



# St Martin's Cloak

June & July 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                  | 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](http://www.stmartinschurch.gg)

## Les Camps Methodist Church Directory

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

# Welcome to the June edition of the Cloak

There are some remarkable stories of courage in this edition which include;

- the moving 'legacy of smiles' article about a family determined to bring joy from the darkest of times,
- the life of Barbara Halbert 'flying high' despite having a bumpy start in life and living through WW2,
- inspirational fund raising from Emma Wilkins (see Community Centre) prompted by personal loss, and
- our own School determined to help repair damage to Lihou House through a Skipathon.

We also include a theme of 'rest', from the Rector's letter to ideas for gardening bliss, from a peaceful visit to Les Camps Church garden to a delightful meal (or art workshop) at the Renoir tea garden.

We hope you enjoy reading our June 2026 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](mailto:cloak@stmartinschurch.gg)

# St Martin's Cloak

Covering the Whole Parish



|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Rector's Letter.....        | p.4  |
| Parish Matters.....         | p.6  |
| Young People .....          | p.7  |
| Church Diaries.....         | p.8  |
| A legacy of smiles.....     | p.10 |
| Garden Bliss.....           | p.14 |
| Flying High with Style..... | p.16 |
| Renoir Tea Garden.....      | p.20 |
| Minister's Musings.....     | p.24 |
| School Skipathon.....       | p.26 |
| Community Centre.....       | p.30 |
| Guernsey Farmhouse.....     | p.32 |
| Safer LBG.....              | p.34 |

The Editorial Team  
C/O St Martin's Rectory  
La Grande Rue  
GY4 6RR  
Tel: 238303  
[cloak@stmartinschurch.gg](mailto:cloak@stmartinschurch.gg)

# Rector's Letter

**Dear Friends,**

**“Come away and rest awhile...”**

Mark 6:31

When you think of rest, what comes to mind?

Maybe relaxing on Cobo Beach? Playing golf, watching sport, gardening?

Or even sitting on a boat in Fermain Bay?

To most people rest means a temporary break from the daily routine, from work in all its forms.

It's a way of taking time off to gather up enough strength to go back and endure another season or two of labour, until another period of rest can be scheduled.

Resting is what we intend to do when we go on holiday. Unfortunately, the cynic in me knows all too well that I often need a holiday to get over my holiday!

I find myself speaking to more and more people who do not have peace but instead feel anxious and sometimes depressed. Often, they have families, hobbies, even work that they find satisfaction in doing, and yet - no peace.

But for the Christian, rest has a spiritual and more meaningful definition - abiding with God in our daily lives. John 15

This definition is very interesting considering what Jesus says;

**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus isn't describing physical rest here but rather a rest for our souls.

Despite the busyness of our lives, we might be at peace. This is what God's rest is all about. God's rest is about our souls resting in Him.

How does that sound to you?

Having suffered with burnout in my younger years, I have found that being at peace is something that doesn't just happen but requires us to be intentional.

It is also something that whilst it can appear in a moment, can also quickly fade. Peace needs to be nurtured so that it can continue to grow. One simple way of nurturing this 'rest' is to come to God with our needs, with thankfulness, so that His peace can fill your heart and mind.  
Philippians 3

As you read these words, I encourage you to try it - to say a simple prayer - "thank you for....help me here.... Amen." And then, the best advice is to keep it simple, keep it honest and keep it going.

God bless,  
**Rev Daniel**

# Parish Matters

Dear Parishioners,

## **Improvements**

We are already into a glorious spring and have started to put out the summer flowers to brighten up the parish yet again. The Floral team and their volunteers carry out a great job led by Phil Merrien.

The "gang of 4" who carried out so much work on refurbishing the building, have now moved on to building new flower boxes and a general replacement programme is underway. We are looking for companies to sponsor the sites where the boxes are positioned, so if you are interested, please call the office on 238363.

Parish seats are also under a refurbishment programme with seats already having been placed at Sausmarez Manor, Longue Rue bus shelter, La Villette fountain, Saint's Martello tower with more to come.

The steps from the Martello tower to Saint's kiosk have also been replaced to concrete ones to last longer, so access to the popular kiosk is fully open.

## **Reminders**

Rates went out in March and payments are well under way, so please be reminded that if you are yet to pay then fines are going out.

Hedges will require cutting by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

We would ask that hedges are cut back in line with the borders of your property.

We have some issues, on bus routes especially, that hedges still overhang after cutting, so the Douzaine will be enforcing this more on their visits.

## **Liberation Day**

On May 8<sup>th</sup> we were pleased again to host St Martin's children to re-enact the evacuation of children to the UK at the start of WW2. Over 90 children attended to get their passes stamped and to learn what it was like to leave their families, which turned out to be five years.

## **Rectory**

Work will commence soon on the Rectory roof that needs re-slating and insulating due to its age so scaffolding will be in place. We will also take the opportunity to power wash the building at the same time. This will make it stand out as the prominent building it is in the centre of the parish.

## **Cemetery - Open Position**

Due to a member of the New Cemetery Committee resigning, we will be looking to fill the role shortly and all enquiries for the cemetery are now dealt with by Hayley Le Boutillier in our office who is contactable on 238363 or at [info@stmartinsconstables.com](mailto:info@stmartinsconstables.com).

**Dave Beausire**  
Senior Constable

# 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, fairground rides, sports, food stalls, music and much more. It's great for the group to get to know other likeminded young people from the Island and across the Southwest.

There are also tailored teaching sessions in the morning and evening for different age groups and levels of faith from those with no faith to those wanting to dig deeper in the Christian faith and those in between.

Each church makes efforts to fundraise the cost of taking this group to England. Some churches have done bake sales; some fundraise with stalls at markets and others run quizzes to raise funds for this trip. Bookings have closed for this trip for 2026. However, there will be plenty of summer activities in St Martin's for your children and young people.

For St Martin's Parish Church holiday activities visit: [www.stmartinschurch.gg](http://www.stmartinschurch.gg) click 'What's on' and 'Holiday Activities'. Alternatively, follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all that goes on at our Church.

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



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# St Martin's Parish Church

## Special Services and Events:

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**      **10am** All-Age Holy Communion

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**      **10am** Father's day

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**      **10am** All-Age Holy Communion & St Martin's Day

## 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

*\* No Bubble Church on the first Sunday in the month*

**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)*

*Like us on Facebook@StMartinsGuernsey  
or check our website [www.stmartinschurch.gg](http://www.stmartinschurch.gg) for updates*

# Les Camps Methodist Church

## Services and Activities:

### Sundays:

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

**6.00pm** Informal Worship with worship band

**7.30pm** Youth Cell

### 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.

## Third Sunday of the Month

**10.30am** All In Service for all ages with interactive activities

**6.00pm** Jesus and Jackets, a relaxed gathering with jacket potato meal

*For further information please contact [info@lescamps.com](mailto:info@lescamps.com) or 01481 239144  
see our website: [www.lescamps.com](http://www.lescamps.com) or facebook: [LCMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/LCMethodistChurch)*

# A Legacy of Smiles



## The Smile for Georgie Foundation

### In the beginning

It is said that a smile is infectious and can light up a room, yet one particular smile which succeeded in spreading, is continuing to illuminate our island community. That smile was characteristic of ever cheerful, caring and vibrant Georgie Le Prevost whose life, at the age of 25, was tragically cut short in a car crash in July 2017. Just a few weeks afterwards, her Mum and younger sister, Jenny and Annie, sought to celebrate her life by undertaking a tandem skydive through which they raised around £7,000 for a local charity.

The exhilarating experience, coupled with the immense generosity and support of islanders, inspired them to consider establishing their own charity.

Towards the end of 2017, Jenny and Georgie's dad, André, were enjoying a meal at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff prior to attending an evening performance of the Miss Saigon musical. Out of the blue, a couple who had already attended the matiné, approached them and kind-heartedly gave them their program of the show.

That random act of kindness galvanised Jenny and André into defining the mission of the charity that they aimed to establish in memory of Georgie:

*'making a positive contribution to the lives of Guernsey people by bringing them smiles through small acts of kindness.'*

### Expanding the mission

Since the Foundation's official registration on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, that spark of inspiration in Cardiff has transformed into a series of local initiatives with momentous impact. The core philosophy, however, remains simple: small gestures of kindness can have profound effects.

Whether supplying and delivering cakes and pastries to frontline staff and patients at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital or organising an annual 'Random Acts of Kindness' week in February, the goal is always to brighten someone's day, often by way of a complete surprise.

## Celebration and community

Over the past eight-plus years, the Foundation has evolved to become a staple of the Guernsey community calendar, often focusing on bringing joy to children and families. The skydive that triggered its establishment has developed into a 'Jump for Joy' event that was held over the August bank holiday weekend.



23 people in the 2018 Skydive raised £6,000

The annual Halloween 'Trick or Treat' event in which hundreds of children explore the streets of town in safe search of sweets attracts more youngsters than gatherings to watch the parade of Santa Claus that culminates in him switching on the Christmas lights. The annual 'Smile to Herm' trips filled with entertainment, food, fun and games provide young children and their families with much-needed respite.

Beyond these large-scale events, the Foundation's reach extends to supporting other local causes. By partnering with organisations like the Sunflower Project, the Youth Commission for

Guernsey and Alderney, and Safer (which empowers individuals to break free of domestic abuse) the Foundation ensures that Georgie's legacy is woven into the very fabric of island life. From 'Rock and Roll Bingo' nights through 'Walk or Cycle Treasure Hunts', 'Music for Everyone' concerts, 'Kayak Challenges', the events are designed to be inclusive, spirited and above all, fun.

## A lasting legacy

The success of the Smile for Georgie Foundation is a testament to the generosity of the Guernsey public. Every pound raised through its many activities and events is channelled back into the community to facilitate those smiles. It is a cycle of kindness that Georgie's family continues to nurture with tireless dedication.

What began as a way to navigate the darkest of times has become a beacon of shining light. Georgie's smile does indeed continue to illuminate Guernsey, reminding all of us that even the smallest act of kindness can change the course of someone's day for the better. As the Foundation looks toward its future projects, its invitation to the community remains open: help it to keep the Island smiling.

## Keep Guernsey Smiling

The Smile for Georgie Foundation continues to thrive thanks to the incredibly generous spirit of islanders.

## A Legacy of Smiles - continued

As we move through 2026, there are several ways you can help ensure Georgie's legacy continues to grow:

**Seasonal favourites:** Following the success of previous years, planning is underway for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Herm Trip in June and the much-loved Trick or Treat event in town at Halloween.

**Annual Quiz:** Mark your calendars for the return of the annual charity quiz at La Villette Hotel, commencing early evening on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November. One of the foundation's most popular nights of fun and friendly competition.

**Rock & Roll Bingo:** Also, at La Villette Hotel commencing in the early evening of the following week (Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November) is the ever-popular Rock & Roll Bingo night.

**Any Suggestions?** The trustees of the Foundation are ever eager to hear new ideas for smiles. Whether a group event or a personal challenge, you can reach out via email or the official website and discuss how they may help you organise your own fundraiser.

Every contribution, whether a donation or a simple act of kindness, helps the Foundation reach more people across the Bailiwick. To stay updated on specific dates and ticket releases, follow the Smile for Georgie Foundation on Facebook or visit its website: [smileforgeorgie.org.gg/](http://smileforgeorgie.org.gg/).

**Gary J Vaudin**



103 children having fun in Herm in 2018



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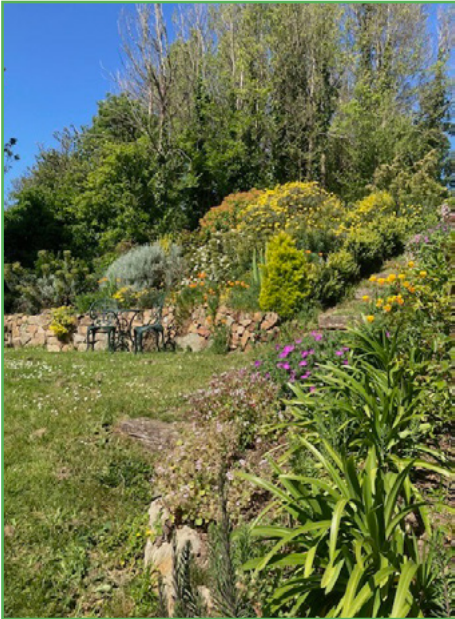


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# Garden Bliss

June and July are among the most rewarding months in the garden. Borders are in full colour, vegetables are coming into their own and longer days make it easier to spend time outdoors. But these warm, active months also bring their own set of tasks to keep everything looking its best.



In June, growth is at its peak. Regular watering becomes essential, particularly for containers, hanging baskets and newly planted specimens. Early morning or late evening is best, as less water is lost to evaporation and plants can absorb it more effectively. Mulching beds with compost or well-rotted manure helps retain moisture and suppress weeds, which will otherwise compete for nutrients.

## Compost Controversy

Compost is the mainstay of a good garden. Having a compost heap or two is vital. I put everything on mine; we have been encouraged by the recycling people to turn our food waste into compost although I find this is easier said than done. I tried with one of those large black compost bins and put in food waste, cardboard, paper and garden waste as instructed. The rats loved it! They constructed a series of tunnels underneath and scurried out with all the lovely spoils from our Sunday roast vegetables.



I put up with this in the expectation that it was worth it to get lovely compost. Sadly, after six months, all I had was sludge. It was probably very nutritious sludge that I poured over my roses, but it did not look or smell pleasant. I am sure other more committed compost makers may have had more success with these things but it has not worked for me.

Making your own is much cheaper than buying it; well it costs nothing. So, I now just have a couple of big open piles of garden waste in the corners of my rather large and wild garden. Its far enough away from the house and out of sight, that I can't see any rats, should they choose to dine on my scraps. After a year or so the compost is ready to be used. Probably not very scientific or systematic but it works for me.

Apparently, the secret ingredient to a good compost activator is to feed it with urine. I'm not saying one way or another if that's my secret...

### Planting, Pruning & Picking

Deadheading flowering plants such as roses, geraniums and cosmos encourages them to keep producing blooms well into the summer. At the same time, keep an eye on fast-growing climbers and tie them into supports before they become unruly. Lawns will need frequent mowing now but in hot, dry spells it's wise to raise the cutting height slightly to prevent stress and browning.

June is also a good month for sowing. Quick-growing annuals and vegetables like lettuce, radishes and beetroot can still be planted for successive harvests. If you grow your own herbs, regular picking will keep them productive and prevent them from flowering too early.

By July, the focus shifts slightly from planting to maintenance and harvesting. Many fruits and vegetables will be ready to enjoy, from strawberries and raspberries to early potatoes and courgettes. Picking produce regularly encourages plants to keep cropping.

Watering remains a priority, especially during dry spells. Greenhouses can become very hot, so ventilate well and damp down surfaces to increase humidity. Tomatoes will need consistent watering and feeding, along with the removal of side shoots to direct energy into fruit production.

Pruning also comes into play in July. Early flowering shrubs such as philadelphus and weigela can be cut back once their blooms fade, helping to shape the plant and encourage strong growth for next year. Hedges, too, benefit from a light trim to keep them neat and tidy.



### Tea & Flowers...

Finally, take time to simply enjoy the garden. Whether it's sitting with a cup of tea among the flowers or sharing freshly picked produce with friends and neighbours, these are the months when the garden truly comes into its own. A little regular care will ensure it continues to thrive throughout the rest of the summer.

### Wendy Doyle

Guest Garden Correspondent



# Flying High with Style

One Saturday in November last year I teamed up with Alexa Stockwell to visit Barbara Halbert (née Jupp). We were invited into her lovely cottage in St Martin and into a lounge filled with beautiful photographs. I began asking Barbara questions about her life which threw up some big surprises, whilst Alexa promptly wrote down, as quickly as possible, all the amazing details in her notepad.

So here goes; Barbara was born here in Guernsey at a nursing home in St Peter Port on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1926. Her father's name was Lionel Jupp & her mother's name was Constance (née Howard). Barbara lived in St Martin with her parents and older brother, Lionel Junior. She was Christened at St Martin's parish church nearly 100 years ago.

Barbara's father was a lecturer in oriental languages, spoke Chinese fluently and was also an accomplished pianist. Her mother had been a ballet dancer before she married Lionel and had their two children. They were a well-heeled family and lived comfortably. However, Barbara's mother always claimed that she had never wanted a daughter, only a son.

One day Constance actually gave baby Barbara away to an English couple who were living further out in the upper parishes of Guernsey. Lionel had to go and find her then bring her home which thankfully he managed to do, successfully!

Sometime later, Barbara's father was woken up by their maid exclaiming "Mr. Jupp, Mrs. Jupp has left, she's taken the boy but the girl has been left behind"! Lionel hired a private investigator to find out where his wife was living and if his son was safe. It was reported back that they were both living in Derbyshire and the son was well, if anything, he was being absolutely coddled.

So, Barbara and her father settled in Guernsey and Barbara was taught at home by a governess. Some years later Lionel remarried a lady called Irene and they went on to have Barbara's two half-brothers, Ian and Richard. Barbara had a difficult time living with her stepmother as a child but they became very close when she was older.

When war broke out in 1939, Barbara left with her family on the last civil aeroplane to leave Guernsey during the evacuation. They settled in Cambridge where Lionel worked as a lecturer at Kings College. During their time in Cambridge Lionel befriended another family who had a daughter called Sonia French, she became a close friend of Barbara.

Sonia's family wanted her to attend boarding school in Wales but she refused to go unless Barbara joined her which she agreed to do. So when she was 14 years old Barbara spent most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War at the Lord Mostyn Boarding School in Llandudno.

The school was heavily involved in the arts and Barbara described it as "gorgeous". She went on to Reading University to study the Arts followed by part-time teaching in the East End of London. She didn't really enjoy her time there and found the children "tough to teach".

During this time Barbara also trained at the Lucy Clayton College modelling agency showcasing fashions from around the globe. She applied for a job working as an air stewardess with BOAC airlines and was immediately accepted. This was her main career and worked there for 17 years.

Barbara was one of two women and five men who formed the crew of the first transatlantic jet to fly from London to New York on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1958.

The flight took 10 hours and 22 minutes after one fuel stop in Newfoundland. She can be seen in the picture below standing 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right.

It certainly looks very glamorous, but Barbara said that even though everyone was very excited it was genuinely hard work looking after the passengers, providing them with meals and refreshments. She said, "it nearly killed us"!

During her work there she was hostess to the Duke & Duchess of Kent on a flight to the Far East and the Duke of Gloucester on a 5-day trip to the Middle East.

Barbara was selected by her employers especially for these roles.



Photo courtesy of "Airways Magazine".

## Flying High with Style - continued

Whilst living in England Barbara shared a flat with her half-brother, Ian. It was during this time that she met her future husband, Brian Halbert. After a long courtship Barbara and Brian eventually married and lived in Surrey.



Brian and Barbara Halbert

They often came back to Guernsey for visits and finally decided to settle in Guernsey in a small cottage in Les Canichers before moving to St Martin.

Brian was also a competent pianist, like Barbara's father, and worked locally as an accountant for Guernsey Techtronix. Barbara became an honorary member of the Inner Wheel Club; a women's association affiliated with the Rotary Club and has remained so for 60 years.

Barbara's Dad died in 1951. After researching the name Lionel Jupp I was surprised to discover a prisoner of war lettersheet that has been kept and displayed on a website created by Bob Ingraham. The letter was sent to Wursack Castle where Barbara's relatives were interned in Germany. Lionel mentions his second wife Irene their sons Ian, Richard and his daughter Barbara in the bottom panel which can be checked out on the webpage.



[ephemeraltreasures.net/channel-islands-deportations](http://ephemeraltreasures.net/channel-islands-deportations).

What became of Barbara's mother and brother you may well ask? Well after her father died and with her husband's encouragement they travelled to Derbyshire to meet her brother Lionel Jr. Brian suggested that Barbara meet her mother in the evening.

**'stay curious and find something that brings you joy for a lifetime'**

Her brother wasn't sure but Barbara plucked up the courage and met her after all those years spent apart. However, all that Barbara's mother could bring herself to say after looking her up & down was "I don't know why you've come because it's a complete wasted journey".

Barbara was, understandably, shattered. Brian and Barbara stayed there for just a few days longer catching up with her brother but were more than happy to return to Guernsey and their lovely life together.

So this is the incredible story of a courageous, graceful lady who overcame great difficulties to become the resilient, successful woman that she is in her own right.

When asked about the secret to her longevity, she said it was in her genes. She remains as active as possible but has no special diet. She said "stay curious and find something that brings you joy for a lifetime".

Barbara still continues to do her own shopping, drive and attend church when she can. She always looks immaculate, takes good care of herself and celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August this summer.

## **Deborah Lawson**

# *La Vilette*

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# Renoir Tea Garden

I pride myself on knowing most of the highways and byways of Guernsey pretty well but I was uncertain enough to consult my Perry's on how best to get to Moulin Huet for my meeting with Natalia Silvester. I thought that I had found the way from Jerbourg Road but eventually realised that it's just a matter of going down the road from the former Hotel Bella Luce! If you go far enough and take the footpath down from the car park you find the Renoir Tea Garden.

Once through the gate, it is like stepping into Narnia without the snow. There is this beautifully tended garden set into the valley with a view out over Moulin Huet Bay to the peastack-like rocks beyond. A sense of peace pervades the Renoir Tea Garden despite the packed tables and a busy staff ensuring that they are properly tended.



View from the tearoom garden

Proprietress Natalia joins me and immediately talks excitedly with evident enthusiasm about the Renoir Tea Garden.

She is passionate in her belief that it is a key part of St Martin, if not Island, community life. It is not just a hospitality venue. It caters for art workshops and Japanese calligraphy classes amongst a variety of other learning and artistic opportunities. In fact, any artistic pursuit you care to organise.



Art workshops are held at the cafe.

The tranquil setting is ideal for all sorts of artistic endeavours and an 'olde worlde' feel enhances the atmosphere. Pierre-Auguste Renoir famously worked on a number of paintings from this very spot in 1883! Natalia regards this as part of her commitment to the parish, providing an escape in which the community can thrive, enjoy and relax.

She also wants to promote art and craft. With this in mind, she has formed a partnership with the Lexicon and Pentel Pens to encourage art in Guernsey. There is a station in the Garden where a Guernsey post card can be designed.

Natalia was born in Kartuzy, Poland and worked as a waitress from the age of fourteen to pay her way through boarding school. She took a gap year in Guernsey at the age of nineteen working in a hotel. Then, as she says, 'life took over'. Seventeen years later she is still in Guernsey, mum to a six-year-old son and running five hospitality establishments! She has a tremendous work ethic and has clearly acquired a considerable amount of business knowledge and acumen.



Natalia with Floral Guernsey 'Blooms by the Shore' Gold award for 2024

Natalia took over the lease at the 'Garden' in the Summer of 2023. This involved investing in the property with new windows, gutters, interior decoration and boundary markers. It was also necessary to clear some of the garden which produced ten tons of plant waste which had to be dragged up the hill by hand. In fact, all materials, goods and supplies have to be moved down and up the hill by hand.

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## Renoir Tea Garden - continued

Other challenges include a limited power supply, which required careful re-design of the distribution system and must be used sensitively. Natalia also had to battle for the right to run the Garden in the way she thinks best. Everything is carefully thought out; from the beautiful china crockery from Churchill and the unique Hario Japanese-made glass teapots to the free sunscreen dispenser for the unwary guest taken by surprise by the strength of the sun.

In 2023, the Garden gained its first ever license to sell alcoholic drinks and each year hundreds of people come to enjoy the garden environment, activities, service and food and drink. Getting to the Garden entails a walk down from the car park and back. It can also include a walk to the beach or around the cliffs, plus a swim for the more active. In fact, Natalia recommends a day at Moulin Huet incorporating breakfast and/or lunch at the Garden, possibly interspersed with snacks and drinks including a variety of different teas.



Open sandwich with filling in airtight jar

The food on offer includes Guernsey Beanjar and French Onion soup; open sandwiches with brown, sourdough or gluten free bread with delicious fillings in airtight Kilner jars, made freshly at one of Natalia's other establishments in St Peter Port, together with various dressings, sauces, salads and crisps. There are also delicious home-made pastries, cakes, Guernsey Gâche and desserts, all served with various teas, coffees, soft drinks, wine or something from the bar.

The system is simple but efficient. You choose what you want at the kitchen and pay for it. You are given a small disc which you take to your chosen table and when it buzzes and vibrates you collect your order from the kitchen. The summer opening hours are 9.00am to 6.00pm, but these can be flexible depending upon the weather and other factors.

The emphasis is on enjoyment and high quality in everything. The Garden won the Floral Guernsey award for Best Kiosk in 2024 and a Gold Gilt Award in 2025. The clientele is an exciting mix of locals and visitors. The website is accessed from all around the world and the Garden has had visitors from as far afield as America, Japan and most European countries, including a very special visit from Victor Hugo's great, great grandson!

Natalia's greatest satisfaction with the Garden is in making people happy.

The number of staff at the Garden varies between two and five depending on the time of year, the weather and the demand from her other establishments.



It is a constant challenge to come up with new and stimulating ideas whilst not losing the essence of the Garden. The crowded seats and tables are a testament to that. Natalia feels that Guernsey's spectacular natural beauty and wonderful local culture should be appreciated and celebrated.

So why not check your Guernsey map and find your way to the car park and down the path to the Renoir Tea Garden. You will find an escape to a beautiful place of peace, tranquillity and culinary pleasure!

**Richard Corbin**



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# Minister's Musings

Around the parish, I've noticed a lot of blue! Gates have been given a lovely fresh coat of blue paint. Planters have been emptied and it looks like they've been painted too - or maybe just given a good clean? It all looks fresh, and spring cleaned! The grounds around the Parish Hall have been dug over, and new border edging has been put in. It gives the parish such a fresh, vibrant feel and as a newcomer, I really appreciate seeing it. It shows that the parish is cared for and there are many people here, working together, for the benefit of everyone. It makes St Martins a great place to live.

As a church, we play our part in this community too. We have a Pop-In twice a month on a Saturday where you can get a lovely cup of coffee or tea and choose from a selection of home-made cakes and bacon rolls. We just ask for donations - so everyone can come along without worrying if they have enough to buy something. You'll find a warm welcome from all the regulars! We're open on 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> July.

For those of you who like to knit or crochet, we have a knit and natter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday afternoons from 2pm in the Church.

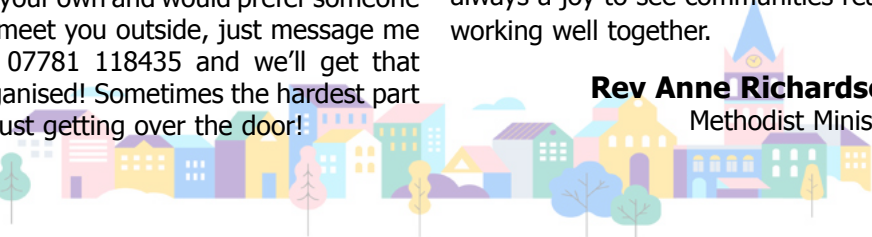
If you're coming to any of our events on your own and would prefer someone to meet you outside, just message me on 07781 118435 and we'll get that organised! Sometimes the hardest part is just getting over the door!

We also have a lovely garden behind the church which most people don't realise is there! It's very beautiful, thanks largely to one of our members, Maurice, who puts a lot of time into it! We are developing a wilder area, with pollinator patches (seeded by the 3rd Guernsey Cubs). If you have a little time to spare, you can wander through the grass, or admire the flower borders, or sit on the bench for 10 minutes. It does your heart good, doesn't it?

Community is so important: the wider community of the parish and the smaller groups we all belong to within it. If you feel the same and have time on Fridays, I'm looking for a few people who would like to create a new group - I thought we may call it Friends on Fridays! This would be particularly for people who are on their own a lot - and besides a regular Friday social group, we may start to arrange meals out, going to events together etc - the sort of thing that is best done with friends. We may be able to link with other groups offering something similar, so please get in touch if interested.

However you relate to community, I hope and pray that you feel welcomed, accepted and able to play your part. For me, this is an image of how God welcomes and accepts us too and it's always a joy to see communities really working well together.

**Rev Anne Richardson**  
Methodist Minister





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# School Skipathon

The peaceful beauty of Lihou Island has long provided the destination for some magical memories for Guernsey school children. At St Martin's Primary School, the island is considered more than just a landmark; it is the site of the highly anticipated Year 4 residential trip. This trip is often a child's first night away from home and a vital opportunity to build independence, resilience and teamwork.



Lihou House roof after the Storm Gorette

In January 2026, Storm Gorette battered the Channel Islands with winds exceeding 90 mph. The exposed Lihou House bore the brunt of the weather, losing hundreds of roof tiles and suffering a destroyed plant room roof. Flying debris smashed windows and ripped fascia boards from the building, while a fire in an electric box left the house without power or water.

## A Heartfelt Response

When news of the devastation circulated, the community responded immediately. Having only recently recovered from the extensive damage of Storm Ciarán in 2023, Lihou Island warden

Steve Sarre was faced with a new repair bill estimated between £8,000 and £10,000. The children wanted to join the community response and a sponsored Skipathon idea was proposed.

"As a school, we want our children to be valued, active members of the Guernsey community," said Mrs Barton, who proposed the fundraiser. "By giving them a voice and supporting them to play a responsible role, we help them realise they can make a real difference. The children were so keen to help; active involvement helps them feel connected to their local area and this Skipathon was a great way for our entire school family to show that our local community truly matters."



Action stations in the School Hall

On Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, the school hall was transformed into a hub of high-energy fundraising. The activities were carefully tailored to the "skipping prowess" of every year group. The younger children took on a 10-minute movement challenge, hopping over pool noodles with boundless energy.



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# School Skipathon - continued

Older children navigated a makeshift "hopscotch" grid created from hula-hoops and showed off their stamina with a 15-minute team skipping.



Hopscotch style skipping with hoops

The effort was a resounding success. After collecting in the sponsorship money, the school proudly announced a fantastic total of £4,131.63 raised! The school was truly blown away by the support from parents & carers and sponsors.



Lihou House - as it should be

## Looking Toward Summer

Mr Sarre has been working tirelessly around the tide tables to make the building watertight, aiming to have the house in shape by late spring. "It's been great to see the school help raise money," said Mr Sarre. "The response has been very uplifting in our time of need." Thanks to the determination of the St Martin's children and the generosity of the local community, the magic of Lihou is set to continue for many years to come.

**Nicola Barton**  
Teacher

## From little conkers do mighty horse chestnut trees grow

Among the many hundreds of trees felled, uprooted or otherwise damaged by the destructive force of Storm Gorette that swept across Guernsey in the evening of Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January were three within the grounds of St Martin's Parochial Cemetery. They were mature specimens of a blackthorn, a hawthorn and a common lime.

Members of the cemetery committee were delighted, therefore, to receive from parishioners, Lesley and Angus Bodman, the gift of a sapling horse chestnut tree that was propagated from a conker by a green fingered friend of theirs, Jane Blad. Jane collected the conker from the large, mature tree that stood in the grounds of Hotel Bella Luce.

During early redevelopment of the site, it was felled despite close neighbours' efforts to save it. Having had the foresight to propagate<sup>1</sup> a replacement for the much-loved parent tree, she gave it to the Bodmans, thinking that the garden of their home would be large enough to accommodate it when, between ten and thirty years' time, it reaches full maturity.



Sapling planted in cemetery grounds

That is not the case, however, so the couple were both glad and relieved to have found a new home for it. Planted well inside a bank in the southeastern corner of the cemetery, the young tree will be carefully nurtured in the hope that it will flourish, survive to maturity, bloom and bear conkers.

**Gary J Vaudin**

1. Often a painstaking and slow process, the propagation of trees from seeds is to be applauded for it encourages genetic diversity and variation.

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# Community Centre

If you were passing St Martin's Community Centre on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, you may have seen a room full of woman practicing yoga and raving! This was a brilliant fundraiser organised by Emma Wilkins raising money for Bright Beginnings. We caught up with her to find out more and what attracted her to using St Martin's Community Centre as a venue.



Emma Wilkins - taking a break from Yoga

## What drew you to Fundraising?

Having completed a number of fundraising running events in the past; I didn't want to just ask people to donate money, I wanted to offer people something fun and enjoyable to take part in whilst also raising money for a fabulous charity. I am good friends with local DJ's Kate & Holly from *Lo Fidelity Sparkle Bitches (LFSB)*, and we had been talking about doing a sober rave combination activity.

I also spoke to Jess who runs Yoga classes and we decided to amalgamate it into one evening of fun to raise as much money as we could for Bright Beginnings.

## Why Bright Beginnings?

In 2019 our son Freddie died the same day he was born and our world changed. I was referred to Bright Beginnings by a Health Visitor after I had my Rainbow Baby in 2021. Since then I have received support and care through Bright Beginnings; specifically Teresa.

They are a wonderful charity, a whole community in themselves and I believe they hold the net to catch people who would otherwise fall through.



The evening started with a Yoga class

## Fundraising night

We called it 'Let's Move! (for Bright Beginnings)' and it consisted of 45 minutes of Yoga with Jess followed by 45 minutes of dancing with LFSB and then a raffle to finish it off.

There were many generous donations and prizes provided by local businesses. It was so well supported and to have nearly 50 people in the room all dancing together raising money for a worthy charity was really special! We raised just under £2,000 that evening.

The Centre was perfect for this sort of event, lots of parking, the room was open and airy and just right for what we were trying to achieve. The caretaker Dave was wonderful, so helpful and nothing was too much trouble for him on the evening to ensure we were set and ready to go.

### Tell us about your marathon?

It was fantastic. This was my third Guernsey marathon, and it felt like there were lots more supporters out there which definitely helps! I have run three Guernsey Marathons and completed Brighton and London. Running has been a form of therapy for my PTSD and post-natal depression.

For me it is golden; I wouldn't do without it, it's the best thing for me. I pledged to always run in April as this is the anniversary of my son Freddie's birthday. It's a great way to dedicate lots of time to him and to me.

### Future Plans?

Teresa from Bright Beginnings has asked shall we make it an annual thing, watch this space!

If this has given you an idea of a fundraising event you would like to hold at St Martin's Community Centre, please get in touch.

**Rebecca Silk**

Operations Manager

**Bright Beginnings** is a local charity launched in 2017 to support a diverse range of families and children aged 0-4 'through pregnancy, birth and beyond.' It was awarded Charity of the Year in 2021 by the Guernsey Community Foundations Award.



After Yoga - 'Dancing in the Dark' - sober rave with LFSB

# Guernsey Farmhouse

On the 1787 Duke of Richmond map there is a house marked where our house stands. A historian wanted to know if the house shown on the map was, in fact, our house. He crawled around the eaves in our attic and announced that ours is the original house as he had found on the chimney stack fixing for the thatch. He said he had expected it was original by the shape of the rooms.

Our sitting room (about 15 ft square) would have been where the family lived with a big open fireplace and a furze oven. The room above would have been where the furze was stored. (did you know that when they speak of furze they are talking about gorse?)

Across the hall is our dining room, a narrower room and he said that would have been where they kept the cattle while the room above would have been the bedroom. I suppose that was a good arrangement as the bedroom would have been warm from the heat of the animals below (if a little smelly).

Let's just pause for a moment while we think of the family living here all those years ago. The families were often large and it's so difficult for us to picture them in 2 rooms when we live with such space around us. The historian also pointed out that the granite and thick walls were more indications of the age of the house.



Painting of the authors father-in-law with his father and sisters picking tulips. Across the meadow you can see the furze growing for the furze oven.

The granite walls are built with all different sized stones in a higgledy-piggledy manner, whereas the addition that is our kitchen with a bedroom above built on the back of the house, has granite in neat rows and stones more of the same size. This, apparently, indicates that the kitchen was built in Victorian times.

As with many old farmhouses, additions have been made throughout the years. The original house is built facing the lane and there is another house joined to it making the building L shaped. That house was also built more recently, with higher ceilings.

At the back of the old house, one of the walls is rounded giving the box carts easy access to the lane (now blocked off by the other house). The historian told us that the front of the house is not original, apparently many of the old houses had their façades changed, it was the fashion. This is a shame as I would like to know what it looked like originally although, on second thoughts, the windows would have been much smaller and the house much darker.

As he left, he looked wistfully at our old, heavy and rather battered kitchen door and told us, in his opinion that door is older than the house!

It was my husband's grandfather who bought the property before the war with the intention of growing bulbs, daffodils and tulips. During the occupation the

Germans commandeered this house to accommodate their soldiers and the stables for their horses. My father-in-law would come to the farm each day to milk his cows out in the fields by hand sitting on a three-legged stool. He would bring his little girls with him. My sister-in-law can remember drinking the milk out of the can lid, all warm, straight from the cow - she hated it - but it was a good way to ensure the girls had milk every day.

After the war my mother and father-in-law ran the house as a small private hotel that proved to be very popular, often the same visitors returned year after year and became friends with the family.

These old Guernsey farmhouses scattered throughout the Island must all have interesting histories and tales to tell.

## Carol Guille

### Children's letters to God

Dear God, I don't think anyone should get more money than anyone else unless they do more work. Children work very hard, harder than the teachers but they don't get paid at all. We should get at least five pounds...Darren

Dear God, The world isn't how it was when you drowned it, there's more foolish people now. It's worse now...Fiona

# Safer LBG

One of the first things a new Inner Wheel President does is choose a charity for the club to support through fundraising and practical help during her year in office. When I became President in June 2025, I investigated several charities before choosing Safer LBG.

Safer provides vital services across the Bailiwick and is partly funded by the States of Guernsey, as well as through grants and donations. It is the only charity locally offering this specialist support. Since choosing Safer, I have learnt much more about their work and my admiration for the team has grown enormously.

When I met with some of the team what really surprised me was learning that 485 cases of domestic abuse were recorded from June 2025 to January 2026 by Guernsey police. It was quite shocking to realise this is happening in our small and seemingly safe island community. Safer works closely with Guernsey Police and other local agencies and delivers education and training in schools, businesses and other organisations. This helps people better understand abuse and recognise both existing and potential situations.

When someone needs help, Safer offers a range of support tailored to each individual. This might include emergency refuge accommodation, confidential telephone advice, crisis support or help with recovery.

Services also include Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, a Children and a Young Peoples Violence Advisor, Outreach, moving on counselling, educational programmes and a 24/7 helpline. All of this is provided by a small and dedicated team of professionally qualified individuals

During my presidency year, Guernsey Inner Wheel has supported Safer in a number of ways. At their request, we donated over 60 essential household items, including cleaning products and toiletries. We have also raised funds through events such as a jigsaw race and our Easter Bonnet Afternoon Tea, with proceeds to be presented at our final meeting of the year.

It has been a privilege to support such an important local charity and I hope sharing this gives a small insight into the vital work Safer does in our community. If you would like to find out more about Safer you can visit [www.safer.gg](http://www.safer.gg) or if you need help, call 721999.

**Rosemary Bishop-White**



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| Email                 | info@stmartinsconstables.com |
| Facebook              | Constables of St Martin      |

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| Cemetery Enquiries | Mrs. H. Le Boutillier | 238363 |
| Constables         | Mr. D. Beausire       | 237878 |

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