



INDEPENDENT

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Quality
Education

Quality
Healthcare



What Will We See for £9Million



After Hantavirus It's World Cup Fever

Spurs To The Rescue



And a Few Others



LANDING SOON

A £9 Million-Plus Hand Out

What Will WE See For It?

The Chagos Islands migrant agreement has been extended to April 2028. The UK Government will handover £9.05 million to the St Helena Government as part of the agreed settlement.

The St Helena Government announced this week the negotiations with the UK Government on extending the Chagos Islands migrant agreement have concluded. The original agreement expired on 15th April. The extension to the agreement will run for a further two years. The original agreement was for 18 months.

Most of the money will be a “one-off payment of £8 million to support the Government’s strategic priorities”. What these priorities might be is not explained. The only reference to them is in a quote attributed to the chief minister where she says the money will, “help us progress important priorities that will benefit our community over the long term”, and “this arrangement provides an opportunity to invest in St Helena’s future, strengthening our infrastructure, supporting the community, and helping to build a more resilient, sustainable and confident island for the years ahead.”

Contrast those words with the text of the speech the chief minister was not able to make at the last Legislative Council because she was needed to join a meeting on the extension to the Chagos migrant agreement. Here is an extract from the text:-

“Since taking office, this Government has faced a succession of operational and national challenges – airport operational difficulties, the Foot and Mouth Disease situation in South Africa affecting food supply resilience, the recent hantavirus precautionary response, electricity outages, financial pressures, and wider resilience concerns linked to growing international instability and conflict in the Middle East. Many of these challenges stem from years of underinvestment, deferred maintenance, ageing infrastructure, difficult financial realities, and the practical difficulties of operating essential services within a remote island environment and the weather. We are also particularly vulnerable to external shocks and events beyond our control, while having limited local capacity and resources to absorb their impact.”

While an extra £8 million is always welcome, it will do little to overcome the daunting disadvantages that burden ambitions for ‘a more resilient, sustainable and confident island for the years ahead.’

The most recent budget settlement bestowed upon us by the UK Government includes £40 million over the next three years, made available through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) to support essential capital investment – as they describe it. It is said about half of the £40 million is already allocated to two projects which are hangovers from many years ago. One is the bulk fuel installation in Rupert’s Valley. Around £80 million has already been spent on that ill-fated part of the airport project with no resulting benefit. A further large, and carefully not mentioned, sum of money is being thrown at it in a further attempt to get something out of it. The other of the two projects is the new prison at Bottom Woods. Will this be known as HM Prison Big Hole? Another massive and unspecified sum of money is being thrown into making a big hole at the site for the prison before the first concrete block is laid.

Both are funded by the absurdly named Economic Development Investment Programme. Storing fuel is peripheral to economic development, building a new prison is as close to economic development as the nearest galaxy (Andromeda) is to our own Milky Way – that’s 2.5 million light years. For the anal-retentive, light travels 5,880,000,000,000 miles in one year.

Can any minister, past or present, point to a development project which has successfully sown seeds from which has been propagated a healthy economic activity which has grown from its own successful momentum? Most of the larger government funded endeavours are on life support or visibly decaying.

For this we can bring the UK Government into the firing line as much or more than SHG.

A £9 Million-Plus Hand Out

What Will WE See For It?

Here Lies St Helena



A further £800,000 of the £9.05 million package is to 'strengthen preparedness for any potential future migrant arrivals.' Please SHG, substitute 'future tourist arrivals' for the last bit. No-one will know the difference. Anyway, the next Chagos migrant will be the first. More B&Bs or guest houses are necessary if tourism is to continue to grow. Is it growing? There are no figures on the SHG website for the past eleven months. Tourists spending money here is the only faint hope we have for a patchy improvement in standards of living.

And finally, the last part of the £9.05 million package is 'a one-off unrestricted ex-gratia payment to SHG' of £250,000. Ex gratia payment? This usually means a voluntary financial gesture; it is non-contractual with no legal liability to pay. The world-weary and weather-beaten among us will discount that one.

The question remains, will the £8 million produce visible, tangible benefits for people generally or will it be sucked up by some of those many things where money has to be spent but there is nothing to show for it?

And There is Always Trump

It is worth keeping in mind the next United States presidential election will be in November 2028. The winner will be sworn in as president the following January. Remember too, that Trump's foreign policy includes spite, vengeance, revenge, petulance and greed as major motivations. Trump withdrew his support for the transfer of the Chagos Islands from Britain to Mauritius soon after the UK Government made it clear they would not get involved in Trump's war against Iran. On past form, Trump may well change his mind again on the UK/Mauritius agreement before his term of office ends. If he doesn't, there is the possibility of a further extension of the related UK/St Helena Chagos agreement into 2029.

UK State Pensions

The Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the Chagos migrant agreement with the UK includes in Annex A, under the heading, Requirements and Requests, 'Thawing of UK state pensions' with an indication that about 20 people would benefit from UK state pensions increasing broadly in line with price inflation. Where the figure '20' comes from no one seems to know. Add another nought to that number. There is no separation of Requirements from Requests in the list, it seems taking a blow torch to the deep frozen UK state pensions is firmly in the request category. The first Chagos agreement came and went and nothing happened.

In this week's announcement on the extension to the Chagos agreement SHG say, "Thawing of the UK State Pension uplift for eligible residents was an element of the St Helena Government's negotiating position. The UKG has confirmed there has been no change to their policy on uplifting State pensions. Which is a curious way to say the UK government policy is definitely NOT to take the UK state pension payable to people who live overseas out of the deepfreeze. Another legalised rip-off.

Statement From Cllr Andrew Turner – Minister for Education



I want to speak directly and honestly to you about my decision to support the extension of the agreement with the UK Government relating to any migrants who may arrive on the British Indian Ocean Territory.

This has not been an easy decision, and I know it will not be welcomed by everyone.

Many people will remember that I strongly opposed the original agreement when it was signed by the previous government. I did so publicly and consistently. I believed then, and still believe now, that the way the agreement was negotiated and signed was fundamentally wrong. It was done in secret. Councillors were not consulted. The public was not informed. By the time the island learned of it, the agreement had already been signed.

That damaged trust and was unacceptable.

It also left many people feeling shocked, anxious and powerless over something that could have significant consequences for St Helena. I shared those feelings myself.

So I understand why some people may now question why I support extending this agreement and I believe that it is only fair that I give an honest answer. One that is rooted in reality and responsibility rather than simply politics.

Over the last two years, the situation has changed. The agreement is no longer secret. The public knows about it. The risks have been discussed openly. The original agreement is a public document we are aware of.

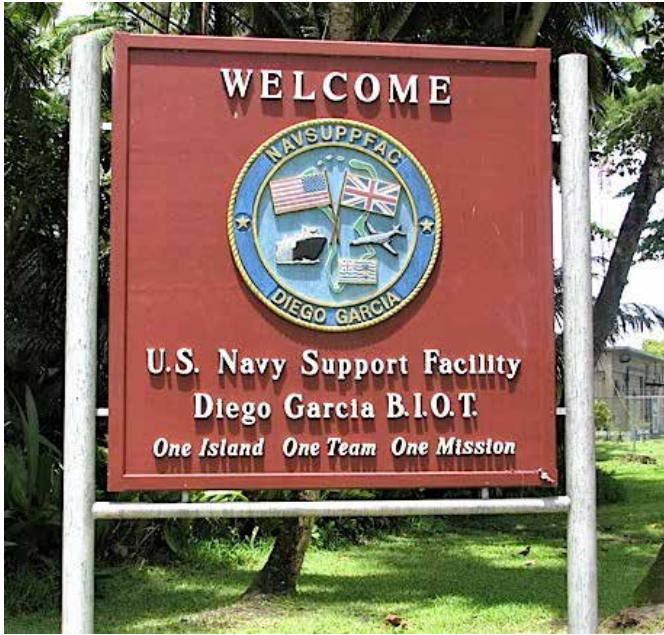
This time, negotiations took place with far greater transparency. While detailed negotiations did need to be held in confidence, we informed the public early on that we were considering an extension to the deal and I made a point of listening carefully to members of our community who came forward to share concerns, fears and objections.

Those conversations mattered to me. They showed the genuine worries about the impact this could have on our island, particularly the risk of cultural shock and pressure on our community should larger numbers ever arrive here. I do not dismiss those concerns because I have raised them myself repeatedly. They are real concerns, and government has a duty to take them seriously.

For me, supporting this extension depended on whether stronger protections for St Helena could be secured and we were able to negotiate stronger protections.

I also have a duty to be truthful about another reality that influenced my decision. But I also want to be honest about the difficult reality I faced in reaching this decision. As Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, I carry a responsibility to the children and young people of this island, and to the parents, teachers and wider community who want to see them succeed.

Statement From Cllr Andrew Turner – Minister for Education



Our education system is currently undergoing major transformation. The work to reorganise primary education, improve standards and strengthen the future of our schools began under my predecessor, and I believe those reforms were necessary and the right direction for St Helena. However, it also became clear that the original funding attached to those plans would not be enough to fully deliver the changes required.

That placed me in an extremely difficult position and left me facing a difficult balance.

On one side were the potential risks associated with extending this agreement. On the other was the very real risk of failing to deliver the

investment and reforms needed to give our children the education they deserve.

I had to weigh the potential risks associated with this agreement against the very real risk of failing our children and young people by allowing vital education reforms to stall or collapse through lack of funding.

I could not ignore that responsibility and after careful thought, I concluded that I could not allow the future of our young people to be compromised.

The funding unlocked through this extension will allow us to continue building an education system that this island can be proud of: one that equips our children and young people with the skills, opportunities and confidence they need to thrive in the modern world.

So yes, I changed my position on extending this agreement. I did so after careful consideration. Some people, will now try to use my previous opposition against me. I expect that. Some may accuse me of hypocrisy. But I think the people of St Helena deserve honesty more than they deserve political theatre.

The easiest thing for me politically would probably have been to maintain my opposition regardless of the consequences. But leadership is not about protecting yourself from criticism. It is about making difficult decisions, accepting accountability for them, and being honest with people about why you made them.

You may agree with my decision or you may not, I can respect both sides. But I hope people will at least understand that I have not reached it lightly, casually or without reflection.

Everything I have done in this process has been guided by what I genuinely believe is in the long term interests of this island, its children and its future.

Spurs to the Rescue – with the help of a few others

Spurs Henry, 30 years a Falkland resident but still a Saint, joined the Pathfinders Platoon - the elite reconnaissance advance force for the British Army's 16 Air Assault Brigade, and the crew of HMS Medway, an offshore patrol vessel to help Tristan da Cunha with the support needed during the recent hantavirus infection.

After the call of the MV Hondius, one person showed symptoms of infection, other Tristanians had been in contact with the ship's passengers during their Tristan call, a day or two after the first fatality onboard the Hondius. Medical supplies and equipment were needed as well as additional medical staff. Spurs as an auxiliary medic, along with Nurse Jordan Mettner, volunteered to go to Tristan to support the island's medical staff.

HMS Medway patrols the Falklands and the Caribbean. On this occasion the vessel was used to take Spurs and Jordan from the Falklands to Tristan and take back to the Falklands the Pathfinder paratroopers. They arrived at Tristan at first light on Sunday 24th May. The swell was lively, as it had been the day before. The Medway cruised up and own offshore from Calshot harbour as they waited for an opportunity to disembark personnel and equipment. The civilian medics were the first off the ship, with the paratroopers and military medics using the return trip.

Administrator Philip Kendall, described the sea conditions as very much on the edge with a big swell and strong winds. But the skilled Tristan RIB crews and the Medway's crew did their best to offload and backload the kit. In the end it was deemed unsafe to continue, so some of the kit remained on island and will be shipped at a later date. With all personnel either safe on shore or onboard, HMS Medway set a course for the Falklands on Sunday afternoon.



HMS Medway, riding the Tristan sea conditions

The Islands' Gratitude

In a report published on the Tristan News Website, Administrator Philip Kendall wrote, "This is a cross-territory effort. Four of the arriving medics are from the United Kingdom, and two from the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands Government had issued a Press Release about their contribution to the operation. Actually, one of the Kelpers is really a Saint - 'Spurs' having moved to the Falklands from St Helena 30 years ago."

"My admiration for everyone involved in this operation is hard to put into words. From the RAF who flew here two weeks

ago, to the Army who jumped from the plane, and the Royal Navy who came to pick them up in challenging conditions. Also the people of the Falklands for assisting us in our time of need. But most of all, the people of Tristan whose bravery today, coupled with the hospitality and friendship offered to all the visitors in the last two weeks, have made me so proud."

"The good news is that the one suspected case on Tristan is now well enough to recuperate at home, and whilst we have a handful of people in precautionary isolation, we are moving in the right direction. The newly arrived civilian medics will relieve our tired medical team and give them all a well deserved rest, therefore enhancing the medical resilience of the island."

Change in Use of Crown Land

The Crown Estates Office wishes to advise the public of a change in approach regarding the use of Crown land.

Historically, some areas of Crown land were used for the temporary storage of excavated soil, gravel and stone and construction materials. Going forward, any such use will require prior approval from Crown Estates, along with the necessary planning permission, regardless of whether it is intended to be temporary. This is to ensure that land is properly managed and protected, and to reduce the likelihood of temporary arrangements becoming permanent.

An immediate concern is the Guns area at Ladder Hill, where materials, including gravel, stone and a container, are currently being stored. Members of the public are therefore requested to remove all materials, spoil and aggregate as soon as possible, and no later than 30th June 2026.

This is particularly important as improvement works are planned for the site, including upgrades to the tennis court and repainting of the Guns. Clearing the surrounding environment is essential to support these works and to enhance the overall appearance of the area.

Access to the area will also be reviewed. Multiple padlocks are currently on the site gates, but future access will be restricted to essential stakeholders only, with controlled key management in place.

The Crown Estates Office appreciates the public's cooperation in ensuring that the area is cleared promptly and that Crown land is used more responsibly.

For further information, please contact Mike Durnford, Crown Estate Manager, via 22270 or mike.durnford@sainthelena.gov.sh.



Nursery Provision

The Education, Skills and Employment (ESE) Portfolio is offering non-compulsory nursery education for all children between the ages of three and four years.

ESE will be in contact with parents/guardians of those children born on island and who are eligible to enter nursery education in the school year September 2026 – August 2027. This is to offer a place and provide details of school placement and date of admission.

It would be appreciated if parents/guardians of children who were not born on St Helena could submit the following information in writing to the Assistant Director of Schools, Kerry Lawrence, so that an offer of placement can be made:

- **The child's full name and date of birth**
- **Name and address of parent or guardian**
- **Telephone number and email address (if applicable)**

Once all required information has been received, parents/guardians will be advised of their child's nursery placement.

All correspondence pertaining to this matter can be sent to the Assistant Director of Schools, Kerry Lawrence, at the Education and Learning Centre, Jamestown, by email to: kerry.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh

Weekly Hantavirus Update

As we reach the end of the week, the St Helena Government (SHG) is providing its scheduled Friday update on the territorial hantavirus response. Local health teams, alongside international partners, continue to maintain robust monitoring systems across the islands.

Territorial Status Update

- St Helena: There remain zero confirmed or suspected cases of hantavirus on St Helena.
- Ascension Island: There are currently no confirmed cases on the island.
- Tristan da Cunha: The single probable case identified earlier this month remains in stable condition.

Summary of Key Weekly Achievements

- On-Island Testing: The limited on-island laboratory testing capability managed by specialist UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) personnel is operational. Testing is strictly prioritised for clinical screening by the medical team and weekly monitoring of high-risk contacts; it is not available on request. A negative test result does not allow an individual to exit isolation early but serves as an early clinical warning system.
- Completed Relocations: Following last weekend's successful Titan Airways charter flight, all nine relocated individuals from St Helena and Ascension are safely in the UK continuing their precautionary isolation periods near specialised medical facilities.

A Message of Thanks to Those in Isolation

As most of us looked forward to the St Helena Day celebrations and the upcoming public holiday, SHG and Gold Command wish to extend a sincere thank you to those individuals who are currently in self-isolation. We recognise that enduring this period of isolation, especially in the midst of uncertainty and during a time of national celebration, requires immense patience and resilience. Your commitment to following these strict public health measures is a vital part of keeping our wider community safe, and your cooperation is deeply appreciated by the entire island.

Future Communications Schedule

As the hantavirus incident response has stabilised and our on-island protocols are fully established, routine updates will no longer be issued on a fixed schedule. We will provide updates only when new or significant information becomes available. The community is reassured that if any developments occur, SHG will share that information as soon as possible.

If you had direct contact with the MV Hondius and experience symptoms, please call the Hantavirus Screening Line on 25949 for guidance before attending any medical facility.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Pre-heat for a maximum of 10 minutes.

When the oven is in use, avoid opening the door unnecessarily. Every time you do, the temperature drops by around 15°C and takes a lot of energy to get back up to full temperature.





Strengthening Ascension's Maritime Capabilities

Ascension Island Government Celebrates Continued Support and Funding from the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)

The Ascension Island Government is proud to highlight a series of major milestones, training successes, and critical asset acquisitions made possible through the continued support of UK Government and funding of the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

This partnership continues to enhance maritime safety, boost local infrastructure resilience, and uplift the technical skills of our workforce.



In a significant boost to local infrastructure, marine funding from the MCA has secured a new small dory boat for the Georgetown Port.

This boat enables the safe transfer of both boat owners and visiting yachtsmen between the boat span and the landing facilities.

The MCA's funding has also directly invested in the professional development of AIG personnel, yielding exceptional results across two intensive training programs earlier this year:

Advanced Welding Qualifications: In March this year, eight colleagues within the Facilities and Operations Directorate underwent rigorous welding training and testing conducted by TWA Certifications.

Candidates completed intensive coding preparation in both Manual Metal Arc (MMA) and Metal Active Gas (MAG) welding using mild and stainless steel. Every single candidate passed their BS4872-1 coding tests in various positions with flying colours—a fantastic achievement. Our small team is now better equipped to carry out all welding jobs in particular, all repairs on our marine craft.



Coxswain Training: Eleven of AIG's boat and barge coxswains successfully tackled an intensive, three-part marine training and assessment program. Covering collision regulations, navigation, firefighting, personal survival, and practical vessel handling, the course demanded an outstanding level of commitment. Several candidates are now actively working toward completing their final sea hours to solidify this critical qualification.

This collaborative momentum was further highlighted in March, when Ascension welcomed a successful visit from the MCA's Overseas Strategic Policy Manager for Maritime Governance and Regulatory Compliance. This visit underscored the strong strategic alignment between the MCA and AIG.

Looking ahead, the partnership will continue to focus on environmental protection and emergency readiness. This coming July, AIG will host another round of the Counter Pollution Workshop, immediately followed by a comprehensive, live Oil Spill exercise to test and refine local response capabilities.

The MCA's continued support is making a tangible, daily difference on Ascension. From the arrival of the span boat to the training our welding and coxswain teams have just mastered, this funding directly elevates our safety, capability, and resilience. We extend our sincerest thanks to the MCA for their ongoing commitment to Ascension's port, and we look forward to working closely with them at next month's Red Ensign Group Conference and July's counter-pollution training.



Dear Editor,

I read with interest the letter from Russell James aka Lucky Thomson in response to mine, and I am glad that he responded; many years ago, I criticised the then Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, in a letter to the Gibraltar Chronicle, describing an idea of his as ridiculous, to which he responded, though using more straw man arguments than ad hominem ones, unlike another letter writer, who accused me of appealing to the lunatic fringe. Consequently, I am old enough to be able to take what I dish out, as well as ugly enough; yes, on the front page of 'the other paper' dated 27 January 2023, you will see a picture of me, warts and all, but I think its readers will have recovered from the shock!

However, I stand by what I say about the need to put your head above the parapet and put your name to what you write, particularly as this relates to an issue that isn't that emotive, as well as one that relates to the UK as well as St Helena. While I concede that I was overly dismissive of what Mr James was proposing, the reality is that I have seen no shortage of constitutional proposals put forward over the decades, and those are just the ones in my lifetime; and what's more, many of these innovations are not that new. More to the point, many of those putting them forward tend to be timewasters, and those are just those who say who they are, like Gibraltar's Representation In Westminster Movement, so I am sorry if I seem so cynical and pessimistic.

Do I like the present constitutional arrangements or the way St Helena's interests are currently represented in Parliament? No, I think they are not fit for purpose. Do I wish they could be changed, instead of the can being constantly kicked down the road over decades and centuries? Yes, very much so. But unfortunately, neither the St Helena Government nor the elected members of the Legislative Council have expressed an opinion on this, despite them having ample opportunity to do so in the last Parliament, when the House of Commons had not one but two Select Committee inquiries on the Overseas Territories, in which the Falkland Islands Government and Tristan da Cunha Council made their position on Westminster representation quite clear: not wanted; not needed, no advantage.

As it happens, I was told something similar by someone in SHG ('St Helena does not support having an MP in the UK Parliament') so perhaps Mr James might like to take the issue up with them. What I found disappointing about that wasn't that it was something that SHG officials had repeatedly and publicly said in the past, but that it was simply echoing if not parroting what their counterparts in other Overseas Territories had said, not least those in the Falklands and Tristan. Unlike the fable of the boy crying wolf, in which no one believed him when he was telling the truth because he'd lied so many times before, the longer you remain silent when others are expressing their opinions, even if you agree with them, the less seriously you will be taken when you express opinions of your own.

Please rest assured, Mr James, I have never claimed to be 'pre-eminent' on this topic, and would be absolutely delighted if there were more people either in St Helena or connected with it expressing their opinions on it, and exchanging them in a public forum, just as there are in Gibraltar, if you google the names Wilfred Stagnetto and Robert Vasquez; the former, a self-confessed layman, favours Westminster representation, the latter, a King's Counsel, emphatically doesn't, though the two remain friends despite their disagreement on this. And while I am touched at your concern for my well-being, Mr James, I feel far more pity than anger towards those who have to hide behind a shroud of anonymity, indeed in this case, I feel sorrow, as you are clearly a well read individual. However, referring to Wikipedia is bad practice; it is far better to refer to authoritative sources, for example, the UN General Assembly or UK Parliament, given that Wikipedia can be edited by anyone.

**Yours,
Ken Westmoreland**

MMR Vaccine Clinic Schedule

People due to receive their first or second Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccination are invited to attend the following sessions.

Important reminder: If attending for your second dose, please ensure that at least 28 days have passed since your first vaccination.

Vaccination is an important step in protecting yourself and helping to safeguard the wider community.

For individuals who are housebound and unable to attend any of the scheduled sessions, home visits can be arranged with a nurse. Please contact the Health Promotion Team on 25949 to register your request.

District	Date	Time
Longwood (Harford Community Centre)	Monday 1 June	10:00 – 12:00
Levelwood (Clinic)	Tuesday 2 June	10:00 – 12:00
Sandybay (Community Centre)	Tuesday 2 June	13:30 – 15:00
HTH (CCC)	Wednesday 3 June	10:00 – 12:00
Jamestown Community Centre	Thursday 4 June	10:00 – 14:00
Kingshurst Community Centre	Tuesday 9 June	11:00 – 13:00
Blue Hill Community Centre	Wednesday 10 June	10:00 - 11:30
Guinea Grass Community Centre	Wednesday 10 June	13:00 – 15:00



Diocese of St Helena

The Parish of St Paul's

Sunday 31st May 2026 – Trinity Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark

Thursday 4th June

7.00 p.m.	Praise and Worship	St Andrew
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The Parish of St James

Sunday 31st May 2026 – Trinity Sunday

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael

Monday 1st June

7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
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Thursday 4th June

7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
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The Parish of St Matthew

Sunday 31st May 2026 – Trinity Sunday

11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
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Tuesday 2nd June

7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark
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WILLS AID

MAKE A WILL WEEK IN SUPPORT OF
ISLAND MINDS FOUNDATION
THIS WEEK ONLY 15-19 June 2026

MAKING A WILL – WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

It's easy to put off making a will. But if you die without one, all that you own (your assets) may be distributed according to the law rather than your wishes. This could mean that your partner receives less, or that the money goes to family members who may not need it.

It is important for you to make a will, whether or not you consider you have many possessions or much money, because: -

- if you die without a will, there are certain rules which set out how money, property or possessions should be allocated. This may not be in accordance with your wishes.
- unmarried partners cannot inherit from each other unless there is a will, so the death of one partner may create serious financial problems for the remaining partner. There is no such thing as a 'common law wife or husband'.
- if you have children, you will need to make a will so that arrangements for the children can be made if either one or both parents die.
- if your circumstances have changed, it is important that you make a will to ensure that your money and possessions are distributed according to your wishes. For example, if you have separated and your ex-partner now lives with someone else, you may want to change your will. If you are married this may make any previous will you have made invalid.

Wills Aid has been running since 1988. Wills Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and charity. The idea is that, instead of paying a solicitor's fee, clients are invited to make a donation to charity for the cost of the will. The Public Solicitor Office is supporting Wills Aid and has nominated Island Minds Foundation as our charity for 2026.

If you would like further information about making a will or updating your existing will please contact the Public Solicitor office. Based on current charges, the donation to the charity will be £20 for a simple and straightforward will. For a more complicated will, charges will be between £20 and £50.

For an appointment please contact:
office@publicsolicitor.com or by telephone 23008

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD IT ASSISTANT

Connect Saint Helena Ltd has a vacancy within the Business Support Team for an IT Assistant to carry out daily technical support for the company's IT infrastructure and employees. The role will report to the IT Officer and act as the first point of contact for IT queries, delivering professional end-user support in person and by phone. By consulting with departments to assess and address their specific requirements, the IT Assistant supports operational continuity and system reliability across the organisation.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES



- Knowledge of Computer Systems, hardware, software, networking, cyber security and cloud technologies
- Current experience working in IT Environment providing computer hardware and software support (1 year).
- Ability to troubleshoot and solve technical problems.
- Driving Licence, Class A.

QUALIFICATIONS



- GCSE in English and Maths at Grade C or above
- GCSE in ICT or Computer Science

BENEFITS



- A competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 30 days annual leave.

For further information contact Saheed Oyewo on +290 22255 or email Saheed.Oyewo@connectonline.co.sh. Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Annalisa.Young@connectonline.co.sh by 9:00am on Monday, 15 June 2026. To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.



www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html



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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/>



WILLS AID SUPPORTING CHARITY ON ST HELENA

Wills Aid has been running in England and Wales since 1988 and was adopted on St Helena in 2017. Wills Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and charity. The idea is that, instead of paying a solicitor's fee, clients are invited to make a donation to charity for the cost of the will. The Public Solicitor Office has nominated New Horizons Youth Club over the past 12 months and are pleased to have donated £1,000 to this worthy organisation. For the current financial year the Public Solicitor Office has nominated Island Minds Foundation as the charity of the year.



EARLY CLOSURE AT CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE WEDNESDAY, 3RD JUNE 2026

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers the Customer Service Centre will close from **1:00pm on Wednesday, 3 June** to facilitate staff training.

The Bank apologises for any inconvenience this may cause and thank customers for their support.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.



info@sainthelenabank.com



+290 22390



www.sainthelenabank.com



Market Street, Jamestown



[@sainthelenabank](https://www.facebook.com/sainthelenabank)



Bank of St Helena Ltd

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004

Vacancy

Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper



Salary for the post will commence at £11,100 per annum (£213 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Bulk Fuel Installation for a Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper.

As the Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper, you will be responsible for the loading and delivery of fuels to clients and accountable for completion of documents. Provide support to the Watchkeepers as and when required, assist with general maintenance duties, fuel transfers between storage tanks and also assist with Ship-to-Shore Tanker operations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Ideally be familiar with the safe loading, transportation and dispensing of fuels in bulk via Road Tanker
- Be in possession of a clean & valid drivers' licence in class J4
- Have basic competency in Maths & English
- Be able to work unsocial hours, including shift work
- Be customer focused and able to deliver excellent level of customer service
- Honest, accountable and proactive
- Be safety conscious and have Health & Safety awareness in a fuels environment
- Able to work effectively in a team environment
- Able to work to a high degree of accuracy in a within a highly structured framework and comply with established procedures
- Ideally have experience or be knowledgeable of the safe handling of fuels
- Be comfortable to work in a hazardous environment and deal with hazardous substances
- Ideally have the ability to perform general maintenance duties
- Ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Mr Rico Yon, BFI Manager via  22332  bfi@helanta.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **11 June 2026**.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Artisan



Salary for the post will commence at £12,252 per annum (£1,021 per month), depending on qualifications and experience

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Building Works Department for an Artisan.

As the Artisan you will perform a variety of tasks appropriate to the skills of a multi-skilled craftsman, ensuring all work is completed by the specified deadlines and which meets the required quality standards.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be competent in Maths & English
- Ideally have NVQ Level 2 or 3 in either carpentry, painting or construction
- Have at least 2 years experience working in the trade industry
- Have a Safety Awareness Certificate, or have undertaken Health & Safety on the worksite training and have the ability to carry out risk assessments
- Be knowledgeable of tools, equipment and materials common to the trade industry
- Have the necessary skills in the construction, repair and restoration in properties refurbishment or new builds
- Have the ability to operate power & hand tools
- Be able to make assessments of job requirements, estimate material requirements and provide method statements
- Be able to follow technical drawings and plans
- Have a clean & valid Driver's License in classes A & C
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent customer service skills
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Mr Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) via  22380  gm-services.properties@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hadmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 11 June 2026**.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Staff Discounts

VACANCY



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Customer Service Officer

Commencing at £11,472 per annum

Bank of St Helena is seeking to recruit a suitable person with the right mix of skills and experience to fill the exciting position of a Customer Services Officer.

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the Customer Service Officer will be responsible for providing an efficient and effective delivery of customer services and Banking products to all customers in a professional and timely manner.

You must provide excellent customer service at all times; be able to deal with customers and visitors in a professional manner and have the ability to deal with awkward/irate customers. Be highly organised and have a keen eye for detail, maintain confidentiality, exhibit high accuracy levels and have the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

Skills and experience the candidate should have:

- GCSE's in Mathematics and English at Grade C or above;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Proficiency in IT skills, including Microsoft Applications and Database;
- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- At least 2 years' experience of working in an office environment and/or in a customer service environment.

Interested persons can contact the Operations Manager on email operationsmanager@sainthelenabank.com or you can contact them on telephone number +290 22390 ext. 205 for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank.

Completed application forms should be addressed to Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 12 June 2026.

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004



info@sainthelenabank.com



www.sainthelenabank.com



[@sainthelenabank](https://www.facebook.com/sainthelenabank)



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Dental Nurse

Total package value up to £34,834pa

(comprising salary up to £17,807 pa, plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

This is a hands-on and varied role supporting the delivery of dental services on Ascension Island. Working closely with the Dental Officer, you'll assist with treatments and help manage the day-to-day running of the clinic, ensuring patients receive a high standard of care. It's a role where you'll see the direct impact of your work within a small team and across the wider community.

What you'll do

You'll provide chair-side support across a range of dental procedures and take a lead role in maintaining clinical standards within the surgery, including sterilisation, decontamination and quality assurance processes. Alongside this, you'll manage appointments, maintain accurate patient records, support billing and ordering of supplies, and assist with laboratory work. You'll also contribute to school visits and oral health promotion, with occasional flexibility required to support wider healthcare duties when needed.

What you'll bring

You'll be a qualified Dental Nurse, registered with the GDC, with a commitment to maintaining your professional development. You'll be organised, reliable and confident working both independently and as part of a small team, with the ability to put patients at ease and handle sensitive situations with professionalism. A flexible, proactive approach and strong attention to detail will help you succeed in this varied role.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £17,807 pa (depending on experience and taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a two-year **accompanied** status contract and the following allowances and benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £2,400 pa (taxable benefit)
- An Accompanied status food allowance of £7,800 pa accompanied, or Single status £3,900 pa
- An electricity allowance worth up to £3,625 pa
- A water allowance worth £3,202 pa accompanied, or £1,921 single status
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- 30 days' annual holiday (with an additional 9 days public holidays)
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free schooling for dependant children from 4 to 16 years.
- Free annual travel insurance
- Death in Service insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

Closing date: **Friday 19th June 2026**

Interviews: **Monday 22 June 2026** (via MS Teams if off island)

Start date: **As soon as possible.**

For more information, a full job description, and to apply, visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/. If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

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2% p.a (2 Year Term)
2.5% p.a (3 Year Term)

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Open an account with £1
Savings Account with instant access to cash

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Rate: **5.5%** Interest Per Annum
Funds are locked until the child's 18th birthday.

Exempt from withholding tax.
Unlimited deposits allowed.

For Your Golden Years (New Life)

Rate: **5%** Interest Per Annum
Funds are locked until age 60 or 65.
Flexible deposits - save any amount at any time.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

www.sainthelenabank.com

Official Investigation into FIFA High Prices

The attorney generals of New York and New Jersey have launched an investigation into FIFA's practices when selling World Cup tickets. The New Jersey attorney general Jennifer Davenport called the process a "gauntlet of confusion, fake scarcity and impossibly high prices". Davenport made a joint announcement alongside New York attorney general Letitia James and the New York City department of consumer and worker protection (DCWP).

Davenport said there would be a "thorough investigation of Fifa's conduct" with world football's governing body subpoenaed to provide information. A subpoena compels a party to release specified internal documents or information.

DCWP commissioner Samuel AA Levine said the body would be taking "allegations of blatantly deceptive conduct very seriously" and would look into allegations of "artificially inflating prices". In particular, Fifa has been asked to explain why tickets have "exceeded the prices for any previous World Cup tournament".

Fans have reported they were "misled" about the location of seats, including through the creation of more expensive 'front' category tickets released after the initial sales. It is also alleged variable pricing through various phases had allowed Fifa to raise prices for about 90 of the 104 fixtures by an average of 34%. The investigation will consider how the ticket release schedule and public statements may have impacted prices.



Infantino explains his position

New Jersey governor Mikie Sherrill previously criticised Fifa's refusal to subsidise transport at the event and insisted local taxpayers would not foot the bill. FIFA president defended the costs, saying they reflect the public's "absolutely crazy" appetite for the summer tournament. But there are signs many fans have walked away due to the high prices.

As of a few days ago, there were face-value tickets available for 86 of the 104 matches and all but 10 of the group-stage matches, for which the fixtures have long been known. The attorneys general in particular highlighted the cost of tickets for eight matches, including the final, at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

"Reports of Fifa conduct in violation of the city's consumer protection law, including misleading fans about seat locations and artificially inflating prices, are deeply troubling," Samuel AA Levine said.



Letitia James, hard to impress

California attorney general Rob Bonta sent a letter to FIFA raising concerns about "potentially misleading ticketing practices" earlier this month. Local organisers have been at loggerheads with FIFA for the past few months over high costs and New Jersey governor Mikie Sherrill previously criticised FIFA's refusal to subsidise transport at the event and insisted local taxpayers would not foot the bill. Hospitality businesses are complaining about advance bookings being lower than in previous years when there was not the World Cup to attract a bumper booking season.



Less Than Two Weeks To Go

The England Squad

England Midfielders

Player	Club	International Caps	International Goals	Age
Declan Rice	Arsenal	72	6	27
Elliot Anderson	Nottingham Forest	7	0	23
Kobbie Mainoo	Manchester United	12	0	21
Jordan Henderson	Brentford	88	3	35
Jude Bellingham	Real Madrid	46	6	22
Morgan Rogers	Aston Villa	13	1	23
Eberechi Eze	Arsenal	16	3	27

England Goalkeepers

Player	Club	International Caps	International Clean Sheets	Age
Jordan Pickford	Everton	82	43	32
Dean Henderson	Crystal Palace	4	2	29
James Trafford	Manchester City	1	0	23

England Defenders

Player	Club	International Caps	International Goals	Age
John Stones	Manchester City	87	3	31
Marc Guehi	Manchester City	27	1	25
Ezri Konsa	Aston Villa	18	1	28
Jarell Quansah	Bayer Leverkusen	1	0	23
Dan Burn	Newcastle United	6	0	34
Nico O'Reilly	Manchester City	3	0	21
Reece James	Chelsea	22	1	26
Tino Livramento	Newcastle United	5	0	23
Djed Spence	Tottenham Hotspur	4	0	25



England Forwards

Player	Club	International Caps	International Goals	Age
Harry Kane	Bayern Munich	112	78	32
Ollie Watkins	Aston Villa	20	6	30
Ivan Toney	Al-Ahli	7	1	30
Bukayo Saka	Arsenal	48	14	24
Noni Madueke	Arsenal	10	1	24
Anthony Gordon	Newcastle United	17	2	25
Marcus Rashford	Barcelona (on loan from Manchester United)	70	18	28

FROM THE COUCH

Contributed by Leigh & Louis



Premier League Results

Sunday 24th	Brighton	0	3	Man United
Sunday 24th	Burnley	1	1	Wolves
Sunday 24th	Crystal Palace	1	2	Arsenal
Sunday 24th	Fulham	2	0	Newcastle
Sunday 24th	Liverpool	1	1	Brentford
Sunday 24th	Man City	1	2	Aston Villa
Sunday 24th	Nott'm Forest	1	1	Bournemouth
Sunday 24th	Sunderland	2	1	Chelsea
Sunday 24th	Tottenham	1	0	Everton
Sunday 24th	West Ham	3	0	Leeds



Table Positions

POS	TEAM	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	38	26	7	5	71	27	44	85
2	Man City	38	23	9	6	77	35	42	78
3	Man United	38	20	11	7	69	50	19	71
4	Aston Villa	38	19	8	11	56	49	7	65
5	Liverpool	38	17	9	12	63	53	10	60
6	Bournemouth	38	13	18	7	58	54	4	57
7	Sunderland	38	14	12	12	42	48	-6	54
8	Brighton	38	14	11	13	52	46	6	53
9	Brentford	38	14	11	13	55	52	3	53
10	Chelsea	38	14	10	14	58	52	6	52
11	Fulham	38	15	7	16	47	51	-4	52
12	Newcastle	38	14	7	17	53	55	-2	49
13	Everton	38	13	10	15	47	50	-3	49
14	Leeds	38	11	14	13	49	56	-7	47
15	Palace	38	11	12	15	41	51	-10	45
16	Nottm Forest	38	11	11	16	48	51	-3	44
17	Spurs	38	10	11	17	48	57	-9	41
18	West Ham	38	10	9	19	46	65	-19	39
19	Burnley	38	4	10	18	38	75	-19	22
20	Wolves	38	3	11	24	27	68	-41	20



Golden Boot award



Golden Glove award



Manager of the Season

Key

Champions League: 1st to 5th

Europa League: 6th, 7th

Relegation: 18th, 19th, 20th

2025/26 Premier League Champions





CRICKET REPORT

Contributed by Cricheroes in conjunction with St Helena Cricket Association

RMS T20

FINAL



Challengers 158/8 (20 overs)

Trystan Thomas - 46* (26)
Sean—Lee Thomas - 35 (29)
Barry Stroud - 4/25 (4 overs)
Ephrem Stroud - 1/11 (1 overs)

beat

Western A Mustangs 38/10 (9.4 overs)

Kyle Bennett - 12 (12)
Scott O'Bey - 11 (9)
Jordan Yon - 3/12 (3 overs)
Jordi Henry - 3/13 (3 overs)

Player of the Match - Joey Thomas (Challengers)

UPCOMING
FIXTURES



Sunday 31st May @ 9:30am Western A Mustangs vs Challengers

Umpires - Dane Leo & Stefan Leo

Sunday 31st May @ 1:30pm Sandy Bay vs Jamestown

Umpires - Delroy Leo & Clayton Leo

RMS T20 LEADERBOARD



- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Joey Thomas (Challengers) | 200 Runs |
| 2. | Andrew Yon (Challengers) | 199 Runs |
| 3. | Rhys Francis (Sandy Bay Pirates) | 198 Runs |



- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Gareth Johnson (Western A Mustangs) | 13 wickets |
| 2. | Joey Thomas (Challenges) | 12 wickets |
| 3. | Tyler Anthony (Western A Mustangs) | 12 wickets |



- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Weston Clingham (Levelwood Allstars) | 10 Dismissals |
| 2. | Cliff Richards (Challengers) | 10 Dismissals |
| 3. | Deon Maggott (Western A Mustangs) | 8 Dismissals |

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Joey Thomas (Challengers) | 44.1 |
| 2. | Rhys Francis (Sandy Bay Pirates) | 35.6 |
| 3. | Barry Stroud (Western A Mustangs) | 32.9 |
| 4. | Andrew Yon (Challengers) | 32.7 |
| 5. | Clayton Leo (Levelwood Allstars) | 30.9 |



Website:

www.sthelenacricknet.org/

Games can also be followed by the Cricheroes app which can be downloaded from Google Play Store.



Facebook

Find us on our facebook page. You can also send us send us a message via facebook.

[@sthelenacricknetassociation](https://www.facebook.com/sthelenacricknetassociation)



Tweet us

During our competitions we tend to tweet updates and information about our games

[@StHelenaCricket](https://twitter.com/StHelenaCricket)



Instagram

The best place to find all the great images of our progress from games to training

[@cricketsthelena](https://www.instagram.com/cricketsthelena)

ST HELENA GOLF REPORT

Contributed by St Helena Golf Club

Keith Buckley Claims Gwyneth Howell 2026 Trophy Challenge

The St Helena Golf Club hosted the 7th edition of the prestigious Gwyneth Howell Trophy Challenge on Sunday, 24 May 2026, played in the traditional cross-country stroke play format. A total of 24 players competed under cloudy but fair conditions.

Keith Buckley produced an outstanding round to win overall on a net 61 (gross 79, handicap 18). Jeremy Clingham finished second on net 65, while Larry Legg took third on net 66 and also returned the Lowest Gross score with 77.

Patrick Johnson, Anthony Green, and Laura Buckley all returned net 67, with positions decided on countback. Peter Bagley followed on 68, while Leeroy Caswell and Cyril Arthur Young both carded 69.

In the special prizes, Jeffrey "Foxy" Stevens won the men's Longest Drive, with Laura Buckley taking the ladies' honours. Peter Bagley claimed Nearest to the Pin (men), while Laura Buckley added the ladies' prize.

Two-Ball Pool winners were Peter Bagley (3rd & 8th holes), Jeremy Clingham (9th), and Larry Legg (17th).

The club extends sincere appreciation to sponsor Gwyneth Howell, who has supported this flagship event since 2019 with generous prizes. In her remarks, Gwyneth—now retired as CEO of St Helena Airport—congratulated all players and confirmed her commitment to continuing this proud legacy.



*Happy
Swinging*



Longwood, Saint Helena Island, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ



+290 24421



shgc@sthelenagolf.com



www.sthelenagolf.com



<https://www.facebook.com/shgc.org.sh>



Blast From the Past



With football being the main highlight over the past couple of weeks, we thought it would be fitting to have this as our "Blast From the Past" segment this week.
Can you name these awardees? - **Photo Provided by Tony Brooks**

MACS SHIPPING SCHEDULE UPDATE



**WHATEVER
YOU NEED
TO SHIP**

	BLUE MASTER II 261208	LILAC ROLLER 261210	GREY FOX 261212
Immingham	25-Apr	25-Apr	06-Jun
	KAROLINE 261704	KAROLINE 261705	KAROLINE 261706
Cape Town	06-May	09-Jun	08-Jul
Rupert's Bay	13-May	17-Jun	16-Jul
Ascension Island			
	KAROLINE 261804	KAROLINE 261805	KAROLINE 261806
Cape Town	26-May	30-Jun	29-Jul

*schedule may change without prior notice. For the latest updates, please visit our website.



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Mr & Mrs

During the month of April two couples tied the knot to become Mr & Mrs.

At the Independent, we have invited all couples if they would like to share their magical day with you and a few replied which we will bring exclusively to you as and when received.

Today we introduced Mr & Mrs Gareth Benjamin

Gareth Neil Benjamin married **Christabel Carissa Beard** on **25 April 2026** at **The Richard's Travel Lodge on St. Helena**, where the wedding reception also took place. The venue was decorated with an elegant 'Tropical' theme. Wedding photography took place at Richard's lodge and the Briars, photography was captured by Miss Roxanna Williams and filming footage by Mr. Colby Thomas.

Previously Gary & Christabel have been together for 8 years. Gary & Christabel travelled from Ascension Island along with family members and friends who helped to celebrate their special day. The wedding party was the Mother of the Bride, Mrs. Fredrica Youde, Christabel's best man was her dad, Mr. Jeffrey Beard, Grooms best man was son Josh Benjamin, Flower girl was niece Tanzi Beard, flower girls were daughters Pyper, Aisja & Freya, Maid of honors were Sister Maxine Beard (who travelled from England and hadn't visited in the last 14 years ago) and best friend Casey George.

Christabel wore an ivory coloured, A-line Mikado, V neck wedding dress with a deep pleated split. Gary wore a khaki shorts suit, outfitted with a white shirt and white sneakers. The Best men wore identical beige trouser suits, white shirts and matching sneakers. The colours were vibrant and represented a tropical theme. Bridesmaid Tanzi wore a sage coloured halter dress with an asymmetrical hem and the other girls wore a one strap, water fall, chiffon flowing dress identical in style but different in colour. Our beautiful cake was made by Mrs. Helen Joshua which was a red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting and a fruit cake was made for the guests by the Bride's mother Fredrica Youde. The night was enjoyed by all with live music from the Groom's uncle Glen Yon, cousin Deon Yon, Stui Leo and Mark Anthony and disco tunes were provided by Andreas Caesar.

Gary and Christabel would like to take this opportunity to thank family and friends who helped in anyway to make their wedding day a special memorable day.



If you have recently got married and would like to share your story, get in touch with independent@helanta.co.sh