

AGM Reports SHMC 2014



Minister's Preface

Welcome to these written reports! I hope that you find them a useful reminder of where SHMC has journeyed in the past year and a guide to our future direction.

They describe the skeletal structure of the church but it is you the reader who make up the ligaments, muscles and organs that enable the body to function. It is within the individual offerings of all those who serve, act as pastoral visitors, give car lifts, speak words of encouragement, support financially, teach children, pray, sit on the committees and faithfully worship week, by week that we sense the living church.

Since we arrived in September you have made the Morling family very welcome. We feel at home among you and excited as we discern God's unfolding purposes for this church. Thank you so much for your many kindnesses. It feels the right place at the right time. And there is a job for us all to engage with- a wonderful and exciting task of giving ourselves to God's mission. I believe that future reports will measure our fidelity to Christ against three marks of mission:

- 1. Evangelistic:** All church activity has to be committed to offering a gracious encounter with God whose redeeming love is for everyone and creating and maintaining communities where people can be nurtured in discipleship.
- 2. Prophetic:** An equal requirement to show justice and a radical re-assessment of the world's values in all that we do. To espouse the values of the Kingdom of God, recognising and challenging injustice and standing alongside, empowering and enabling the oppressed and vulnerable.
- 3. Priestly:** To enable people to be free in the worship of God, offering adoration, praise, gratitude, penitence and intercession, celebrating the story of God's self-giving and redeeming love in word and sacrament and reaching out to the community in acts of grace, love and kindness.

Now we cannot achieve all that on our own, but with the Holy Spirit we can achieve far more than we can ever think or imagine. I encourage each one of us to play their part as we seek renewal in the Holy Spirit.

Finally, I offer our sincere thanks to Sarah for collating the reports, to all those who have contributed, and to our Stewards and office holders who so faithfully serve Christ in His church

Every blessing Tony



Report from Church Stewards

The team consists of five stewards: Jan Le Boutillier, David Vasselín, Pam Marett, David Hicklin and myself as senior steward. It has been a great privilege to work with such a dedicated band of people. They have all contributed tremendously in various ways for which I have been very grateful.

This time last year we were planning how to mark the conclusion of Liz Hunter's ministry. Liz had contributed richly to this church over the nine years and we felt it appropriate to mark this occasion not only with presentation but also a celebration lunch at the Royal Hotel. We much appreciated the support from the members of the congregation resulting in a happy and joyous occasion.

In Sep we welcomed our new minister The Rev. Tony Morling and his family. We meet once a month with Tony which has been helpful in getting to know each and to learn from Tony his plans for the future of our church here in St.Helier. Many new ideas have resulted from these meetings which include a Men's Group which we hope will expand in the future, and a Prayer Ministry which with David Hicklin's leadership should enrich the spiritual life of this church.

Tony has brought our attention to the necessary outreach to the community and has challenged us to consider the plight of disadvantaged children living in substandard accommodation. We have also made contact with the Alcoholics Anonymous who meet regularly on our premises and we had a very enlightening meeting with two of the members. They were grateful for the contact and they are aware that we can always be contacted if help is needed.

We stewards feel very hopeful for the future of this church, that it can continue to be a Christian force in the community.

Roy



Pastoral Review - April 2013/2014

During this last year I have mostly visited our house-bound members or those ill or in hospital and have reported on them in the Magazines:

Idrys Buesnel, (98) who is now brought to church by her son, Daryl having to give up driving which was a blow to her.

Eunice Le Breton (97) who seems to be enjoying life at Pinewood

Joy Potts (92) who is mostly asleep when visited

Margaret Le Herissier (90) who had been in hospital but was determined to be out for her birthday.

Eunice Leonard, who is unable to go out except in a wheelchair.

Audrey Lobb, who is well supported by her son Stuart & daughter Nancy, who visits every day.

John Johnson who has had several visits to Hospital this year and Joan who still has trouble with her hearing in spite of various tests.

Betty Mourant who died at the end of December and whose funeral was held on what would have been her 91st birthday.

Shirley Cauvain who comes regularly with her daughter Beverley.

Ken King, whose recovery from knee surgery took longer than expected, but who we were delighted to see on Sunday 23rd March, driving himself and fully recovered.

Pam Beaugie now at home, still struggling ten weeks after surgery, with one leg encased in a brace while the nerves to the knee heal.

Doreen Van der Vliet made headlines in the JEP when she became the 3rd person in Britain to be fitted with a new heart monitor.

Annie Turpin's husband has at last, after 5 years of waiting, received a kidney transplant. They expect to be away for 5/6 weeks while he convalesces at St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

Golden Weddings: Philip & Sally Le Brocq in June; Gordon & Hilary Bullock in June; Bryan & Angela Harrison earlier this year.

Births: Martin & Jan Le Boutillier had two more grandchildren – a granddaughter Elsa born in June in New Zealand, and a grandson Max born in August in the U.K.

Samuel Oliver Henry Barlow was born to Frances & Ian on 9th August and was baptised by Rev. Debbie Godefroy in October 27th.

A third grandchild for Pauline & Bruce O'Prey – a granddaughter Olivia Robin, born in November.

Another son for Ben & Rachel Shaw, Oscar, born on 6th September, a brother for Bailey, a fourth grandson for Sally.

Congratulations to: Menna & Jenna Treleven who had graduated, Menna now training as a Maths teacher, Jenna doing a pre-registration year at a Pharmacy in Shoreham; Emily Hubert, after graduating spent 3 months internship at the Ambassador Theatre Group where she is now working part-time.

A Service of Blessing was held in August for Dominic Shaw & Verity Rushworth and Felicity Shaw & Huw Williams who were married during the year.

Our new Minister, Rev. Tony Morling, joined us in September, his arrival tinged with sadness as his mother, May, had died in July. Tony, Cathy, Columba & Ronan have settled in well having made great strides to get involved with the many activities which are going on here.

Cathy has, among other things, held two sessions for the women on the theme 'Receive, Reflect, Recharge', the first in November and another in March. These were stimulating and reflective, well prepared and presented, and gave us much to think about and were greatly appreciated.

We also welcomed Sarah Keenan-Fox as our new Administrator, who may well have been overwhelmed at the many and various duties descending upon her, but seems to have settled well into the job, coping with a quiet efficiency.

Pat

Reflections of Thankfulness of the Past Year **Children's' Work**

-With the arrival of the Morling family, this past year has been a time of change and re-thinking for all of us. Change is challenging, and that is good.

-All the week day children's' groups were well established already but during the past year we have seen growth in numbers and deepening of relationships between the people coming and with us. We have some families, who are beginning to really trust us, which is extremely rewarding. Most come knowing that we are a Christian group and accept that, and still come, so we must be doing something right.

-Toddlers are dripping into Messy Church and loving it. And although we have lost some very loyal helpers, others from our Messy Church Community have emerged to take their places which is great and as it should be. Tony, Cathy and the boys are very evident at Messy Church, which is vital in our efforts to build bridges.

-A Holiday club last October was staffed by new helpers, mothers who want to be involved. We met to plan before hand; they did most of the preparation so that was something to celebrate!

-At Christmas we continued our last year's theme of nativity knitting and journeys. Last year we had two sets travelling around the island. Knitters get your needles ready, this year it will be shepherds!

-Our Christmas Eve Crib service was full of young families which definitely was something to celebrate

-I visited 15 families with Santa sacks full of goodies, which eased the expense for them at that time.

-Kids Church continues to be popular, but now we are able to provide a group for the older boys, which work well.

-The biggest celebration I think is having the greater involvement with others who want the same outcomes for our Church. Tony and Cathy with the boys have made it possible to re start children's work on a Sunday. The team that Tony has pulled together to make the Sunday Club happen is dedicated to growing this work, and carefully prepare for the children when it is their turn. Having children with us every Sunday makes a big difference and lifts the spirits of the congregation. Even though some Sundays there are only a few children, most weeks we are definitely getting more than a few years ago. Three families have joined us, and we are always inviting and praying!

-Linger Longer, has been popular. Some of the families that come think it's wonderful. That has been a hit.

-The Café @ the Centre has really brought people to the Centre. It is putting us on a map with the young families. Well done girls.

- Sarah arriving to be our Administrator has been such a help to me, and also a great asset to the whole Centre

-We now have a Garage club for the older boys which is held at the Manse once a month. This is for the Circuit but is growing fast, and they love it. I hope to start trailing a "7up", club after Easter. This will be for 7yr olds to about 10yr olds, so that we can bridge the gap between Messy Church and the Garage club.

Lots of great things happening. Thank you to all who support and help with the children, whether it's cooking, cutting out, putting out, or praying. Everything helps and I very much value your contributions.

Sally

Report from Management & Finance

The team: Libby Farnon; Tim Hicklin; Tony Hefford; Jan Le Boutillier (stewards' rep); Martin Le Boutillier; Peter Luce (Treasurer & secretary); Rev Tony Morling (minister); Di Toole (Chairman); Jackie Ollerenshaw (Treasurer, co-opted as required)

General maintenance of the building is ongoing. The repairs to the stained glass window on the west side of the front steps are complete. Polycarbonate covers have been placed on both windows either side of the steps to protect the glass and improve the heat retention in the building. The application for a grant from the Environment Committee for the improvements to the heating system has received positive support and progress is being made on the necessary improvements. As a matter of some urgency the control of heat/fresh air to the nursery is being dealt with.

Rust proofing & repainting of the iron railings around the church is due to begin shortly.

Staff appraisals are conducted annually for Sally, Lou, Annie, Teresa & Sarah.

Letting charges have been reviewed. It is good to note that the Centre is still being sort for use by the community, in particular by schools and funerals for non-members where a large number are expected to attend. For all these occasions a member/or members of SHMC are provided to steward & welcome people to the Centre. An opportunity to show God's love for all people.

Correspondence from Advocate F. Benest acting for Mr & Mrs Pearce the owners of 18 Vauxhall Street concerning the transfer of a strip of land to the Church is ongoing. A request to transfer the ownership of the party gable wall into the sole ownership of 18 Vauxhall Street was reviewed by Management & agreed by Church Council. Scaffolding may be erected on SHMC land to enable urgent repairs to the gable end, with suitable arrangements for access to the parking for the nursery to be agreed at the time.

Sarah keeps the team well informed throughout the week. The Centre is busier than ever and her tactful, friendly handling of the many issues that occur are valued.

The main kitchen is now kept locked when the cafe is closed and the administrator has left for the day. The key is kept in the office and is available to church members as necessary. Other users of the Centre can make tea & coffee in the youth room kitchenette. This decision was reached on a hygiene basis and to avoid equipment & food being borrowed from the kitchen and not returned.

The daily Centre diary is being kept on the administrator's computer and a two-week print out will be placed on the office door. All potential bookings should be sent to Sarah by email or in writing.

A cycle rack is to be installed near the foyer entrance.

During the run up to Christmas there was a noticeable increase in appeals for financial help from families sent to the Centre from CAB. It is good to be able to report that the Circuit meeting has agreed to give financial assistance to SHMC to support the work. The Minister's Discretionary Fund will hold this money to be used by the minister in discussions with Peter. Additionally several churches are collecting store cupboard food for the café team to be able to hand out as necessary. Our own box for food items will now be used in this way and no longer sent to Grace Trust.

On 29 March we were pleased to welcome Street Pastors to SHMC. They are using the Youth room as a base from which to pray, go out to the streets of St Helier from 9pm - 3am each Saturday/Sunday.

Di

Café @ The Centre

Since our last Annual General Meeting the Café has evolved into an incredibly important space for many people in our community. The hand of God is surely on the work within the Café as we can see changes in the lives of those we serve.

We have increased the numbers of tables to accommodate the increased numbers of visitors to the Café, which are now a diverse group rather than just mums/dads and babies. We are seeing an increase in single people popping in for lunch, friends meeting for a chat over coffee, offices in the area using the space for meetings, workmen popping in to buy a sandwich, and more importantly members of our community, whether single or family, coming in for a meal and warmth during hard times.

We started some months ago providing support in the form of food parcels to those who simply could not put a meal on the table. Generally these are people with children, families rather than single men/women. We found the need for this support increasing to the point we were running out of food. I am very pleased to say that at the last Circuit Meeting we were kindly offered support of £100 per month for the next year to enable us to continue our outreach work in this area. Other churches in the Methodist Circuit are collecting food within their congregations to be delivered to us and we have been given £160 worth of Coop stamps by a very generous person which will be exchanged for Coop food vouchers which Sarah can issue when needed.

I would like to illustrate good news stories to you so you can see at first hand the wonderful efforts of our church to our community:

A gentleman, out of work for some time, income of £128 per week income support, which after rent only leaves him with £8 per week for food, electricity and everything else a chap needs to survive. After speaking with Sarah and being given help in the form of electric and a £20 food voucher he ventured into the café. We were able to offer him a hot meal and coffee for which he was extremely grateful. Since that day he has been in many times and is always met with a smile and hot food at no cost to himself. This week he has managed a day's work and came to us to let us know. He paid for a meal for himself and offered to buy both Annie and myself lunch as a way of showing his gratitude for the care and kindness he has received. No doubt we will see him again but on that day he regained his self-worth and for that I am eternally grateful.

A young married lady with a small child sent to us by CAB received the help we offer through the office but would never accept any help from the Café. Every week she comes in and Annie and I feel so sad that we cannot help them. Last week we bit the bullet and took out hot chocolate and a juice for the little one taking no argument. Gently I stroked her arm and let her know we can give her food to take home to keep them going. As expected she declined, but with a smile on her face she told me that they were now able to cope better at home. She said she loved coming into the café because she was not pressured into buying anything, and she and her little boy could just sit and play together in the warm. That was the first time I had seen her smile. I am sure I will see many more.

For me this is what it is all about and what makes all the hard work worthwhile.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out but if you are unable to help physically with the work of the Café perhaps you could help provide the food we need to support others. Just one extra purchase with the weekly shop, or a clear out of your cupboards might throw up something you could offer. Thank you.

Lou

Report from the Office

The main change to the office in the last year is that since June 2013 there has been a full-time administrator. I have had a lot to learn in the past nine months – about Methodism in general and the Centre in particular. Everyone – without exception - has been friendly, welcoming and patient with my ignorance. Thank you very much.

I have also had to learn more than I expected about the running of the Nursery and enjoy very much working closely with Sue and helping with their paperwork and finances.

I have enjoyed myself putting a lot of the office work onto computer and starting to sort out cupboards and filing cabinets.

One of my duties is helping people referred to us by the CAB because they are in financial need. The aim is not to hand out more often than monthly to any one applicant.

I have handed out £1095 in Co-Op vouchers (for food only – no alcohol) and £480 in electricity stamps to more than 50 different people. Some of the applicants have come in more than once but actually it is very rare for people to have been in more than twice. Those that have been are often caring for members of their family and so are either unable to work or have incurred additional costs such as doctor's bills or travel costs to accompany the people for whom they care.

Since November I have also helped hand out food parcels that Lou has put together. We have done this 16 times.

Most people want to talk – although not all – and some of their stories are humbling. I often see parents who are hardly eating so that their children can have food. The relatively small amounts we can give seem too little to make a difference but the fact that people don't come in month after month shows that we do help to bridge people over the hard times. Together with the other organisations which help those who are struggling **we are making a difference.**

The highlights of my first nine months

- getting to know many of the diverse users and workers at the Centre and Nursery
- no two days being the same
- Eddie's sheer joy at taking letters to the Nursery
- reconciling Petty Cash
- the smell of freshly baked cakes on Monday
- the days when there have been 6 new born babies and attendant mothers in the Café
- the Giraffes singing with Sally every Tuesday
- discovering that angels can't be laminated
- Rascals of all ages

Sarah

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 21st April 2013

There were 28 members present. Apologies had been sent for several members who were otherwise engaged – out of the Island or other reasons.

The meeting followed a lunch, which had been organised by Gill Luce. Thanks were expressed to Gill for this.

Liz opened the Meeting with Prayer.

The Minutes of the AGM held on the 22nd April 2012 were circulated, agreed and signed

Matters arising – there were no matters arising.

Appointments:

The secretary Pat Tourtel & Treasurer Peter Luce (Jackie Ollerenshaw) were re-elected.

Church Stewards: Peter Luce was due to retire. He was thanked for his service over the last six years. Peter thanked the other stewards. Sally Vasselin had asked to retire a year early in view of her work as Family Worker. Roy Picot, Jan Le Boutillier & David Vasselin were all re-elected. Pam Marett, David Hicklin & Libby Farnon were elected as Stewards.

Management/Finance – no changes

Communion Stewards: Pam Marett would no longer be serving. She was thanked for her years of service. Virginia Toudic has had to retire for health reasons. Nell Hurst & Francis Quansah were re-elected and Eve Morcombe & Kay Papworth joined the Communion Stewards

Representatives to the Church Council:

Gill Luce would remain ; Libby Farnon was due to retire, but would be on the Church Council as a steward; Peter de Gruchy wished to retire; Sue de Gruchy was willing to serve, also Maureen Rayson (as the post of Junior Church Superintendent was now redundant) ; Sally Vasselin would have a place on the Church Council as Family Worker.

It was suggested that the team who are responsible for Sound & Vision should be listed on the Appointments Sheet.



St Helier Methodist Centre
11.15am

April 6th 2014

Annual Church Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Explanation
Hymn 594

Lord Jesus Christ

Minutes of April 21st 2013
Apologies
Membership changes

Attendance/apology record will be circulated

Appointments

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

Presentation of Reports
Financial overview

As distributed
including Nursery
TM thanks to Jackie & Peter Luce
Peter Luce

Minister's Comments
Discussion

leading into
The Godly strengths of SHMC and our continuing journey

Hymn 692
Blessing

Your hand, O God has guided

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.

