



Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Circuit

Circuit Bulletin December 2008

*Aiming to keep the Circuit connected,
informed and equipped for Mission*

Let me begin by wishing you a very happy and blessed Christmas: I was much taken with the story of the minister who was asked to take an infant school assembly near Christmas. The man worked hard on his communication skills with youngsters and so began by asking the children what was special about the time of year. 'Presents', came the prompt reply from a little girl. 'Yes', said the vicar. 'but why do we give presents?' . Eventually the children talked about the gift of a baby. 'So what was the baby's name', asked the vicar. Without hesitating a small lad in the front row shouted out 'Wayne'. 'Wayne', replied the cleric, 'I don't think so'. 'Oh yes,' came back the boy. The vicar was nonplussed and so asked the boy where he got his information. 'We sing about him', asserted the determined child. 'What song are you thinking about?' enquired the by-now very confused clergyman. 'You know,' replied the child, ' A Wayne in a manger, no crib for a bed'. Stories can be confused in the telling – but let us pray for wisdom and imagination to declare the love of God in Christ in ways people not only hear clearly, but come to own for themselves.

God bless
David



Another Story teller was in Guernsey recently giving a workshop on 'Story telling in Worship'.

'Storytelling in Worship' - workshop led by Ken Luxon, reviewed by Craig Curzon, worship leader and songwriter - Wesley

Well, where to start?

The morning of Saturday 29th November, saw 16 or so of us gathered at the Forest Methodist Church ready to listen to what Ken had to say about storytelling in Worship. (after tea and biscuits of course!)

The bulk of the session was spent listening to Ken, and asking him questions about the point(s) he had made, or our own questions about the best way to tell and/or remember stories in Worship. There were several ways which he suggested remembering stories:

- Learning the story by rote/off-by-heart
- Stripping the story down to the 'bare bones' in order to evaluate the main points or focus which you intend to get across
- Geography and Biography – Setting the scene (time of day, location etc), and the characters' background (were they a nice person, a hated person, someone who listens well and is respected etc)
- Props and dialogue – If you decide to use props, which ones will you use to illustrate your point, and remembering to sort out which bits of dialogue you are going to include in your story.

- Beginnings and Endings – How do you want the story to start, and what is the main point of the story which you are going to finish with.

We split into groups to create our own story versions – most groups chose the story of the Good Samaritan to either strip down to its bare minimum - highlighting the main points, or to act the story out or to choose a different way of getting the point(s) of the story across.

A very worthwhile workshop, and a morning well spent.

Resource list:

www.sfs.org.uk . – *Society for storytelling website. A national and international resources of people, activities and help*

www.cafecredo.org.uk – *a Christian storytelling club in Earls Court*

Books:

W J Bausch “A World of stories” and “Storytelling: Imagination and Faith.” – Both by Twenty third Publications – How to tell and what to tell by an experienced American tale teller.

David Kossoff – “Speaking of God” – and several others, imaginative re-tellings of scenes and themes from the Bible

E D Pearmain – “Doorway to The Soul” – Wisdom tales from around the world – Pilgrim Press

B Hartman – “Telling the Bible” - Monarch

Nomination of Chair of District

The committee appointed to select a new Chair of District for the Channel Islands has met with candidates and has unanimously nominated the Reverend David Hinchcliffe to be designated for appointment. David is the Superintendent of the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit, and an Assistant Chair in the South East District. David served in the Petersfield, Liphook and Haslemere Circuit before taking up his present appointment. In addition, he has also served as a Synod Secretary, and served on various connexional bodies. David’s name will now be sent to the District Synod before going to the Conference of 2009 for designation as the next Chair of District in 2010.

Future of Ebenezer, Brock Road

As many will know, the friends at St Peter Port had been seeking to work with NCH (now called Action for Children) to provide a collaborative community project based at Ebenezer. Following a round of recent meetings, Action for Children have withdrawn from the negotiations, because the costs of re-furbishing the building out-stripped the benefits gained. The building was not really suitable for the long term future of the project. As a result, the St Peter Port people met in a church meeting and later the Church Council endorsed the view that the building should now be sold. Over the next few weeks, various steps will be taken to decide the future of the Society in St Peter Port, and then the formal steps to gain permission to sell the building will be taken. In the meantime, please pray for the friends at St Peter Port as they continue to grapple with this complex problem.



Prayers for Sark

The recent elections followed by a decision of the Barclay brothers to close down nearly all their development work in Sark has obviously had a deep impact on the community. The Methodist Church's worker in the island, David Hollingsworth has been working with Island officials and church members to bring support and care to those caught up in recent events. Please pray for David, for the churches and people in the Island, for peace and understanding and compassion. In the meantime, David has been working at creating a 'virtual church' in Sark based on Facebook, the internet communication system. People from all over the world have joined the virtual church and next year David is running a series of retreats in the island for any who would like to visit Sark. For more details and information email David at hollingsworth100@yahoo.co.uk

Circuit Website

Work on the website is now well in hand and it is hoped to bring further news of its 'going live' in the next Bulletin. Any suggestions or notices for inclusion (not events at this stage) can be sent to the Circuit office.

Network News

On 10 June 2009 Circuit Network are arranging a special event when Pam Turner, former connexional Network President is coming to Guernsey. During her Presidential year she visited Latvia and will give a presentation of her visit. We are hoping to make contact with some of the Latvian people living in the Island. Please make a note of this date.

Quench

Quench meets at Brown's Restaurant in Mansell Street from 6.30 pm on 25 Jan 09 – orders taken up to 7.30 pm. Then at 8.45 pm the guest speaker will be Billy Gilvear, Pastor at Shiloh and Prison Chaplain. Billy is going to share something of his story and his Christian experience.

3- course meal with coffee is £10.00. Booking to David Hart on 241390 – ideal opportunity to bring non-church friends and relations to church, but not as you've known it!



Parent and Toddler Group meet at Rohais Methodist Church during term-time on Wednesdays 10.00 am – 11.30 am. Join them for a chat, cup of tea and biscuits while the children play. Tel Michelle on 724579.

Café/Drop-in at Les Camps every Saturday morning from 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. Free tea and coffee. Cakes and rolls available. Table top sale - proceeds to Maison de Quetteville.

NB The Circuit Office will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period.

Circuit Diary		
Jan 09	04	5.00 pm 'Tea Service' at Les Capelles
	06	9.30 am Staff Meeting at St Martin's Manse
	14	7.30 pm Circuit Leadership Team meeting at La Pepiniere
	15	7.00 pm Churches Together meeting at Les Cotils
	18	Churches Together Pulpit Exchange
	20	9.30 am Plan making at Delancey Manse

	23	12.30 pm Network Festive Lunch at St Margaret's Lodge Hotel
	25	3 pm at Les Cotils - Churches Together United Service for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity
	26	7.30 pm Circuit Property Committee meeting at Forest United
	28	12 noon – District Development Forum - Delancey Manse
	28	2 pm Custodian Trustees – Delancey Manse
Feb	01	5.00 pm 'Tea Service' at Les Capelles
	08	am Drama in the round at Les Camps – 'The Story of Jesus'
	10 – 12	District retreat in Alderney
	16	7.30 pm Circuit Meeting at Galaad
	24	9.30 am Staff meeting at Delancey Manse
March	16	Local preacher's and leaders of worship meeting, St Martin's Mission (tea at 6.30 pm followed by meeting at 7.30 pm)
	17	7.30 pm Circuit Leadership Team Meeting
	24	12.00 noon Staff meeting at Le Chene Manse
	27 – 28	Local Preachers training event – with David Day of the College of Preachers
April	21	9.30 am Plan making at Delancey Manse
	21	Launch of David Chapman's book 'Methodism under Occupation'. Further details to be confirmed.
	23	7 pm - Churches Together Meeting at Les Cotils
	24 -25	District Policy Committee and Synod in Jersey
	28	9.30 am Staff meeting at Aldersgate Manse
May	13	Circuit Steward's meeting
	14 – 20	Visit to the District of President and Vice-President of Conference
	26	12.00 noon Staff meeting at St Martin's Manse
June	3	7.30 Circuit Leadership Team – Delancey Manse
	10	Network - Visit of Pam Turner with presentation of her visit to Latvia
	23	12 noon – Circuit Staff meeting – Delancey Manse Local preacher's and leaders of worship meeting, Forest United (tea at 6.30 pm followed by meeting at 7.30 pm)
	25	7.30 pm – Circuit meeting - Rohais
July	1	7.00 pm – Churches Together Meeting at Les Cotils
	20	Morning – District Development Forum, Jersey
	21	9.30 – Plan Making, Delancey Manse

The next Bulletin will be published at the beginning of March 2009. All items for inclusion should reach the Circuit Office, or Margaret by e-mail at home, by Thursday 19 February.

Circuit Office Contact Details:

Circuit Administrator: Margaret Lewis

Address: The Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Circuit Office, Les Camps Methodist Church, Les Camps, St Martin's GY4 6AB

Telephone: 01481 235311/265501 *E-mail:* methodistchurch@cwgsy.net *OR:* sageowls@cwgsy.net