

The **Methodist** Church 

AGM Reports SHMC 2016



All ages, All nations, All stages of faith



SHMC Goals for 2015-2016

Specific Priorities

Deepen our collective awareness of God's presence in prayer, worship and service.
Ensure that everything we do has a missional edge.
Integrate the Prayer Handbook and Church Directory into church life.
Review and enhance our current mission activities of Cafe and children's work.
Use Healthy Churches Handbook to help set realistic goals.
Review our mission statement to make it shorter and more memorable!

Actual Tasks

Engage Freedom Media to create excellent publicity and digital presence.
Creatively engage within the sabbatical period to release new people's gifts and abilities.
Plan the long term financial requirements of developing the Centre work.
To establish Messy Church, Seven Up and Garage Club as a natural discipleship progression.
Develop a Fresh Expression of worship that is based on New Songs.

We will accomplish this by:

Partnership: Working in partnership with Circuit, ecumenical churches and civic and secular.
Synergy: Creating good synergy between components of the church.
Prioritising: Do a few things well.
Publicise: Getting more out of what we are currently doing.



Minister's Preface

Annual reports remind us of our direction of travel and where we want to journey. As you read I hope you will be encouraged and challenged in equal measure. We live in exciting times to be involved in God's mission.

We have explored what it means to be a *Healthy Church* and were ably led by Brian & Becky Purchase in October. They helped us make the key decisions to deepen our spiritual life and strengthen our work with young people. Consequently, our first away day at Bethesda was memorable with the Talitha team leading us in a wonderful creative session and we have also joined in the Circuit initiative of the Bible course. As regards children and young people, the Church Council has agreed to recruit a colleague to work alongside Sally. This has been partially funded by the Circuit and we are very grateful for their support for all our mission work. Sally's ministry is exceptional as she builds contact with many families and our prayers are with her as we develop Toddler Church on a Monday morning.

The life of the Centre during the week is skilfully led by our staff team; Annie and the volunteers in the café; Theresa who keeps the building so clean and Sarah whose administrative skills we so value. Together they are the face of the Centre during the week. My disappointment is that we do not yet see more contact between our church members in the Centre during the week. The Café serves wonderful food and it is a great place to meet.

Sarah also oversees the work of our foodbank which assists those referred from the Citizen's Advice Bureau. This ensures that there is a proper evaluation of need before they come to us. It is apparent that many people are very vulnerable at times of crisis and our support makes a real difference. On a wider remit, I continue to petition States departments to measure and evaluate the effect poverty has on children. For the first time they have now included statistics on low income of their website and I will press for this data to develop preventative measures so that children and families don't find themselves in avoidable crises. In my experience it is better to build a fence at the top of a cliff than have an ambulance at the bottom.

Life in the nursery is now led by Louise Jones-Butel and wonderfully supported by Hilary Bullock and the committee. This is a vital piece of our collective ministry which offers a much appreciated professional service to families with pre-school children. We don't know what effect the much talked about nursery funding will have but we can justifiably be proud of all that the nursery has achieved as it celebrates forty years of service.

Whenever possible, we work with other churches and secular agencies in St Helier. There seem little formal structures that gather the town churches together which makes me keen to spend time bridge building with all the local ministers and congregations. There are however some positive examples of cooperation. Street Pastors is an outstanding one and we are proud to have it based at the Centre. The Lighthouse prayer meeting is another- ask Maureen for details.

The Circuit remains our primary set of relationships through which we share resources: financial and personnel, to reach out in love to all the island community. Their financial support for the Centre's mission work has been critical in balancing our books. But the value of belonging to the Circuit is not primarily financial- it is relational, linking us to the wider Methodist family. I know we all wish Liz and Peter Singleton every blessing as they leave Jersey in August and start their new ministry in Devon.

Many have commented appreciatively on our new publicity: website, posters, banners and logo. This developed from a comment at my first AGM when David de la Haye asked whether it was possible to have attractively produced publicity to invite friends to attend worship. Whether it is because of the publicity or simply how God is blessing us, but isn't it wonderful to welcome members of the international church in the Sunday congregation. Zimbabweans, Tongans, Kenyans and Ghanaians have recently arrived and we are greatly enriched by their life and faith. As it says on our external poster: **All ages, All nations, All stages of faith.**

The Methodist Prayer Handbook also reminds us of our place within a global church that seeks to engage with issues of justice and peace. It is a contradiction to be a Methodist who thinks solely in terms of their local congregation. Christ invites us to live our faith in the context of something much bigger. Mission therefore, involves us with Esperado, Christian Aid, Talitha, Leprosy Mission and Action for Children.

The pragmatic issues of finance and property maintenance are an important but often unseen ministry. We express our sincerest thanks to Di Toole who chaired both the Redevelopment Committee and Management Committee for many years. She would say that it was only possible because of God. True- but she was willing to co-operate with His grace and offer her time and talents. Di thank you so very much. We must also express our sincere thanks to David Picot for his many years as auditor of our accounts. Both have served this church admirably in their respective positions. If you can support the on-going work of this committee, please do speak to Peter Luce.

An important initiative within the last year has been the financial stewardship campaign TRIO: The Responsibility Is Ours. Our response alongside Circuit support and other decisions has enabled us to now anticipate a more secure financial picture. We are however, still running a planned deficit, so our ongoing commitment is much needed.

Within worship there seems to be greater freedom and joy- a sense of gathering together as a diverse family to express our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows. A great aspect about our church is that we stand alongside each other and share life- when it has dark valleys and when there are green pastures. Many say to me that they know that their faith in Christ and belonging to a church family makes a fundamental difference. It is hugely encouraging to see children of all ages worshipping regularly on a Sunday but we need more volunteers. Is God nudging you?

Our first Sunday night *New Song* in the Cafe was a great success. It was packed and noticeable that it gathered people from every aspect of church and community life. It will be one of my priorities to build upon that in the future. Lou is exploring the call to Local Preaching, Helen Parker, a trained Preacher has joined us- both are a blessing. It also is encouraging to see the prayer corner being used regularly after worship on a Sunday.

It is not possible to acknowledge by name all those that serve Christ in this church. But I thank you one and all. You are an amazing group of people to work alongside: positive, committed and open to new ideas. I sense that God is renewing his work among us and we are invited to take new steps of faith. One person we must mention is Jan Le Boutillier who after seven years steps down from being a wonderful steward. Jan, on behalf of all the congregation thank you for all that you have done and all that you are.

A year ago I was in South Africa exploring the themes of Grace and Peace. Through that generous gift of time I was greatly blessed and I sensed the sabbatical also offered new insights to you. So let me close with some words of St Paul from his letter to the church in Colossae that was carried to them by his loyal postman Tychicus. May these words keep us rooted in the rich soil of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Grace to you and Peace from God our Father. Col 1:3

Every blessing Tony



Stewards Report 2016

Another Year has passed my first year as Head Steward. It has been quite exciting if not a little daunting to start with but a great blessing. I have not taken on this role alone, as Jan le Boutillier, being Head Steward in 2014 / 2015, has stayed on to help and give me support and guidance, which I have appreciated enormously.

- Freedom Media was launched last year. We now have an up to date Website, large Banners, and Postcards for every branch of the Centre.

The set of 4 Postcards are, KIDS, CAFÉ, YOUTH, and SUNDAY WORSHIP, these are neat and to the point, and conveys our work at the Centre, please do use them wisely, and pass them on to friends family and strangers who come across your path daily. Our thanks go to Jan and Cathy for playing major parts in getting all this together.

- Leprosy Mission. We have pledged £500 in the last three years and have just paid our third and final pledge.

- If you look up in the Church you will notice that we have changed all the main lights in the church, much brighter, longer lasting, and friendlier for the environment, at a much cheaper cost. I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone in thanking Martin le Boutillier for sorting out these lights.

- The Prayer Breakfasts are going well at the Manse each month. Everyone is invited to come, each month or just to come now and again on a Saturday morning 10 to 12. For more information please see David Hicklin.

- As we are going to have more L.A. services in the future, the Stewards would like to encourage more of the congregation to contribute in the services. Any suggestions or ideas that would make our services more exciting would be gratefully received. This is your church family, and we are all in this together.

- There have been some Birthday milestones in this last year Idris Buesnel 100 years WOW, what an achievement, Margot Wright 90 years, Joyce Luce 94, Maureen Rayson and Roy Picot both 80 years.

- Our much appreciative thanks must go to Fiona & David Picot for giving up their time and effort in organising our Quiz Nights in aid of Esperado, which the church supports. Also to all the other helpers who do the cake baking and selling for this worthwhile charity.

- Our Away Day at the end of March was met with a great response. We had a wonderful turnout and I'm sure we were all blessed in different ways. If you were there thanks for coming, do tell others about this time together, so that they will come to the next one. Yes, we are hoping for another sometime in the autumn.

- Lent Lunches in the Café on Friday lunchtime in aid of Christian Aid was supported well and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those wonderful people who contributed to the making of the Soups. We could not have done it without you all.

- Food Bank. Please don't forget our food box at the back of the church when you do your weekly shop. Just add a few more items, as Sarah informs us that it has been a lifeline to many people in need. Donations of money would be fine too.

Thank you for your support.

- Flower / Coffee / Welcome Rotas. We do need to have more people involving themselves in these Rotas. If you feel you could help in any of the above please do have a word with me, or one of the other Stewards.

- Prayer after Morning worship. If you would like prayer after our service do go to the prayer corner, at the back of the church. People will be there to sit and pray with.

- Stewards. As from the 1st of May Jan le Boutillier will be stepping down from our team, I'm sure I can say this from all the congregation we have been so grateful for all the time and effort you have given to the church family. Our new team for the coming year will be Pam Marett, Ann Paul, Kay Papworth, David Hicklin and myself. I will be staying on as Head Steward for another year.

May the Lord bless and keep you close to him in the coming year.

David Vasselin (Head Steward)



Pastoral Review April 2015/2016 Good News from the Past Year

I am glad to report that as last year we are still making progress on many fronts. Our work with young people and families seems to have gone from strength to strength through the various activities which are provided, either in term time or holidays or at weekends. The work with young people has grown to such an extent that an advertisement has now appeared for another member of staff to help Sally with her work with young people, and also Annie in the Café. The salary of this worker would be shared between the Circuit, the church and the District.

The café, now in the capable hands of Annie continues to thrive partly from the support of parents and carers of the young people who tend to stay after the group activities and eat and play together.

With regard to membership there are many who attend services on Sundays and activities during the week who would not regard themselves as members but would be glad to say that this is 'their church', which is part of our logo, as a church where all are welcome and all belong.

News of members:

Our eldest member Idrys Buesnel celebrated her 100th Birthday in August, where a special lunch was held at which Idrys' great friend of many years, Daryl de Gruchy was able to be present. Lou Hicklin had baked a Birthday Cake and the room was suitably decorated with flowers and balloons.

Oliver Whittingham was baptised on 22nd November. Debbie Godefroy helped in the christening; of her grandson and Kay Papworth's great grandson.

We were sad to record the death of Tim Rowe early in March. Tim died suddenly in Poitiers, while he and Veronica were preparing to come to Jersey to celebrate Veronica's 60th birthday. The news came as a shock to us all, especially Veronica who then decided that it would have been Tim's wishes to have a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Helier Methodist Centre, where they had belonged for many years, coming back to join us here after they had retired and gone to live in France.

Tony led the Service on 16th March and took part in the ceremony of the scattering of the ashes the day afterwards. Veronica returned to their home in France, taking our love and best wishes.

Tony and family returned from their sabbatical bringing with them many memories which were shared with us and other churches over the next few months.

The Management and Finance Committee continues to deal efficiently with the various situations which arise, but Di Toole who has served the church so faithfully for many years as Chairman, has now retired and Peter Luce has taken up the position as Chairman. Other changes to the Management Committee will be reported under the news from that Committee.

With regard to other changes David Vasselin will continue as senior steward with Jan Le Boutillier having retired, but remaining on the Management Committee as a representative of the stewards. The stewards are pleased to welcome Kay Papworth to the team.

As a result of the weekend visit of Brian and Becky Purchase in October last, we were continuing to focus on developing our Spiritual Growth & Prayer, Youth Work and outreach through the Cafe and children's work. We look forward to welcoming Brian & Becky to another weekend with us in October.

Another change to take place from this AGM is that I shall be stepping down from the position as secretary to the church council. I have asked Lou Hicklin, who has deputised for me occasionally, to take on this role and she has agreed.

Also I should like to apologise to any of our members who may feel that I have neglected them during these last few months. In mid-October I had the first operation for a cataract to my right eye, which meant that I was unable to drive for six weeks or more, followed by the operation to the left eye, meaning I was also unable to drive for the same period of time. During that time I had trouble with my right knee, again which made it impossible to drive and that having healed, over the Easter weekend the same trouble occurred in my left knee, with the same result. I have thought and prayed about those I have been unable to visit and hope that I shall be able to see you all again soon.

We are so fortunate to belong to a fellowship in which we care for each other and I pray that this will continue as we go forward into the next Church year.

Pat



Reflections on the Past Year - Children's Work 2016

The work with the children at the Centre steadily seems to increase each year. Most of the groups are the same, with the exception of our new Toddler Church.

-Mondays is now looking different. After seeing a "Toddler Church" session in Loughton (Tony and Cathy's old Church) we decided to try it out at St Helier Methodist Centre. The first pilot session was very busy, but then the subsequent weeks have been completely different due to having smaller numbers. Although we would like more families to come, the intimacy of a small group is very beneficial, especially while we are establishing the different culture that this group takes. This is an intentionally Christian group, and it involves a short time of child friendly worship. One mum said how helpful she has found the Bible messages. And that is what it is about too, helping mums and carers learn themselves, and giving them the confidence to talk about and to God with their children. So for the present time we have stopped running the Monday afternoon Baby Rascals.

-The Tuesday Rascal group is always busy, come rain or shine, they come. This is by far the most popular group. Why, I don't know, whether it is the day, time, activities, attendees, or just that it has been running longest it is difficult to say. But at the moment it is a very happy, cooperative group, and it is a pleasure to be part of so many of these families' lives.

-Over the year the Wednesday lunchtime group has fluctuated in numbers. But there are a few families who come regularly and really enjoy the time. Because of the timing, this brings in good custom for the Café so it is very useful.

- Last summer, for one week we ran a very successful Holiday club. It was very popular, with its Sports theme. About 40 children between the ages of 5-11 attended which was great fun. Many people were involved, either with the children or providing resources or food, so thank you very much. Time hasn't allowed us to have another one since last July, but we fully intend to make it happen again in July 2016.

- Christmas is always a busy time. Last year it was the turn of the Three Wise Men to be knitted. We had lot and lots of Wise men last Christmas, thank you knitters. Just to prepare you, this year will be Angels; we have already got a few done! We made another big effort with the Nativity Play, which was called the Magical Christmas Journey. After working very hard, the children all under 11yrs performed this on Christmas Eve. The Church was full, the children were very excited, and parents and friends loved it. So it was all worthwhile, all be it very nerve racking.

- In August we went on another Lorry ride. This time, stopping off at Gorey beach for games and a picnic. Many of our Church families joined us, which made it even more special. I'm sure this will become a yearly event!

- Very slowly Sundays in general are picking up more children. We have lots of children but they all come very infrequently. We have had a few families who have joined us during the year, and they come more regularly, which is such a blessing. We continue to pray for more, but we are grateful to God for blessing us with these beautiful children, and we continue to love and pray for all of them.

Thank you to all who have given their help during the past year, this work cannot happen without teams of volunteers so thank you again for your continued support.

Sally

Youth Work 2016

What an encouraging year! Our group has expanded and the diversity of our activities is engaging more and more young people on a Sunday morning and once a month at Garage Club gatherings.

Sunday Youth on a Sunday morning can regularly see five attending, with up to nine, and an age-span of between eleven and fifteen. Leadership is shared between Jean Treleven and Cathy Morling, using mainly *Youth For Christ* material and supported by a rota of Church members once every month or two. There is only one girl, but they engage well as a group whether in games or discussions, bible study and reflections or offsite programmes. The sense of belonging has deepened this year, helped by *Linger Longer* once a month after Church, and activities with **Garage Club** such as a sleepover at Bethesda Chapel, a Cinema Outing and the Good Friday Service followed by the Easter Pilgrimage Walk.

Our Sunday morning activities have diversified significantly with the start of a Youth Band which explores the inspiration behind a song, rehearses it and then shares that song within worship, usually the All Age Service on a different Sunday. There are four musicians who regularly participate, two keen singers and then three youths who enjoy preparing the visuals to accompany the song that is being prepared. This may develop into other creative contributions such as Drama in the future, building on their spirited Christmas performance of *The King Factor*. We are so grateful to Sue De Gruchy for helping us with arrangements for the musicians, for Libby and Helen's support and most recently the addition of Ben Shaw on the piano.

We have started a Kids' Choir to join part of this rehearsal session, anticipating that four of the Kids' Church members will be coming up to Sunday Youth in September who all enjoy singing. **New Song** gave an opportunity for a few of the Youth Band to be part of the worship in the Café on Palm Sunday and we hope to increase that involvement next time.



Garage Club - Sunday evenings once a month, means lots of fun at the Manse for tens to teens, and this year we grew to a climactic twenty youths taking up a Bible Challenge to memorise a verse or the 'Books of the Bible' and then receive a gift of a Youth or Action Bible from Rev. Steve Wild, President of the Methodist Conference. This group includes young people with no other church connection, some from other denominational churches, Georgetown Methodist Youth and our own Centre Youth. Forty-five minutes of games, twenty minutes for food, twenty minutes on faith.

Nick Ferraby from *Christians in Sport* visited us one month and we will encourage more to try the *Sportsplus* Holiday Club he runs this summer which combines faith and sport. We were encouraged that three non-Churched Garage Clubbers tried **New Song** in the Café last month and our outings are always popular for bringing friends along. We occasionally have more than one girl, otherwise it is full of energetic teenage boys and we feel the Manse is still the best venue for now.

Encouraging our older youths to participate in other ways in our Church's life will be important in the coming year, deepening their sense of belonging and worth, like the three who help regularly at *Messy Church* and two are interested in being a Youth Steward or a Sound Operator. We hope to find ways for them to serve, like when they washed cars for the *Advent Challenge*, and deepen their spiritual lives by encouraging more of them to engage with *Jersey Keswick*, *New Wine* and possibly run a *Youth Alpha*.

Cathy



Women's Ministry at The Centre

The distinctive and intentional ministry for women at the Centre continues in the shape of 'Recharge' – a morning of time to receive, reflect and recharge the spiritual batteries. Numbers fluctuate from nearly 50 women from all across the island and many denominations, to the lowest being a dozen. The primary vision holder is Cathy Morling, but leadership and organisation has been shared more this year than last and is releasing gifts in others.

There have been three 'Recharge' gatherings this year. The first in September 2015 was a beautiful Prayer Morning supporting the Talitha trip to India using a Prayer Labyrinth with creative reflections, organised by Lou Hicklin and Naomi Bidmead. The second was in September 2015, exploring 'Perseverance' through scripture, film and worship and included some reflections from Cathy Morling following the Talitha trip. The third was in March 2016 and was devised and led by Helen Parker with the theme 'I am the Bread of Life'.

Each gathering is unique and meaningful for those attending. The feedback is very positive and we now have a database of contacts which we use to inform of the next gathering, as well as producing high quality publicity postcards. The expenses for each morning are relatively small, but a basket for donations towards the cost of the refreshments is beginning to offset this cost.

'Recharge' has brought the women at the Centre closer together, created opportunities to grow in fellowship with women from other churches and across denominations. We look forward to another year of distinctive and special ministry, encouraging different leadership, strengthening relationships and deepening our spiritual journeys.



Report from Management & Finance

Following the resignation of Di as chairman of the Committee after many years of extraordinary hard work various areas of responsibility have been defined. The Centre has been profoundly enriched by her unstinting commitment and dedication of time. We express our wholehearted thanks and give thanks to God for all that she has achieved as chair of the re-development committee and management. Di, thank you so much.

As we go forward, I will chair the meetings and Ann Paul has joined the Committee and acts as secretary. Tony Hefford and Jan Le Boutillier look after staff matters whilst Martin Le Boutillier supported by David de la Haye, who has also joined the Committee, is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the property along with Tony Hefford when Martin is absent. Tony Morling and I monitor finance.

Sarah, the Church administrator, now attends Committee meetings to give an update to the Committee following which she leaves the meeting. Jan who sits on the Committee as the Stewards' representative will continue as a member of the Committee when her term as Church Steward ends following the A.G.M.

All areas of the Centre have seen an increase in the activity and continued use by various groups including Le Geyt and Street Pastors in the Youth Room. Whilst some users of the Centre provide valuable funds to assist in the running and maintenance of the Centre we welcome others such as the Street Pastors as part of our support to the community.

The café under the excellent management of Annie and her team of volunteers continues to flourish and offer a valuable service. The office under Sarah's caring hand plays a vital role in the outreach work of the Church which has grown significantly over the past year with the distribution of vouchers and food parcels. Teresa continues to keep the Centre clean and welcoming and makes the adjustments that have to be made when various events are taking place notwithstanding the she and her family have moved to their own property and vacated the flat in Ruby Ferguson House. Pastor Fabio Della Pasqua now occupies her flat and undertakes night security for the Centre.

With Jackie in the office and Sally working with the children we are blessed to have a wonderful staff team that work so well together. Our prayers are that we will now find a new member/s of staff to develop our mission work among children and families and the Café.

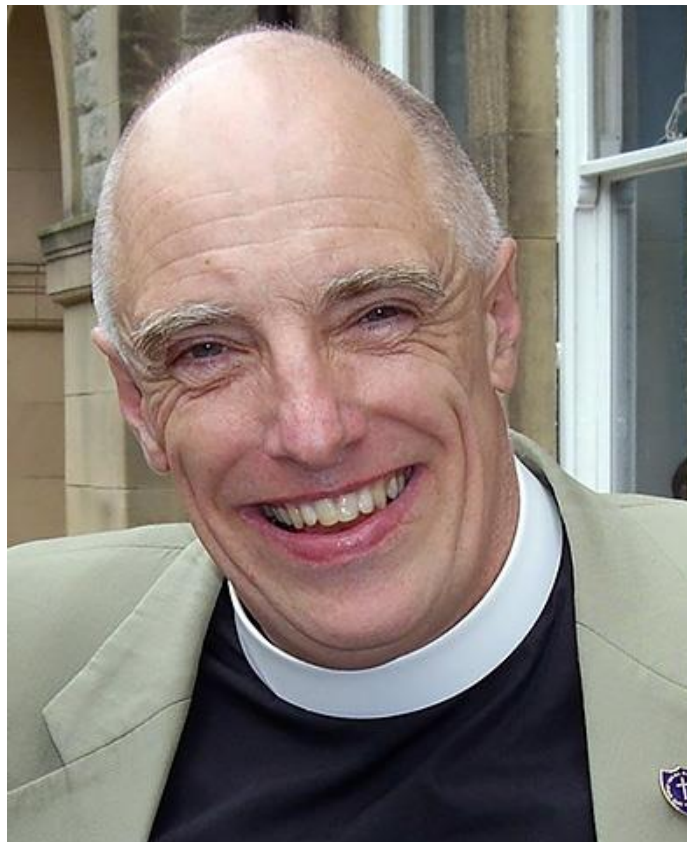
In addition the structure of the Centre has to be painted, maintained and, where possible, improved. However in a building which will be 170 years old next year there are areas such as the windows and gutters which may need replacement or repair. On the positive side the new boiler and work on the heating system appears to be proving beneficial with the cost of heating the Centre being markedly reduced and it is hoped to finally carry out the insulation of the loft this summer.

As stated in last year's report the team is a small one and would very much welcome any member who feels able to assist in looking after not only the structure but also the smooth running of the Centre.

We are conscious of the many people who quietly contribute to the well-being of the Centre's life: everything from Barrie's development of the flower planters to the volunteers in the café, from Martin's wonderful ministry of care for the fabric to those

who cover when staff are on holiday. Church is only possible when the management, care and outreach are a shared activity within which everyone contributes their distinctive skills.

Thank you all. **Peter Luce**



Café @ The Centre

The café is now quite busy on most days as regulars are frequenting more often. Although the majority of customers are connected to the children's groups, we now see a variety of people from all walks of life including Le Geyt who since their changes occurred, now frequent the café regularly. The café has seen a positive move towards a sense of community with fathers meeting their partners and children during the groups and after in the café.

During the school holidays it is much quieter as the rascals groups are only held in term time.

Unfortunately, the Christmas meal had to be cancelled due to sickness. It was postponed until Easter but due to the Lent lunches, it was decided to just hold a coffee and cake morning on Thursday 10th March. It was lovely to see support from many church members.

Toddler Church and Twinkles Group run by Felicity Williams have seen the centre 'full of life'. Monday is my busiest day, shopping, cooking and serving customers. Any volunteers would be very welcome.

The NCT group have now returned after a 6 month break. The reason for the break for the lack of parking but they feel that this is a more suitable premises so it is lovely to see their return to the centre.

Over the past year I have trained a number of girls from the 'Back to work' scheme. They have then moved on to get jobs. Although it is hard work it is rewarding to see them move on.

The healthier menu changes have been a very successful venture with very positive feedback – our menu now includes Greek Salads, Ploughman's, Tuna salads and Omelettes which is a firm favourite! We look forward to any future changes and any suggestions for our summer menu would be much appreciated.

Lastly, a big thank you to all of the members of the congregation who have kindly volunteered in my absence. Thank you, Annie.

Annie



A view from the office

Over the past year the office has become even busier. Partly this is a knock on effect as the café has consistently more custom and the children's work gets busier. However some of the increased work is that for the 'Food Bank'.

Several times a week at least – sometimes several times a day – an advisor at Citizens Advice will call me and ask if we can help one of their clients. CA will have asked questions about the client's circumstances to satisfy themselves that they are in genuine need of our help. They may, with the client's permission, explain these to me. If we have not helped that particular individual within the last month and we agree to help them this time then they will be sent to me in the office.

I will probably fill a couple of bags with groceries for them and may give them up to £20 in Sandpiper vouchers. These can be used for food – no alcohol – or to pay for electricity if the client has a key meter. I may explain about the café or about groups that happen at the centre. If I can, and there is a need, I may refer them on to other organizations that can help them more. During 2016 I have also been asking them to fill in an anonymous questionnaire for the States.

The tinned and packet food I give out has been donated by you, by other churches in the circuit, by customers at Waitrose or bought with church or circuit money. Every recipient is grateful. Some are tearful when they realize that there are people who are happy to help them. Many are simply in despair.

The vast majority of the people we hand out help to belong to **all three** of the following categories

- a) They are Jersey born or have lived on the island for a long time
- b) Their need is short term (87% return twice or less)
- c) They are ill and/ or a partner or child is ill

In February this year I saw a huge increase in people asking for help and most applicants needed more help than before. The States questionnaires should help to analyse why this is but my initial thoughts are that it is a result of the benefit cuts at the beginning of the year – particularly that given to the long term sick.

Handing out the resources that you have given to these people in need and having the time to listen to their stories is a great privilege. We are only a small 'Food bank' but we have an important role – because the office is open and the telephone answered all day, every week day. There are many other organisations that can help on a larger scale than we can but they are not able to help immediately. Citizens Advice really appreciates that we are able to do this. Please keep donating.

Sarah



Report from Nestling Day Care Nursery

Nestling Day Care Nursery Committee

Chair Hilary Bullock
Secretary Gill Luce
Treasurer Jackie Ollerenshaw
Committee Rev. Tony Morling, Peter Luce, Jane Pointon, Enid Davis, Nance Hicklin.

During the past twelve months there have been considerable improvements in the running of The Nursery under the enthusiastic and dedicated management of Louise Jones-Butel.

New Employment legislation continues to dominate and we are in a constant pattern of adapting in order to facilitate these changes.

Staff sickness has been a serious concern. Our records show that it is double that of many other businesses, both here and on the mainland, and we are working to improve this. However, on a more cheerful note, our staff work incredibly hard and provide a safe and loving environment for our children all year long. It is tiring and demanding work and much valued by the Committee.

Each member of staff is expected to complete at least 25 hours of Continuous Professional Development practice in order to keep up to date and this they do in addition to their regular employment.

Leyann Le Blancq, a valued member of staff, has left us recently and is due to give birth this month. We wish Leyann and her husband every blessing as they look forward to this happy event.

The Committee meets every two months to discuss major issues.

Jackie Ollerenshaw reports that our financial position is on target and we thank her for her expertise and professional guidance.

With the prospect of the States of Jersey Education Dept. proposing to build new Pre School Nurseries with free places, we do not know how this will affect the private Nurseries, and indeed our own Nestling Day Nursery.

In 2017 we will celebrate 40 years since our Nursery was established by Michael Tourtel and managed by Sally Shaw at Aquila Road.

We hope to mark the occasion with a Special Celebration.

Sarah Keenan-Fox as ever is always there to sort out problems and we are most grateful for her day to day cheerful support.

Martin Le Boutillier readily assists with any computer problems that we encounter with our IT equipment and both he and David Vasselin are ready to help us with maintenance jobs which are many. We thank them both for their commitment to the Nursery.

We now look forward to 2016 - 2017.

Hilary

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Sunday 26th April 2015

The Meeting was chaired by the Rev. Graeme Halls, Superintendent, who opened by welcoming those who were present – 35 members.. There were apologies from Philip & Sally Le Brocq, Peter de Gruchy and Ken King.

Rev. Graeme Halls gave thanks for all who work here and assured members that they should be proud to hold an Island wide profile as a central position in the town, where people come looking for help and holding special events on these premises – when the President visits for a Circuit Service, a base for Street Pastors, the Food Bank.

The Minutes of last year's AGM, held on 6th April, had been circulated with the various Reports and were approved and signed.

1. Membership changes: We were sad to report two deaths during the year of Joy Potts, and Annie Turpin, and the Chairman offered a prayer of thanks for their lives. Charlotte McKernan had moved to London. Tim & Veronica Rowe had moved to France. We had expressed our sadness to the Picot family on the death of Frances & Ian's little boy Samuel at 20 months.

2. Appointments: The present Church Stewards were re-elected unanimously with the addition of Ann Paul, who had been gaining experience by shadowing the Stewards for the last few months. It was suggested that this could be done with future stewards, so that they understood what the position involved. Representatives to the Church Council were also re-elected unanimously.

3. The Stewards' Report had been circulated beforehand and Jan, as senior steward, asked if there were any questions. The question was raised as to what the church could do during the time of the Island Games. Tony had asked that we consider this question. It was suggested that we hoped to take part in the combined MESSY CHURCH but no details were available yet as to venue and date within the 27th June – 3rd July. Sally would contact Rev. Billy Slatter. Street Pastors would be operating every night from here. Our Café would be open Monday - Friday and the Notice Board on the corner should be offering an invitation to visit.

Roy asked that members should be encouraged to come to the Café in the week to support this outreach.

4. Financial overview: Peter Luce said that the Accounts had been circulated with the Reports. He drew attention to Page 9 where he had set out various points relating to the printed Accounts. These Accounts showed a deficit of £67,371 and the budget for the current year provides for a deficit of £78,166, which is as a result of our mission work. He reported that applications for funds had been approved at the Circuit Meeting. The Reports were received with thanks to the Treasurer. Peter was asked to pass on our thanks to Jackie.

5. Establishment of, and election to, SHMC Community Support Group: At the last Church Council this proposal was put forward. In order to be able to apply as a charity for funds, we need to complete certain formalities appointing a Support Group. This has now been done and the Group need to be approved by the next Church Council after which the form will be submitted, so that we may be regarded as a charity.

6. There was no further discussion but members were invited to take home the suggested questions on the last page of the Reports and return them to the Stewards with their comments.

Di proposed a vote of thanks to the Stewards for all they had done during the past year. Jan asked that a record of thanks be given to the Rev. Graeme Halls for chairing the Meeting.

The Meeting ended with the Grace.





St Helier Methodist Centre

11.15 am on May 1st 2016

Annual Church Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Explanation
Hymn 594

'Lord Jesus Christ'

Minutes of 2015
Apologies
Membership changes

Attendance/apology record will be circulated

Appointments
to Roy)

Church Stewards (Including re-elections and thanks
Reps to CC

Presentation of Reports
Financial overview

As distributed
including nursery
TM thanks to Jackie & Peter Luce

Peter Luce

Minister's Comments
Discussion
journey

leading into
The Godly strengths of SHMC and our continuing

Hymn 564
Blessing

'O thou who camest from above'

—

Name: (optional)

1) From reading the reports what things are a source of encouragement and thanksgiving?

2) What mission opportunities do you see opening up before us in the future? What might you be able to offer?

3) Are there any issues that you would like Church Council or the Committees to consider?

Please write on the reverse if necessary.

1. Energized by faith
2. Outward-looking
3. Seeks to find out what God wants
4. Faces the cost of change and growth
5. Operates as a community
6. Makes room for all
7. Does a few things and does them well



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