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**19th January 2020**

Dear Friends of St Clement and St Nicholas,

Yesterday – Monday Tracy, Martin and I were sad but privileged to take part in the funeral for Trevor Hodgskin in St Nicholas . It was filmed onto Facebook and broadcast live to relatives and friends in Zimbabwe, Australia, UK and USA. The video is on our Facebook page and a link to press on the first page of our website. Technology undreamed of when St Nicholas was built just a few years before Trevor was born in 1930. Alan Le Breton is researching an article for the parish magazine which should make fascinating reading.

He was a great entrepreneur linking ideas, technology and people together to form something far more than the parts, creating many jobs for people and doing something about things rather than accepting or complaining. That is a rare gift and essential for our society. It is a driving creative force which as well as companies has led to the existence of so many charities and voluntary organisations in Jersey whose presence we usually enjoy but many are on hold for Covid. They were the focus of my Opinion article which in theory will have appeared in the JEP this week. Out of laziness or perhaps interest I re print it below. Its focus is on a lively re start to the sector which could easily wither as it is more fragile than we might imagine. For St Clement and St Nicholas I am looking not for money but ideas of how to celebrate normality. Even with their masks on there was a visible smile and audible chuckle in the congregations as I said we had set aside money in the budget for a party in 2021. It could be musical once we can sing again, a lunch, maybe a picnic at Echo Tower…….

So fun together and then having spent the year gazing inwards at Covid news in Jersey and UK I believe we have to put things into perspective and look outwards to places which put any complaints we have to shame. A volunteer has already come forward to help administer the sponsorship for St Clement school Malindi , more people would be appreciated to fundraise or perhaps even go out there, so we can build on our link.

Closer to home with three hall buildings we rent we are very aware of how so many Jersey organisations have ceased to meet and I am sure some in Jersey will probably never re open as crucial volunteers decide it is time to retire and the usual meetings are not there to find replacements. It takes much less effort to keep something on the move than create it in the first place as Trevor did.

*Opinion article - A suggestion for Government support: Quite rightly the focus of government has been on the survival and recovery or the business community. As a society we also benefit from what could be the far more fragile volunteer and charity sector. There are also much valued one person run keep fit classes or children’s craft and music sessions which though technically commercial are run on a shoestring . You can usually fill a paid post but volunteers are a very different proposition.*

*Typically there are many willing to attend a meeting, a few to administer and almost nobody to start the organisation in the first place. We benefit as a society from a rich variety of non/ barely commercial organisations meeting needs from sport to music , from Brownies to WI and many more small charities and community groups. In normal times they have a certain momentum, a meeting follows another, arms are twisted to replace people retiring, buildings lurch from one appeal to another. Stop those meetings for months, perhaps over a year and retirements are accelerated and it is risky for the one person teacher to restart. When normality begins to return I suggest a kickstart to this sector. At a fraction of the cost of the social security reduction and £100 vouchers I suggest £250 vouchers for charities and organisations to encourage them to risk re opening. Non specific like the vouchers but requiring them to report how they used them from hall hire to refreshments, publicity or free lessons or subscriptions. We will miss them if we lose them and by then it will be too late. – end of article*

From a church perspective we have been very understanding of the needs of groups using our halls. We have always worked on the basis of encouraging groups to start and been flexible when they are struggling. Rent free periods, sharing the proceeds until they approach a reasonable rent, all sorts of schemes have been used and as a result many small groups have settled and expanded as no risk. Thanks to those policies our halls have thrived and reserves have been built up. We have been able to continue that policy during the last year as rents often dropped to zero and some groups do not look to restart for months. We have not just closed the doors but used the opportunity to improve them.

Caldwell Hall has been decorated and the kitchen refurbished with two new dishwashers ready for action. Lockdown came just as we had begun Lent Lunches and we are unlikely to hold them this year but all the halls are ready and waiting for church and other groups to use when things return to normal.

Injections: Many of our readers have already had their first injection, I understand that some have really struggled to make phone bookings. Do get in touch if you would like us to help make internet bookings for you.

Best wishes and stay well

David

**Please click the link for the 9am Service of Holy Communion which was recorded in St Nicholas on Sunday 17th January 2021** [https://youtu.be/CTMh4lnCefs](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FCTMh4lnCefs&data=04%7C01%7C%7C398b21f711fe4aca461b08d8bd2d71d5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637467350163873114%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6qYvdOl3Tg4etvx7l4vMV5bLa1UEA5OTiDCtxcs0RKk%3D&reserved=0)

**St Clement Church 10.30am Family Service January 24th, 2021**

The Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.

**Let us rejoice and shout for joy, giving God the glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ <https://youtu.be/QA_g98O42Q4>

**Lord Jesus Christ**

**You have come to us**

**You are one with us,**

**Mary’s Son**

**Cleansing our souls from all their sin**

**Pouring your love and goodness in**

**Jesus, our love for you sing**

**Living Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

**you have come to us**

**Born as one of us,**

**Mary’s Son**

**Led out to die on Calvary**

**Risen from death to set us free**

**Living Lord Jesus, help us see**

**You are Lord.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

**I would come to you**

**Live my life for you,**

**Son of God**

**All your commands I know are true**

**Your many gifts will make me new**

**Into my life your pow’r breaks through**

**Living Lord.**

God in Christ has revealed his glory. **Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting. **The Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord**. O praise the name of the Lord!**

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives; Father, forgive us.

**Save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you; Father, forgive us . **Save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say**;** Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us; Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son; Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world through Jesus Christ our Lord*.* **Amen**

Let us declare our Faith in God

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

I’ve got peace like a river <https://youtu.be/1NlZO57W0eE>

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ ve got peace live a river**

**in my soul**

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ve got peace live a river**

**in my soul**

**I’ve got joy like a river**

**I’ve got joy like a river**

**I’ve got joy like a river**

**in my soul**

**I’ve got joy like a river**

**I’ve got joy like a river**

**I’ve got joy like a river**

**in my soul**

**I’ve got love like a river**

**I’ve got love like a river**

**I’ve got love like a river**

**in my soul**

**I’ve got love like a river**

**I’ve got love like a river**

**I’ve got peace, joy like a river**

**In my soul**

**The First reading is taken from Psalm 128, beginning to read at the first verse.**

***(Psalm 128 1-6)***

**1**Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.  
**2**You will eat the fruit of your labour,  blessings and prosperity will be yours.  
**3**Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. **4**Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord. **5**May the Lord bless you from Zion;  may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. **6**May you live to see your children’s children—peace be on Israel.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel Reading.**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(John 2 1-11)***

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, **2**and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3**When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” **4**“Woman,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26100a)] why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”

**5**His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” **6**Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26102b)]

**7**Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. **8**Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, **9**and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

Then he called the bridegroom aside **10**and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

**11**What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  **Praise to you O Christ**

**Sermon Tracy** Epiphany, for the Christian, means a time of discovering. It is a season in the churches year that stretches into February that aims to deepen our understanding of Jesus as the Divine Glory.

So far we have celebrated the coming of the Wise men to Jesus, representing the revealing of the light of Christ to the world. We've had the baptism of Jesus and the beautiful words resounding from heaven confirming that Jesus is God's son whom God loves and now we have the first miracle, or sign as John prefers to call miracles, because they are like signposts pointing to who Jesus is. The word that sums up the reading for me at this point in time is 'Abundance'.

Now think of a bottle of wine. Someone has worked out that 1,000 bottles came out of those big stone jars. Not just any wine but the best of wines. However in all probability the guests were not in the best condition to appreciate it! That says something very important.

God's gifts come to us no matter how we are feeling … no matter if we are down in the dumps, no matter if we are worried, no matter if we are cross, no matter if we are not in the best place to receive them. They come as gift. We don't have to do anything to deserve them because God is a God of Grace.

Take a moment to think about the word 'grace'. What does it mean? Something good given with no strings attached? Undeserved …

John reminds us of that in his Prologue to his gospel. You will only find 'grace' mentioned there because it doesn't need to be mentioned in the rest of the gospel. In the rest of the gospel you can see grace in action in Jesus. Jesus is what grace looks like.

Jesus, full of grace, attracted people to him. It didn't matter if people were feeling bad about themselves … in fact the worse a person felt the more they were propelled towards Jesus. He was a refuge, a port in a storm. Instinctively they knew they had a friend – they had found in Jesus an abundance of grace that meant he listened, cared and lifted their eyes up to the God who loved them.

Let us be givers of grace this year to whoever we meet. Givers of kindness and caring acts, listening, helping, encouraging … being filled with the radiance of Jesus and lifting people's eyes to the God who loves them.

Lord of all hopefulness <https://youtu.be/i6ztlI8Hlbo>

**Lord of all hopefulness**

**Lord of all joy**

**Whose trust ever childlike**

**No cares could destroy**

**Be there at our waking**

**And give us we pray**

**Your bliss in our hearts Lord**

**At the break of the day**

**Lord of all eagerness**

**Lord of all faith**

**Whose strong hands were skilled**

**at the plane and the lathe**

**be there at our labours**

**and give us we pray**

**your strength in our hearts, Lord**

**at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindliness**

**Lord of all grace**

**Your hands swift to welcome**

**Your arms to embrace**

**Be there at our homing**

**And give us we pray**

**Your love in our hearts Lord**

**At the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness**

**Lord of all calm**

**Whose voice is contentment**

**Whose presence is balm**

**Be there at our sleeping**

**And give us we pray**

**Your peace in our hearts, Lord**

**At the end of the day.**

**The Collect** Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

***Music before Prayers*** Handel – Suite in G (Water Music: opening movement)

[*https://youtu.be/fUhcVPatYk4*](https://youtu.be/fUhcVPatYk4)

Prayers ending: Lord in your mercy **All: Hear our Prayer**

**Prayers for the World**: **In the words of Saint Augustine of Hippo*, let us trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to God’s love and the future to God’s providence.***

For countries afflicted by natural disasters: flooding, drought, fire, earthquake, volcanic eruption.

For efforts to ensure that all have access to clean water

For food security and sustainable agriculture, especially in East Africa with the returning locusts

May countries who have plenty be generous with those who have little.

For Cyprus, Greece & Turkey (World Council of Churches prayers)

**Prayers for the Church:** For churches to work together to promote justice and peace, especially in matters of migration, social justice and disarmament.

For all education initiatives, especially among the poor

For the Mothers’ Union in their work to strengthen community and families

For the Mission to Seafarers and its chaplains providing help in over 200 ports round the world

For St Martin & Ebenezer Methodist Churches and their minister Nico Hilmy-Jones (CTJ prayers)

For the mission of St Clement and St Nicholas to the people of our parish

**Prayers for closer to home**

For wisdom and foresight for the States of Jersey as they confront many difficult issues

Give thanks for the dedication and skills of all who work in the civil service

For all who work in our hospitals and care homes

For all who are anxious, lonely or unwell. May we be good neighbours to them.

For all who are mourning the death of loved ones or are remembering an upsetting anniversary

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so in faith and trust we pray:

**The Lord’s Prayer: All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy**

**kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread** **and forgive us our trespasses** **as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

**All over the world** [**https://youtu.be/vF9h9n19yz0**](https://youtu.be/vF9h9n19yz0)

**All over the world the Spirit is moving**

**All over the world**

**As the prophets said it would be**

**All over the world there’s a mighty revelation**

**Of the glory of the Lord**

**As the waters cover the sea.**

**All over his church, the Spirit is moving**

**All over his church**

**As the prophets said it would be**

**All over his church there’s a mighty revelation**

**Of the glory of the Lord**

**As the waters cover the sea**

**Right here in this place the Spirit is moving**

**Right here in this place**

**As the prophets said it would be**

**Right here in this place theres a mighty revelation**

**Of the glory of the Lord**

**As the waters cover the sea.**

**All over the world the Spirit is moving**

**All over the world**

**As the prophets said it would be**

**All over the world there’s a mighty revelation**

**Of the glory of the Lord**

**As the waters cover the sea.**

**The Grace May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore**. **Amen**

All our problems **We send to the cross of Christ**

All our difficulties **We send to the cross of Christ**

All the devils works **We send to the cross of Christ**

All our hopes **We set on the risen Christ**

**The Blessing And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen**

Closing music March: Slaidburn <https://youtu.be/wTmj9YRCNj0>