



**Jersey**  
**Methodist Circuit**



Prayer Day

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Visit to the Holy Land

Liberation Day

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Justice, Dignity and  
Solidarity

Generations – Ebenezer

Georgetown Concert

## **22 May 2022**

### **Aldersgate Sunday**

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## PRAYER POINT

### **Circuit Facebook Prayer of the Week** (Katie Norman)

O that our hearts be warmed again  
and the gospel message proclaimed  
throughout the land!

### **Methodist Church Prayer Handbook, Day 22**

Praying with Christians in the Pacific (Aotearoa/New Zealand and the Uniting Church in Australia) and the Nottingham and Derby District

### **Christians Together in Jersey – Mutual Intercessions**

This month: all involved in the hospitality industry

This week: The Catholic Polish Community and the ministry of Fr Jacek Maleki

## PRAYER DAY

Bethlehem Methodist Church is holding a 12hour prayer day this Saturday (21 May) from 8.00am to 8.00pm. The prayer stations will include one for the Ukraine as well as a prayer chain for the world and one telling inspirational stories from charities, Mustard Seed (Rosie Helie-Pallot) and Kairos Arts (Cathy Morling).

People who have attended Bethlehem's prayers days in the past have remarked on the peace and serenity they have experienced and have come away feeling truly refreshed and uplifted so why not go along even if only for a short while. All are welcome.

## **THE QUEEN'S TREASURE** by Katie Norman

King of kings, majesty, we give you thanks for our queen, Queen Elizabeth II and for the way in which she has reigned over us for 70 years, with you so evidently in her heart. At this special time of her Platinum Jubilee, protect her and strengthen her we pray. May she delight in all of the celebrations that honour her and may she know true love, joy and peace in her advancing years. Through Jesus Christ, we pray Amen

Reprinted with permission from Bible Reading Fellowship, 2022: Messy Vintage Jubilee session

## LETTER FROM REV NICO

17 May 2022

Hello Everyone,

It has been a while since I last wrote, and a lot has happened.

I am continuing to struggle with my health. I am currently battling three auto-immune diseases: Lupus, Polymyalgia Rheumatica and Giant Cell Arteritis. The challenging symptoms are severe pain and fatigue. The medications to help these conditions cause side effects: the pain relief can cause drowsiness, confusion and Stomach upset, whilst the steroids can cause fluid retention, weak muscles and a general feeling of malaise. During this prolonged period of ill health, I had a fall and suffered a nasty fracture of my knee, which is still causing problems and the related pain in my back is being investigated further to find the most appropriate treatment.

I initially coped with these challenging issues by shutting myself away a little. I have really appreciated your prayers and offers of help but would have found it difficult to see anyone.

I have undergone an occupational health assessment to liaise with the Methodist Church Well-Being team in order to plan for my recovery.

During this continued period of recovery, I would very much like to receive a few visitors. (Please don't all come at once!!) If you could ring or text my mobile (07700 722122) before planning to visit that would be really helpful, as some days I am not well enough to see people or I may have medical appointments scheduled. On good days it would be very much appreciated and I would enjoy having visitors.

With love and blessings,

*Nico*

The Revd Nico Hilmy-Jones

## VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND

Following their recent trip to the Holy Land, Dianne Huddleston and others are sharing photos with us. If their story whets your appetite, do contact Nola Webster who will be leading a group next year.



The church of All Nations, Mount of Olives, just below the Garden of Gethsemane



The church of the Flagellation, one of the stations of the cross on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem



The road from Jerusalem to Jericho: St George's Monastery in Wadi Qelt.



Jewish graves on the Mount of Olives



Ancient Olive tree, Garden of Gethsemane



## LIBERATION DAY

### Ebenezer

Over 50 people attended the service and Kay Papworth gave an amusing account from her childhood memories of the Occupation. Rev Tony led the service and also mentioned his mother's Red Cross parcel which he keeps under his desk in the Manse study.

Donations of £400 will, as in previous years, be sent to the British Red Cross in memory of the Red Cross parcels that came on the Vega during the winter of 1944/45.



### St Ouen





## CONVOCATION 2022

The week of the May bank holiday is always the week when what we deacons affectionately call 'Convo' is held. As a dispersed religious order there is big excitement as deacons across the Connexion, from remaining members of the Wesley Deaconess Order to new students, gather together for our annual Convocation. It may just be because we've been unable to meet physically for two years but this year's 'Convo' felt like the best ever and I always have a pang of guilt that we have this wonderful privilege which our presbyteral colleagues and lay members do not.

After lunch on the first day, we always start by commemorating those deacons who have died in the previous year in a service of praise and remembrance. The conference hall becomes a sea of navy blue as we stand to pay our respects to the 'giants' of the Order on whose shoulders we stand. Usually the families of those who have died who have been invited to the service will then have afternoon tea but this year to celebrate being back together we were all invited to attend. It was a real treat!



Deacon Ruth, Deputy Warden of the MDO  
Rev Sonia, President of Conference  
Deacon Karen, Warden of the MDO.



Setting the stage for Convocation



Deacon Sally and  
Daud Irfan

We do have to carry out some business relating to the Order during the week but alongside that, this year we were privileged to hear about the work of two deacons serving overseas in very different contexts. Deacon Angleena who currently lives in Bethlehem shared something of her ministry in Israel with us and Deacon Jo who has recently become a RAF chaplain shared her experiences of her first tour of duty in the Falkland Islands. The President of Conference, Rev Sonia Hicks, who recently visited us here in Jersey, joined us for the week and led us in a wonderful bible study on Romans 8:18-27. She and the Vice President,

Barbara Easton also spoke of their presidential year, sharing stories of hope and inspiration from across the Connexion. The Secretary of Conference, Rev Jonathan Hustler, also joined us for part of the week and preached a wonderful and encouraging sermon at our Service of Rededication.

The whole week was a joy but, for me, the icing on the cake was the early session on the last morning which was led by the current Methodist Youth President Daud Irfan and his parents who unexpectedly joined him. Daud's father was a URC minister in Pakistan but the family had to leave because of persecution and Rev Irfan has now become a Methodist Minister in the role of 'Synod Enabler, Culturally Diverse Congregations Wales.' Convocation was charmed as this family took to the platform to share their thankfulness at being welcomed into the Methodist Church, a church which they have come to love and have vowed to serve with all their strength. Their lack of pretension, obvious love of the Lord and inspirational stories of how they are changing hearts and minds across Wales warmed our hearts and set us up perfectly for the renewal of our ordination vows before departing for another year of witness and service in the respective places to which we have been called.



## JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND SOLIDARITY

In a recent newsletter we referred to the new Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Strategy being rolled out across the Connexion. As you will see from her short introduction below, the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Sonia Hicks, is a strong proponent:

### Why do we need a Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Strategy?

Answer: In Church life, as in Society, it is usually the majority view that



dominates. We are not always attentive to those voices that are marginalised because their experiences are not faced by the wider society. Would someone who is suffering from hearing loss feel welcomed in your church? What about a person who is black? Our churches need to be places of welcome for everyone.

## Why does the Strategy need to be implemented on Jersey?

Answer: Having been to the island of Jersey and having heard how the languages of Jèrriais and French have been side-lined, I think that the people of the Channel Islands understand how it feels to be marginalised and have your voice silenced. This was wrong in the Channel Islands and is wrong elsewhere in the church. The Strategy is the Connexion's attempt to learn from past negative experiences and ensure that, in the future, we are better equipped to be attentive to one another. We are all important because we are all loved by God.

## GENERATIONS - Ebenezer

The Platinum Jubilee and gold crowns were the project for the afternoon with bright stick on jewels to make QE II emerald green with envy! It was a perfect activity for younger and older guests to craft together, along with puzzles and colouring in, and all the more special for the first joint session in many months. Right on cue, one little chap gave a rendition of the National Anthem on the microphone, causing a few damp eyes and sniffles around the church.







**Georgetown Methodist Church**

**Thursday Night is Music Night!**

**Our 215<sup>th</sup> Concert**

**Church Anniversary Concert**



**Thursday 16 June, 7.30pm**

**Les Conteurs Singers**

and

**Rebecca Arthur (flute)**

**No tickets required, retiring collection**

## ROLLING DIARY

### **Saturday 21 May, 2.30-4.30pm**

- Holmchase Singers, Georgetown - Cake and concert

### **Sunday 22 May**

- **4.00pm** – Friends @ 4, Ebenezer, (The Cat's Tale)
- **6.00pm** - New Song, SHMC with Vini Jones and Band

### **Tuesday 24 May, 7.00pm**

- Harmonious Friends and 16<sup>th</sup> St Peter's Guides – evening of entertainment and music, St Aubin's Church

### **Thursday 9 June, 10.30am**

- Georgetown – Jubilee coffee morning,

### **Thursday 16 June, 7.30pm**

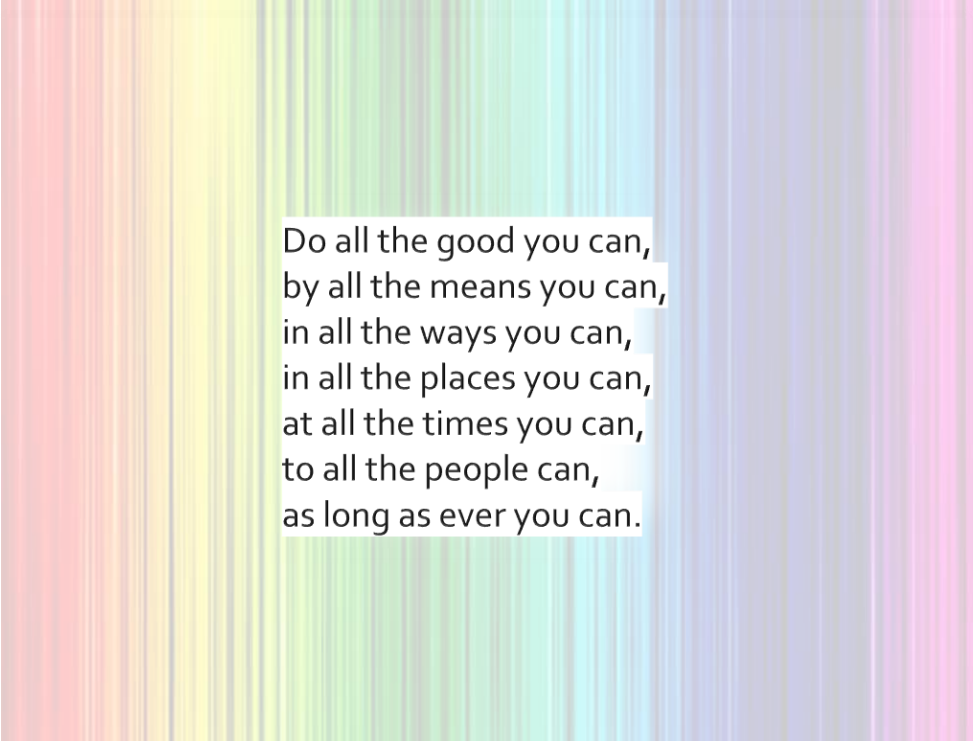
- Georgetown Church Anniversary Concert - Les Conteurs Choir and Rebecca Arthur (flute)

### **Friday 17 June, 2.45pm**

- Generations, Ebenezer Church

### **Wednesday 20 July, 1.00pm**

- Save the date - lunch at the Biarritz for the gentlemen in the Circuit



Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can,  
to all the people can,  
as long as ever you can.

**JOHN WESLEY** (1703-1791)