

## Thought for September 2023

By Revd. Claire Claxton

Having just taken the final wedding booked for this year in Forest Church, I was reflecting on each of the occasions. There were differences, of course, in colour choices and styles of outfits; in the number of guests; in the lavishness or simplicity of church decorations; in the choice of music. But the similarities are the things that matter because each couple made the same vows to each other before God and their family and friends, and each couple began a new phase of their life together, a joyful new beginning.

We pray, in Sunday services, for the couples who have been recently married and, at this time of year, we also pray for children and young people as the new term begins. Some will be starting school for the first time or moving to secondary school or into the sixth form. Some will be leaving the island to head off to University or College or starting a new job. There will be changes and new challenges for all of them.

Facing periods of change in our lives can be a testing time. Some people relish the challenge but others feel frightened and insecure. Whatever we are faced with, it is encouraging to remember that God has promised to be with us in all that we go through. One of my favourite Bible passages likens our challenges to water and flames:

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:1-3.*

A prayer for those facing change:

Faithful Father, who offers stable love and a grounding presence, help me navigate this change. Amid uncertainty, give me confidence in your abiding presence. Help my sense of loss at what was, not disrupt the potential of new relationships and new opportunities.

During this discomfort, keep me from making drastic decisions that may derail what you have for me and help me trust you no matter what.

*CMClaxton*

# STE MARGUERITE DE LA FORÊT



## SEPTEMBER - 2023

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## Church Flowers in September

*Sept 3rd Fatima Freitas*

*Sept 10th Fatima Freitas*

*Sept 17th Nancy Smith*

*Sept 24th Nancy Smith*

*Oct 1st Harvest Viv Rees and all  
decorators*

## Greeters

*Sept 3rd Suzie*

*Sept 10th Brenda*

*Sept 17th Debbie*

*Sept 24th Dorothy*

## Harvest Festival October 1st

It is always such a pleasure to see the church decorated for harvest and the little baskets of food brought by children and others as a thanksgiving offering for our food. It is difficult for us to give away fresh produce so Guernsey Welfare who run food banks throughout the year give a list of useful items which are very welcome and suitable. There is a blue plastic container under the last pew at the back where you can donate anytime.

*Orange or blackcurrant squash*

*Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes)*

*Pasta sauce*

*Sugar*

*Custard*

*Rice pudding*

*Tinned meat (corned beef, hot dogs etc)*

*Coffee*

*Crisps*

*Meal in a tin*

*Strawberry jam*

*Tomato ketchup*

*Mayonnaise*

*Tinned fruit*

*Biscuits*

*Rice*

*Tinned spaghetti*

*Fray Bentos pies*

*Tuna*

*Cereals*

*Tea bags*

*Pasta (we have large stocks)*

*Soup (we have large stocks)*

*Baked beans (we have large stocks)*



## A Future Not Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back  
And take the long view.  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
It is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of  
the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete,  
Which is another way of saying  
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection...  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:  
We plant seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
Knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything  
And there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.  
This enables us to do something,  
and to do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results....  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero

## Forest Church and Tumaini

Once more we remember our overseas charity Tumaini. This locally founded organisation has enjoyed amazing results from fundraising in Guernsey and other countries. Originally aimed for support to widows and orphans in Kagera Tanzania who have suffered from the AIDS epidemic by providing life-changing services in these four critical areas:

*child sponsorship, education, healthcare and socio-economic development.*

Many people and churches have sent essential supplies to this area including hand knitted garments, blankets, hygiene packs



and money. Children have been supported through school and university and some have returned to continue the work and maintain the growth towards self-sufficiency. A little knitting can go a long way!

## September Dates and News

### Knit and Natter

**Wednesday September 6th, 2pm-4pm.**

Join us in church for a time of tea and chat and bring any knitting or sewing you like to do. Or you can just come for the company!

### Coffee Morning

**Wednesday 13th September** Our next coffee morning will take place from 10.30am to 12 noon in church.

### McMillan coffee morning

**Thursday 21st September 10.30-12.00**  
in support of one of our church charities

### Solace

**Thursday 7th** St Martin's Community Centre from 10.30-noon.

**Thursday 21st** at Forest Parish Church for Macmillan Coffee morning

Solace is a support group for bereaved friends.

### Sunday October 1st Harvest Festival

Harvest bring & share lunch in church



## Welcome to Forest Parish Church Services in September 2023

### Sunday 3rd September

11am Family Communion Tumaini service with visiting speaker

Reader: tba

Prayers: Viv Rees

### Sunday 10th September

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Suzie Pentecost

Ezekiel 33 v7-11

Romans 13 v8-end

Prayers: Keith Bienvenu

### Sunday 17th September

11am Parish Communion

Reader: Debbie Dorey

Genesis 50 v15-21

Romans 14 v1-12

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

### Saturday 24th September

Reader: Keith Wallace

Jonah 3 v10, 4v1-11

Philippians 1 v21-30

Prayers: Katie Blampied

### Sunday October 1st Harvest Festival

Family Communion followed by Harvest bring & share lunch in church