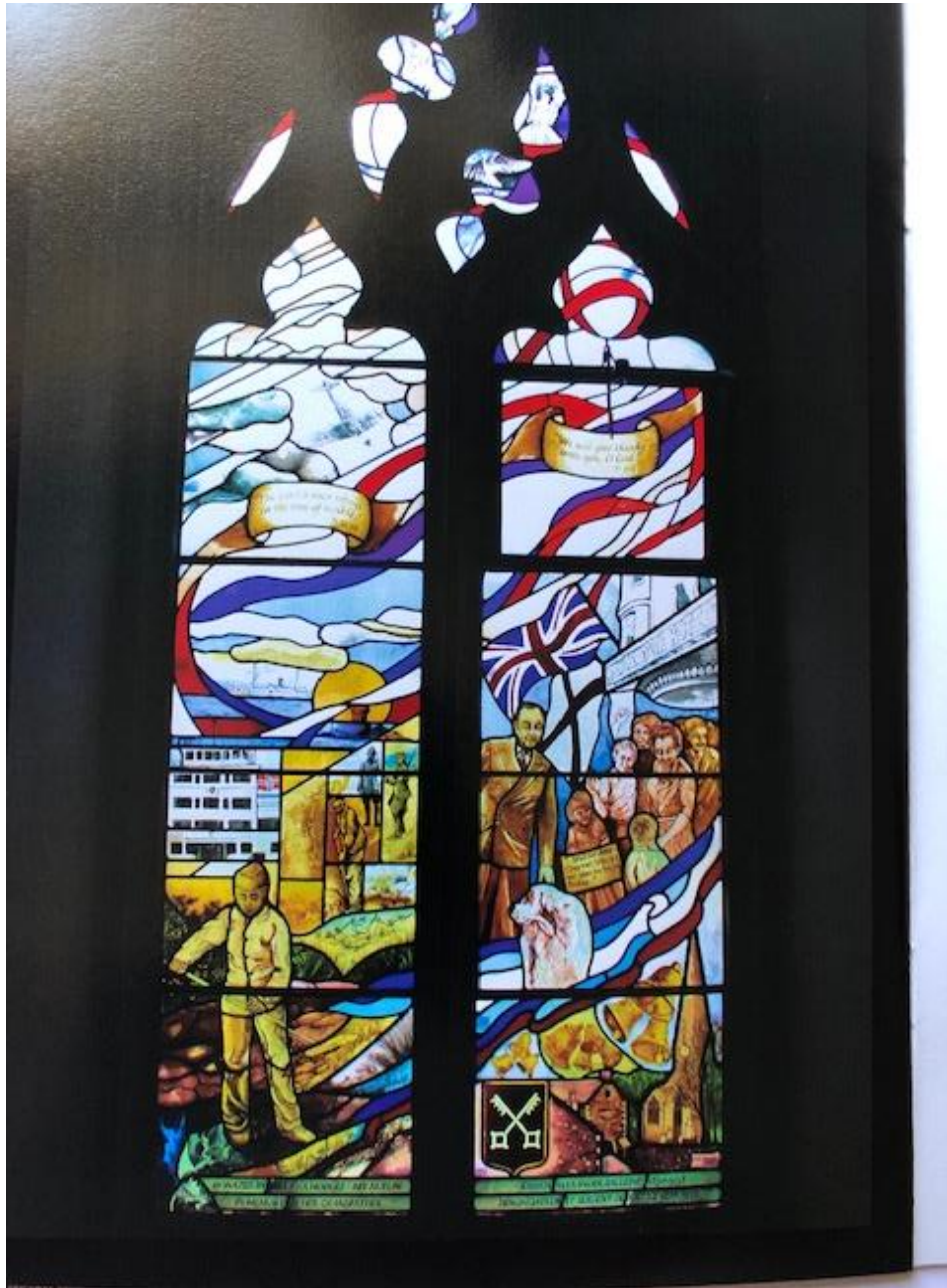


**Newsletter of the
Parish Church of St Peter,
Jersey**



**Issue 7: 10 May 2020
LIBERATION DAY WEEKEND 75TH ANNIVERSARY
(Fifth Sunday of Eastertide)**

Dear Friends,

Before reading my Homily please read these short pieces of scripture:

Psalm 31.1-5, 15-16

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; •
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; •
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; •
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
- 4 Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me, •
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, •
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.
- 15 'My times are in your hand; •
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 'Make your face to shine upon your servant, •
and save me for your mercy's sake.'

Matthew 5.1-12 (RSV)

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men
persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Dear Friends,

Here in Jersey, we are about to celebrate our National Day which is called Liberation Day, remembering the day on the 9th of May 1945 seventy-five years ago when Jersey was liberated from the Nazis. Along with the other Channel Islands it was the only part of the British Isles occupied by the Nazi during World War Two. It was a time of terrible hardship and deprivation and by 1945, the population of the island was near to starvation. For those of us who did not live through that period, it is hard for us to imagine how it.

Liberation Day each year, is for so many therefore, a time of deep and mixed emotions. On the one hand sad memories are once again brought into focus, whilst on the other hand, there is the joy of being free. These two opposite emotions are 'jumbled up' in people's hearts. Both emotions are powerfully expressed in the beautiful Liberation stained glass window in the Parish Church of St Peter.

Liberation Day is quite rightly our National Day, celebrated with parades and religious services. All gather in Liberation Square, which is always full to bursting. This year there is a three day holiday, but because of the virus the parades and services are (rightly), unable to take place.

So many things had been planned and lots of hard work had been put in, to prepare for this important 75th Anniversary, but because of the virus epidemic sadly we are not able to all be together, either in our churches or Liberation Square or for the traditional evening parties with family and friends in each other's homes.

Nevertheless, I am sure however, that all *will* remember and look back, yet also celebrate in hearts, minds and bodies, with special meals at home chatting electronically to the wider family and friends.

Recent events have made many people, right around the world, reassess their lives as to what is really important to them. It has also fostered a renewed determination to fight against this virus, by seeking for a better world.

Psalm 31, speaks to those who were not and those who *are* not free. Listen to these incredible and wonderful words again:

"5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, •
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.
15 'My times are in your hand; •
deliver me from the hand of my enemies",

Whether that be not free physically, as during the time of the occupation or today suffering with the virus or people mourning the loss of loved ones. Psalm 31 provides a blueprint for our reliance on God in times of both National captivity as in the war and now captivity to a virus. It shows yet again that the scriptures are alive to all situations and circumstances!

In the New Testament, Jesus in his famous sayings called, 'The Beatitudes', spoken to his Apostles and many others on the Holy Mountain, put into words the assurance and the promise of God's love, in life, in death and for all eternity: for all this we give Him praise and glory. Amen

**Information about The Liberation Window
(shown on the front of this Newsletter):**

'Donated by the Parish and a gift from Mrs PVA Hodges, née Huelin,
in memory of her grandfather,
Joshua Alexander Balleine, 1850 - 1938.
Dénonciateur et Sergent de Justice, 1876-1937'.

The Liberation window has two sections, reflecting both Occupation in 1940 and liberation in 1945. Produced in 2003 it was designed and produced by Alice Doherty.

To the left are representations from the Occupation. Slave workers can be seen below the eyes of German troops at the airport and the Red Cross Ship, SS Vega, sailing offshore.

The right hand portion reflects the joy of Liberation, with the Bailiff listening with other islanders to Churchill's declaration 'and our dear Channel Islands will also be freed today'. They are standing by the Pomme D'Or Hotel where the Union Flag was raised again on 9th May 1945

Towards the top of the window are the inscriptions:
'The Lord is our help in time of trouble'
and
'We will give thanks unto the Lord',
from Palms 37:35 and 75:1

Prayers for use on Liberation Day

Heavenly Father, we celebrate and give you thanks for the end of hostilities that brought Liberation to this island 75 years ago.

We thank you:

For the strong bonds between Islanders, within families and between friends, that sustained this community through those dark years of occupation; for the service and sacrifice of all who made and still make our continued liberation possible;
For the peace we have enjoyed and under which we have lived since 1945 and for the reconciliation and partnership with those who were once enemies.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We bring before you those who are currently held captive in our world today in one way or another; those whose homes and land is occupied and who long for liberation. We ask that they too may be delivered from evil and know the peace and freedom that you came to bring.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for unity in our world;
For the breaking down of barriers that separate us,
For an end to war and the escalation of conflict,
For those who lead our nations
and those who work towards peace and reconciliation;

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our Island community,
For friendship and trust amongst us all
For an appreciation of our interdependence
For a community that is in harmony with itself
and for a fresh understanding of your call to love our neighbour as ourselves,

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

And so we join our prayers, to those of Our Blessed Lady as we say Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beautiful Jersey

This traditional and beautiful song, which is always sung on Liberation Day, encapsulates the spirit of the Island and it's people: do sing away at home!

The first verse being sung in Jèrriais-

Soloist -

Man Beau P'tit Jèrri

Y'a un coin d'terre que j'aime, que j'n'oublièthai jamais -

Dans mes pensées trejours preunmyi -

Car jé n'vai rein à compather à ses bieautés

Dans touos mes viages à l'êtrangi.

Jèrri, man paradis, pus belle taque souos l'solé -

Qué j'aime la paix dé chu Jèrri!

L'amour lé veut, j'ai si envie dé m'en r'aller

Èrvaie man chièr pétit pays.

All -

There's a spot that I love that I ne'er can forget,

Tho' far I may roam 'twill be dear.

for its beauty will linger in memory yet,

where'er o'er the world I may steer.

Dear Jersey, fair isle, of the ocean the queen,

Thy charms are so many and rare;

for love finds a home 'mid each beauteous scene,

My heart ever longs to be there.

*Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea,
Ever my heart turns in longing to thee;
Bright are the mem'ries you waken for me,
Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea.*

On thy shores I have wandered in glad days of yore,

With one who is dear to my heart.

And the love-links will bind us as one evermore,

Although for a while we must part.

And oft in my dreams do I see the dear place

The dear little isle of the sea,

And in fancy I gaze on a sweet loving face,

The face that is dearest to me.

*Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea,
ever my heart turns in longing to thee;
bright are the mem'ries you waken for me,
Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea.*

(Lindsay Lennox)

£ A Word About Money £

Many thanks to all those who have already sent cheques, in lieu of money, that would normally be put on the collection plate at services inside the church. It is much appreciated.

For those who have not donated, The Treasurer and I, plus the Church Officers, earnestly hope that you are putting money aside each week in a 'jam jar' (real or metaphorical!) so that when the churches are allowed to reopen, you will be able to bring that money to church or of course to put the cheque 'on the plate'. I hate to even write about money, but having talked with The Treasurer it was felt that a word to you all might be useful.

We have had a letter from the Chairman of the Deanery Finance Committee, stating that they estimate that by October, at the present rate, they will have exhausted all the reserves that they had.

As a priority, St Peters Parish Church is continuing to pay its Share allocation of £1,500 per month towards its Share Allocation of £36,000 per annum as requested, being mindful of The Treasurer's letter in a previous Newsletter, that that is half the amount of £72,000 per annum, the starting point in the Share Allocation process, for each Church in the Deanery of Jersey.

Because of the lack of services, we are not receiving anything like that amount in because there are no 'collections', so there is a danger of things become critical in the not too distant future. As indicated above there is no huge pot of money held by The Deanery from which we could be helped and of course there are other churches on the island, in the same position as us. If we all give methodically and regularly then things will go well, but if we don't then...! 'Cash flow' is so important not only because of our contribution to the Deanery of Jersey but because of the many bills which still have to be paid each month, as is the case in any organisation. I hope you will take this matter to heart.

Father Michael

Annual General Meeting and Election of officers

Each church in the Church of England in the Deanery of Jersey has received an email from The Dean of Jersey about these matters.

Basically there will be no AGM this year or Election of Officers within this Calendar Year and all the current officers are asked to remain in post, until the next AGM actually does take place, which would not be until next year.

Having said all that, each church is to send its Annual Accounts for 2019 to The Deanery of Jersey Finance Committee, once they have been inspected by an 'Independent Examiner'. They will also be sent out to everyone on the Church Electoral Roll, for your interest.



Liberation Day



As we all know, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey from the Nazis. It was to have been a wonderful weekend of celebration here in the Parish Church of St Peter and in the Parish as a whole. This is true, of course, across the whole island as well: a huge amount of work, time and effort had been put in and it is so sad that the services and other commemorations and parties will not be able to take place this weekend.

Although all of the above is the case, I hope and pray that all of you will nevertheless not feel guilty about *celebrating* this great anniversary in your own homes! I hope too that you will celebrate by phone, email, Facebook, Zoom or whatever, in linking with your families and friends. For those who experienced the occupation this will be an opportunity to share precious memories from the past.

It would be wonderful if everyone in the Parish could decorate the hedges, fences and walls of your gardens with Jersey Flags and the Flag of the United Kingdom, to give our Parish and Island a festive air, as a sign that, in spite of the present emergency, we do not forget what happened and rejoice in our freedom. Do have a wonderful time as far as you are able this weekend.

The service this weekend will be put onto the Church Website Facebook page on LIBERATION DAY itself, Saturday 9th May at 1030, rather than on the Sunday.

Could I re-emphasize that to access this and previous services on the Church Website you do not have to have Facebook yourself. Once on Church Website (www.stpeterschurch.org.je) click on the Facebook to see them. I say this because some people have thought that if they didn't have Facebook themselves that they wouldn't be able to see the services.

Happy viewing!

Father Michael



Prayers about the current virus Epidemic

I hope that you will find these prayers useful in your own prayer life at home. Prayer is at the heart of any Christian's life, just as much as it is at the heart of our communal life as the Body of Christ, which is The Church. These prayers have been specially produced by the Church of England, for use at the present time.

FOR ALL WHO WORRY

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ your taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need, as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety give us strength to comfort the fearful,
to tend the sick and assure the isolated of our love and your love,
we ask this for your name's sake. Amen

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Merciful God, we entrust to your care those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR HOSPITAL STAFF, CARERS & MEDICAL RESEARCHERS

Heavenly Father we ask you to give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strength them with your Spirit,
That through their work many will be restored to health, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

WAYS TO WORSHIP IN YOUR OWN HOME:

SERVICES FROM ST PETER'S RECTORY GARDEN:

Go on www.stpeterschurch.org.je and click on the Church Facebook page. The service for each Sunday will be placed on there at **1030 on the Sunday** and can be viewed at any time of day after that: it will remain on the Face book page.

You do not need to have Facebook yourself to view these services, provided you view them via the Church website: a number of people have asked me about this.

SUNDAYS Radio & TV:

0810 Each Sunday during the emergency there will be a Service on **Radio Jersey** linked in with the national UK radio.

0900 I will be interviewed on Radio Jersey this Sunday 26 Apr: tune in while you have your breakfast!

1315 Songs of Praise (BBC 2, TV)

1500 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3** listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week which is a repeat from the previous Wednesday 1530 broadcast. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

SUNDAYS: 1900 - LIGHT A CANDLE AND PLACE IT IN A WINDOW VISIBLE FROM YOUR STREET

This simple initiative is from the Archbishop of Canterbury: it will help you and others to know that God, through Jesus, is the light of the world and is always with us. Beware of curtains!! Electric candles are best, if you have them. Please leave them lit for at least an hour, but preferably all evening. Look at the candle: think about what some are already going through and pray for them.

WEDNESDAYS on Radio 3

1530 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3**, listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week, repeated on the following Sunday at 1500. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

CROSS, PALM CROSS especially at this time, CRUCIFIX, ICON

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own home. Thank you for the many calls of appreciation about the Palm Crosses being sent to you at home.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Suzette Bradshaw; Dave; Elis; Donald English; Audrey Gem; Peggy Harrison; Jonathan Harvey; Peter Heath; Lester Huelin; Jack Johns; Robin Mallet; Molly; Stephan Mauger; John Le Riche; Riley.

Also, please pray for all those who are ill with the coronavirus.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED: Father Tony Hart; Royston Pitcher.

Also, please pray for all those who have died from the coronavirus.

A Prayer for use each day in Eastertide: The Regina Coeli

During Lent it is the custom to say the say the Angelus each day, *but throughout Eastertide* a different Marian devotion, the Regina Coeli, is used, on the theme of the Resurrection: it is also used at the end of Mass, as indeed is the custom at St Peter's. I have put it here, so that you can use this at home if you wish in your daily devotions:

All Sing:	Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven.	Alleluia!
	He whom thou was meet to bear,	Alleluia!
	As He promised hath arisen,	Alleluia!
	Pour for us to God thy prayer.	Alleluia!

Priest says: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

All Say: For the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Priest: Let us pray....

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ has brought joy to the whole world: grant, we ask you, that we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



HATS for the MISSION to SEAFARERS!

Back to earth! Many thanks to those who have kindly offered to knit some hats for the Mission to Seafarers, to be given to those who work upon the seas: There are a selection of designs. If you know of anyone else who might like to do this work and you want me to send copies of the patterns on to them, please just let me know their address. I look forward to seeing the hats in due course!

Father Michael,

Father Michael Phillips,

Rector of St Peter, & Hon Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers, Jersey

Telephone: 01534-481805 email address:

rector@stpeterschurch.org.je

Address: The Rectory, La Rue du Presbytere, St Peter, Jersey. JE3 7ZH

Church Website: www.stpeterschurch.org.je

Church Facebook: go on the website and click on the Facebook to see Mass from The Parish Church of St Peter at 1030 – this week from Sat 09 May 2020 because of Liberation Day. All previous services are also available on the website.