Baking competition is a piece of cake for St Mary family of mini chefs

St Helier may be the powerhouse boosting the island economy but the driving force behind Jersey’s most scrumptious cupcakes is definitely St Mary. Local kids swept the board when it came to prizes awarded for baking the best Fairtrade cupcakes at a competition for primary schools across the island … and three of the winners came from one family. The Great Jersey bake-off took place at the Church House in town and the patron of the Jersey Fairtrade Island Group, Dr Lee Durrell, took on the tough task of sampling the entries, which were divided into three age groups; 5 and under, 6 to 8 and 9 to 11 year olds. The cakes were judged on three qualities; their appearance, their taste and their Fairtrade content. The competition was held to

Continued on back page

New bus service rolls out in St Mary

A new shuttle bus service, operated by volunteer drivers, aims to reach people who live in areas not already served by public transport and links in with the main bus network at key hubs. The new service also covers St John and St Lawrence. The St Mary routes cover from St John’s Church to Grève de Lecq via the Parish Hall, Les Marais, Les Colombiers, & Le Rondin and from Sorel to St John’s Church via Rue de Maupertuis and Rue es Abbés. There are no formal stops so would-be passengers have to signal to the driver they wished to be picked up. The timetables have been designed for passengers to wait for as little time as possible once they’re dropped at a LibertyBus halt. There are more than a dozen volunteer drivers operating the service who will be wearing smart new uniforms. They include

Continued on Page 2
THE CONSTABLE’S COLUMN

Dear parishioners

There is so much going on at the moment, especially in the run up to the Parish’s Liberation celebrations that I would just like to draw your attention to three other items for your diaries.

Firstly, hopefully you will already have read in your Communiqué about the Your ParishLink bus service which started running on March 30th. The vehicle has a striking livery – keep a look out for it and if you see it in St Mary, let us know what you think. If you can email us a photo, perhaps with a caption, we will reward our favourite entry with an appropriate and valuable prize!

LibertyBus will be supporting the Your ParishLink service by maintaining, fuelling and insuring the vehicle and training all of the volunteers. Full details can be found at www.yourparishlink.je and we will shortly have some leaflets at the Parish Hall – please get in touch if you would like one!

Secondly, this year, we have decided to try to get more support for our Miss St Mary competition by holding it during our Liberation celebrations on May 10th. Please contact the Parish Hall for details.

This means that any St Mary ladies who would like to enter the Miss Battle of Flowers competition would have to do so via the open heat on April 12th. Entries for this close on April 3rd so please contact the parish hall for details or an entry form without delay.

And last but not least, I thank those who have attended my initial drop-in sessions at the Parish Hall. In response to suggestions, I hope to make these more of a general discussion forum than one-to-one meetings and I propose to move them to the fourth Monday in the month (bank holidays permitting). For the next few sessions at least the venue will be the back bar of the St Mary’s Country Inn. The core session time will be from 7-8pm but if there is a good discussion underway, we could be there all evening! In case of unexpected cancellation or changes, I will make announcements on Twitter and in the Parish Hall notice box. If you want to check whether the session is going ahead, please get in touch at the Parish Hall. The next sessions will be on April 27th, May 18th and June 27th.

Best wishes

Juliette

New Parish bus service up and running

Continued from Page 1

Smiley faces a rarity as drivers through St Mary ignore the 20mph speed limits

Many drivers through St Mary are still ignoring the new speed limit regime. In one extreme case one of the SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) was triggered at an astonishing 120mph, but unfortunately the cameras only record the speeds, not the kind of vehicle involved.

One parish honorary saw a car being driven so quickly along La Verte Rue it flashed up 84mph on the SID. Those speeds are clearly exceptional but even drivers travelling at what might be regarded as less dangerous speeds are still breaking the law. Fifty per cent of vehicles passing through the parish roads are not only exceeding the 20mph limit, but are doing so at 30mph or above - though that has come down from an average 60% of drivers topping 30mph, soon after the 20mph limit was introduced throughout the village’s built-up area.

Speeds have increased however on La Rue des Buttes after the dismantling of the traffic calming islands. The result has seen up to a dozen people attending parish inquires each week for breaking the limits. Anyone caught driving over 40mph faces a court appearance.

The Constable tries out the plush bus interior
Dear Parishioners

I recently came across an old friend who opened our conversation by asking how I was enjoying my retirement! On gently reminding him of my new commitment as Deputy, he was unimpressed, suggesting that an occasional day in the States hardly constituted ‘real’ work – whilst I quickly (and hopefully politely) put him right, I’m not sure that I totally convinced him that States sittings represented but a small part of what was involved.

With regard to the immediate priorities identified by the Council of Ministers as being health, education, the economy and St. Helier - whilst I suggest that few would disagree with such broad priorities in principle, there remains to be discussed the precise implementation of such policies within the context of budget restraints. Of these four priorities, I single out St. Helier as perhaps being of special interest; at first sight, this might seem curious but it is precisely because St. Mary is the island’s most rural parish that it is in our interests to support the notion of a vibrant and improved capital; with the focus on making St. Helier an attractive place to live, this lessens the pressure on the rural parishes to provide additional housing accommodation. However, I hasten to add that support for an enhanced St. Helier should not be regarded simply as parochial ‘nimbyism’ – many, if not most, of us either work in or have occasion to visit town regularly and we all have an interest in securing a more attractive capital both for the benefit of ourselves and for the promotion of the island generally.

As far as my own States work is concerned (and whatever my friend thinks), this continues to be centred on that which I do by dint of being a member of two Scrutiny Panels. In effect, they are Jersey’s equivalent of the U.K. Parliament’s Select Committees and, along with colleagues, I recently visited Westminster to see such committees in action. This proved to be an instructive and rewarding experience. Those of you who follow such matters in the press will be aware that Scrutiny Panels have been much in action in recent weeks and it is largely through them that influence can be brought on the Ministers concerned.

As mentioned in my contribution to the last Communique, I am conscious that my primary responsibility is to the electorate of St. Mary and, in that context, I am therefore anxious to know your views on both island-wide and local issues; in addition, I am here to help on any problems you may have involving States Departments or otherwise. To that end, I plan to have weekly ‘surgeries’ and for which the Connetable and Secretary have kindly agreed to let me have the use of the Fleur de Lys Room at the Parish Hall (first floor); these will be on Friday evenings between 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm with the first one to be held on the 12th April. However if you have something specific you wish to discuss beforehand, please do not hesitate to call me.

I wish you all a Happy Easter and, if not before then, hope to see you at our Liberation Fair. Kind regards

David Johnson

The first phase of the St Mary Village improvement scheme is coming to an end and it won’t be long before La Rue des Buttes is open again to traffic. However soon after Easter the serious work begins on Phase 2 which will involve the closure of La Verte Rue. Already however some of the promised improvements are evident, noticeably a very smart new timber bus shelter and the central granite feature on the crossroads between the church and the pub is almost complete and the road will be re-opened once the tarmac has been laid for the raised tables by the inn.

Less obvious have been a host of additional improvements. The drainage in the area has been upgraded. There have been a series of enhancements made to the outside area of the pub including the removal of a large tree in front and the replacement of the old, green picket fence with a granite wall. Meanwhile the height of the cemetery wall has been reduced at its junction with La Route de l’Eglise to improve visibility. For the same reason the road has been re-aligned for vehicles exiting La Route de l’Eglise and the exit from La Rue de la Vallée has been re-defined to emphasise the one way system.

The last section of the ‘virtual’ footpath has been paved with granite and the area outside the Church gates has been finished. Work continues on laying granite for the last few metres of La Rue de la Vallée. Meanwhile advantage was taken of the dry weather in March to begin work on the new footpath alongside La Verte Rue. The top soil was stripped and the capping work was begun.

There will be a short break in the traffic diversions over Easter after which La Verte Rue will be closed from 7th April for phase 2 of the works – the raised table and landscaping opposite the school.

THE DEPUTY’S OUTLOOK

Latest on the village improvement scheme
On schedule & almost half-way there
Parish table tennis players Sue Monet and Brian Rostill clinched the Heritage Oil Third Division table tennis championship last month. Meanwhile the juniors representing St Mary’s B won the fourth division title but they only did so by beating the St Mary C team five-nil in the clinching match on March 10th. The ‘B’ team comprised Xavier Syvret, Jude Robinson and Aidan Tomes, while Noah Risby, James Heliou and Harry Forskitt were the regulars for the ‘C’ team.

TOPPING THE TABLES

The new unisex/disabled toilet building will soon be open for use. This facility, together with the new storage area, will be a great asset. It’ll reduce the need for outside users of the centre to access the internal toilets, particularly in the summer. The toilet has an automatic locking system, which will be set to secure the building outside normal working hours to prevent any misuse. Whilst the building work was ongoing the opportunity was taken to resurface adjacent areas with tarmac. The management committee are pleased to report that the building has been completed to a high standard and within budget. We would take the opportunity of recording our thanks to the builder, Mitchell’s, for their hard work.

We are pleased to report that Howard Snowden has now taken up the position as Chairman of the Management Committee and he is ably supported by the hard working and committed members of the Committee.

Telling tales the modern way

We have had a super start to this year and lots of fun with our topics with a close look at traditional stories. It is amazing how times have changed the themes and how now we have to tip toe around giants and ogres. You will be pleased to hear that Red Riding Hood’s Granny doesn’t get eaten by the wolf anymore and the wolf in the Three Little Pigs runs off to the forest and doesn’t get chopped up! The children still adore these stories and love to act them out. I am sure they will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come. We also followed the tradition of dressing up on World Book Day, although I don’t think ‘Frozen’ is a book but we had many ‘Elsa’ and ‘Anna’ characters joining us that day, but the most important thing of all is the children loved that day.

We had the most fantastic trip out with the older group to Pizza Express at St Brelade. The staff there were absolutely amazing with the children and patiently taught them how to make a pizza. The pizzas are then baked and the children get to eat them! You can imagine how they think their luck is in with pizza at 10.30am in the morning. We are so lucky to live in Jersey and take the children to such a beautiful setting and then eat pizza; does life get any better?

We finished our ‘Italian Week’ with a masked ball. We couldn’t take the children to Venice but we could make our own fun learning. And as well as taking the children to see the ‘royals’ getting planted in the neighbouring fields we are also preparing for the Easter Bunny time.

We are also now in the process of making ‘secret things’ for Mothers Day. One of the children made us laugh when she wanted us to write in Mums card ‘Bonjour Ca Va’ and, of course, we did! On a separate occasion another child said when her Dad picked her up ‘I need to go home for a nice relaxing bath’

Just to mention, we do have our register open for this September and if you require a place for a two year old please contact us on 484186 very soon to secure a place. (Currently we do not have any spaces left for three year olds)

Caroline Hopkinson - Manager
Meet St Mary’s new Community Police Officer … and his best pal

From coming under fire in war-torn Iraq to policing the country lanes of St Mary may sound like an extraordinary transition but it’s one that was made with buckets of enthusiasm and genuine commitment by the Parish’s new Community Police Officer, PC Richie Vinen.

It’s a new role designed to provide St Mary residents with a visible policing presence and at the same time give them a single point of contact. Beyond that the idea is to encourage parishioners to work together and with the police to tackle any problems they feel concerned about.

He talks about the good old days of ‘Dixon of Dock Green,’ though he’s far too young to have ever seen the popular BBC TV programme of the fifties and sixties. It was infused with a gentler style of community policing where petty crime is resolved with common sense. PC Dixon however wouldn’t recognise his modern-day counterpart. PC Vinen is more Robocop than Dock Green.

However inside all the hardware is an approachable young man. “As a Jersey boy I remember how policing used to be. I may wear body armour but I’m still human with a wife and children. I think there is a bit of a gap between the police and the public at the moment but I’m determined to help build a closer relationship between the community and the police. I want to hear from local residents. If it’s something important to them, it’s important to me.”

The move towards more ‘visible policing’ is a trend that started in St Helier where Jersey’s Chief Officer, Mike Bowron is regularly seen on foot patrol in King Street where he’s open to approaches by any passer-by.

That kind of high profile presence is now being introduced to the rural parishes. Although instead of his sidekick being a detective PC Vinen’s partner is Achilles, an energetic three-year-old German shepherd.

Jersey’s police dog handlers have now been given a new role as Community Officers, three of them looking after the six northern parishes. Richie divides his time between St Mary and St Ouen. “They’re lovely parishes,” he said, “and because there’s not too much going on here we’ve got more time to talk to people. I spend as much time in the two parishes as I can. I listen to what members of the public tell me. I listen to the Honorary and what they tell me and feed it all back to police headquarters.”

Richie was born in Jersey and after being educated at First Tower and then Grainville schools did a ten year stint at the JEC. Whilst he was there he joined the Jersey Field Squadron, the local Territorial Army unit. He was called up after the 2003 invasion of Iraq and served with 38 Engineer Regiment in the northern Iraqi city of Al Amarah, helping to build British military bases. During his tour of operations he became used to being under fire. “We got ‘contacted’ by small arms fire, heavy arms fire, missiles and RPGs, but we were relatively safe, considering it was a war zone. It was an interesting six months.”

“It was a life-changing experience though. I came back to Jersey wanting to be a police officer. It changed my whole outlook on life. You see how bad things can get and you want to do something about it. I felt I had to give something back to the Island that had educated me and always looked after me.”

When Richie came back he returned to his old job at the JEC but not for long. He was married in 2005 and soon afterwards applied to join the States of Jersey Police. “I haven’t looked back,” he said. He’s since pretty much done the full gamut of police work, starting as a vehicle response officer before stints as a custody officer and in the control room. He also spent two years as a firearms officer.

“When I was in the army, if I was asked to perform a stunt it would be more dangerous than I was aware of and I was told to never do it. But as a police officer I have to keep doing these things and I have to do it in a controlled way. It’s a lot of responsibility to have that back in the community.”

Richie joined the JEC after being educated at First Tower and then Grainville schools. He served with 38 Engineer Regiment in the northern Iraqi city of Al Amarah, helping to build British military bases. During his tour of operations he became used to being under fire. “We got ‘contacted’ by small arms fire, heavy arms fire, missiles and RPGs, but we were relatively safe, considering it was a war zone. It was an interesting six months.”

“You can contact PC Vinen via e-mail: stmary@jersey.pnn.police.uk”
This year the Island will celebrate 70 years of freedom since its liberation from occupying forces on Saturday 9th May 1945. A special event to commemorate the 70th Anniversary, held in the presence of Her Royal Highness, The Countess of Wessex, will take place in People’s Park on the afternoon of Liberation Day. This will include a formal ceremony followed by an afternoon tea party and Royal walkabout. There will also be specially arranged entertainment to celebrate the 70th Anniversary.

Islanders who fall into one of the categories below, and their partner/carer, may apply to the Parish in which they reside for tickets to attend this special event. These tickets will be for seats located inside marquees and include traditional afternoon tea – (a) those who were present in Jersey during the occupation; (b) those who were evacuated or interned from Jersey during the occupation and who subsequently returned; and, (c) those who were serving in the Armed Forces during this period. Access to this event will be strictly ticketed and limited in number. Ticket holders will be required to arrive between 1.00-2.00pm and should contact their Parishes beforehand regarding organised transport. The event will conclude approximately 5.00pm. In the event of over subscription, it will be for the individual Parishes to determine those attending. In order to facilitate arrangements and determine numbers, persons falling into any of the above groups should complete the registration reply slip below and return it to their Parish Hall by no later than Friday 10th April 2015. Tickets and final timings for this event will be issued after this deadline.

A weekend to rejoice

With the island-wide focus of the Liberation taking place in People’s Park most of the celebrations in St Mary will take place on Sunday, May 10th. However the Parish will have a ball on the evening of Liberation Day in a grand marquee in the grounds of St Mary’s School, which will be decorated with red, white and blue. There’ll be dancing to Jersey Bounce, a thirteen-piece band who do everything from Glenn Miller to Abba; there’ll be a two-course buffet provided by St Mary-based Harper Catering; and lots of other fun as well. Tickets are £15 a head and will be issued on a first come, first-served basis apart from those for parishioners who were alive at the time of the Liberation. Their tickets will be free. Meanwhile a week long exhibition of Occupation memorabilia will already have kicked off, running from May 4th to May 11th. Many of the items on show have been contributed.
Free tickets are on offer for Jersey residents who lived through the Occupation to attend the Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s summer concert at Fort Regent on August 11th. The concert is designed to be a celebration of the Liberation of Jersey 70 years ago and will include many favourite pieces of music associated with the winning of the 2nd World war including the ‘Spitfire Prelude’ by Walton and ‘Battle of Britain’ by Ron Goodwin. Classical pieces include L’isle Joyeuse by Debussy and the 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky. The programme also includes the 2nd Movement of Bernard Stevens’ Symphony of Liberation entitled ‘Resistance’, and ‘Liberation March’ by Nathan Hofheins. Sadie Rennard will be singing ‘Beautiful Jersey’ and a new work celebrating Jersey life ‘Jerriagne’ by Graham Cox will be given its premier performance. The orchestra will be joined by a chorus singing from Les Miserables and will also lead a Singalong of songs from the Sound of Music. The evening will finish with the up-lifting music form the ‘Last night of the Proms’. For details of how to obtain the free tickets on offer, contact Anne Eastham, JSO Administrator either by post to Le Vieux Magasin, La Rue de la Piece Mauger, Trinity, JE3 5HW. Telephone 852427 or email jso.jersey@googlemail.com
ST MARY’S SCHOOL
PSA
EASTER EGG HUNT

Beautifully decorated eggs will be hidden around the Parish between 27th March and 14th April 2015.

Each egg is hidden in a spot which is visible from the road or publicly accessible areas and can be found on foot, bike or from a car. Find the eggs, identify the clues and solve the anagram.

Open to all ages and everyone is welcome to enter.

TAKE A PICTURE

We’d love to see some pictures of you having fun on our egg hunt.

There are prizes for the best photo!!

ENTER

Return your entry forms to school or St Mary’s Country Inn. Every completed form returned will receive an Easter treat!

Tell us why St Mary’s is an ‘Eggcellent’ Parish for your chance to win some fantastic prizes.

Prizes include; a trip to the fire service, £50 Lacerta at Les Ormes Voucher, 2 main meals at The Priory, £10 Co-op Voucher, chocolate plus more…..

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM ST MARY’S SCHOOL & ST MARY’S PARISH HALL

Entries cost £2.50

March 5th was World Book Day. Children at St Mary’s School enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters, and sharing their love of reading. As the school is improving the quality of the books in its library, the newly formed PSA asked parents to send in a Beautiful Book for the library, which resulted in more than 250 new (or perfect, recycled) much loved books for our readers. Thank you to everyone who sent in a book – the library is looking great!

First meeting of the St Mary School PSA

St Mary’s School has just set up a new Parent/Staff Association (PSA). This new association aims to further the educational, social and general opportunities of the children at St Mary’s School by promoting strong communication between parents, carers and staff. The idea is to encourage the involvement of parents and carers in the coordination of fundraising and social events for the school community to help bring about additional resources for the school. This is a fantastic opportunity for everyone at the school to work together to give the children experiences that can contribute to the aim that every child can become the best they can be. The Co-chairs of PSA are Huw Thomas and Mike Kidman.

It was third time unlucky for the St Mary School soccer team in the Moore Stephens Jersey Primary Schools’ Minor Cup final. The boys lost 2-1 to Mont Nicolle at FB Fields. It’s the third year in a row that the St Mary team has made it to the final, drawing two years against St Peter and being beaten last year by FCJ.
St Mary’s outdoor activity centre receives a £1m makeover

**Sir John McColl and the plaque**

Crabbé’s new outdoor pursuits centre received its first complaint before its official opening last month – and staff were delighted, because for the first time the centre was criticised for being too warm, an accusation never levelled against its predecessor. The development, which cost £926,000, has transformed the site with a brand new purpose-built centre, comprising a meeting-room and classrooms, kitchen, residential accommodation and washrooms. Turf from Springfield stadium has been laid as part of the landscaping of the grounds.

* * *

It’s replaced the collection of old wooden cabins and main classroom block which had served the site for thirty years, although a handful of outbuildings remain which will be used for storage. The new building meets modern-day standards for child protection and health and safety. It’s also more energy efficient and will now be available for more use year-round that was the case beforehand. The new centre, officially called the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Activity Base was formally opened by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John McColl last month.

* * *

Principal Youth Officer Mark Capern said that the old centre had come to the end of its useful life. The wooden buildings had rotted and they were over-run by field mice. “Outdoor education is very important in building confidence and self-esteem and gives an extra dimension to learning that complements what young people experience in school. This excellent new building means we have the right facilities to carry on offering valuable experiences to our young people and give them a chance to be outside in Jersey’s natural environment.”

* * *

Among the guests at the opening was former Youth Officer Tom Keir Hardie who was involved when the idea of an outdoor activity centre was first mooted. Initially there was one main hut plus a toilet block. Tents were used for sleeping accommodation in the summer. There was no electricity or running water. “We had to use paraffin lamps in the evenings and the water came from a borehole,” said Mr Keir Hardie. “The children were taught that water comes out of the ground and they had to learn how to use a generator to pump it up.”

* * *

Crabbé was opened in June, 1981 by the Lieutenant-Governor of the time, General Sir Peter Whiteley. One of the earliest groups to say at the centre was a number of soldiers from the Prince of Wales Regiment. They did a lot of the building work, including installing the wooden steps down into the valley and they also made a pétanque terrain. New sleeping chalets were introduced in 1985. And after the borehole water became contaminated by leachate the site was finally connected to the mains as well as to the electricity network.

* * *

The centre was proved to popular with youth groups and schools for more than 30 years. It was in almost constant use for day activities and short residential visits and was attracting 6,500 visits by young people by the time it closed in November 2013. Although the buildings have been updated, as far as Mr Keir Hardie is concerned the ethos hasn’t changed. “It was all about feeling, touching and enjoying the countryside. This new centre is a building of its time. It will do a different job but the spirit and the vision remain the same.”
Bethlehem Methodist Church.
Minister, Revd. Christine Legge. Tel. 491877.
Email christine@moushan.fsnet.co.uk

Bethlehem Methodist Church welcomes everyone to its Sunday Services which are held at 10.30 a.m. Youngsters are very welcome at Sunday Club 10.30 a.m.

Special Events
Good Friday. April 3rd. 6.00 p.m. “Christ in the Passover” (Messianic Passover Meal) Bethlehem Church Hall. £10. Contact helenosmand2@hotmail.com
Easter Day. April 5th. For everyone. 6.00 a.m! Sunrise Service. At the loop opposite Les Fontaines Tavern. St John.
At Bethlehem. 9.00 Holy Communion. 10.30 Easter Celebration.
May 3rd & 31st and every last Sunday of the following months. “All Together Worship.” This is café style worship starting with coffee etc. at 10.15 and a short, active service for all ages at 10.45. Always very popular and busy.
Liberation Day. May 10th. Joint Service at the Parish Church to mark the 70th Anniversary.

Started Again.
Craft Fayre. In the Hall. 10.30-3.30. Every 3rd Saturday of the month.

You can hire Bethlehem’s Hall for parties, group activities etc. For further details ring Mrs. Dianne Huddlestone on 483917.

Due to a cancellation there is a small room for let on the first floor of Bethlehem’s Hall and would be ideal for an office or treatment room etc. Plenty of parking. For details contact Mrs. Mary Richardson on 483020.

Bethlehem Methodist Church

WHERE IN ST MARY?
The Communique’s roving cameraman has been out and about in the Parish looking for interesting sights that you may not have come across. See if you can work out where you would find this King Kong lookalike.

NOAH’S NOTES
Hello St Mary’s friends, Frisky Noah here!

What is it about this time of year? It’s a bit warmer now and the animals around here are getting a bit frisky!!
We have a (visiting) cockerel who fancies his chances with our hens. Sometimes he comes off worse. Our girls are a sturdy bunch. They make me laugh sometimes the way they RUN, yes RUN when she comes out to feed them. They don’t take much notice of me. I saw lambs in a field the other day Ah! Cute! SHE said she had lamb cutlets in a restaurant on holiday, how cruel is that? I suppose that’s country life eh! SHE did try to go vegetarian once but it made her ill!

I also heard THEM talking about BABIES! Surely can’t be THEM. I think it must be one (or two) of THEIR pups. The first one is due after Easter. SHE’S getting all broody and started making pram blankets. SHE never made me a blanket for my basket. I feel quite jealous! I met a pretty lady dog down the beach the other day, but she was a bit too fat for my liking and couldn’t keep up with me. It was fun while it lasted though … I’m sure you have heard that one before!

Take care
love Noah (and Barbara) xxx

THE VIEW FROM THE RECTORY

From the Rector

The Church calendar sees us now coming to the end of our Season of Lent, and leads us, eventually, into the great celebration of Easter, of resurrection, and new beginnings. The green shoots of Spring are awakening from their winter slumber and signs of new life and new growth are becoming apparent, wherever we care to look.

But the church only gets to the great celebration of Easter through the trauma of Holy week, of betrayal, of deceit, of mockery, of violence and finally of public humiliation and death on Good Friday. Yet, and yet . . . we still get to the great celebration of Easter.

The Season of Lent commemorates Jesus’ time and testing in the wilderness. All of us in our own lives and circumstances will go through tough times – wilderness times, periods of hardship, loss of loved ones, divorce, insolvency, illness and many other things. In the midst of these darkest of times in our life it is sometimes very difficult to come to terms with what is happening to us (or our loved ones).

As a follower of Jesus, what Easter teaches me is to live in hope, whatever happens to me, or my family. That it is not what happens to me that defines me but how I live the life that I am called to live. If I can do this, then the persistent question that we ask at such difficult time times in our life - the “why me” question, becomes a subtly different question. We may find ourselves asking the question: “What am I to learn from this situation”?

May the God of all hope grant you peace and a wonderful Easter.

Brian
THE DAY KIAN WON HIS SPURS

Nine-year-old St Mary schoolboy Kian Le Mottee has already achieved one of his life’s ambitions: to meet his Spurs idol Harry Kane - and all thanks to winning a competition in the club’s match-day programme. He had little choice about which club he supported because his dad, Nathan, is a big Spurs fan, and one day last year he decided to take his sons Kian and seven-year-old Joel to White Hart Lane for their first Premier League match, which was against Newcastle.

What none of them knew was that mum Philippa had sent the club a picture of the boys in their bedroom which is dominated by Spurs memorabilia. The picture was printed in the match-day programme and it was Kian who spotted it. He told his dad who didn’t believe him at first. But sure enough there was a colour picture of the boys with a caption saying “Welcome to Kian and Joel Le Mottee from Jersey who are attending tonight as an extra half-term treat with their Daddy and Papa.”

Spurs won that night, but it got better. Kian’s papa, Bob White, is a big Brighton and Hove Albion fan and when the two clubs were drawn against each other in the Capital One Cup the family decided they just had to make another trip to White Hart Lane. It was a proper lads’ trip – just dad, papa and the two boys. Inside the match programme that day was a competition which asked entrants to submit a match-day report. Kian did just that and won the runners-up prize which was to be a guest at the club’s Christmas party. It turned out to be the kind of special prize that boys can only dream about. “I was really excited,” said Kian, “but the best thing of all was finding myself on Harry Kane’s team for all the games we played.” They even played computer football against each other. Quite apart from being given lots of freebies like a hat and scarf and a Spurs teddy Kian also got to visit the club dressing-rooms where he was allowed to play with the tactics board; he was allowed to touch the FA Cup and the old Division One trophy, and was taken on a stadium tour.

Ging Gang Goolie time

The first Gang Show in Jersey for at least twenty years was performed at the Opera House in February involving a big contingent of Scouts, Beavers and Cubs from St Mary. It was described as a traditional variety production full of song, dance and fun, entirely produced by local scout groups. About 60 members of the 6th Jersey Scout group were involved comprising Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from St Mary and Trinity. Under the guidance of Karen Simon they put together an enthusiastic and boisterous production of songs including a version of the Queen hit, ‘We will rock you,’ but to the words “We love scouting.”

Before the performance at the Opera House the 6th Jersey Scouts rehearsed for six weeks “at the Community Centre in St Mary. The ever first Gang Show took place in 1932 at the Scala Theatre in London. Lord Baden Powell obviously liked it because he asked for a repeat performance and in 1937 it became the first amateur production to appear at the Royal Command Performance. However the Gang Show seems to have died out in Jersey many years ago. “It’s certainly the first one in at least twenty years,” said Badger, the Group Scout Leader for the 6th Jersey pack also known as Pat Green, “but I can’t remember one for thirty years.” She explained it had come about because the island Commissioner Paul Tucker had asked for a Gang Show performance to mark his retirement.
Cupcake competition
Continued from Page 1
mark 10 years of Jersey’s involvement as a fair trade island. Among the winners were brothers Kian and Joel La Mottée who were runners-up in the two older age categories and their sister Kate who picked up the top prize in the five and under group. Max Osbourne, who also goes to St Mary’s School, was the fourth local prize-winner, coming third in his age-group.

Kian, Joel and Kate La Mottée with Radio Jersey presenter, Cathy Le Feuvre

Bob on the job
Visit a number of National Trust sites aboard a vintage coach, with Bob Le Sueur as your guide. Hear his anecdotes on the ‘Lighter Side of Life during the Occupation’. Finish with a sumptuous afternoon tea at Grève de Lecq Barracks. Dress to impress in 1940’s attire. The tour will start at 2pm on Sunday, May 10th. Tickets cost £20 from National Trust for Jersey on 01534 483193

Grève de Lecq Barracks will be turned into an art gallery, over 5 weekends in April and May. Artists include Jools Holt, Janine Graham, Naomi Renouf, Marc Medland, Phil Marret, Gina Socrates, Nicola Lucas and Ariel Luke. Every weekend during the Channel Islands Heritage Festival (except the Easter weekend), the artists will take turns to exhibit their work. The exhibition weekend is April 11th/12th with the final event on the weekend of May 9th/10th.

If you are interested please call Amanda 484185 or Barbara 484678 (limited numbers)

ST MARY LADIES CIRCLE
Open to all ladies, we meet on the third Monday of each month in the Rectory Barn Loft at 7.30pm
Alice Huelin, secretary. Tel 483411

ART AT THE BARRACKS
See the scenes from 19th century life on display at Grève de Lecq Barracks. They’ll open for the season on Wednesday 26th May and close on Sunday 19th September. The Barracks are open on Wednesdays through to Sundays, from 11am – 4pm except Sunday, when they will be open from 1pm – 4pm only.

THE JOKER
I once had a job printing fake banknotes, but I quit after a couple of weeks. Well, the money was terrible

I’ve just started dating a girl called Peg. I met her on-line.

ST MARY’S Silver Lily Club
Meet monthly for outings, lunches and occasional get-togethers at the Parish Hall. All parishioners aged 60 or over are very welcome.
For further information please contact:
Joan Godel on 481441 or Liz De Gruchy on 481323

NATIONAL TRUST OPENING
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SILVER LILY CLUB
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For further information please contact:
Joan Godel on 481441 or Liz De Gruchy on 481323

TREASURE SEEKERS
St. Mary’s Treasure Seekers is a group for adults and their children 4-8yrs old. We share refreshments and have time to chat. We learn about bible stories and do craft activities, sing songs and have some fun. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Barn Loft from 3-5pm.

Local not for profit club, certified instructors in pet dog training

Puppy Classes: Thursdays 7pm
Basic Obedience (getting your dog to walk calmly on a lead, sit and come back on command) Thursday 7:45pm
Maillards Memorial Hall, St Lawrence, tel: 722451

www.dogtrainingjersey.co.uk