

A large bonfire of wooden pallets is burning at night. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames rising from a pile of dark wooden pallets. A massive plume of sparks and embers is being ejected from the fire, filling the upper left portion of the frame. The background is dark, and the foreground shows a grassy area. The overall scene is dramatic and festive.

St Martin's Cloak

October & November 2026

St Martin's Parish Church Directory

Rector	Vacant Post	
Rector's Warden	Laura Stockwell	01481 235498
People's Warden	Paul Steele	01481 233203
Honorary Treasurer	Neil de la Mare	01481 237816
Organist & Choir	Daniel Madden	01481 715010
Men's Society	Vacant Post	
Ladies of Faith Together (LOFT)	Carol Guille	01481 258364
Music Group	Daniel Madden	01481 715010
Cloak Magazine	Stuart Lawson	01481 235470
Church Flowers	Vacant Post	
Coffee/Craft Mornings	Sallysara Windsor	01481 256342
Church Office	Claire Holliday	01481 231197
Community Chaplain	Hester Botha	01481 231197
Youth & Children's Minister	Natasha Luggar	07781 144222

Find us on Facebook pages: 'St Martin's Church, Guernsey'
'Roundabout, St Martin's'
'St Martin's Junior Church'



Details of St Martin's Parish Church and its services can be found at:
www.stmartinschurch.gg

Les Camps Methodist Church Directory

Minister	Rev Anne Richardson	01481 239144
Leadership Team	Yvette Barbe	07911 733721
	Jean Carre	07781 427947
	Robyn Craig	07911 712272
	Don Lowe	07911 715712
	Rod Allen	07839 280455
	Andrew Redhead	01481 233150
	Sarah Snell	07911 718812
Cell Groups	info@lescamps.com	01481 239144

Welcome to the October edition of the Cloak

Collective nouns can capture the character of a group of animals or humans. A few of my favourites are:

- a parliament of owls, or
- a congregation of crocodiles, or
- a grumble of pigs; how about
- a discretion of priests, or
- a pew of parishioners.

Judging from this edition, there is nothing 'pewlike' about the parishioners of St Martin. From treasure hunts and our hugely successful South Show to the Community BBQ, the Beekeepers Honey Show, advice on staying active, two busy churches and our local school tapping into 'Puffling Powers', these pages are full of people coming together, sharing gifts and enjoying parish life.

I hope you enjoy reading The Cloak, maybe over a hot drink as the nights draw in. As always, we would love to hear from you - news, stories, ideas or pictures - maybe a winter photograph for the Christmas edition.

Enjoy!

Photographs & Anecdotes

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

cloak@stmartinschurch.gg

St Martin's Cloak

Covering the Whole Parish



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Cloak Contemplation

At the time of writing, Fort Road is closed and will be closed until 20th October. The roadworks information on the webpage says it's for the Fermain Lane Substation replacement. There is a roadmap that clearly shows the road closed and the yellow line shows the diversion. I don't envy the person or team responsible for planning these works and organising the closures and diversions!

There are helpful boards in the middle of La Grande Rue, announcing that Fort Road is closed - saving people driving down to the traffic lights only to find that they can't turn left. There is also a 'No Entry' sign into Les Merriennes from Rue Poudreuse. Personally I don't understand why they did that! There is nothing happening on that stretch of road and it doesn't help the diversion to channel all the traffic along Rue Cauchez before turning left into the one-way part of La Grande Rue!

I wonder what the thinking was behind this, did they run out of boards to write on to say Fort Road was closed? Whatever the reason, I'm left with a dilemma as I drive home that way.

Do I ignore the 'No Entry' sign and drive around it, or do I obey? I confess I have done both.

These roadworks have made me reflect on my attitude to rules and signs. Are you always obedient? Does it help to understand the reasoning behind the rules? What do we do when we come up against something we should follow but, for whatever reason, don't want to?

In the Bible, the story of God's people is one that began with a series of rules to follow. We call them The Ten Commandments and some are still the foundation for many of the laws governing the way we live and work together. This is like a framework, a scaffold, to help us navigate living in community. If you know your Old Testament, you will see how the people consistently failed to keep the rules and how God sent prophets to warn them of the consequences. This was all part of the process and part of God's ultimate plan to come amongst us in Jesus. Through his life, ministry, death and resurrection we come to understand more of God's purposes.

How we can really experience life in all its fullness. It's not about rules to follow. It's about a relationship. Once the relationship is established and valued, the reason for the rules is clear and much easier to obey.

As a community, we have a relationship with one another, as we live and work in the same area. We also have a relationship to those who have gone before us, for all that they did to enhance our lives, improve our community and our experience of Island life.

We have a special relationship with those who gave their lives in service, which is why we mark Remembrance Sunday every year. Although we may not have known the people named on the war memorial, we still gather there, to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday 8th November and our Act of Remembrance begins at 10.45am. After our gathering, we proceed to the Methodist Church for the remainder of the service.

If anyone cannot stand at the memorial and prefers to head straight to the church, the service there will start just before 11am, the silence will be observed, and our worship leaders will lead the service until the rest of us arrive. Everyone is welcome to join in as they are able.

After the silence at the memorial we pray - including these words:

"We commit ourselves to work... for reconciliation between nations and communities that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace."

God calls us into relationship with Him, that we may better understand how we are all part of the same human family, past, present and to come. It's not really about rules and whether we like to keep them or complain about them. It's about taking responsibility for our part in the life of the world.

Rev Anne Richardson
Methodist Minister

Parish Matters

Dear Parishioners,

Autumn is upon us, as those long summer days already seem a distant memory but what a summer it was. Guernsey saw a return to visitor numbers from pre-covid times and the cliffs and south coast bays were enjoyed by many.

The kayak 'parking' at Saints Harbour has been a success and the slipway has been free for fisherman and swimmers alike to have good access. The harbour has been a popular place to swim and I'm sure many will continue into the colder months.

Rectory

We are looking to sell the Rectory now it is vacant and will be seeking the permission of St Martin's ratepayers at a meeting at the Parish Hall on the 24th of September at 7pm. The Rectory will be open on Saturday 19th September from 10am to 12.00 noon for any ratepayer to look at its condition. The reasons we aim to sell it are that:

- the Rectory is an old building that needs a lot of work, and all costs are borne by the ratepayer.
- the current estimate to re-decorate comes in at £54,000 and that's before carpets and bathroom upgrades are even considered.
- £70,000 has been spent on re-slatting, insulating and replacement dormer windows already.

This was planned as we were unaware that the Rector planned to leave, however a view had to be taken on its future. We have a legal obligation to house a parish Rector until the end of 2029, therefore if passed, we will look to purchase a new build house in the parish with the sale proceeds.

When our legal obligation to house a Rector expires, we would seek to rent it with the money being returned to the ratepayers through an adjustment in the rates.

Please take the offer for viewing the Rectory and to attend the parish meeting on the 24th of September as it's important to have your say, it's your money we are managing.

Hedges

It will soon be that time again to cut your hedges and clear your streams. We would ask that this be completed by 1st October when the Douzaine will inspect them. We have had several issues with hedges overhanging at the top which affects buses and trucks getting through, so please make sure nothing is overhanging up to 12 feet from the road.

Library

With access to our honesty library 5 mornings a week, through the main Constables office door, it has gone from strength to strength. Please carry on enjoying it and invite friends to do so.

Elections

Wednesday 4th November sees the parish elections and we have 3 Douzaine seats available to fill. Nominations will open 9th October and close 26th of October. We need a good mix on the Douzaine of all ages. The Douzaine meets once a month (excluding August) and whilst other business gets attended to during the month, most takes place outside people's normal working hours.

If you are on the electoral roll and live in St Martin's, you can stand and we would be happy to meet anyone considering this position to go through what it entails.

Remembrance Sunday

The annual service outside of the front of the parish hall by the war memorial will take place on Sunday November 8th at 10:30am. Please join us to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Christmas Market

A date for your diary is Monday 7th December from 6pm onwards, with a visit from Santa, Carols and plenty of stalls, more on that next time.

There is plenty going on as the year closes and to keep yourselves updated more regularly, please go to the Constables of St Martins Facebook page. Enjoy the Autumn.

Dave Beausire
Senior Constable



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St Martin's Parish Church

Special Services and Events:

Sunday 4th Oct	10am All-Age Holy Communion
	12pm Harvest Festival Bring & Share
Sunday 18th Oct	9.15am Bubble Church
Sunday 1st Nov	10am All-Age Holy Communion

Regular Services and Events:

Our regular Sunday services are:

8.00am	Book of Common Prayer
9.30am	Junior Church* (at the Community Centre)
10am	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Evensong

* No Junior Church on 18th October when it is Bubble Church

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)

Choir Practice

Wednesday evenings at 6.45pm - at the Parish Church

The Church is currently in interregnum while a new priest in charge is appointed. Services may be conducted by visiting priests or occasionally by members of the Church.

More details on church notice board or email claireh@stmartinschurch.gg

Like us on Facebook@StMartinsGuernsey
or check our website www.stmartinschurch.gg for updates

Les Camps Methodist Church

Special Services:

Sunday 11th Oct	10.30am Harvest Festival
Sunday 1st Nov	6.00pm Lights to remember (memorial service)
Sunday 8th Nov	10.55am Remembrance Service

There will be a short Holiday Club on Wed 28th & Thur 29th October in the mornings. On Fri 30th October, it is the Annual Light Party. These events are run by the Parish & Methodist Church in Methodist Hall.

Regular Services and Events:

Sundays:

10.30am	Worship at with Lightbulb and Crèche for 0–16 years.
6.00pm	Informal Worship with Worship Band
7.00pm	FRAME group meet - a new friendship group

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** there 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.

Saturday Pop-in:

On the first & third Saturday of the month between **10am and 12noon** our church hall is open for people to meet for a cup of tea or coffee and bacon rolls / biscuits / cakes are available - donations only.

For further information please contact info@lescamps.com or 01481 239144
see our website: www.lescamps.com or facebook: LCMethodistChurch

Puffling Powers

In an ever-changing world, we want our children to leave St Martin's Primary School as confident individuals and successful learners who contribute to society, while acting responsibly towards their community and world.

To achieve this, we explicitly teach six 'Puffling Learning Powers' which are a structured set of six core skills, attitudes and beliefs taught to prepare children for lifelong success and responsible citizenship.

The initiative uses bespoke artwork across school posters, certificates and badges designed by local artist and Learning Support Assistant Caroline Cummins.

Throughout the year, every child aims to achieve their year group's puffling badge. Y1-2 focus on three Puffling Learning Powers: Teamwork, Independence and Resilience. Y3-6 focus on all six.

Every child has a Puffling Card at the beginning of the new academic year. Children earn six puffling learning points in each element and, once all thirty-six points are achieved, they are presented with their badge in our celebration assembly. This is a real highlight for the children and something they are incredibly proud of.

Once children complete the front of their Puffling Card, they can continue to collect points on the back. If this is completed too, they become Keychain Champions.



Year 5 Badge Busters



Critical Thinking

Using curiosity to ask well-structured questions and challenge what they observe and already believe about the world to generate deeper thinking and learning through disciplined reasoning and ethical enquiry.

Teamwork

Learning from and with others by listening, encouraging, communicating and adopting different roles to work towards a group goal that is greater than the individual achievements of its members.

Creativity

Using imagination and inventiveness to create something original (to the learner) by combining and linking existing knowledge and ideas in a novel and beneficial way to turn them into reality.

Reflection

Consciously and actively examining and thinking about our experiences, behaviours, feelings, beliefs and attitudes in order to learn from them and take responsibility for our personal growth.

Independence

Autonomously taking charge of their own learning by planning what to do, when to do it and what support or resources will be needed to succeed, resulting in high levels of self-motivation and self-regulation.

Resilience

Keeping going when things get hard as they believe errors and challenge show they are at the edge of their comfort zone which leads to more progress and depth in learning.

Puffling Powers continued...



Year 2 Key Chain Champions

Children take a real pride in working on their Puffling Learning Powers. In daily conversations with children, they will often tell me how many puffling points they need to receive their badge.

We hope our children will take their Puffling Learning Powers with them for the next stage of their education, adulthood and into the world of work.

Clare Giles
Headteacher

Full details of the St Martin's Primary School Puffling Learning Powers are available on the school website www.stmartinsprimary.gg

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Trailblazer Treasure Hunt

If you were in town on the afternoon of 11th July, you may well have seen several small groups of girls rushing around in a very determined fashion. They were all Guides from the various Island Guide Companies and they were on a Trailblazing Treasure Hunt, organised by our own Amy Madden. The aim was to win the Randall Cup for which an activity is set every year.

The groups met up at the Liberation Monument at 1.45pm, where they were given an app to be loaded in someone's phone with the details of the challenges to be done. The girls then chose which order they should attempt each challenge, designing their best route from start to finish. Challenges would take place throughout the town area, including Castle Cornet, the Clifton Steps, the Ferry Passenger Terminal, the Town Cemetery and Victoria Tower. The girls could decide which challenges to attempt and in what order, knowing that they would lose points if they were not at Candie Museum by 4.00pm. Some challenges earned them a lot of points, others not so many!



Made it to the Ferry Terminal!

I was unable to accompany the St Martin's Guides to all their challenges but I waited for them to arrive at Victoria Tower where I joined three members of the Trefoil Guild. Their task was to ensure that only one patrol was inside the tower at any one time, climbing to the top to complete their challenge.

We waited, luckily in the sunshine, for quite a while and then, suddenly, two patrols appeared round the corner one behind the other. The first went in and the second had to wait until they came out by which time the third and fourth groups had also arrived. It was a rush to try to get them up the stairs within the time limit and the fourth group was one minute late! After the tower it was a quick dash to Candie and a relaxing time while all the marks were totalled for each patrol.



Relaxing at Candie with The Beatles

The winner of the Randall Cup was the 7th St Stephen's Guides and St Martin's Guides came a very credible second. WELL DONE GIRLS. I must congratulate ALL the patrols who climbed the Victoria Tower. They were tired by then but smiled through it all and were determined to finish.



Trefoil Guild ensconced by Victoria Tower

A little extra information. The Trefoil Guild was formed in the 1940s by ladies who had been in the Guiding Movement. They meet monthly and help the uniformed companies with testing badges or in other ways. Two of the Trefoil Guilds in Guernsey are linked to Southwest England.

Rosemary Bishop-White



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Thomas Clarkson

Thomas Clarkson was the son of an Anglican Clergyman in Cambridgeshire who died when Thomas was aged six. At eighteen, Thomas gained a place at Cambridge University by way of a special scholarship for the sons of deceased clergy men.

In 1785, his last year at university, he took on the challenge of the University Latin Prize. In the late 18th century, the Latin Prize was the prize of all prizes – only one was awarded per year and it guaranteed a high-ranking job in a Government Office. But the challenge for Clarkson was the required topic set that year by Vice-Chancellor Peckard: *Anne liciat invitos in servitutem dare?* (Is it lawful to make slaves of others against their will?).

Clarkson threw himself into research as he polished his Latin essay. He studied both historical and religious sources, as well as the records of slave-merchants and laws that 'regulated' slavery.

Unexpectedly, as he marshalled his evidence, he found himself overwhelmed by horror. He wrote later that, 'In the daytime I was uneasy. In the night I had little rest. I sometimes never closed my eyes for grief...' He won the prestigious prize, but writing it had touched something deep within.

As he rode toward London to take up a new eminent position, he struggled with the truth of slavery. Just outside Wades Mill in Hertfordshire, he sat down on the turf by the roadside disconsolate and held his horse.

And as he later wrote, 'Here a thought came into my mind, that if the contents of the Essay were true, it was time some person should see these calamities to their end.'



Clarkson, 1834 by Samuel Lane

Clarkson's essay challenged the legality of slavery, a controversial position, so he translated his essay into English but only found one willing publisher – the Quaker James Phillips. It was a match made in heaven. Phillips was part of a larger group of Quaker anti-slavery activists but since Quakers were not allowed to speak freely and were banned from many professions, their work to end slavery was often ignored.

Through the Quakers, Clarkson met the freed slave activist Equiano and the lawyer Granville Sharp.

Soon a group of twelve men, nine Quakers and three Anglicans, created the world's first human rights organisation:

The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

This first human rights group would ultimately lead to the Slave Trade Act in 1807, which ended slavery across the British Empire.

Thomas Clarkson lived to see the suppression of slavery in many countries and travelled widely supporting liberation in other countries. He died, aged 86, in 1846 still working for freedom. His legacy is still strong. 'The Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade' has changed its name several times over the years but has continued without interruption and is now known as Anti-Slavery International.

Kevin Bales CMG

Kevin was Professor of Contemporary Slavery at University of Nottingham.

For more information visit:

www.antislavery.org in the UK

freetheslaves.net in the USA

www.abolitionist.org.gg Guernsey

Guernsey for Freedom is trying to understand current issues effecting guest workers on short-term employment permits, particularly in terms of their working & living conditions.

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Young People

Food, Films and Friendship

Over the seven-week summer holiday period, the Community Centre hosted a programme of free activities for children, young people and families. The programme included cooking and baking sessions, weekly film evenings and a closing community barbecue. The activities were supported by volunteers and were designed to provide practical learning opportunities and low-cost family activities.

Confidence in the Kitchen

The cooking and baking sessions were led by Natasha Luggar and involved two age groups. Participants followed recipes, measured ingredients, used shared equipment and helped with preparation and clearing up. The sessions introduced basic cooking skills in a supervised setting and gave participants experience of working together in a kitchen environment.



Menu included cakes, lasagne, pizza & pies.

At the end of each session, participants took home a family-sized serving of the food they had prepared.

Thursday Nights at the Movies

On Thursday evenings, the Centre held free movie nights in the main hall. These sessions were open to families and provided an informal evening activity during the school holidays. Seating was arranged with chairs and beanbags to create a temporary cinema-style layout.



Relaxed seating & even popcorn and tuck.

Hot chocolate was served during the interval. The format was intended to make the evenings accessible and manageable for families with children of different ages.

Community Barbecue

The final event was a free community barbecue held on the field next to the centre. Food included burgers, sausages and salads brought by volunteers. The event brought together families, neighbours, volunteers and supporters who had been involved during the summer.



BBQ an opportunity for all involved to meet.

There was no shortage of activities for the children which included a local knowledge quiz and a scavenger hunt. The barbecue offered a relaxed and welcoming finale to a lovely summer.

Holiday Programme Plus!

Across the seven weeks, the programme combined practical skills, social activities and shared meals. A **big thank you** to the volunteers who planned activities, prepared resources, served refreshments and helped reset the rooms after each event.

The programme showed the range of community activity that can be achieved when volunteers, families and organisers work together. The Centre is committed to provide opportunities for local residents of all ages to meet, learn and take part together.

Hesta Botha
Community Chaplain



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Changing Tides of Tourism

The August–September 2026 edition of the Cloak focused on the 'Golden Age' of tourism in St Martin and briefly reflected on the diverse array of hotels, guesthouses and self-catering cottages that once existed throughout the parish. Those pages captured a vibrant era when local hospitality thrived and our lanes echoed with the merriment of seasonal visitors.

Yet, as many readers will recall, that high-water mark was followed by a quiet yet profound change in the tides of economic fortune. By the close of the late 1970s, a convergence of global economic shocks, internal industrial transformations and severe strains on local infrastructure combined to erode the very foundations of the traditional visitor economy that, for decades, we had previously enjoyed.



Historic travel poster promoting Guernsey.

Global shocks & lifeline strains

The first major tremors of this decline were felt globally through the 1970s energy crises. The staggering spike in worldwide oil prices severely impacted travel, exponentially driving up the cost of operating the cross Channel ferries and regional airlines that served as Guernsey's vital tourism lifelines.

Suddenly, the cost of simply reaching the Island escalated dramatically. To compound matters, the United Kingdom, our primary tourist market, was simultaneously crippled by severe economic instability and widespread industrial unrest. The turbulent industrial strikes of 1976, which severely disrupted British transport networks and postal services, paralysed holiday bookings right at the peak of the season. For many working-class British families, travel logistics became too unpredictable to navigate.

Summer of 1976

Those who did make it to our shores that year faced an environmental crisis. The prolonged, scorching drought of 1976 placed an unprecedented burden on the island's fragile natural resources. St Martin, heavily reliant on thriving agricultural and tomato-growing industries and the hospitality sector, bore the brunt of emergency measures that imposed strict water rationing. This combination of external industrial chaos and internal resource depletion highlighted the vulnerabilities of hosting massive seasonal influxes.



One of two ferries assigned to the route from Weymouth to Channel Islands in the 1960's.

Fading Flight & 'Golden Rail'

Simultaneously, the unstoppable rise of affordable, mass-market continental aviation dealt a fatal blow to domestic resort booking models. For years, the market had been dominated by British Rail's highly popular 'Golden Rail' initiative.

This innovative scheme offered tourists the ultimate hassle-free, door-to-door holiday experience: it bundled first or second-class return rail travel and guaranteed seat reservations with pre-booked half-board accommodation at premier local hotels and even threw in taxi transfers to and from railway stations and ports. It made an 'overseas' trip to the Channel Islands feel entirely effortless for the British working class.

As commercial jet travel matured, aggressive European tour operators began offering sun-guaranteed package deals to Spain at ultra-low prices that even the seamless, all-inclusive convenience of the 'Golden Rail' network could no longer match.

The Rise of Finance

As tourism faltered, Guernsey's internal economic priorities underwent a permanent realignment. The late 1970s witnessed the explosive growth of the international finance sector in town. Offering stable, year-round employment and significantly higher salaries, the finance industry quickly drew the local workforce away from the seasonal, labour-intensive demands of farming, horticulture and, of course, hospitality.

For many families in St Martin, the choice between the unpredictable margins of running a guesthouse and the relatively secure prosperity of a corporate role was a no-brainer. Local planning policies accelerated the transition; rigid bureaucratic frameworks made it incredibly difficult for existing hotels to modernise, prompting many landowners to eventually divest of their properties and pave the way for the residential parish developments we see today.

Community Legacy

The decline of mass-market tourism was not a failure of island or parish hospitality but rather a profound structural pivot. As the once bustling era faded, St Martin successfully adapted, transforming into the vibrant, tight-knit and modern community that we know today.

Gary J Vaudin

Anything to Declare?

The Cloak took the opportunity to meet **Rob Prow** - elected Constable last year - to find out a bit more.

Rob was brought up in Guernsey, attended St Martin's Primary School and Elizabeth College before embarking on a career in Customs and Immigration (now Guernsey Border Agency). He worked there 40 years progressing to Chief Officer, a post he held for 8 years. He is member of several professional bodies and has been involved in charity work and public service as a Deputy from 2016 to 2025.



His time as a politician included various roles including President of Home Affairs and Chairman of the Financial Crime forum responsible for getting the Island ready for the critical MONEYVAL inspection. In the event, the Island received a 'positive evaluation' with no 'material deficiencies'.

In other words, an excellent result. Crucial for the Financial Services Industry. He is married with two children, a keen football fan and enjoys running and cycling around the parish.

Who was your childhood hero?

I had many heroes as a kid, mainly professional footballers. However, my Mum and Dad didn't have a telly, so I read many novels and Agatha Christie was my favourite. Weirdly, the fictional Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, who seemed to be able to solve every crime, became a hero.

Which football team is the best?

I support three teams. My Uncle was in the Navy and lived just outside Portsmouth. When I was a small kid, he used to take me to Fratton Park, when I went to visit him, so I supported Pompey. This was hard work as they were in the (then) second division and most of my mates supported Manchester United.

However, I went on a road trip to watch Liverpool win the European Cup final in Rome in May 1977. They beat Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-1. It was a fantastic experience. That night we stayed in a huge campsite, predominately inhabited by German fans - but they were fantastic in defeat and we had a great evening in the campsite bar. I have supported Liverpool ever since.

Last but not least, St. Martin's AC! I have played, coached and sat on the Committee for a short time.

I take my hat off to all the great players and coaches over the years and of course all the Presidents, ground staff and Committee members, over the years. 'Come on you Saints!'

Can you tell us any unusual stories from your time in Customs?

I could write a book about Guernsey Customs and Immigration. The Service developed from being a bureaucratic, paper-pushing and form-stamping administration office into a globally recognised law enforcement organisation. We put serious drug traffickers before the Royal Court in large numbers over several decades.

We also passed on quality crime and suspicious movements intelligence to Customs authorities, Police and law enforcement agencies worldwide. Alongside several senior Police Officers, who are now close friends, we pioneered the expertise and capability to fight financial crime and money laundering, so vital in today's world, where the island is internationally evaluated by MoneyVal.

I have so many stories, many must remain confidential, especially those involving the security services. But I may write that book one day. One incident that remains with me, early in my career.

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Anything to Declare? - continued

I stopped a gentleman who I later found out was a leading member of a UK political party. I got no further than 'good morning sir' when he became enraged, opened his bag and took out a large radio set and proceeded to throw it on the ground smashing it and then jumped up and down on the debris. I noticed his career was relatively short-lived.

And your proudest achievement?

Becoming Chief Officer of Customs and Immigration and later President of Home Affairs, where I chaired the Financial Crime Group that achieved a very successful outcome to the 2025 MoneyVal evaluation. I could not have done either without the support and outstanding skills of some very dedicated professional people. Their contribution to our society is sometimes undervalued and unrecognised.

Tell us about being a Constable?

It is a very varied and enjoyable job, quite different to anything I have done in the past. Serving the parish is about very practical things that make a difference, whether it is rubbish collection, keeping the parish tidy and pretty with flower boxes, looking after parish property and many other ad hoc things. It has been made very easy for me working alongside the legend in Dave Beausire, who is for me 'Mr St Martin'. He also makes me laugh quite a lot, which makes the day shorter. Also, the Parish has an outstanding clerk, Hayley Le Boutillier, who's efficiency is simply amazing.

Three wishes for the parish?

1. Greater and more productive engagement and recognition from our politicians.
2. That the parish continues to attract the people of the calibre I have just mentioned, to do the work of the Constables and the Douzaine.
3. That the parish can continue to provide the service we do without further burdening the rate payers.

Inheritance track for your kids?

I don't think my kids would listen to any of my music recommendations – bless 'em! However the 'logical song' by Supertramp springs to mind.

Stuart Lawson



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Community Centre

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, we are now looking forward to activities to keep us going through the winter months. We are delighted to share with you two groups who will be attending the Centre soon.

Guernsey Beekeepers

The Guernsey Beekeepers Association are holding their annual Honey Show at the Centre on **Saturday 3rd October 2026** in the Fermain Room. Members will be entering a variety of classes, including honey of different colours and a frame of honey ready for extraction. The wax classes include blocks of wax which are judged on colour and smell, candles and novelty items made entirely of wax.

Cakes, biscuits, desserts and savoury items all need to be made with honey to be included for judging. In the cooking classes the honey does not have to be produced by the beekeeper so it opens the show to all members, whether their bees have had a good year or not. Mead is just one alcoholic drink regularly tasted by the judges. In 2025 it was a bottle of Honey Espresso Martini that won 'Best in Show'.

The photography section, allowing colour or black and white shots of anything bee or beekeeping related is very popular. The quality of photography improves every year and it's a great class for the children to enter.

Our Honey Judge, Christopher Rawlings, will be visiting from the UK.

Our own Julie Hyde and Andy Marquis will be judging the cooking and photographic entries.

The show is closed for judging in the morning but open to the public from midday until 4pm. Please come along and have a look. We can answer questions about beekeeping and how to help the bees in your garden.

If you are interested in becoming a beekeeper, you can sign up to our 2027 Introduction to Beekeeping course which begins in March 2027.

The GBKA has approximately one hundred members, most of whom have one or two hives in their garden. It is a surprisingly time-consuming hobby, but some manage to keep a lot more hives producing honey to sell. Members do not have to keep bees to belong and can help out at our Association Apiary.

Otago Exercise Programme

A new Otago Exercise Programme will be starting at the Centre on **Thursday 8th October 2026**, offering local seniors an opportunity to improve their strength, balance and confidence in a friendly group setting.

Originally developed in New Zealand and introduced in the UK several years ago, the Otago Exercise Programme is a 12-week course designed specifically for older adults. It combines a series of simple strength and balance exercises with a walking programme.

This helps participants improve mobility and reduce their risk of falls.

The programme is based on extensive research and evidence, which has shown a 35-40% reduction in falls among participants. It has also proven effective for frail older adults when delivered in a safe and supportive environment. The exercises are easy to follow and can be completed individually or as part of a group. Many participants choose to continue with the exercises as an ongoing activity after completing the initial programme.

The sessions will be led by Seema, a fully qualified Otago instructor, who has successfully run a similar class for parishioners of St Saviour's Church since last year. The programme has been extremely well received, with attendance continuing to grow and many participants choosing to return and continue their exercises after completing the initial course.

The inspiration behind offering the programme comes from Seema's personal experience. Having seen the positive impact that Otago exercises had in helping her late husband regain confidence and mobility during the final year of his life, she decided to undertake specialist training so that she could provide the same support and encouragement to others in the community.

The classes will take place in the Fermain Room at the Centre from 10.30am to 11.30am.

The hall can accommodate around 20 participants, providing plenty of space for the exercises.

A suggested voluntary donation of £5 per session is suggested to help cover costs. The programme is being offered on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the local community. Anyone interested in joining or finding out more is encouraged to contact Seema by email on srbanhatti@gmail.com Tel: 07839 292394

We are always looking for new groups so if you are looking for a venue or have any ideas for activities, do get in touch - we want to hear from you.

Rebecca Silk
Operations Manager

Guernsey Beekeepers Association. Honey Show.

**At St Martins Community Centre.
Saturday 03rd October.
Fermain Room**

**Open to the public from 12 noon
until 4pm.**

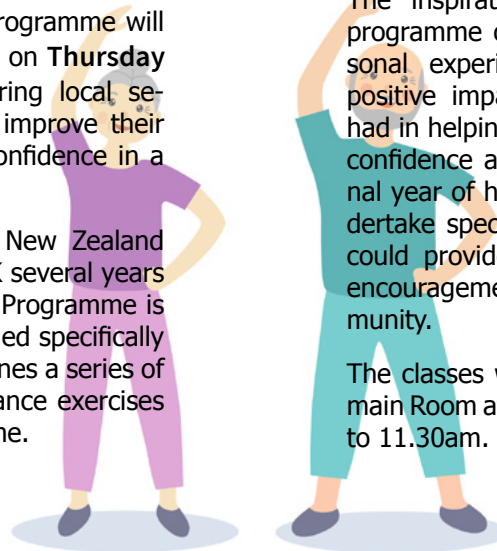
After being judged by our UK judge in the morning, there will be displays of honey, Wax, candles, honey in the comb.

Cooking items including cakes and biscuits.
Plus a Photography class.

Information on beekeeping and pollinators.
Ask us about our beekeeping course.



Email guernseybka@gmail.com for further information.



How to Stay Active Safely

In my last article, I discussed why movement matters and the many benefits of staying active as we get older. But if you enjoy sport, exercise or simply keeping busy, another important question is: how can we stay active safely and reduce our risk of injury?

The good news is that getting older doesn't mean we need to slow down or stop doing the activities we enjoy. In fact, continuing to exercise is one of the best things we can do for our long-term health. However, our bodies do change with age and sometimes the way we exercise needs to change with them.

One of the most important things we can do is maintain strength. Muscle mass and strength naturally decline with age but regular resistance exercise can help maintain muscle, support our joints, improve balance and make everyday activities easier.

Strength work doesn't have to mean joining a gym or lifting heavy weights. A sturdy chair can be an excellent starting point. Simple exercises such as repeated sit-to-stands, supported mini-squats, heel raises and controlled leg lifts can help strengthen the legs and improve balance.

Using the chair for support can also make exercises feel more comfortable and give you confidence when starting something new.

Chair-based exercise or chair Pilates can be particularly useful for anyone who struggles with balance, has reduced mobility, or is returning to exercise following an injury. They can provide a gentle way to work on strength, flexibility and movement while reducing the demands placed on the body. As confidence and strength improve, exercises can gradually be progressed to standing or performed without support.

Another important consideration is doing too much, too soon. Perhaps you've had a few weeks away from exercise, been unwell, or simply haven't been as active over the winter. Returning immediately to your previous level of running, cycling, golf or tennis can place more stress on the body than it is currently prepared to handle.

A gradual approach is usually much more sustainable. Increase activity progressively and allow your body time to adapt. It is perfectly acceptable to have easier days between more demanding sessions.

Variety can also help. If you enjoy running, for example, combining it with walking, cycling, swimming or strength training can improve overall fitness while reducing repetitive stress. The same applies to golfers, cyclists, tennis players and other sports enthusiasts.

Finally, listen to changes in your body. Some stiffness after activity is common but persistent or worsening pain, swelling, loss of strength or a noticeable change in movement shouldn't simply be ignored. Getting advice early can often prevent a minor problem from becoming something that keeps you away from the activities you enjoy.

Staying active safely isn't about being overly cautious or avoiding activity. It is about maintaining strength, progressing gradually, using appropriate support when needed and knowing when something requires attention.

For an active community like ours, the aim shouldn't simply be to stay active, it should be to remain active for many years. The best exercise programme is the one that allows you to keep doing the things you enjoy.

Alex Duncan
CMC Wellbeing

66 La Grande Rue, St Martin

Alex is a qualified sports rehabilitator specialising in musculoskeletal injuries, exercise rehabilitation, running biomechanics. He works with people of all ages to help them stay active, recover from injury & maintain long-term health & wellbeing.

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Deep into Roadworks

You will know about the Guernsey Electricity roadworks in La Grande Rue during August and The Fort Road in September. However, it may be of some comfort as you turn around or wait in a queue to know that they are for our direct benefit. Read on!

The works in La Grande Rue were designed to increase the low voltage supply which is used by appliances like air fryers, fridges and electric vehicle charging points. The demand for these appliances is increasing as houses are built and people acquire the devices which use it.

The equipment which is being replaced provides electricity to 200 homes and businesses in the area and is nearly 60 years old. Not designed for modern levels of electricity demand and so needs to be urgently replaced.



The work involved GE teams upgrading the low voltage cables and connecting properties in the area to a new substation installed earlier in the year.

The aim was to improve the security of supply and increase network capacity following recent power outages in the area. This phase is now complete.

To allow this work to be carried out safely, Fort Road / Route de Sausmarez was closed between Rue de Putron and Le Varclin for much of the works. There was also no access to Les Hubits from Route de Sausmarez during the closure period.

But, there is more...



Phase 1: 9 Sep to 20 Oct

Works at the Fermain Lane / Route de Sausmarez junction, including the construction of a new substation, installation of new high and low voltage cable ducting and other enabling works. Approximately three weeks, works will continue off the public highway. The junction will be open as usual during this period.

Phase 2: 9 Nov to 30 Nov

Final works to connect the new equipment into the wider electricity network and decommissioning of the old equipment.

GE advise that they have carefully considered the available options, but postponing work on infrastructure of this age increases the risk of more serious issues and potentially even greater disruption in the future.

If you regularly travel through the area, GE advised that they would have allowed extra time for your journeys and familiarise yourself with the diversion routes before works begin. Cyclists can still pass through the works, provided they dismount.

GE are also in discussions with other utilities to facilitate other works within Route de Sausmarez during the work and reduce the need for further closures in the future. For diversion information, affected bus routes and the latest traffic updates, visit the States roadworks information pages.

And finally...

Fort Road / Route de Sausmarez 9 Sep to 30 Nov

In September GE began a project to upgrade the electricity infrastructure in St Martin, focusing on the junction linking Fort Road, Fermain Lane, Route de Sausmarez and Les Hubits whereby low and high voltage ducting will be installed at the junction of the first two roads.

This work is critical to ensuring GE can continue providing a secure and reliable supply of electricity to local homes and businesses long into the future. Unfortunately, it does mean the road will be closed for 10 weeks out of a 13-week period.



GE advised that they would have preferred not to close the road for such a long period of time and they apologise for the inconvenience which it will cause.

So remember, as you grit your teeth and prepare for a delay, you will be able to cook, iron, watch TV and charge your EV for decades after this!



Richard Corbin

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Serenity Funeral Services

Well-known funeral directors Gary J Vaudin and Tracey Queripel, who are a married couple and parishioners, are delighted to announce their return to the local funeral profession. Currently in the process of starting their own independent funeral company under the name of Serenity Funeral Services, their premises are located within a former Methodist chapel. Neighbouring the Jamaica Inn, the building was formerly known as Jamaica Hall, but they have renamed it La Salle Funéraire (Funerary Hall).



Independent funeral directors Gary J Vaudin and Tracey Queripel returning to their roots. (Photograph: Nick Després FRPS)

Driven by deep determination, a commitment to independence and a fortunate turn of events, Gary and Tracey have found a prominent location that has inspired them to begin afresh on their own terms. Like the legendary phoenix, a symbol of rebirth, regeneration and resilience, they have transformed an exciting new chapter in their lives and are capitalising on an opportunity to showcase their long-standing dedication to the funeral profession.

With their combined experience and commitment to serving the Island community, they will be providing guidance and support every step of the way, whether you need immediate assistance or seek to plan ahead.

With strong community ties and a genuinely compassionate approach, Gary and Tracey will be offering services that are both deeply personal and professional. Highly experienced and client-focused, their goal is simple: to ensure that everyone receives the funeral they want, delivered with the highest standards of attention and care. They seek to be a leading provider of funeral services throughout the Bailiwick.

Gary and Tracey's shared history in local care and service goes back decades, offering bereaved families an unmatched level of expertise. Gary's involvement in the funeral profession began in October 1996 when he transitioned from a promising career in nursing to the local funeral industry, quickly establishing himself as a pillar of community care.

Having previously worked together on the same ward at the long-bygone King Edward VII Hospital, Tracey joined him in the late summer of 2007. Inspiring client confidence, she was the first local funeral director to attain both the prestigious National Association of Funeral Directors Diploma in Funeral Arranging and Administration, and the Diploma of Funeral Directing.

Together, Gary and Tracey have earned a reputation for being creative, innovative, proactive, progressive and totally dedicated to meeting clients' needs. Their previous independent venture proved immensely successful due to this unparalleled standard of care.

Though Serenity Funeral Services has yet to be formally launched, Gary and Tracey are eager to return to their roots as independent funeral directors at the earliest opportunity.

The logo designed by Stratagem Design & Digital represents a fresh, new identity for Gary and Tracey's independent venture.

They are hopeful this will be before the end of this year and are looking forward to connecting with both former and new clients. Meantime, the couple may be contacted directly by way of their personal E-mail addresses:

- **Gary J Vaudin:**
gjbv@ministryoflife.co.uk
- **Tracey Queripel:**
traceyqueripeldaudin@gmail.com







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Show Success

Sunshine, Live Music, Family Fun and One Thousand Entries!

Thank you to everyone who came, supported and volunteered for our South Show 2026, making it such a great success. This is my second year as President and it was tremendous to see the way our Show team responded again, enabling us to provide new events and experiences, while maintaining our heritage and sense of community. The sun shone and the crowds came, despite the road closure making access more difficult.

There were around a thousand entries in the classes, with a high standard in the entries. The quality of some of the prize winners was exceptional, especially in the horticulture classes considering the unprecedented heat and drought of the 2026 summer. Meteorologically it has been recorded as the hottest summer on record with temperatures reaching a record breaking high of 36.5C on June 25th.



Geoff & Stuart judge the heaviest onions.

For some crops like sweet peas or the soft fruit crops, it was an achievement just to have exhibits for the Show.

For other classes like Melons or those which included Mediterranean fruits which thrive in the heat, there were large numbers of high-quality entries. Notwithstanding all the excellent exhibits across the classes, I believe it is the first time ever, that parsnips have been chosen for the 'Best in Show' in horticulture.



Brenda with her prize winning cakes.

The live music in the outdoor space at the Community Centre with the Guernsey Brass Band and Guernsey Jazz Orchestra, including catering facilities for refreshments, set people's feet tapping and faces smiling in the relaxed, warm atmosphere. The final encore of the Filipino singing group was also much appreciated.



Live band set people's feet tapping.

In a packed field, the Guernsey Majorettes followed by the GSPCA Dog Show and Michael with his accordion held the attention of the crowds, who came to enjoy the outdoor events. Steve Byrne, the GSPCA manager, reported overall entries were down due to the hot weather. However the classes were judged under a canopy to protect the dogs and overall, he was very pleased with the event, which included demonstrations of dogs for the blind and partially sighted.

The field entertainments included Guernsey Bubbles, Face Painting and family games. The Guernsey Dairy Ice Cream stall sold out of ice cream by 3pm on the Saturday. The coffee van was well supported and there were thirteen stalls in the field with a wide variety of wares. The Victorian Walled Garden demonstration stand was based in the foyer.

In these days of rising costs, we welcomed the Guernsey Welfare Services (GWS) as our supported charity for 2026. The GWS stand included a demonstration of what is needed for the Island Food Bank, with staff on hand to explain the challenges even working families can face and the variety of support services offered through GWS. It was also good to see community groups participating including Caring for Ex-Offenders, the St. Martins Community Food Project and the 7th Guernsey Guides.

We were privileged to have Sir Richard McMahon in his final month as Bailiff, to present the prizes. He also took the time to come and view the Show himself in advance of the prizegiving, so that he could appreciate the awards that were being made. As a committee we noted his messages of both encouragement and foresight to engage young people in the Show both for now and for the future.



Show president in the cut flowers section.

As we now look forward to 2027, we need more volunteers to work with us to continue the great Show traditions and develop new ways to take this forward in the future. If you feel you would like to become part of this heritage and join our team or have ideas to engage more young people in the show, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me on the email address below. Finally on a slightly preventive note, Friday 13th August and Saturday 14th August are the next show dates. It would be great to see you and your family at South Show 2027!

John P. Ogier

President

johnogiergsy@gamil.com

An Outdoor Adventure

At the end of the garden, with soil on my fingers,
The evening approaches, my backache still lingers.
I sit by the pond, a peaceful wee patch,
Where dragonflies hover, their dinner to catch.

My thoughts are quite pensive, I sip on my tea,
When suddenly a voice says: "Please come with me!"
I look at the tree - is it the blackbird in there?
No, no, she's tucking her chicks in with care.

I shift now, uneasy, I strain with each ear.
The voice comes again saying: "Oi, over here!"
Now what is this magic? A trick of the light?
For much as my back ached, it's not yet quite night!

My thoughts they were racing and all in a muddle,
When my eye caught a movement right next to a puddle.
A wiggle, a waggle, I saw it quite clearly,
When suddenly the voice was right there near me.

I blinked and I blinked, peered through the gloom.
I saw him! Before me, by the light of the moon.
A fine little fellow, dressed to the nines,
And I laughed as I watched him hop through the vines.

His tiny white shirt was washed, starched and ironed.
He wore a small bow tie which was oh so refined.
His shiny black suit was tailored to fit,
And topping it off was a stick from the douit.

But grand as he looked, and smartly turned out,
I noted with sadness his grave look of doubt.
I bent to get closer, despite my sore back,
But just as I did so, I felt my knee crack!

I spoke in a whisper "Well tell me dear Frog
what party you're going to, do show me which log?"
He turned with a grace I'd not witnessed before.
He showed me the shed, and the crack in the door.

I swear I could hear the sound of the band -
The party was starting, Oh wasn't that grand.
I urged him to hurry or else he'd be late -
It wasn't polite to do that to your date.

But sadder he looked, yes sadder than sad.
I looked at the water lily, then down to the pad.
A beautiful young tadpole lay dressed in her bling,
She hadn't grown legs yet - that was the thing!

"I have no idea how we'll get to the ball
I can hip-hop ... but she can just crawl"
Deep in my heart I wanted to howl,
But quick as a flash, I reached for my trowel.

I scooped them both up, set off to the shed -
That pain in my back must be all in my head!
And lowering the trowel so they both could alight
I said I'd uber them back when the clock struck midnight.

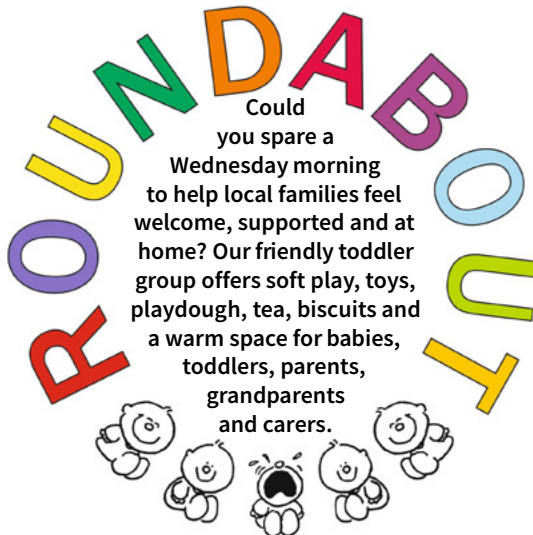
LIGHTS to REMEMBER

Join us for a service of reflection and hope as we light candles in memory of those we've lost – celebrating their lives and the light they continue to shine in our hearts. All welcome.

Sunday 1st November
6pm
at Les Camps Methodist Church

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Roundabout Baby & Toddler Group



Wednesdays 9am to 11.30am term time
hesterb@stmartinschurch.gg
natashal@stmartinschurch.gg

PARISH INFORMATION 2026

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

Constables Office	238363
Parish Hall Caretaker	07911 729761
Email	info@stmartinsconstables.com
Facebook	Constables of St Martin
Cemetery Enquiries	Mrs. H. Le Boutillier 238363
Constables	Mr. D. Beausire 237878
	Mr. R. Prow 07781 153202
Welfare Chairperson	Mr. R. Clark 232852
Welfare Secretary	Mrs. H. Le Boutillier 238363
Douzaine	Mr. R. Clark 232852
	Mr. P. Merrien 236831
	Mr. M. Prialux 238442
	Mr. I. Pallot 236120
	Mr. D. Rix 07781 414500
	Ms. C. Bauer 235966
	Mr. P. Stables 07781 107255
	Mr. P. Dorey 235845
	Mrs. C. Cormack 237576
	Mr. J. Wilkes-Green 238008
	Mr. G. Naidoo 07781 102845
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Starting 6th Nov

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5pm-8pm

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MENU OF FUN:

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Warm and comforting start
- 2 Games to Play**
Fun for all ages
- 3 Pudding**
A sweet way to finish

Join us the next day at 10.30am for our Harvest celebration – with activities for children and a food collection for Guernsey Welfare.

Please sign up using the QR code below or on the sheet in church

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