

Time 1: Our Pace of Life Thought For The Day: BBC Radio Jersey Oct 14th 2013 @ 8.30am

Each morning this week I am musing about our relationship to Time. Partly because it was in the 1980's that I left Jersey's jewellery trade to become a Methodist Minister and I have just returned to the Island to lead the St Helier Methodist Centre in Halkett Place.

A few people have asked "Has Jersey changed much since you left?" Well, some changes like the Waterfront are obvious. More challenging to discern are the shifts in attitude and choice- for instance the speed at which we walk.

Why the speed of walking? Well a recent experiment sponsored by the British Council covertly timed thousands of pedestrians as they walked 60ft along city streets around the world.

They then compared the speed of walking over the same 60ft in the mid-Nineties. The survey revealed that the global walking pace has risen by a tenth in twenty years. Quickest on their feet were the residents of Singapore, who took just 10.55 seconds to cover 60 feet.

Professor Richard Wiseman, who compiled the research, said: "This simple measurement provides a significant insight into the social health in our cities. The pace of life is much quicker than before. Perhaps with mobile phones and email, we expect almost instant responses and that is impacting our attitude to time and speed of walking".

Are we walking quicker in Jersey than we used to? I will leave that one with you, but I do know that sometimes I find myself walking too quick for no good reason and somehow missing out. Missing out on the elderly lady at the window who would love an acknowledgment or missing observing the rhythm of growth, flowering and seeding.

I just can't imagine Jesus doing that. He walked at a pace that enabled children to keep up and some adults to slow down, leisurely yet purposeful- and he had time for interruptions.

So my prayer for today is this: "Lord, help me to walk fast enough that is good for my cardio-vascular – slow enough to avoid stress, and have an attitude to time that allows me to stop, stare and wonder- and say hello to those that I meet".