. There is normally a choice of at least two flavours which is served with bread and butter, tea, coffee and biscuits. Occasionally someone bakes and donates a delicious cake.

A faithful band of volunteers take orders, serve and clear plates and wash up. The kitchen is open to all ages including babies and toddlers, people working in the neighbourhood, friends meeting for lunch or individuals from teenagers to pensioners.

So if you find yourself peckish, alone or in need of a warm space, go along and enjoy food, drink and fellowship. You will be very welcome.



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# Bubble Church

Bubble Church is a 30-minute family service for babies, toddlers and children. For our services in Guernsey, families arrive and are greeted at our welcome desk by a team member. We have a café area where they can collect refreshments from more of our wonderful team. We offer tea, coffee, squash and mini croissants and pain au chocolate.

At 9:30am the families move to their 'Bubbles' which are mats on the floor that each family unit sits around. During the service we have a warmup game, puppets, action songs, prayer, liturgy with actions, a Bible story and follow on activity found in the Bubble Church Bags provided on their bubbles.



Activity featuring the 'burning bush' bible story

We started on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 so have been running for over a year. We run weekly and having only missed 3 weeks due to school holidays. We regularly have between 2 and 5 families attending weekly which ranges between 6 and 14 participants. Our children range in age from a few months old to 11 years.

One family said that this was exactly what they had been looking for and wished it had been available sooner. Parents have said how Bubble Church filled a hole inside that they did not realise was there before they started coming.

Our team of volunteers consist of church members, young people, parents and their children. In most cases families that attend end up joining our team. Some of our young people volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. There are a variety of roles from front of house to behind the scenes. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch.

Families with children are welcome to join us from 9:15am on Sunday mornings at St Martin's Community Centre.

**Claudia Evans Cox**  
Youth and Children's Minister



One of the puppets used at Bubble Church



Are you in school years 7-13? We'd love to invite you to join us at Alpha Youth;

- » 7 Sundays starting 1 Feb 2026
- » 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- » St. Martin's Community Centre

This series of interactive sessions is designed to start an open and honest conversation around some of the big questions of life;

Who is Jesus? Why did he die? How do I read the Bible? How do I pray? Who is the Holy Spirit? Does God heal today?

Alpha Youth is run across the UK, in schools, homes, youth ministries, prisons and online. No two are the same, but they typically have the same three elements; food & game - watch a talk - discussion. And it's all totally FREE!

Sign up available at [orbitalyouth.com](http://orbitalyouth.com). Once sign up is completed, a consent form will be sent to your parent/guardian's email address. Please make sure your parent/guardian completes this form!

**We look forward to seeing you!**



# Community Centre

We are delighted to share Starlight Dance Academy is now at St Martin's Community Centre and St Martin's Parish Hall. Here we speak to Kirsty Chick (Principal of Starlight) to find out what they are offering in 2026!

Starlight has begun an exciting new chapter in 2026, with classes now taking place at St Martin's Community Centre and St Martin's Parish Hall. From the very first conversations, we have been met with such warmth and encouragement from everyone involved and we are incredibly grateful for how welcoming the parish has been to us. The facilities are truly wonderful, providing bright, well-equipped and inviting spaces that allow our dancers to learn, grow and shine.



As a dance school, we are passionate about bringing dance to the forefront of parish life and becoming an active, positive presence within the community. We are thrilled to be settling into St Martin and are already inspired by the strong sense of togetherness that exists here.

Once we are fully established, we would love to give back to the community as much as we can and are already brainstorming ideas for ways we can support, engage with and enrich parish life.



At Starlight Dance Academy, we offer classes for all ages, starting from as young as 18 months right through to adult classes – you are never too young or too old to join our dance family. We are firm believers that dance enriches everyone's lives. Dance helps keep the mind sharp, releases endorphins, builds confidence, creates long-lasting friendships and offers a unique platform for self-expression without judgement.

We are proud to offer a wide range of dance genres, each providing its own experiences and challenges. From the discipline and grace of ballet to the musicality of tap and the partnering and teamwork found in national dance, our classes aim to nurture both technical skill and personal growth. We understand that not every class suits everyone, which is why we offer free trial classes in all genres, allowing you or your loved ones to find the perfect fit in a supportive and encouraging environment.



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## Community Centre - continued

To celebrate our connection with St Martin's Parish, we are pleased to offer a 10% discount off your first term upon presentation of the Cloak Magazine. We also run a refer-a-friend scheme that reflects our belief that dance should be accessible to everyone. We have introduced a unique sliding scale of discounts based on the number of classes you attend, helping to make regular dance training more affordable.

The special part of this scheme is that you can include friends within your family discount, allowing you to share both the savings and your love of dance.

We are so excited to grow alongside the Parish, to welcome new faces through our doors and to build something truly special together at St Martin. To enquire or find out more, please email [enquiries@starlightdance.gg](mailto:enquiries@starlightdance.gg).

**Rebecca Silk**  
Operations Manager

### Quiz Answers

1. La Gran'Mère du Chimquière
2. St Martinais or des dravans (ray-fish)
3. Four
4. Marble Bay
5. Jerbourg Point
6. 14
7. Pierre-Auguste Renoir
8. 1886
9. Batterie Strassburg
10. Dave Beausire and Rob Prow.



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# Three Wise Men

One Christmas day three men were in a car which crashed and all three were killed.

When they got to the pearly gates, St. Peter met them and said that they could get into Heaven as long as they had something Christmassy with them.

The first man showed St. Peter his wedding ring and said, "Look I have gold!" St. Peter said he could enter.

The second man felt in his pocket and pulled out his bundle of keys. He shook them and said, "Look, Jingle Bells!" St. Peter said he could enter.

The third man opened his case and took out a skimpy bikini. "What is that to do with Christmas?" asked St. Peter.

"Oh," said the man, "These are Carol's"

I still smile at it!

**Rosemary Bishop-White**



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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
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