



Grace in Action...



LOVE AND CARE FOR JERSEY'S POOR & NEEDY.



Introducing—Vini Jones

I first came into contact with Grace Trust back in 2006 when Lucy Lutara asked me to oversee a Social Housing Outreach. This was a way of getting Grace Trust “out there” into the community and also meeting people face to face, being available to help in any way we could. This also showed the willingness of volunteers who wish to be involved with Grace Trust who committed one Saturday morning a month to going out to meet Jersey’s needy, it was a good time, a real eye opener into how some folk get by in Jersey. We covered De Quetteville Court, The Cedars, La Collette Apts, AnnCourt (as was) Convent Court, Caesarea Court, Westmount Park.

Also around that time we began the grocery distribution service which David Macfeeters and Samares oversaw. It was always great to be involved with this area of Grace Trust. Le Marais and Le Benefice were mostly on my route and again it was a great relationship builder with a community that really does need help, a listening ear and needs to see Christ’s love in a practical way.



Grace Trust has always been a “Street level ministry” just a walk through town with Gerry Padden will show you that. As most folk will know Street Pastors has been a passion of mine and continues to be. When David Capps approached me in September 2012 asking if I would like to join the team at Grace Trust I knew this was a natural progression into an area of ministry which is close to my and Grace Trust’s heart. So it is good to be on board and look forward to what is ahead.

Vini Jones joined Grace Trust in January this year as Deputy Manager – welcome Vini!

Eddie Vibert— Our volunteer who loves helping others.



Along with his wife Zena, Eddie manages the set up for the Saturday Lunches for those in need. Eddie is also a volunteer with the Parklife choir and is a committed Christian who attends St Paul’s Church in New Street.

However, Eddie’s faith wasn’t always as strong as it is now, nor was he as dedicated to helping others. He says that he was born into a Jersey farming family, the eighth child of twelve and they were regularly sent to the Church of England Sunday School in St Mary’s and then Les Landes. *(Continued over.....)*

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Eddie believed in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit but was not willing to change the way he lived his life.

As a teenager he helped his parents on the farm: milking cows, and growing potatoes and tomatoes. However, he says that he was 'a good little boy' as a child, but 'I continued to swear and curse and gave up attending church as I grew up.

In his twenties, Eddie went to work for Ronez and remained with them for 40 years. One of his claims to fame is that Eddie supervised the laying of a taxiway at Alderney airport. He can drive tarmac machines and road rollers. Cool!!!

Eddie married his first wife Monica in his twenties and has a son called Gary, a 21 year old grandson and 18 year old granddaughter, all of whom now live in Wales.

When asked about his faith, Eddie says that Monica became ill in the early years of their marriage and turned to Rev. Bill Edwards for spiritual help. Eddie saw a change in Monica at that time. However, when Bill asked Eddie if he wanted to give his life to Jesus too, Eddie

stubbornly refused.

He notes "I had a conversation with myself in a mirror one day, and asked myself that, if I believed in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, why wouldn't I commit to handing over my life to Jesus. I was still swearing and cursing but unexpectedly I decided there and then that if God wanted to change me he could do so." Eddie told God that 'He would have a job on His hands to change him'.

However, Eddie says that the minister was a bit of a 'Bible Puncher' and he couldn't connect with him, but someone told him that he may prefer going to St Paul's Church to hear Rev. Nigel Owens preach.

At that time Eddie notes that the church would go out on long walks and preach outdoor sermons. Eddie quickly became involved in the day to day life of St Paul's, joining the church council. He smiles as he remembers that he was the representative of the Flower Arranging Team and was willing to help 'join in' on occasions.

In 2008 Eddie's wife Monica became very ill and passed away.

Eddie then made a decision to become a recluse and stand back from life. However, thanks to Janet and David Dallain from St Paul's, a year later,

Eddie was again involved in the church, even after suffering a few frights with his health. In 2009 it was suggested Eddie went to a Christian conference in the UK along with some other folk from church.

Whilst there God told him to look after Zena who had also gone along to the event, and within three weeks of returning to Jersey, Eddie had asked her to marry him.

Zena was already involved in helping Grace Trust and has been faithfully serving as a volunteer for many years. Needless to say Zena encouraged Eddie to help with the Saturday Lunches. Now, every week, together they set up the lunches for the clients and spend the lunch talking and getting to know everyone.

When Zena is asked how she feels about Eddie, she says that he is kind, thoughtful, loving, happy all the time and loves helping people. She says that she loves him very much and he loves her. This is pretty obvious to all of us who see them together.

When asked about Grace Trust, Eddie says he sees it as a tremendous and vital organisation which shares the wealth of others with the needs of the poor.

He says that Saturday Lunch time is Grace Trust's church, and that the Parklife choir is good for keeping people together, and all the members just love it.

The Trust is very grateful for all its volunteers, Eddie and Zena are a prime example of the care, love and help which promotes both God's, and the Trust's work, to help and care for those in need.



Memories of Les Ricou



The consistent face of the Jersey Salvation Army, Les lived what he believed. He was always there for people and treated everyone the same. He would 'pop' into the office regularly and say hello, and he will be remembered with a smile.



IT 'S ON ITS WAY!!



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The single "The Park Life" has just been recorded and will be available sometime in February.





Roger Bara, the Parklife Choir's Musical Director, was back with a vengeance, after a short illness, and aimed to make the Parklife's Concert at the Jersey Opera House on October 3rd 2012 a night to remember for all concerned—it certainly was!



Parklife finally achieved their dream of performing at the Opera House to a sell out audience. Tickets were sold out in a week!!

Parklife were supported by the excellent Hot Bananas, Jersey Signing Choir and Brighter Futures Choir who all played their part in making the evening a great success. Members of Parklife are still talking about the evening!!

Sadly Roger has now left the island with his wife Chrissy and is now happily living in sunny Cyprus and both are being missed by us all at Grace Trust.

Parklife + all at Grace Trust Jersey wish Roger + Chrissy Bara every good blessing for their future. xx

This will not be the end for Parklife however. Gerry Padden, our General Manager, who originally instigated the choir and had a vision to see it perform at the Opera House, has been on the lookout for a replacement for Roger. Simon Curzon has come forward to offer his services along with Chris Marquer and Vinnie Jones, so Parklife will continue to flourish. 😊

Watch this space as Parklife are looking forward to getting back “out on the road” to entertain their friends, old and new in the summer!



Grace Trust's Trustees !!

When compiling what will sadly be her last newsletter, Joyce asked me to write a short article about the Trustees ; currently Diana Pitt (who attends St Matthew's Church), Vicki Lavarack (St Paul's), and myself, David Capps, (St Ouen's) who together are ultimately responsible for everything Grace Trust does. These appointments are all voluntary and therefore unpaid.

While we are the current trustees, there have been various predecessors to whom I'd like to pay tribute through a brief history of the Trust which was founded by Lucy Lutara on 6 December 1999 when she became the first Trustee. Lucy was hands on from the very beginning, establishing the weekly lunch at St Paul's and the various outreach projects that Grace Trust with its 150 plus volunteers now undertakes. In March 2002, Lucy was joined as Trustee by the Rev. Wynne Lewis from the UK and the Rev. Ray Speck (St Paul's) who persuaded me to become involved upon his retirement in September 2005 when I joined as a Trustee along with Vicki Lavarack, Andrew De Gruchy, Martin Bullivant and the Rev. Paul Brooks. The Trust's work was expanding considerably at that time and we had several paid part-time employees whose appointment was made by the Trustees - still a major part of our role to ensure the smooth running of the Trust's work much of which was then handled by Lucy on a voluntary basis. When she unfortunately became ill however, the Trustees stepped in to take responsibility for various parts of the work and I remember on one occasion in the run-up to Christmas 2006, when we were undertaking the " Care at Christmas " programme, I was in the midst of a large shipping transaction at Capco Trust where I work, when the phone rang with an order from one of our Grace Trust clients for her Christmas grocery package, a wonderful way to put high finance into perspective! In October 2006, Diana Pitt was appointed Trustee, Martin Bullivant having retired earlier that year due to pressure of work.

Rev. Paul Brooks likewise retired as Trustee in June 2007 and in February 2008 Andrew De Gruchy retired followed by Lucy in March 2008 leaving the three current Trustees to supervise the transition of the Trust from the era of its birth under Lucy, to a larger, more mature organisation. One major leap forward was the Trustees' appointment of Gerry Padden as General Manager with whom we work so well ; subsequently ably assisted by Joyce Riddett, General Manager's Assistant who feels called to move on to other activity and goes with our blessing. This provides the Trustees with a challenge and an opportunity to pray together, discern God's will for the future and then implement it. The Christian ethos is what prompted Lucy and indeed all the Trustees to play a role for which I now salute and thank them for their part in our journey, which still has a long way to run and which can provide such benefit and blessing to our community.

David Capps, Chairman.



Vicki Lavarack Trustee



Diana Pitt Trustee



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