

St Helier Methodist Centre

The Methodist Church AGM Reports 2021

‘To make disciples and join in God’s mission for change’.



All ages, All nations, All stages of faith



Minister's Preface

In years to come, future generations may stumble across this report in the Jersey Archive and gain an insight into what it was like to live through the Covid Pandemic. In which case, I hope that they will discover that this church community learnt important truths through these unwelcome months of social distancing and separation. But despite the immense challenges, we have found a way through and been resolute in our faith, while grasping the opportunities that have arisen.

My first observation is that this past year has been really tough for many people. Through bereavement, anxiety, job uncertainty, living alone or coping with young children at home, the pandemic has placed inordinate stress upon many people's wellbeing. But it has not impacted all people equally. Those who have secure jobs and good housing have found it much easier than those living in cramped conditions and on low incomes. Covid has exposed glaring financial inequalities within society. Similarly, this season has also reminded us of the huge challenges of caring for our planet and racial justice. The killing of George Floyd triggered deep concern around the world which cannot be ignored. Maybe it is because we have had more time to think, but Covid has brought to the fore many areas of shared life that need action and change. As a church we must play our part.

But if this period has been tough, it has also revealed areas that are worthy of celebration. This church has many people working in the health services, and everyone stepped up to the mark with extraordinary commitment and courage. No one will ever really know what it was like for them and their colleagues to go to work in the early months of the pandemic with no known cure. Thankfully, neither the Nightingale Hospital nor the temporary mortuary were used. But we all feared they would be. All frontline workers deserve our profound thanks and praise.

Within the life of the church, we had to adapt very quickly. The process of lockdown felt like applying the emergency car brakes, and the process of unlocking like a hill start on an icy road! In between these two tricky manoeuvres we have learnt some important lessons that we don't want to forget:

People have really missed coffee after worship; Zoom is not just an ice cream; hearing bird song is wonderful; we can adapt better to rapid change than we ever thought we could; change can bring good things; a telephone call can make a big difference; rainbows can offer us all signs of hope; we have missed singing, but it is also good to read the words of the hymns; we can be church gathered and scattered; modern technology is amazing; kindness is really important; it is better to work across the churches than do things alone; while the building is closed the church has remained open; and most of all, God holds us in the storms of life.



I have very personal memories of this period: conducting many funerals for families that could not be together because of the travel ban; admiring the leadership of Louise and Hilary who so ably led our Nursery through immensely challenging times; the work of our wonderful staff team; Sarah's quizzes and funnies in the notices- and compiling of these reports; Ellen and Sally's social media postings (see their report!); , Teresa's ministry around the buildings; Jackie's meticulously produced accounts; conducting an August wedding for two very special couples; ringing my bell and honking the horn when vaccinations are received; the kindnesses of many people looking out for one another; the surprise gifts and generosity marking a 60th birthday; the irrepressible determination of our older members; the fun and laughter of our younger ones; Thursday mid-week services focussing on Psalms; marking Christmas without meeting in church; the stillness of those early weeks of lockdown; Lou's wonderful postings; Rev Dawn's arrival; Daryl's legacy; having the neatest garden since I arrived in Jersey; finding it very strange to start preaching again.

It is now wonderful to be meeting together on a Sunday with unlimited numbers as long as we wear face coverings and keep two metres apart. We have really missed each other! On-line worship has its place, but there is nothing like being together, present, incarnate. Those present on Easter Day will never forget singing *Thine be The Glory*. It was the first time in a year that we were able to sing- and many of the Jersey Methodist Churches concluded their services with that same hymn. Since returning to the building we have welcomed a good number of new friends to worship. There is hope: almost a sense of renewal and fresh beginnings. The best is yet to come.

So, if there is someone reading this report in years to come, please hear this: despite being separated, we now know each other better; despite not being able to attend church we have still been church, and despite being forced to stop, this decent, honest church has stepped up.

To quote Charles Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."

Whilst we can't anticipate the road ahead, we trust that "The One who calls, He is faithful. He will do all things" (1 Thessalonians 5:24), and together with Christ we will make the journey together.

Tony



Stewards Report

Stewards monthly Monday meetings had continued throughout lockdown via Zoom organised by Simba. It was good to see one another over the year although not in person. We had kept contact with Members who were locked down and it was good to have that interaction. Also, to keep in touch with Sue de Gruchy who had connected with us from Somerset.

In April Lou and Sandra had compiled 120 packs consisting of colouring pens, postcard, stamps, prayer sheet, shopping list and a list of shops which were operating and a Kit Kat to enjoy. Seeds also sent had grown magnificently.

Liberation 75 years had been cancelled but had been celebrated with those we were able to be in contact with.

Sunday worship had recommenced on 6th September and covered by those Stewards able to attend. We were allowed 40 people plus 10 people running the Service. The Once monthly Prayer service on Sunday's had been a joy. Masks would be required from Sunday 8th November and adequately spaced seating to be continued.

The Bible Society had benefited from the 10% fund sponsoring all who did the 26 mile walk at £100 each and those who did the 13 miles walk at £50 each.



A gift of £2500 had been received from Alistair Scott at Christmas out of which Tony had gifted £1000 to a family in great need, purchased 200 crosses which were distributed, and balance of monies given to the Leprosy Mission.

Francis & Grace Quansah had been blessed by the birth of their second baby boy Michael, a brother for Francis Junior.

Felicity & Huw Williams had been blessed by the birth of their third daughter, Cadi, on May 4th, 2020.

Simba and Tariro Mashiri had been blessed by the birth of their first son Nathaniel on March 6th, 2021.

Libby and John Farnon had celebrated their golden wedding on 1st August.

Peter Luce his 80th birthday in January and Tony his 60th in February.

We had sadly to announce the death of Chris Lake in October and the sudden death of Alistair Scott in January and Kath Le Gallais.

Kairos bags containing teabags and biscuits had been given to families that had been bereaved in the year and distributed at beginning of December. 120 Christmas cards had been distributed to church members by Lou, these cards had been written by VCP students.

Online services had been brilliant and gratefully applauded by everyone. Thanks particularly to Ajay, Ronan, and Danny for all the work entailed in providing these masterpieces.

Church reopened on Sunday 28th February with 40 people including children being allowed for worship.

By March new regulations allowed us to accommodate as many people as were able to be in church 2 metres apart. Face coverings and track and trace to be adhered to.

Throughout this year Tony has been incredibly busy with many funeral services at the Crematorium where a maximum of 10 people were in attendance. It was hoped that we might now be able to accommodate 120 people in church.

A large legacy had been left to the church by Daryl de Gruchy many ideas had been suggested and these were under review.

Many congratulations to all who have stepped forward to keep the work of the church continuing during this really difficult time. God bless you all.

Ann

Some memories of this past year....

By September we felt confident enough to open the church on a Sunday for limited attendance-40 people + 10 helpers. On communion Sundays some of the congregation took wafers and a special message to those who were shielding or unable to attend for various reasons. This helped to keep the link between us all. They knew they were not forgotten. Many members kept in touch also with phone messages and cards. It became a special time.

The **Thursday services** led by Tony and sometimes by Lou introduced many of the Psalms to those attending. It was more like a Bible study and proved really encouraging and meaningful to those 10 or so members. Soup after –mainly supplied by Ellen was a welcome bonus. These late morning services were a blessing!

One other blessing was re-establishing a connection with **Jersey College for Girls** through a special annual award offered by SHMC on the occasion of their 140 years' celebration. This award would go to a pupil who has shown exceptional '**courage and compassion**' during the year. The award is a cylindrical piece of glass etched with snowdrops to symbolise 'hope' and was designed by a pupil from the school.

What though, is this connection with St. Helier Methodist Centre?

In the late 1870's a group of men and women from different faiths, and including the then Grove Place Minister William Smith, thought a school for girls should be built in the island, to sit alongside the already established Victoria College for boys. It was in the back vestry at the church that this bold decision was made- that school was built and known then as the Jersey ladies' College. The school was opened in 1880. A plaque commemorating this event will be placed in the back vestry. In **September 2020** a short service was held at SHMC to present the award to the school. Because of restrictions we could only welcome a few members of staff and pupils. Speeches were made, one of which spoke about the legacy of special women who had been through the school, and in particular about an ex-

pupil called Lilian Grandin, who went to China as a doctor and Christian missionary. It is hoped to repeat this service every year.

However, **by early December**-all change again! The 'Monday group' and friends ably led by Jean Treleven- in the hope of Christmas celebrations-decorated the church for the first Sunday in advent. Green and red-were the chosen colours-and there were angels and trumpets and crib scenes.

There was a lot of disappointment when another island lockdown was imposed and the number of cases of this terrible virus rose steadily. Our island Methodist Ministers again rose to the occasion to help make our online services as encouraging as possible and photos of our church decorations featured regularly! Our thanks to them all and to Ronan, Ajay and Danny who with their technical know-how, helped with editing these services to give them the professionalism we have all appreciated! How we all missed the school carol services and our own special Nativities and the singing!! Of course, Ellen and Sally rose to the occasion and really lovely little filmed nativity scenes were shared through the online services. It made such a difference to so many and to all the children involved!

As stewards- we were aware of using our 10% fund wisely. After much discussion it was decided to support 'Christian Aid' and the Methodist 'All we can' fund to the tune of £2000 each, and £500 was sent to the Whitechapel Missions both in Liverpool and London which support homeless people.

Other gifts...

£700 also went to support the Leprosy Mission from **Alastair Scott's** generous legacy to the church- and lovely wooden crosses were also purchased.

Ken King's family were delighted that we used some of the money left by him to buy Christmas gifts for members of bereaved families that Tony had supported during the year- the church reaching out in Mission work. Around 50 families were visited.

We are now spending time looking at how best to use the wonderful legacy left to the Church by **Daryl de Gruchy**.

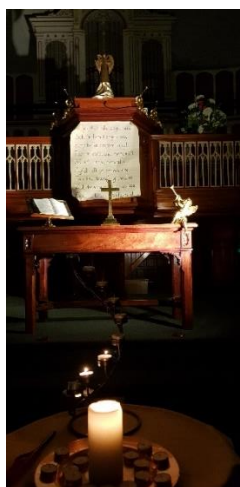
Gradually, early in 2021 the lockdown proved effective and case numbers dropped. The vaccine roll-out has been very efficient and now the island feels safer and more secure.

And so, to **T60!!** What is that you may ask? Our dear minister Tony reached that great age on February 21st!! Sue de Gruchy very cunningly discovered the date and behind the scenes -things were put in motion to surprise Tony with a cake, made by Lou- a suitcase full of cards from the congregation and friends- and a cheque from us all to be put towards a special holiday! He was amazed, touched, and still is I think!! He is very special to us all as is his lovely family!



We are so fortunate in this island compared to many places in the world, that now in early April, our numbers at church are not limited to the 40 + 10 –the only proviso being masks and the 2-metre distancing. All things being equal even that may change soon! Over 90 people attended our Easter Sunday service! How glorious was it to sing along with Methodists all over the island **'Thine be the Glory' on Easter Sunday!**

Libby



Pastoral Review 2020/21

Last year I was able to report that we had held a Service in January to include the commissioning of Pastoral Group Leaders but this year this was impossible due to the coronavirus which meant we were unable to hold any Pastoral Committee meetings.

Sadly, earlier last year Chris Lake died and in January this year Kath Le Gallais. She had struggled for quite some time and was very upset when her sister Joan passed away earlier, and she wasn't able to attend her funeral. Alastair Scott also died just before Christmas and this was a shock to his family. We shall miss these two loyal and faithful members.

When early in March it was discovered that the coronavirus was in Jersey everybody started panicking, and we were advised not to go out unless absolutely necessary especially older people and those in the 'at risk' group or those with breathing problems. On the 18th March Sally came up to me from a meeting at church saying that all activities were cancelled.

<  Government of Jersey
27 m · 

LIVE: 7pm tonight. The Chief Minister and Health Minister will update you on the latest Covid-19 test results, vaccination plans and arrangements for shielding vulnerable islanders.



Fortunately, the weather at that time was very bright and sunny and we were able to meet outside in the gardens although not in other people's houses or visit Care Homes.

Most of the non-essential shops were closed and we were issued with guidance about what we were permitted to do or not.

And so, it was a time for making lists of people to phone, with dates so that it became a regular habit, and families planning who would do the essential shopping.

Offers of help to me came from neighbours who were until then unknown except on the way to the car park, where the occasional remark about the weather was exchanged.

Our greatest link was on-line where we could watch a weekly Service on Sundays where we caught up with news of the Circuit. We were blessed with some very good Services planned by the local staff and kept in contact with many people, and felt we got to know members of staff and their families who were often involved in the Services, more than we did when we worshipped in our own church every Sunday. This was a great blessing being brought together as a Circuit and I hope will make us more aware of being part of the Circuit when there are Circuit events.

From 2nd July some members met on a Thursday morning where Tony introduced us to Nehemiah – someone I must confess I had never heard of – but we enjoyed coming together and we also studied the Psalms where we discussed our favourites and again found some that we had never read, but it was a good exercise, and kept us in contact with each other. This kept going until we decided to experiment on opening the church again.

On September 3rd we had the joyful re-opening of the church abiding by the restrictions in place of allowing 40 people inside, spacing of the chairs, wearing masks and a record kept of those attending, but we were there – together, not being able to sing or stay afterwards to chat – the two things we missed most, but we were there and we felt it was a good start and we hoped more people would feel able to come as time went on and restrictions eased.

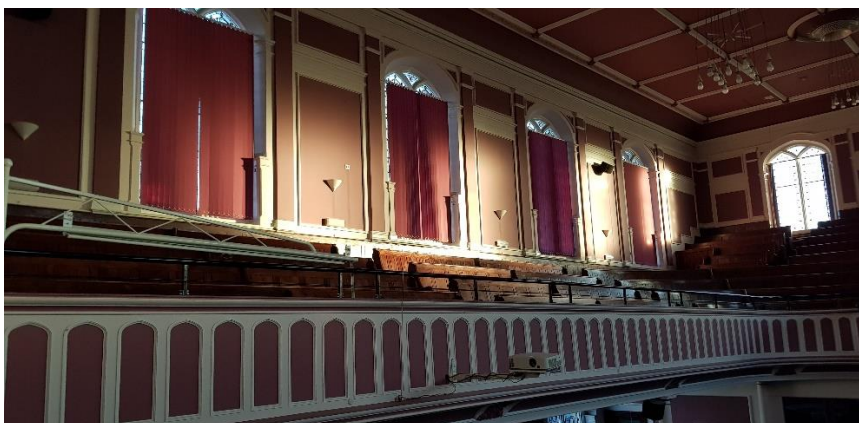
It was surprising how help came from all directions; people have been so generous with offers of fund-raising for the health services and to support the vulnerable. We have learned how to be sociable, how to share, - some likened it to Occupation Days - and how and where to offer help if needed, and how people have responded when approached and talked openly about their problems.

And now that we are able to move out and about more freely, we must remember to thank God for bringing us safely through, hope that we have learned something and that it will prove to be a step further towards making this a better world.

Through these uncertain days we have been skilfully and thoughtfully steered by our Minister Tony and his excellent team of stewards, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude for keeping in contact with his flock.

Pat





[Family Workers Reflections of the past Year 2020 – 2021](#)

This past year has been the most eventful year for us, that I have ever known.

When we went into the first Lockdown in March everything changed. What would we do? how would we fill our working hours? being at home without seeing anyone.

All we could do was use our Facebook page to send out messages and put basic little videos out for the families who we were used to seeing. To keep contact with as many families as possible we divided an old list of names between us and phoned, texted, emailed as best we could.

[Weekly Groups](#)

By July restrictions were easing so we decided to create a non-mobile Baby Group. It had become very apparent that there had been lots of Lockdown babies, and that mums were feeling very isolated. They had not been able to go out, there were no clinics or groups, even midwife and health visitors only phoned or came to the door, and most hadn't had any help from family or friends. So, we advertised on Facebook and the response was overwhelming.

Our baby group started the beginning of July with 19 mums and babies. It has been such a blessing to all of the attendees and to us. These mums are profoundly grateful, and we have made lovely relationships with many.



During the summer we met some mums and Toddlers at the Park on a Tuesday morning, but by September 2020, we thought about a Toddler Group back at the Centre. This we planned very carefully, trying to consider all the restrictions and guidelines.

We came up with a model that seems to work. Dividing up areas, cleaning toys, spacing everyone out, staggering the arrival time, wearing masks, and of course not singing! We invited 16 mums with their toddlers and went with it. Both Groups we keep to the same people, with them having to contact us if they cannot come. We have also set up both groups with Whats App, where we can contact them, and they can contact each other, this works very well.

As we came into November Covid numbers had started to rise again. The number of people indoors went from 20 to 10, so we divided our groups up. Now we had four groups! This only happened for a few weeks before Covid numbers went so high that we had to stop meeting at the beginning of December just before Christmas.

We gave everyone Christmas bags and I delivered to the ones who we hadn't seen.

Christmas came and went without any Christmas services, but we did put a nativity together online using our own children, grandchildren, and puppets which was very well appreciated.



In the new year it was not possible to meet inside, so with the Baby Group we met weekly for a Pram Push along the front. We finished off wherever we could, for a hot chocolate, at first standing outside. We tried to meet with the Toddlers at the beach, but weather usually prevented that really working.



By beginning of March 2021, we were allowed 10 people inside again. But that had to include babies so we divided the groups up once again so that we could have 5 mums and 5 babies\toddlers. We managed it by having them meet every other week. Not ideal but better than nothing. For one week we had one group in the Centre and one week walking with Maureen, but as expected this arrangement wasn't to be permanent, and within weeks the Government were not counting under 3's and we could have our groups back to 10 mums and 10 babies or toddlers in each.

Now from the 12th April we are allowed 20 inside not counting under 3's, so when we go back after the Easter holidays, we will slowly start increasing the numbers.

Obviously, our non-mobile babies are now mobile! they are all at the point nearing walking. We have lost a few along the way, as their mums go back to work, but we hope that we will be able to grow them into toddlers and hopefully start a new non-mobile group soon.

We have really enjoyed having smaller groups at times, allowing the groups to be a community and bond with each other and us. This has been a steep learning curve, that "bigger isn't always better." We have now made it our policy that we will never go back to the huge numbers, where all you can do is crowd management. We will have a regular committed group, who really want to be with us and appreciate what we are offering.

Sunday Children

We have tried hard to keep in touch with our Sunday Children. And last summer we arranged some beach days which were fun and successful.

I have visited many of the families, with Advent calendars, craft bags, Easter Eggs and invites, which I feel they appreciated. I even filmed them making a Lord's Prayer video on their doorsteps, as I couldn't go inside houses.

We have been so amazed and thrilled with the three AAW's that have brought so many families back into wanting to be in Church. This is something that we have to work with now if our Church Sunday community is to flourish. If families keep coming, with their children, and we hope they do, we will have to find more leaders to help. The past few weeks we even created a Creche in the Café.

Sally

Social Media

March 2020 Sally and I knew that lockdown was imminent. Our work with families at the centre had to stop and the centre closed on 20th March. This was our chance to think, adapt and try new ways to stay in contact with our toddler and church families. This was our main priority.

We decided our Facebook page, St Helier Methodist Centre - Kids at the Centre (If you would like to have a look!), was a good platform to start on. So, on 21st March our first video was posted, and our exciting Facebook journey began.

Over lockdown we posted ourselves on Facebook doing action songs, bible stories, prayers, craft ideas and activities from our homes. During this time, I found out about the free iMovie App and learnt how to edit clips, add music, sound effect and put videos together. As lockdown restrictions eased and Sally and I could meet up again at the centre, we started recording more complex videos together such as Toddler Church and Mr Bible goes out and about to the Zoo, Woodlands Dairy Farm, Corbiere Lighthouse, and the Central Market. We had so much fun making these videos.

We asked our families to get involved in some of our videos too, such as our Nativity play, which we recorded before restrictions tightened again before Christmas. Our fun Jump Up and Down video, where families sent videos to us. After Christmas Sally visited, recorded, edited and put the Doorstep Lord's Prayer together.



Our most recent videos were recorded for this Easter.

Although these videos take many hours to make, they have been worth it. Most importantly they have kept us in contact with our families. They have been enjoyed by many and this has been a fantastic opportunity to tell our families and many more about Jesus.

Since Last March we have posted 119 videos and have had 25,454 views! WoW!!

Ellen



All in all, including the videos that we film, we feel that we have had a busier year than past years, definitely a different year. We have learnt so much as we feel the pull of God calling us to put down some of the pre Covid ways and to trust him for more exciting post Covid adventures.

Sally, Ellen and Maureen



Youth Work Annual Report 2020

Cathy and Marcia have been co-leading the youth work over the last year, collaborating closely to keep connected with our youth through the pandemic in a variety of ways.



Sunday Youth on a Sunday morning has only been possible for a short time in the Summer and very recently. In the Summer, in consultation with the Junior Church Team we held a “getting to know you/us” gathering of those moving up to Year 6 in September 2020 and therefore eligible to attend our Youth Group. We bought smoothies and milkshakes from Bean Around The World and then sat in the SHMC Café to talk about “What to Expect”, discuss the differences and answer any questions. This was an extremely helpful bridging exercise, supported by some of the Youth, as well as the Junior Church Leadership. We also introduced the gift of a Youth Bible for all those who made the transition in September. We saw six new youths join us and make this transition successfully, despite the huge break due to the pandemic.

During Lockdown Marcia and Cathy with the support of Martin Delap, James and Ronan made visits to doorsteps with edible gifts or spiritual tokens, enabled the exchange of written prayers to different members of the group, kept in touch through the Sunday Youth WhatsApp group and hosted a number of Zoom calls. Two Escape Room adventures were enjoyed by the group through Zoom, which enabled connections to be maintained.



In Person this newly vitalised youth group has really enjoyed exploring the book of Jonah, using Drama and even attempted a version on Zoom once we went into lockdown. There are several very musically gifted young youths, so we would love to see more opportunities in the future for music to be explored in worship, with perhaps a Youth Choir.

The young people haven't been able to continue to explore ideas of the refurbishment of the Youth Room, but hopefully this Summer we can begin to make improvements and additions.

We said goodbye to two of our youths going away to University, but with no residential or celebratory gatherings possible we took snacks down to Liberation Square and played Boules. We gave gifts of Bible devotional books and a keepsake box full of encouraging messages and scripture.

Garage Club - Sunday evenings once a month has had to be suspended. We plan to restart in April.

We hope to find ways for our youths to deepen their spiritual lives in the coming year with an opportunity to explore membership. Our heart is to broaden their faith experiences and increase their potential encounters with Jesus.



Kairos Arts Report

2020/21 has been a year of considerable development, challenge and creativity. Kairos Arts had to move from face-to-face programmes to an online presence, and then transition back to face-to-face programmes. This period also marked the increase in hours for the two part-time members of staff to run the charity with 12 hours for the Creative Director (Cathy) and 12 hours for Naomi Bidmead who started in September in a newly titled role of Fundraising, Operations and Communications Manager.

In September/October, with referrals from Jersey Women's Refuge and Jersey Domestic Abuse Support (JDAS) we were able to resume our face-to-face programmes for women affected by domestic abuse. The sessions were held in the newly refurbished Workshop Room at Ruby Ferguson House. No work with people living with dementia has been possible, but we continue to keep in contact with Dementia Jersey.



Beaulieu School approached Kairos Arts to develop a Schools Programme for young people struggling with their mental health and so we ran 3 sessions of a 6-week programme for a group of 6 young women in Year 10 after school on Thursdays in November, before the risk to participants and Practitioners became too high and we had to suspend the programme. We returned this year and ran a 6-week programme for eight year 10 & 11 students.

In September, we initiated a collaboration with the Jersey Women's Refuge Children's Worker to run a short-term project for children affected by domestic abuse. Over two Saturdays in October we worked with 6 children aged between 8 and 13, exploring the theme of safety and protection through all of the arts, culminating in an art installation. This was exhibited as the centre piece of the Domestic Abuse Campaign Week in a Pop-up Shop in Liberty Wharf called "From Out of a Safe Space".



Early last year we organised and hosted a 3-part British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT) Training Course called ARTiculate in Jersey, for 25 participants across sectors to support their work with children and young people using the arts safely in their setting. The third part, due to take place in March, had to be postponed but was completed online at the beginning of July. We have now collaborated with BAAT to bring a Level 6 Diploma in Therapeutic Arts Practice for Children and Young People to Jersey for some of our Practitioners and to equip and upskill many other professionals in Jersey. This is a ground breaking venture.

Lockdown gave us immense opportunity to develop our social media engagement – 40 days of Creative Adventure was a daily offering to engage people safely through creativity, engendering hope on Facebook and Instagram. We offered a 40-minute Festival of Creativity in May and ran a campaign of Kairos Moments through August. Our community of volunteers remained connected through a Postcards of Hope Project which were then displayed in a shop window in town for 4 months.

Our Products Coordinator, Lou Hicklin put our products on to our website during lockdown, creating an online shop and a revenue stream, despite being unable to sell at events or give talks. We commissioned a Kairos Arts Bag for Life from an Indian Freedom Business to support their fragile organisation and create a customised product for us to sell and raise awareness of our work. By the end of 2020 we had sold 200 units out of the 300 ordered. These bags were part of the outreach work of the Centre to the bereaved at Christmas. The Pop-up Shop for a week in October sold a good amount of products and in November and December we were invited to take a table in the Central Market in St. Helier, selling £1800 worth of stock.



During lockdown we developed a 3-year strategy document that included 6 goals for the next 3 years, plus budgets. This invaluable piece of work has opened funding doors and has created great focus for our activities.

Financially, we are currently supported by the Lloyds Bank Foundation, the Philip Gower Charitable Foundation, the Association of Jersey Charities and private donors. However, the generous gift of an

office and workshop room in Ruby Ferguson House keeps our overheads very low. We are deeply grateful to the St. Helier Methodist Centre for this support, and we were delighted that with the help of the Government's Back to Work Scheme we were able to refurbish these rooms, finishing in March 2020. Thank you to all those from within the SHMC Community who support us in actions, through prayer and volunteer for us. We love working in partnership with you.

Cathy



[Report from Management and Finance](#)

Although the Management and Finance Committee has not met over the past year due to Covid 19 matters have not stood still at the Centre. Flat 1 Ruby Ferguson House became vacant and so the opportunity was taken to refurbish the flat and this work has been completed.

The work on the South side of Ruby Ferguson House recommended in the quinquennial inspection have commenced whilst other works detailed in the report are being considered.

The receipt of a bequest of £439,656 from the estate of the late Daryl de Gruchy was a most welcome surprise and the manner in which this sum together with the legacy of £25,000 bequeathed to the Church by the late Idris Buesnel can be put to good use in the way that both Daryl and Idris would have wished are being considered.

As in the past the running and maintenance of the Centre relies heavily on the hard work of the staff and volunteers which has been even greater in the past year due to the unusual circumstances of Covid 19 and the Committee is keen that this is acknowledged not only by it, but all members of the Church and our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to all concerned.

Peter Luce





| NESTLING DAY CARE CENTRE | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT | | | | | | | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2020/2021 | | | 2020 Actual | | 2020 Budget | | 2019 Actual | | 2019 Budget | |
| Budget | INCOME | Note | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 727,400 | Fees receivable | 1 | | 571,792 | | 672,683 | | 671,299 | | 683,808 |
| 200 | Interest receivable | 2 | | 209 | | 180 | | 214 | | 124 |
| - | Other income (Donation) | | | 1,250 | | - | | - | | - |
| 727,600 | | | | 573,251 | | 672,863 | | 671,513 | | 683,932 |
| | EXPENDITURE | | | | | | | | | |
| 467,200 | Staff costs | 3 | 393,985 | | 475,500 | | 435,272 | | 460,584 | |
| 3,000 | Training (net of grants received) | 3 | 652 | | 1,200 | | - 826 | | 2,400 | |
| 18,740 | Toiletries & Food | 4 | 15,525 | | 18,240 | | 17,888 | | 18,240 | |
| 1,000 | Art materials | | 742 | | 1,000 | | 1,313 | | 1,500 | |
| 3,000 | Equipment repairs & maintenance | | 3,073 | | 3,000 | | 1,180 | | 3,500 | |
| 96,000 | Methodist Church service chg | | 90,000 | | 90,000 | | 84,000 | | 84,000 | |
| 1,700 | Rates | | 1,527 | | 1,700 | | 1,527 | | 1,700 | |
| 1,400 | Advertising/printing /stationery | | 796 | | 1,300 | | 661 | | 1,500 | |
| 440 | Telephone & postage | | 434 | | 440 | | 379 | | 600 | |
| 2,000 | Bin servicing | | 994 | | 1,500 | | 1,354 | | 1,800 | |
| 18,000 | Cleaning | | 10,037 | | 12,000 | | 10,931 | | 11,400 | |
| 6,500 | Accountancy | 6 | 5,916 | | 4,200 | | 4,416 | | 4,200 | |
| 10,000 | Property maintenance & repairs | | 7,014 | | 10,000 | | - 1,780 | | 25,000 | |
| 8,500 | Professional fees | 10 | 7,763 | | 8,200 | | 8,385 | | 6,000 | |
| 1,500 | Sundries | 10 | 1,420 | | 1,500 | | 1,163 | | 2,000 | |
| 2,500 | Toys & books & equipment | | 3,750 | | 2,500 | | 2,630 | | 2,500 | |
| 641,480 | | | 543,628 | | 632,280 | | 568,493 | | 626,924 | |
| 86,120 | NET INCOME BEFORE GRANTS | | 29,623 | | 40,583 | | 103,020 | | 57,008 | |
| 86,120 | NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR | | 29,623 | | 40,583 | | 103,020 | | 57,008 | |
| | Balance brought forward | | 193,277 | | | | 170,257 | | | |
| | Transfer to SHMC Reserves | | - 40,000 | | | | - 80,000 | | | |
| | Balance carried forward | | 182,900 | | | | 193,277 | | | |

| NESTLING DAY CARE CENTRE | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| BALANCE SHEET | | | | | |
| AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020 | | | | | |
| | | 2020 | | 2019 | |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | Note | | | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | |
| Debtors and prepayments | | 2,419 | | 1,206 | |
| Stock | 5 | - | | - | |
| Cash at bank | 7 | 206,803 | | 244,081 | |
| Cash in hand | | 137 | | 34 | |
| | | | 209,359 | | 245,321 |
| LIABILITIES: Amounts due within one year | | | | | |
| Fees received in advance | | 3,896 | | 27,793 | |
| Parents deposit fund | 8 | 11,500 | | 13,750 | |
| Sundry creditors and accruals | 9 | 11,063 | | 10,501 | |
| | | | 26,459 | | 52,044 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | | 182,900 | | 193,277 |
| Represented by: | | | | | |
| UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS | | | 182,900 | | 193,277 |



| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---------|---------|--|--|
| NESTLING DAY CARE CENTRE | | | | | | | | | |
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | | | | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Fee income is below that anticipated. The main reason for this is that the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Nursery to close in the third week of March 2020 for a period of 10 weeks, resulting in a loss of income for that period. | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | All of the interest received is from the Central Finance Board. The dividend from the Co-op was not claimed during the year and will be recognised when received. | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Staff costs have again been tightly controlled for the year which has resulted in another pleasing reduction in anticipated costs. Whilst the Nursery was closed, all employees continued to receive full pay but the Jersey Government operated a Payroll Co-Funding Scheme and we were fortunate to receive a total of £48,364 to partly offset our payroll expenses. | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Food and toiletries expenditure remains tightly controlled and the result is once again pleasing. Expenditure on toiletries remains very low and wastage is tightly controlled. Some of the savings made were as a result of the Nursery being closed for 10 weeks. | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | There were no items of value held in stock at the end of the year. | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | St Helier Methodist Centre provides book-keeping and accountancy services via their own Treasurer, for which the Nursery pays their calculated share. COVID-19 resulted in an excessive workload during the year. | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Cash at bank is made up of: | | | | | 2020 | 2019 | | |
| | Central Finance Board monies | | | | | 29,317 | 29,109 | | |
| | Lloyds TSB Jersey | | | | | 177,486 | 214,972 | | |
| | | | | | | ----- | ----- | | |
| | | | | | | 206,803 | 244,081 | | |
| 8 | The parents' deposit fund is made up of deposits in the sum of £250 each. | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Creditors and accruals are: | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | £ | | |
| | Soc Sec - July & Aug | | | | | | 8,541 | | |
| | Due to SHMC for petty cash top up | | | | | | 100 | | |
| | Allowance for food bills for August | | | | | | 1,490 | | |
| | Allowance for accountancy costs for August | | | | | | 780 | | |
| | Allowance for bank charges | | | | | | 26 | | |
| | Allowance for telephone for Aug | | | | | | 53 | | |
| | Allowance for various cleaning invoices | | | | | | 73 | | |
| | | | | | | | ----- | | |
| | | | | | | | 11,063 | | |
| 10 | The Nursery has agreed a regular payment plan with Law at Work to cover the cost of various personnel and staffing advice and guidance. | | | | | | | | |

| | ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------|-------------|---------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | GENERAL FUND | | | | | | | | | |
| | INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2020 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2020/2021 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget | INCOME | Note | 2020 Actual | | 2020 Budget | | 2019 Actual | | 2019 Budget | |
| 56,667 | Cash collections & covenants | | | 56,057 | | 56,667 | | 49,240 | | 52,800 |
| 10,000 | Inc tax refunds on covenants | | | 9,683 | | 10,000 | | 10,138 | | 10,000 |
| ----- | | | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- |
| 66,667 | | | | 65,740 | | 66,667 | | 59,378 | | 62,800 |
| 6,667 | Less tf to 10% reserve fund | | | 6,574 | | 6,667 | | 5,938 | | 6,280 |
| ----- | | | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- |
| 60,000 | | | | 59,166 | | 60,000 | | 53,440 | | 56,520 |
| 10,320 | Rent from flats 1&2 | | | 19,370 | | 20,220 | | 20,220 | | 20,700 |
| 20,000 | Room Hire | 4 | | 23,990 | | 30,000 | | 32,923 | | 30,000 |
| 3,600 | Donations | | | 466,888 | | 3,600 | | 7,581 | | 3,600 |
| 96,000 | Nursery rent | | | 90,000 | | 90,000 | | 84,000 | | 84,000 |
| 2,300 | Bank deposit interest | 5 | | 2,223 | | 1,800 | | 2,110 | | 1,000 |
| - | Quoted investment income | | | 5 | | - | | 5 | | - |
| - | Catering | | | (562) | | 1,000 | | 938 | | 4,000 |
| - | Holiday club | | | - | | - | | (56) | | - |
| 40,000 | Miscellaneous income | | | 40,044 | | 40,000 | | 80,075 | | 55,000 |
| ----- | | | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- |
| 232,220 | TOTAL INCOME | | | 701,124 | | 246,620 | | 281,236 | | 254,820 |
| | EXPENSES | | | | | | | | | |
| 3,800 | Accountancy/treasurer fees | 6 | 3,540 | | 3,600 | | 3,276 | | 4,200 | |
| 88,772 | Circuit Assessment | | 84,634 | | 84,634 | | 85,595 | | 79,345 | |
| 93,000 | Staff salaries | | 104,955 | | 115,000 | | 108,953 | | 109,248 | |
| 6,045 | Staff soc sec Er costs | | 6,410 | | 7,500 | | 6,767 | | 7,104 | |
| 13,000 | Oil | | 11,193 | | 12,000 | | 10,428 | | 10,200 | |
| 7,200 | Electricity | | 4,568 | | 7,200 | | 6,076 | | 9,000 | |
| 2,400 | Water | | 1,925 | | 2,400 | | 2,228 | | 2,400 | |
| 300 | Rates | | 295 | | 300 | | 294 | | 290 | |
| 600 | Telephone | | 545 | | 600 | | 790 | | 480 | |
| 8,500 | Insurance | | 7,737 | | 8,000 | | 7,435 | | 8,000 | |
| 3,500 | Cleaning - Agencies | | 3,402 | | 3,000 | | 3,199 | | 2,400 | |
| 1,800 | Cleaning - Materials | | 1,648 | | 1,800 | | 1,769 | | 1,800 | |
| 2,930 | Printing, Stationery & Postage | | 1,953 | | 2,700 | | 2,545 | | 4,200 | |
| 15,000 | Repairs & maint - routine | 7 | 15,000 | | 15,000 | | 15,000 | | 15,000 | |
| 50,000 | Repairs & maint - planned | 7 | 19,132 | | 48,000 | | 25,093 | | 55,000 | |
| 3,000 | Professional fees | | 2,575 | | 3,000 | | 2,500 | | 3,500 | |
| 300 | Jr Church & Youth work | | - | | 300 | | 53 | | 300 | |
| 500 | Sundry Equipment | | - | | 480 | | - | | 480 | |
| 150 | Messy Church | | 17 | | 120 | | 1,068 | | 300 | |
| 1,412 | Connexional Funding | | 1,412 | | 1,412 | | 1,412 | | 1,412 | |
| 6,151 | Miscellaneous expenses | 8 | 5,159 | 276,100 | 6,151 | 323,197 | 4,462 | 288,943 | 10,347 | 325,006 |
| 308,360 | | | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- | | ----- |
| (76,140) | RESULT - PROFIT/(LOSS) | | | 425,025 | | (76,577) | | (7,707) | | (70,186) |

| ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| BALANCE SHEET | | | | | |
| 31 AUGUST 2020 | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Note | 2020 | | 2019 | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | |
| Cash at banks | 1 | 493,307 | | 68,278 | |
| Cash at Central Board of Finance | | 312,758 | | 310,535 | |
| Petty Cash | | 179 | | 815 | |
| Debtors | 2 | 1,209 | | 5,281 | |
| Prepayments | 2 | 25,079 | | 23,615 | |
| Stock | 2 | 1,308 | 833,840 | 1,729 | 410,253 |
| | | | | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Creditors | 2 | 8,972 | | 9,113 | |
| Accruals | 2 | 5,352 | | 5,395 | 14,508 |
| | | | 14,324 | | |
| | | | 819,516 | | 395,745 |
| REPRESENTED BY | | | | | |
| General Fund (Unrestricted) | 3 | | 779,107 | | 363,115 |
| Minister's Discretionary Fund | | | 4,021 | | 614 |
| General Property Fund (Restricted) | | | 13,368 | | 13,200 |
| In & Out Collections (Restricted) | | | 265 | | - |
| Mrs L S Nicolle Endowment Fund (Restricted) | | | 1,246 | | 1,246 |
| Advertising Fund (Restricted) | | | 430 | | 430 |
| Parking Fund (Restricted) | | | 429 | | 429 |
| 10% Charities Fund (Restricted) | | | 9,273 | | 5,389 |
| Little Rascals Fund (Restricted) | | | 1,000 | | 1,000 |
| Esperado Fund (Restricted) | | | 3,802 | | 3,704 |
| M Tourtel Memorial Fund (Restricted) | | | 6,575 | | 6,618 |
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS | | | 819,516 | | 395,745 |

| ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|---|--------|
| OTHER FUNDS | | | | | |
| 31 AUGUST 2020 | | | | | |
| General Property Fund | | | 10% Charities Fund | | |
| 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 13,200 | 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 5,389 |
| | Tf from inc/exp | 168 | | Transfer from Minister's Discretionary Fund - food vouchers | 760 |
| | Closing balance | 13,368 | | Transfer from General Fund | 6,574 |
| Parking Fund | | | | Less paid to: | |
| 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 429 | | Action Aid | 180 |
| | No movement in period | | | Christians Together | 50 |
| | Closing balance | 429 | | Watoto | 552 |
| | | | | Benevolent Fund (vouchers) | 1,700 |
| | | | | Closing balance | 10,241 |
| Minister's Discretionary Fund | | | Esperado Fund | | |
| 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 614 | 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 3,704 |
| | Add from Eden Chapel | 500 | | Receipts for the period | 698 |
| | Add tf from General Fund | 10,000 | | Less: | |
| | Add general donations | 20 | | Tf to Esperado project | - |
| | Less Nursery fees for local child | 4,353 | | Monthly funding | 600 |
| | Less tf Salvation Army | 1,000 | | Closing balance | 3,802 |
| | Less tf Portuguese Mission | 1,000 | | | |
| | Tf to 10% fund for vouchers | 760 | | Michael Tourtel Memorial Fund | |
| | Closing balance | 4,021 | 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 6,618 |
| Advertising Fund | | | | Add bank interest received | 52 |
| 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 430 | | Less church youth expenses | 95 |
| | No movement in period | | | Closing balance | 6,575 |
| | Closing balance | 430 | | | |
| Little Rascals Fund | | | Mrs L S Nicolle Endowment Fund | | |
| 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 1,000 | 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | 1,246 |
| | Add net receipts for period | 866 | | No movement in period | - |
| | Less tf to General Fund | 866 | | Closing balance | 1,246 |
| | Closing balance | 1,000 | | | |
| In & Out Collections | | | | | |
| 31.8.19 | Balance b/f | - | | | |
| | Various receipts | 1,191 | | | |
| | Less paid to: | | | | |
| | Leprosy Mission | 302 | | | |
| | Action for Children | 146 | | | |
| | Christian Aid | 428 | | | |
| | Kairos Arts | 50 | | | |
| | Closing balance | 265 | | | |

| ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | | | | | |
| 31 AUGUST 2020 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 1 | We continue to maintain a balance of cash with Natwest to cover general running costs. | | | | | | |
| | The Central Board of Finance offer better interest rates on cash deposits | | | | | | |
| | and so the majority of funds are held there. A large legacy was received in August 2020 and the majority of this has since been transferred to the Central Board of Finance. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Separate schedules for debtors, creditors, accruals, prepayments and stock are attached | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 3 | The General Fund includes a transfer from the Little Rascals Fund in the sum of £866 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Room hire receipts were disappointing during the period but we remain very grateful to the Street Dance Team for their continued support. The onset of COVID-19 and the resultant enforced lockdown in March resulted in the Centre being closed for some time which meant that Room hire receipts were adversely affected. It is impossible to predict whether this will improve in subsequent years. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Bank deposit receipts were above target due to higher than expected interest rates being applied by the Central Board of Finance. It is hoped that this will continue. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 6 | The Treasurer's fees are likely to remain at or below the budgeted level for the foreseeable future. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 7 | The total repairs and maintenance costs include £2,594 to replace the lighting in Ruby Ferguson House, £1,686 to replace the flooring in Ruby Ferguson House, £6,452 to replace a heating control panel, £4,822 to correct a water leak in the boiler room and a transfer of £168 to the General Property Fund. | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|-------|
| 8 | Miscellaneous expenses (over £100) include: | | | | | £ |
| | CCLI Licence | | | | | 436 |
| | TV licence | | | | | 151 |
| | Freedom Media - web hosting & domain renewal | | | | | 690 |
| | Replacement laptop and external hard drive for the Treasurer's use | | | | | 779 |
| | Replacement printer for the office | | | | | 279 |
| | 100 year books/diaries for 2020 | | | | | 219 |
| | Replenishment of First Aid boxes | | | | | 112 |
| | Cost of AwayDay | | | | | 103 |
| | 100 standard handbooks & 10 larger handbooks | | | | | 385 |
| | Web domain renewal (2 years) | | | | | 119 |
| | Giving envelopes | | | | | 121 |
| | Contribution towards a laptop for the Church administrator (working from home) | | | | | 283 |
| | Staff Christmas gifts | | | | | 270 |
| | Methodist Recorder | | | | | 182 |
| | | | | | | 4,129 |



Comments on the Accounts

Included in this report are the audited accounts for the Church and the Nursery for the year ending 31st August 2020.

The Church accounts show a profit of £425,025 as against a budgeted loss of £76,577.

There are several factors for this major change. During the financial year we received bequests from two members who have died recently. One was a specific bequest of £25,000 under the will of the late Idris Buesnel and the other was the sum of £439,656 being our share of the estate of the late Daryl de Gruchy which she specified in her will.

Our collections remained steady despite the lockdown due to many members giving regularly by standing order. Room hire was down due to lockdown.

On the expenditure side staff salaries were down due to the fact that we no longer employed a chef. Again, we did not spend all monies budgeted for repairs.

The budget for the current year gives a likely deficit of £76,140 with £65,000 being allocated for repairs and maintenance.

The nursery had a net income of £29,623 as against a budgeted figure of £40,583 and this despite the fact that the nursery was closed for 11 weeks due to the lockdown during which no fees were received but the staff continued to be paid and we received £ 48,364 from the Jersey Government which partly offset this.

Once again, all costs were tightly controlled, and other savings made as a result of being closed for 10 weeks.

Finally, the sum of £40,000 was transferred from the Nursery to the general Church account.

One again I cannot conclude without expressing our sincere thanks to Jackie Ollerenshaw for her excellent management of both the Church and Nursery finances throughout the year.

Peter Luce



Report from the (peripatetic) office

This has been an interesting year, full of challenges, changes, and opportunities to learn.

Which office?

In March I moved everything useful from the office to a box room at home. I went into the Centre every couple of days to check post and messages etc.

When the first lockdown eased, I spent more time back in the Centre but set up a duplicate office at home, so that I can now work from either location without any disruption. This proved useful in November when we moved back to working from home.

Now once again I am back in the Centre for most of the day and prepared for further changes if necessary.



So many changes

It has been interesting to observe that the more difficult transitions have been those when the regulations ease. Locking down and stopping activities is straightforward but opening up – even slightly – brings many decisions. Interpreting the new regulations safely and helpfully is not always easy.

When Nursery restarted after their enforced 11-week closure they initially needed to use the Youth Room to keep to regulations. This meant we changed a window to provide ventilation and added a lock on one of the doors. After 2 weeks the group sizes changed, and all the children could be looked after within the Nursery rooms – but the Youth Room is still needed to provide sufficient space for staff. Throughout this year Louise and I have worked closely together.

Other changes/ new experiences:

implementing contact tracing with Trax / old fashioned pen and paper

buying PPE

setting up a Covid isolation/waiting room

going for regular Workforce testing

keeping windows open for ventilation (and wearing extra layers all the time as a result)

trying to source jokes and quizzes for the 'alternative notice sheet'.



Rentals

We now have two main groups renting rooms at the Centre: AA and Emma-Jane Dance Academy. As the regulations have changed, we have had meetings with each of them to discuss what is now allowed and what is safe and responsible. I feel that we have gained a great deal through these meetings, growing in mutual respect as we work through the difficult decisions.

During the year AA added a second weekly meeting at the Centre. Their previous venue became unavailable due to Covid and we felt that it was very important to support them at this time.

One of our neighbours is also using a room for weekly rehearsals for his band.

Street Pastors, who are based at the Centre, were patrolling during the summer, stopped in December and started again in April. Their Prayer Pastors are praying at home for the moment.

The Centre supports the work of Kairos Arts by providing two rooms in Ruby Ferguson House, without charge.

Food Bank

The Salvation Army ran a central Food Bank during the first lockdown but then stepped back as the year progressed. During the summer and autumn 2020 Citizens Advice would contact me at home and I would go in to the Centre to help as required.

To restore some dignity and autonomy to applicants for help I have changed some of my practices with the Food Bank. I now offer both Sandpiper and Co-op vouchers – for the applicants to choose what would be most helpful for them. Applicants are also choosing their own groceries when possible.

Walks

In early 2021, inspired by the Pram walks and unable to meet inside, we started having staff walks along the beach in place of staff meetings. Now that we can meet in the Centre again the aim is to continue the walks when possible. The informality of being outside and walking rather than sitting around a table really encourages discussion.

We have invited some members of the church committees to walk with us and we hope to continue doing so.

I have missed seeing and chatting with members of the Church family, but phone chats have proved heart-warming. Thank you so much to those who have called.

Zoom training has been a variable experience. In depth discussion seems harder screen to screen but may simply be a matter of practice. Talking to, and seeing, members of churches all over the UK has been remarkable and would not have happened to the same extent at all pre-Covid.

I am very grateful that I have been able to keep working throughout the year, when so many have been furloughed. I also appreciate how fortunate I have been to work with such a supportive and caring team at this difficult time; what a real difference that makes!

Sarah



Report from Nestling Nursery 2021

We reopened the nursery after 11 weeks of closure. We have worked in large groups, small groups and one to one to create a plan that would reduce the risk of spreading the virus during the course of operating. We considered both the protection of staff, children and their families. We believed that with all staff and the nursery committee involvement we could work together to create extra space to accommodate 2 bubbles of 8 Pre-school children to enable us to offer our service to all 47 children and their families from Monday 8th June 2020. We are committed to doing all we can to maintain our usual standards during this period and putting children and families first.

The nursery re opened on the 8th June 2020 and we had to be compliant with all the new guidelines, policies and procedures to enable us to open to our full capacity. An exit strategy and a risk assessment also had to be devised, which then had to be passed by our regulators Children and Early Years Services (CEYS) before we had the permission to re-open.

The staff all had one to one sessions planned with the nursery Manager on their return as help them settle back into work and to ensure their wellbeing was at a good place. Supervisions were planned 3 months into us re opening to continue to give the staff the continued support on their overall performance, development and wellbeing. Staff continue to have regular, early morning briefings, room meetings and there is an open-door policy to keep us all connected.

We have changed many of our practices and over the last year and this had made us reflect as a team on how we could move forward into the new. We have achieved this by continuing to work as a team, been committed to our children and their families and looking after each other. We have started 2021 really positive and upbeat and have committed many hours to our continuous professional development working together, to achieve together. One of the ways we have achieved this is by adopting a new initiative called Planning In the Moment which we are now adopting into our everyday practice.

Louise

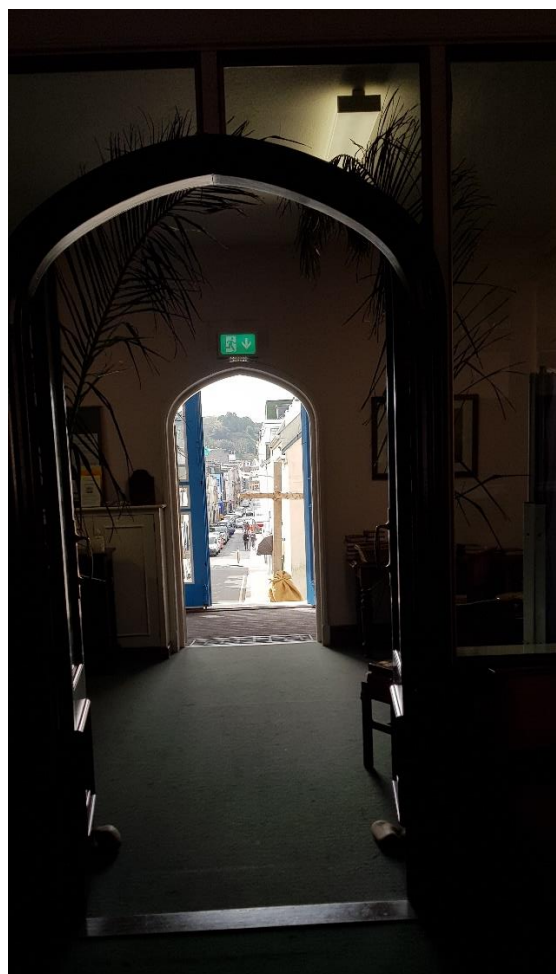


[A Sermon Preached on Easter Day 2021: Luke 24:1-12.](#)

Can you remember where you were a year ago and how you were feeling? Lockdown had just started; the weather was beautiful, and we were advised to make our wills. Plans were being formulated for the Nightingale Hospital. Bird song accompanied frontline workers who quietly, courageously donned PPE.

On a more domestic level, hand sanitizing gel was a prized possession, and toilet rolls and pasta were bulk purchased- in fact, some may still be working through their purchases! Like Peter, Thomas, and the disciples on that first Maundy Thursday night, none of us quite knew what the future held. For Peter, after the betrayal, it was questions of what would happen to Christ? For us, it was questions of whether the food chain could maintain supply to the island and how long would this go on for?

Those early months, a year ago, were for us a long Maundy Thursday: so many unknowns, so much unsaid, best laid plans put to rest. Not even the German invasion of 1940 stopped public worship- but Covid did. I remember the first broadcast, standing in an empty church like a penguin isolated from the colony, trying to speak into homes via that little camera. Over a 1,000 did tune in. Since then, we have learnt to be more sophisticated in our methods, but there was something very authentic about our first efforts to be church without being *in* church. Just as those first disciples were dispersed into the unknown, and finding safety behind closed doors, so we were dispersed into the unknown, behind our closed doors, anxious yet resolute. As one of our church members said, "We survived the Occupation, and we will survive this".



Survive we have- but not all. For after Maundy Thursday comes Good Friday and the cross. We have seen the daily news indicate total deaths in the UK: *'as of yesterday deaths within 28 days of a positive Covid test stands at 127,080'* a terrible figure to which we can only imagine how much worse it would have been if we had not undertaken such radical social distancing measures. Here in Jersey, the figure is 69: far less than what was feared. The temporary mortuary has not been used, but for each one of those 69, 127,080 and 2.8m around the world, is love lost early. Just as friends and family watched from a distance the death of Jesus, many have watched helpless as someone's life ends before their time.

I think of Rev Giles Bartleman at St Marks who died aged 50 because of Covid. A good man who leaves a wife and young son. One of my recollections of this period is agreeing to conduct funerals, and then many times walking from manse to crematorium. We were allowed 15 minutes, ten people and wipe down plastic chairs. One of the cruelest twists of this pernicious virus is the way it has kept us apart at the very moment when we need to be together. We have been denied holding hands, hugging, and crying together. Too many sons and daughters could not return to Jersey to say goodbye to their parents. For many, social distancing has been disastrous for mental health, and marriages have been stress-tested. We have journeyed through a Good Friday time: confronted by life's preciousness and vulnerability, of its wonder and fragility.

But just as Joseph of Arimathea courageously approached Pilate on Good Friday for the body of Christ to place in his tomb, so we have also been the recipients of other people's courageous actions. Do you remember those claps for front line workers, the thousands who volunteered to help with food deliveries, the youngsters who raised funds, and Captain Tom Moore who became a Sir and lifted many people's emotions because of his irrepressible spirit?

And now a year on, where are we? Thanks to the collective response of islanders and the inoculations, there is real Hope. There is a real possibility of a new beginning. We are not yet at that moment of Thomas seeing Christ's wounds with wonderment, but there is Hope, just as there is Hope displayed in those lovely statement posters outside the church. Despite the sudden dip in temperatures, that reminds us of January, the daffodils and blossom tell us Spring is here. Easter with its honest emotions of confusion and anxiety, yearning and anger, and ultimately of joy and wonder- lead us to an empty tomb and a resurrected Christ.



I've always had a soft spot for impetuous Peter. At the beginning of the Gospel narrative, he identifies himself as "a sinful man" (Luke 5:8), perhaps like Isaiah, aware that he was, "a man of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). At Caesarea Philippi, his lips will rebuke Jesus (Mark 8:32), and in the garden of the High Priest they will deny Jesus (Luke 22:54-62). Words seem to fall quickly from Peter's lips, and not always in the way that he would have wanted!

In contrast, there are no words attributed to Peter in this passage. Instead, we are told what Peter *did*. He got up, ran, stooped, looked, and then went home, amazed at what had happened. For the rest of Luke's gospel, Peter is silent. No further words are attributed to him. But we are told that Peter ran.

The only other time that Luke describes someone running is when the Father ran to embrace the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 20). Apart from an occasional ride on a donkey or boat, everyone is walking. In a hot country that makes sense. Running indicates effort, sweat, urgency, engagement, discovery, energy, heightened emotion, immediacy. Both the Father in chapter 15 and Peter in chapter 28 seemed to be so caught up in the possibility of their hopes being realized, that they simply had to run. Their bodies can do nothing else than lean forward in hopeful expectation.

Thereafter, Peter would live with the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The hard lessons gained by denial and crucifixion would never leave him- but they were secondary to the unexpected glory of Easter.

And so it is with us: we too live with our Maundy Thursdays of confusion and separation, and Good Friday's pain- but we have discovered that Christ is in both, with us, Immanuel- but may they always be secondary to the unexpected glory of Easter.



Can you remember where you were last Easter and how you were feeling? I suggest that we may need to give thanks to Almighty God that we are far better off now than we could have ever dared imagine.

If you, like Peter, find words and actions causing pain and hurt- then take courage. The crow of the cockerel did not define him- instead, it was Jesus's invitation to, "Feed My sheep". Because of Jesus, Peter's past did not determine his future. If you allow it, there is forgiveness, new beginning, and hope for you too.

So, this Easter Sunday, just as we did last year, and we will the next, and as long as this building stands, and even if the place were to fall, then we the people would still ring out loud and clear:

The Lord is Risen- He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The Best Is Yet To Come.

Tony

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the St Helier Methodist centre held on 1st November 2020.

Welcome & Worship focussed on Colossians 3:17, 'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him'.

Attendance: Due to Covid-19 restrictions number of members were counted with a total of 35 attending. Our young people joined us so all members could attend the AGM.

1. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 3rd May 2019 were circulated prior to the meeting agreed and signed off by TM.
2. **Presentation of Reports:** Printed reports had been distributed one week before the AGM in order that all had the opportunity to familiarise themselves. No comments were received in relation to the reports; therefore, all were agreed. Thank you to all those responsible for submitting a report. Many thanks to Sarah for her dedication in compiling, printing and distributing the Reports.
3. **Election of Church Stewards** – Standing Stewards were re-elected with enthusiasm and grateful thanks for their wonderful ministry and care.
Election to Church Council: See names on page 10 of our Yearbook as standing members of the Church Council with the addition of Ajay & Leiden Bherwani elected from the meeting. Grateful thanks were expressed to Enid Davies and Pam Marett who were not seeking re-election after many years of faithful service.
4. **Membership Changes**
Births: Loud applause was offered on the news of the birth of Michael to Francis and Grace Quansah We cannot wait to meet the newest member of our church and applause continued on hearing Simba and Tariro's news that they are expecting their first child. A real blessing during this strange time.
Deaths: Maude Newton, Eunice Le Breton, Joyce Luce, Jean Wankling and Chris Lake. Tony offered a beautiful prayer of blessing for those we have lost.
5. **Financial Overview** – PL came forward to give an overview of the audited accounts September 1st, 2018- 31st Aug 2019. He advised that much of the financial work is done by Jackie in the office who does both the church and the nursery accounts. Jackie is a real blessing to the church and thanks were offered to her for all her hard work.

Church: PL advised that the audited church accounts show a deficit of £7,707 against a budgeted deficit of £70,186. This situation is because we spent approximately £30,000 less on repairs than budgeted and donations and miscellaneous income was £25,000 above budget due to an increased transfer from the nursery.

Nursery: PL advised that the Nursery accounts showed a profit of £103,020 which included a transfer of £80,000 to the church accounts. Sincere thanks were expressed to Louise our manager and Hilary for their outstanding leadership.

The audited Church and Nursery Financial accounts were presented to meeting and agreed by the members.

Draft accounts for the year ending 31st August 2020 which include six months of Covid-19 disruption – PL explained that instead of showing a deficit as planned of £76,577, the church account shows a surplus of £425,025. The reason for this is Daryl De Gruchy gifted part of her

estate to SHMC upon her death and the generous sum having been received summer 2020. PL asked us to prayerfully consider how the church might put this money to good use. These draft finances will be presented at the next Church Council and the final audited accounts presented to the next AGM.

Barry Ford asked whether these financial gifts we receive are taxable. TM advised that these were not.

PL reminded the meeting that the church still relies heavily on individual financial giving for the mission of the church which is an essential part of our discipleship. TRIO: The Responsibility is Ours continued to be true and thanks were expressed for everyone offering of time, talents and money.

TM expressed thanks to PL and the Management Team in all they do with this huge undertaking. Management Team were applauded for their hard work. PL asked to express our thanks to Jackie for all she does.

The congregation give thanks for:

Children in the church and multi-generational church

56 years of marriage for Philip and Sally

The benefits of Zoom

When you are not able to come to church you know the church has not forgotten you.

Thanks to the Lord, Fellowship of friends of all ages.

Amazing young technologists

Thanks to Ronan for all his hard work with Online Sunday Service

Despite Covid the church has continued to function, stepped up and tried new responsibilities.

Creativity

A place to belong, Our wonderful nursery and support team.

Knowing that the group as a church is still here, and is keen to hear what each have been up to

The babies and the little ones are still receiving worship.

SV & DV wedding anniversary

Telephone ability to keep in touch.

Growing youth group, cute little children and being able to expand the youth work.

My church family

Church family and those that have come before us.

David De La Haye baptised 84 years ago.

Our amazing stewards, Star staff team working within the church and behind the scenes.

Glad that we can still meet in spite of the news.

Fortunate to be living on this island.

Thankful for someone we all know, Doreen Perchard, who has just reached her 95th year.

TM gave an analogy of the elastic band ball and the importance of being bound to one another, to live in community with God, and to one another through Christ.

6. The meeting closed in prayer and the next AGM is scheduled: May 2nd, 2021.

Annual Church Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Call to Worship

You Tube

AAW Talk

Hymn 186

Children leave.

I Will Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

What A Year!

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord.

Minutes of AGM 2020

Promotions to Glory

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Kath Le Gallais, Alastair Scott, Chris Lake

Read Hymn 678 Come, all who look to Christ today.

Gospel

Sermon

Presentation of Reports

Romans 8: 22-27

As distributed

Church Stewards Re-Appointments: Ann Paul, Kay Papworth, Simba Mashiri,

Van Macdonald, Sue de Gruchy, Libby Farnon, Francis Quansah

Church Steward Appointment

Ajay Bherwani

Hymn 51

Financial overview

Offertory

Spotify

Prayers of dedication

Lord's Prayer

Hymn 81

Blessing

Great is Thy Faithfulness

(Including nursery accounts)

I went down to the river to pray.

Now Thank We All Our God

