

NOTES FOR MINISTERS CONSIDERING A MOVE TO JERSEY

www.jerseymethodist.org.uk



Thank you for your interest in a stationing opportunity in Jersey.

The Circuit Stewards are confident in recommending Jersey as an attractive, outward-looking and friendly place to live and work, with a well-developed sense of community and heritage.

We trust these notes will answer any questions you may have about the uniqueness of Jersey and how living here differs from the United Kingdom.

Depending upon your own personal and family circumstances, there may be a need to undertake further enquiries and/or take advice in order to fully understand the differences.

We will be delighted to assist if you require further information to decide whether or not a move to Jersey is appropriate for you and your family but, above all, whether it is God's calling to you at this time.

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The Island of Jersey

The Island is self-governing and a Crown Territory. It is approximately 45 square miles and is basically a rectangle of 9 miles by 5 miles. It is 14 miles from the north coast of France, at the nearest point, and about 100 miles south of Portsmouth. Guernsey and Sark are the closest of the other Channel Islands and are 20 or so miles to the northwest.

Jersey has many lovely sandy beaches and is home to the world famous Jersey cow and the Jersey Royal new potato.

Jersey has its own government and is autonomous in local matters with its own tax, social security/national insurance and other regulations which differ from the UK. Jersey is made up of 12 Parishes varying in size and population from the capital, St Helier, to the smallest (by population) St Mary.

The Parishes have their own administrations and provide a number of services including local policing (the Honorary Police), issuing driving licences, electoral registration etc. The population is 103,267 (2021 Census) and is made up of locals and immigrants, the largest groups of which come from the UK, Ireland, Madeira and Poland.

The Church of England is the established church but the Catholic Church, Methodist Church and other church groups meet regularly in the Island.

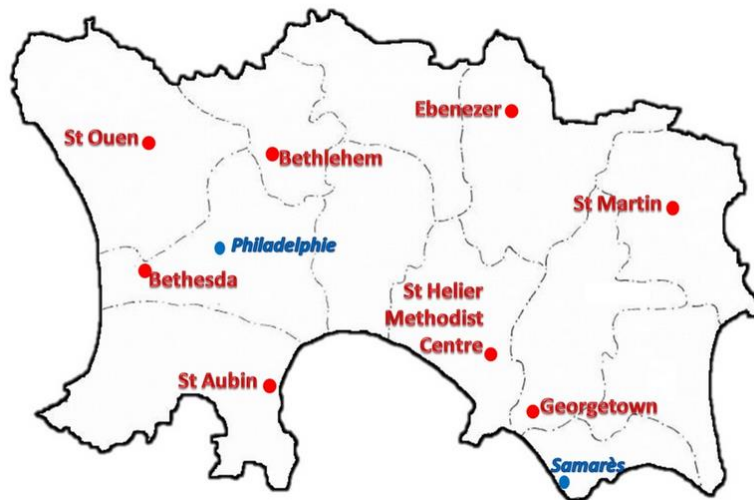
More information about the Island in general can be obtained from many local web sites including www.gov.je , www.jersey.com and the Parishes websites (links to all 12 websites from www.comite.je).

Jersey Methodist Circuit

The Circuit is part of the Channel Island District.

There are 8 Methodist Churches with a total membership of c. 400.

Two former Methodist churches continue to operate as a base for community and mission work.



A number of part-time lay workers are engaged by local churches and the Circuit employs two Church Pastoral staff, a Circuit Administrator and a Circuit Treasurer.

Further information is on the website www.jerseymethodist.co.uk

Transport to and from Jersey

There are excellent air and sea links to and from Jersey. Services are more frequent in the summer months and prices vary but may be cheaper if booked in advance and outside school holiday periods. Occasionally services are affected by adverse weather conditions, in particular fog can cause flight delays or cancellations and rough seas can affect shipping links:

- air services are available daily throughout the year to many destinations in the UK and Europe; carriers currently include British Airways, Easyjet and Blue Islands amongst others.
- sea links to the UK and France (fast ferry roll-on/off) are provided by Condor Ferries.

Accommodation, moving costs and manses

A manse is provided as set out in Standing Orders and currently the relocation grant is set by Connexion at £600.

All removal costs, including the Minister's and spouse's car etc, are paid by the Circuit/Connexion. You will need to register your car in Jersey and also apply for Jersey driving licences – Minister's costs are met by the Circuit (further details in 'Motoring' below).

When it comes to getting estimates for the move it is expected that you obtain three including one from an international firm such as Pickfords or Whites. It is essential to get all firms quoting to split the quotation so that the cost of the sea shipment, including marine insurance, is clearly identified as this part of the total cost is recoverable by the Circuit from Connexion. Should you already have household insurance arranged through Methodist Insurance this is likely to provide the marine insurance – but please check!

The Circuit is offering Seawood House as the manse for the position available through stationing from September 2024.

Front of Seawood House



“Seawood House” is situated on Tower Road in the Parish of St Helier.

The Parish website is www.sthelier.je.

The nearest primary schools are First Tower (or d’Auvergne) and Haute Vallee secondary school but please refer to school catchment information on www.gov.je or from the Education Department.

Front garden and driveway



Rear garden



Stipend

The Stipend is paid monthly in advance directly to a bank account of your choice. The rate is that set by Connexion but is adjusted upwards by a Jersey Allowance (currently 22% of basic stipend). Whilst there are many benefits from living on Jersey, it is generally acknowledged that some basic foodstuffs are more expensive than in the UK. There is currently no VAT but there is 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) which applies to all goods including food.

All the main UK banks have branches in the Island and you may wish to open a local account – the banks have to meet strict KYC (Know Your Customer) requirements and you should allow sufficient time for this.

Social Security/National Insurance

Methodist Ministers in Jersey are regarded as self-employed and as such are responsible for the payment of the equivalent of both employer and employee Social Security contributions (NI in UK terms). In an attempt to maintain a level playing field with colleagues in the UK, the Circuit makes a further contribution of 7½% on all stipend payments. This can be paid directly into the Methodist Ministers' Retirement Scheme by way of AVC with no tax implications or in cash or a mixture of the two. However, any cash payment will be regarded as taxable income and will also impact upon the amount of Social Security contribution.

Jersey has its own Social Security; state pensions and benefits differ from those in the UK and you should refer to current information from the UK Department for Works and Pensions (see www.dwp.gov.uk/lifeevent/workage/) and from the Jersey Customer and Local Services Department (see www.gov.je). It is important to bring with you P60s for the previous 3 years so that the level of Social Security payment may be fixed on previous earnings. This also applies to a working spouse. The different financial year end dates can impact upon pension entitlements unless properly protected. Further details can be obtained both by telephone and from websites.

Family income supplement/allowances also differ in Jersey. There is no Child Tax Credit or Child Benefit, as in the UK, but there is 'Income Support' which is a means tested allowance but only available to persons who have been resident for 5 years. Further details are available from the Customer and Local Services Department in Jersey. The Circuit Stewards are alert to the potential financial disadvantage to a Minister with dependent child(ren) moving to Jersey because of the loss of Child Tax Credit and/or Child Benefit. We have alerted the Connexional Allowances Committee to this issue and wish to assure you that we are currently seeking a satisfactory solution; pending the outcome of this we make a payment equivalent to the UK child benefit. We do not wish this potential financial disadvantage to deter you from considering an invitation to Jersey if God is calling you here.

Income Tax

The tax year in Jersey is the calendar year. The Income Tax Instalment System (ITIS) rate is calculated from the registration information you provide. ITIS works on the current year basis and you can update the rate if your income changes to make sure you don't underpay. The tax is then finalised the following year when the return is submitted (any unpaid balance would need to be paid or a repayment would be due if the tax was overpaid).

It is important to note that the allowances are based on the period of residence in Jersey in weeks and the tax year is from January-December but, in line with Connexion, stipends are paid monthly in advance. It may be that a reduced/nil UK tax bill will be payable in the years of moving from and back to the UK, depending upon your personal circumstances.

Motoring

This section applies for an appointment of more than 12 months.

There is a potential vehicle importation tax to pay on cars. This is suspended if you have owned the car for at least 6 months and is conditional upon the car being retained for a further 12 months in Jersey. Vehicle registration with new number plates will be required - further details available from www.gov.je

You will need to exchange UK driving licences for Jersey driving licences; application is made to your Parish (one passport quality photo required; cost is currently £50 for a 10 year licence – see ‘Accommodation and moving costs’ above).

A mileage allowance is payable, see ‘Expenses’ below.

Road tax was abolished in Jersey some years ago in favour of an additional tax on petrol/diesel. However, a ‘windscreen insurance disc’ (WID) is required as proof that the vehicle is insured and this is provided by the insurance company.

Periodic inspections (similar to MOT) are being phased in for all vehicles.

Education

Jersey has good public funded and private schools, which take young people through to university stage (see www.gov.je).

Within the States (public funded) system, primary schools cover Reception to year 6, with secondary education for years 7 – 11 provided at a further four schools. Some primary schools have nursery provision and there are also private nurseries. There is an optional 14+ transfer to Hautlieu School for GCSE and ‘A’ level courses. Students may also transfer at 16+ for ‘A’ levels.

For information about the local College for Further Education, which has links to UK universities, see www.highlands.ac.uk). The Government of Jersey gives financial help to Jersey resident students studying in higher education, postgraduate professional qualifications, a 1 year level 3 vocational arts course or Skills Bursary. For details, including residence requirements (‘Who can receive student finance’), see <https://www.gov.je/Working/Careers/16To19YearOlds/EnteringHigherEducation/pages/studentfinancehighereducationfunding.aspx>.

In each academic year, Connexion will fund six single trips to/from the UK for Minister’s children attending higher education in the UK.

Employment

The position of Minister has ‘Licensed’ status under the Circuit’s Control of Housing and Work ‘business licence’, and should his/her spouse wish to seek paid employment that will be under ‘Entitled to Work’ status (therefore apply for any jobs irrespective of otherwise stated 5-year residential qualification requirements). Adult children moving to Jersey are likely to have restricted employment opportunities until they have been

resident for 5 years. However, this was relaxed earlier in 2023 for those aged under 25 in full-time education when they arrive in Jersey and living with a qualified parent (currently able to access all jobs in the local market for the first five years of residency).

Pets

There are a few restrictions on the import of pets so it is worth checking with your vet and/or Customs and Excise. Information on importing pets and other small animals is also available on www.gov.je.

Local legislation requires all dogs to be licensed and an annual permit must be purchased from the Parish Hall (cost £10 per dog) – see your Parish website (under ‘Licences & Permits’).

Expenses

The Circuit provides cover for the following expenses at currently agreed rates:

Telephone: the Circuit meets the cost of a telephone line rental and call costs for church purposes, Ministers contribute to call costs for private use. A broadband facility is also provided at Circuit cost. Monthly telephone accounts are paid by the Circuit by direct debit. On a quarterly basis, as part of the expenses claim, you are asked submit a copy account to notify the Circuit Treasurer of the cost of personal calls in the preceding quarter and this will be deducted from the payment of other expenses for that period. Packages are available which often include a mobile contract and the Circuit Treasurer will arrange a contract based on your requirements.

Postage: A claim form is sent to all Ministers on a quarterly basis in order that postage incurred for the Circuit as a whole may be reclaimed. Postage in relation to the church(es) for which you are responsible should be claimed from the respective church treasurer.

Stationery: As for postage above (this includes printer ink etc). The Circuit has an account with Paperclix Ltd, a local stationer, through which items of stationery may be purchased and the account is sent monthly to the Circuit Treasurer (you should forward details of purchases with your quarterly expenses claim).

Medical Expenses: Medical cover differs from that available in the UK. The Health Insurance Scheme requires 6 months’ residence to qualify for benefit, so for the first 6 months, the Circuit meets all doctor’s and related costs (an introduction to a Doctor/General Practitioner can be made on your arrival). After 6 months, the Health Insurance Scheme provides a subsidy towards doctor’s charges and prescribed drugs on an approved list – the Circuit will reimburse the balance of the doctor’s charge and meet the cost of prescribed drugs not on the approved list. These costs are reimbursed by Connexion to the Circuit. Medical expenses are treated as an additional income by Income Tax and therefore ITIS is deducted from amounts paid to you by the Circuit; if payment is made direct to the supplier it may be a benefit in kind and tax is not deducted (there is a limit on the total value of benefits in kind that is exempt from tax, please refer to Revenue Jersey for full

details). Specialist treatment/surgery is available through the local hospital, on referral by a General Practitioner. Hospital treatment is free. Patients may be referred to the UK for tertiary treatment.

Dentists' and Opticians' services are not free in Jersey and the Circuit does not fund these costs. Some cover may be available through the hospital e.g. for younger children, and there is a Government contributory dental scheme (conditions apply – please refer to gov.je). It is strongly recommended that all treatment is up to date before leaving the UK mainland. A contribution may be considered towards dental treatment (but not cosmetic work) if the costs would cause financial hardship but only in the event that this assistance is sought from the Circuit Stewards prior to treatment starting (it may be necessary to seek estimates from more than one dentist).

Mileage/Travel Expenses: Connexional allowances are paid; the car mileage allowance is 45p per mile (20p per mile for bicycle) and is claimed each quarter. It is a requirement to maintain a log. Mileage is considered fully expended for tax purposes. The Jersey Taxable allowance for mileage is 60p per mile so the 15p extra can be offset against the state tax return.

Travel costs for courses and meetings are normally dealt with on an 'as and when' basis, following approval by the Superintendent.

Holiday Travel: Connexion currently meets the cost of up to two personal/family visits to the UK each year.



We have made every effort to ensure that this information is accurate but it is only intended to draw attention to major differences, it is not a legal document and is in no way exhaustive (we apologise for any errors or omissions).

Should you have any questions please do contact the Circuit Stewards, the Circuit Treasurer E: circuit.treasurer.jsy@gmail.com or the Circuit Administrator E: circuit.office.jsy@gmail.com and we will endeavour to find the answer for you!

Thank you for your interest in a stationing opportunity in Jersey.