

MISSION ATLAS PROJECT

Western Europe

Guernsey

SNAPSHOTS SECTION

Country Name:
(Bailiwick of) Guernsey

Country Founded in:
No independence. Guernsey is a British crown dependency

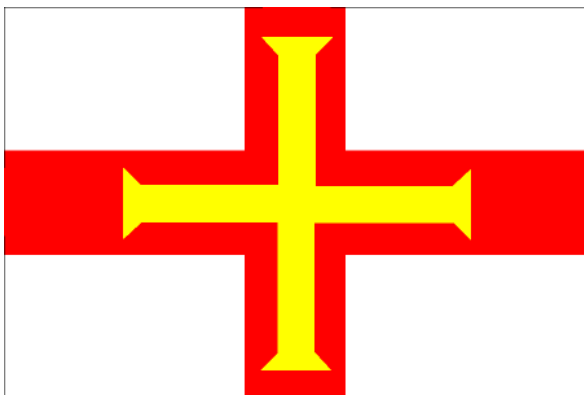
Population:
65,573 (July 2007 est.)

Government Type:
Parliamentary democracy

Geography/location in the world:
Western Europe, islands in the English Channel, northwest of France
49 28 N, 2 35 W

Number of people groups:
The major people group is that of the Guernsians, descendants of British and Norman-French people groups. There are also smaller groups of Europeans from other countries

Picture of flag:



The Guernsey flag has the red cross of England's patron saint, Saint George. William the Conqueror's yellow equal-armed cross is superimposed on the Saint George cross.

Religion

Major Religion and % of population:

Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist

All religions and % for each:

Non-Christian:

Islam (percentage unknown)

Baha'i (percentage unknown)

Buddhism (percentage unknown)

Government interaction with religion:

The government respects the right of freedom of religion.

Sources consulted:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gk.html>

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71416.htm>

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Country Profile

Country Name:

(Bailiwick of) Guernsey

Demographics:

Guernsey includes the islands of Alderney, Brecqhou, Burhou, Guernsey proper, Herm, Jethou, Lihou, Sark, and some smaller islands. Guernsey proper is divided into ten parishes.

The population estimate for July 2007 is 65,573. Compared to 2006, the population growth rate is 0.239%. The birth rate is 8.65 births/1,000 population; the death rate 10.07/1,000 population; and the net migration rate 3.81 migrants/1,000 population. The immigrant population is mainly made up of true immigrants rather than of people, who were born in Guernsey, returning to Guernsey. The nationality of people living in Guernsey is Channel Islander. The age structure for 2007 is as follows:

0-14 years: 14.8% (male 4,914/female 4,784)

15-64 years: 67.4% (male 21,897/female 22,298)

65 years and over: 17.8% (male 4,955/female 6,725)

In a graph, the age group 30-59 shows a bulge which is due to the baby boom between the early 1950s and early 1970s (http://www.gov.gg/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=5924067). The median age of Guernsey's population is 41.7 years (male 40.7 years and female 42.6 years). The life expectancy at birth is 80.53 years for the total population (male 77.53 years/female 83.64 years). The total fertility rate is 1.4 children born/woman. The infant mortality rate is 4.59 deaths/1,000 live births (male 5.12 deaths/1,000 live births; female 4.03 deaths/1,000 live births). In 2007, the sex ratio is as follows:

At birth: 1.03 males/female

Under 15 years: 1.027 males/female

15-64 years: 0.982 males/female

65 years and over: 0.737 males/female

Total population: 0.94 males/female

The population density is 841 people/sq km (2177 people/sq mi) for all the islands together. The cities have the largest populations and the rural areas the lowest populations.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gk.html>
http://www.gov.gg/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=5924067

Language:

English and French are the two official languages in Guernsey. A Norman-French dialect is spoken in some of Guernsey's parishes. Developed from Old English (as spoken by the Anglo-Saxons), English is a West-Germanic language. Due to the Norman Conquest and other events in English history, Latin and French have influenced the English language heavily.

French is the third-largest of the Romance languages and is an Indo-European, Romance, and Gallo-Iberian language that is mainly spoken in France. A total of about 14,000 people (about 11%), mainly older adults, speak French in the Channel Islands of which Guernsey forms a part. Two of the dialects are Jerriais (spoken in Jersey) and Dgernesiais (spoken in Guernsey). (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=fra)

Society/Culture:

Guernsey has a vibrant culture and set of traditions influenced by Norman-French and British culture and customs. Some immigrant communities, like the Portuguese, have also added to the Guernsey culture. The government and the population are concerned with keeping Guernsey culture and traditions. There is a fear that admitting more immigrants to the island might upset the cultural balance (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/guernsey/4703532.stm>).

Guernsey's two national symbols are the donkey and the Guernsey cow. The donkey was needed for transportation of goods over the steep streets in St. Peter Port. The donkey also refers to the stubbornness of the population of Guernsey. The Guernsey cow is famous for its milk as well as for its beef. Another famous animal on Guernsey is the Golden Guernsey – a goat. It is on the watch list of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Animal names are used widely by the people in the different parishes as nicknames for those in other parishes. People in St. Peter Port are known as spitters; those in St. Sampson's as frogs; in Castel as pure-blooded-donkeys; in St. Saviour's as ants; in Forest as bumblebees; and in Torteval as donkeys with horses' hooves.

Some famous Guernsey dishes are gâche (a rich fruit bread), bean jar (a dish with pork and beans), gâche mêlaïe (apple pudding). Favorite seafood dishes are ormer (abalone found on the beach at low tide), mussels, lobster, and spider crabs. Since 2006, a smoking ban has been in effect for enclosed public places in order to guarantee workers a healthy work environment.

The folk music of Guernsey has been influenced by Calvinism and Methodism: both religious movements discouraged dancing and secular music. As a result, only a few dances and traditional songs have survived: “La Bébé” (“The Baby Polka”), “Jean,” “Gros Jean,” and “J’ai perdu ma faumme.”

Guernsey residents have produced some literary masterpieces. For example, Victor Hugo wrote some of his best works, including *Les Misérables*, while in exile in Guernsey. The Guernsey-born writer G. B. Edwards wrote the novel *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page*, containing many insights into Guernsey life during the twentieth century.

The government oversees eighty different historic sites, ranging from castles to dolmens. It also takes care of thousands of museum collections and objects. Guernsey has four public museums: Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Cornet, Fort Grey, and Guernsey Telephone Museum (<http://www.museums.gov.gg/>).

Two radio stations broadcast in Guernsey: BBC Radio Guernsey and Island FM. Channel Television is a TV station that broadcasts in all the Channel Islands. Most of the programming is done in Jersey. The BBC and French television are also fairly easily received in Guernsey. Guernsey has one daily newspaper: The Guernsey Evening Press.

Sports are popular in Guernsey. The island group participates in the Commonwealth Games and the Island Games. It hosted the latter in 2003. Football (soccer) and cricket are popular sports. Guernsey’s traditional color for sports events is green.

The education curriculum in Guernsey is mainly the same as the UK’s National Curriculum. School attendance is compulsory for children ages 5 through 15. In 2008, the minimum age to leave school will be increased to 16. In 2006, more females than males entered post-16 education. Guernsey has twenty-one schools that are currently operating, including a College of Further Education, and one school that is due to open in 2008. Three schools provide education for students with special needs. In January 2007, 4,565 students attended primary schools and 4,449 attended secondary school. Students who have completed post-16 education have to move to the UK or another country to receive further education if desired. In the academic year 2006/7, 912 students were enrolled in higher education: 831 undergraduates, 39 postgraduates, and 42 students in Advanced GNVQs or BTEC National Diplomas. In 2005, there were 78 postgraduate students; the number dropped in 2006 because of changes regarding student grants. (http://www.gov.gg/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=5924067)

Guernsey’s public holidays in 2008 are as follows: New Year’s Day (January 1), Good Friday (March 21), Easter Monday (March 24), May 5, Liberation Day (May 9), Pentecost Monday (May 26), August 25, Christmas Day (December 25), and Boxing Day (December 26). Liberation Day (May 9) is a major national holiday to celebrate the end of Nazi occupation of Guernsey.

<http://www.gov.gg/ccm/navigation/culture---leisure/>

<http://www.gov.gg/ccm/navigation/government/public-holidays/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Guernsey

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guernsey>

Government:

Guernsey is a British Crown Dependency. Its politics take place in a parliamentary representative democratic framework. The Chief Minister is the head of government. Guernsey's constitution is unwritten and consists partly of common law and practice and partly of statutes.

The executive branch has the following officers: the Chief of State is the British monarch – Queen Elizabeth. She appoints her representative, the Lieutenant Governor. The current Lieutenant Governor, Sir Fabian Malbon, is a former Royal Navy officer. As the first civil officer, the Bailiff of Guernsey, Geoffrey Rowland, serves as president of the legislature and Royal Court. The head of government is the Chief Minister Michael W. Torode. The Guernsey cabinet is formed by the Policy Council as elected by the States of Deliberation.

The legislative branch consists of the States of Deliberation made up of 45 People's Deputies. The Deputies are elected every four years from multi- or single-member districts. The island of Alderney, a self-governing dependency, sends two representatives; Sark, however, sends none. In addition, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, both appointed by the British monarch, serve as non-voting members. The States of Deliberation make laws called Projets de Loi (equivalent to the English Bill) before they are passed and Loi or Laws (equivalent of the English Act of Parliament) after they are passed. These Laws have to be approved by the Privy Council in London before they can be formally registered at the Royal Court in Guernsey.

Guernsey does not have any political parties. All representatives, therefore, are elected as non-partisans. Suffrage is universal for all aged 18 and over. The last elections were held in April 2004. The next elections are scheduled for 2008.

The Magistrates Court and the Royal Court represent the judicial branch of the political system in Guernsey as they administer justice. The legal system is based on Norman-French and English common law. The Bailiff and a permanent jury of 12 members preside over the Royal Court. The Privy Council in London is the ultimate court of appeal.

Ten administrative parishes make up the island of Guernsey: Castel (population 8,975), Forest (1,549), St. Andrew's (2,409), St. Martin's (6,267), St. Peter Port (16,488), St. Pierre du Bois (2,188), St. Sampson (8,592), St. Saviour's (2,696), Torteval (973), and Vale (9,573).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guernsey>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Guernsey

<http://www.gov.gg>

Economy:

Guernsey's economy is prosperous. In 2005, its GDP was \$2.742 billion and the GDP growth rate 3%. GDP per capita was \$44,600 for 2005. Agriculture contributes 3% to the GDP; industry 10%; and services 87% (in 2000). 32% of GDP consisted of financial services. In March of 2006, the labor force numbered 31,470 and the unemployment rate stood at 0.9%. The inflation rate for consumer prices was 3.4% in 2006. Guernsey's 2005 budget consisted of \$563.6 million in revenues and \$530.9 million in expenditures. Guernsey is a tax haven due to its light taxes and death duties. The island is, therefore, a popular offshore finance center. Although Guernsey is not a member of the EU, the EU is forcing the island to comply more and more with EU regulations.

The main agriculture products are tomatoes, cut flowers (in greenhouses), eggplant, fruit, sweet peppers, and Guernsey cattle. The main industries are tourism and banking. Guernsey exports flowers and ferns, sweet peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, and other vegetables. Its major export partner is the UK although this is considered as internal trade. The island imports coal, oil, gasoline, machinery, and equipment, mainly from the UK. Guernsey is the home of Specsavers Optical Group which operates in the UK, Ireland, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Spain, and Australia. Healthspan is another major corporation with its headquarters in Guernsey. The official currency is the British pound (GBP) but there is also the Guernsey pound which is at par with the British pound.

Since Guernsey is a crown dependency of the UK, the UK is responsible for its military defense. Guernsey does not have any humanitarian needs.

<http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gk.html>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guernsey>

Literacy:

The literacy for Guernsey is not known. Since it is a British crown dependency, the literacy rate is most likely similar to that of Great Britain: 99% of the population 15 years and older can read and write. (<http://www.worldmap.org/country.php?ROG3=UK>)

Land/Geography:



49 28 N, 2 35 W

Guernsey and its surrounding islands are located in the English Channel, in Western Europe. The distance to France's Normandy coast is 48 km (30 mi); that to Weymouth, England is 121 km (75 mi). The area of Guernsey proper measures about 62.16 sq km (24 sq mi). The total area of Guernsey and its islands is 78 sq km (30.12 sq mi). The total coastline is about 50 km (30 mi). Guernsey's maritime claims are 3 nm of territorial sea and 12 nm of exclusive fishing zone.

Guernsey has a pleasant climate: not too cold in the winter and not too hot in the summer. The winter temperature is between 5 and 10°C (41-50°F); the summer temperature ranges between 15 and 19°C (59-66°F). In 2006, no frost was recorded. In 2006, the month with the most rainfall was December (155 mm). The driest month was June (25 mm). June, July, and August 2006 were the months with the most hours of sunshine. On average, 50% of the days in a year are overcast.

Most of Guernsey's terrain is level with low hills in the southwestern part of the island. The island's lowest point is the Atlantic Ocean (0 m); the highest point is an unnamed location on the island of Sark (114 m; 374 ft). There is a large, deepwater harbor at Saint Peter Port, Guernsey. Most of Guernsey's non-developed land is cropland. Guernsey is famous for the Guernsey cow. Whereas in the past, this cow was used mainly for dairy products, nowadays the cow is popular as well for its tasty beef.

Guernsey's rich horticultural heritage is evidenced in the thirty parks and gardens overlooked by the government. Candie Gardens and Saumarez Park have collections of plants and flowers from around the world. There are over 2,000 species of plants in Guernsey. Guernsey also takes good care of its varied collection of trees. Guernsey's fauna includes around 200 species of birds and a little more than twenty species of mammals. Most of the mammals are not indigenous but have been introduced by man.

Ten parishes make up the island of Guernsey: Castel (population 8,975), Forest (1,549), St. Andrew's (2,409), St. Martin's (6,267), St. Peter Port (16,488), St. Pierre du Bois (2,188), St. Sampson (8,592), St. Saviour's (2,696), Torteval (973), and Vale (9,573).

http://www.gov.gg/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=5924067
<http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gk.html>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guernsey>
<http://www.gov.gg> under environment
http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Channel_Islands

History

Neolithic Period

At the end of the Ice Age (8,000 BC), Guernsey along with the other Channel Islands became detached from mainland France. Traces of human life in Guernsey have been traced back to 6,500 BC at which time settlements and farming began. Tribes, possibly from Spain, settled in Guernsey. Menhirs, dolmens (burial chambers built above ground), and defensive earth works are silent witnesses to the existence of Neolithic man in Guernsey (through circa 2,000 BC). Some of the dolmens are La Varde Dolmen (the largest), Hougue de Dehus, Le Creux es Feies, and Le Trepid. Human figures carved out of granite date back to around 2,500 BC. Around 800 BC, Celts from Germany and France began leaving their marks in Guernsey.

Iron Age

Defense earthworks in Jerbourg date back to this period. Long swords, beads, and spear heads have been found that date back to the Iron Age as well. No other information found on this time.

Roman Period

The arrival of the Romans has been dated between AD 56 and AD 150 (other reports mention an arrival date as early as 80 BC). The Romans called the island Sarnia. Some reports state that the Romans began to use the island and St. Peter Port in particular, as a trading base around AD56. They stayed in Guernsey for 250 years; a third-century Roman ship that wrecked in the mouth of St. Peter Port harbor was found and testifies to Roman presence at least up until that time. The ship, named Asterix, is displayed in Castle Cornet. Despite St. Peter Port being a trading base during the Roman period, Christianity did not reach Guernsey until AD 525 when St. Sampson visited the island and established a church (see Christian History section). Other reports, however, date the introduction of Christianity to the third and fourth centuries.

Middle Ages

From AD 600-800, the Bretons ruled the island of Guernsey. Life on the island was peaceful until the arrival of the Vikings. In 911, the Viking Rollo took over control of Caen from the Bretons. King Charles of the West Franks made Rollo Duke of Normandy, introducing this Dukedom. In 933, Duke William I (the Longsword) added the Contentin Peninsular, including the Channel Islands, to the Duchy of Normandy. In 1066, the Normans, including inhabitants of the Channel Islands, under the leadership of Duke William of Normandy defeated King Harold at Hastings and England became a part of the Duchy. The Channel Islands remained under the control of the English monarch.

In 1204, however, Philip II of France invaded Normandy and tried to capture the Channel Islands as well. The Channel Islands swore allegiance to the English King John in return for protection and privileges (self-governance). One may wonder how sincere the Islanders' allegiance was since King John had taken hostage members from prominent families in the Channel Islands.

In 1205, the Islanders started the building of Castle Cornet. The construction of St. Peter Port Pier began in 1275. The Pier was built to protect ships and improve unloading and loading. In 1294, a French raid killed many of the Guernseians. Between 1338 and 1340, the French got control of Guernsey, including Castle Cornet, and occupied it for six years. The year 1337 formed the beginning of the Hundred Years War, which actually lasted 116 years, between France and England (<http://209.10.134.179/65/hu/HundredY.html>).

The French would attempt to occupy Guernsey on different occasions during the Hundred Years War. During the fourteenth century, many ships sunk in the waters near St. Peter Port. Today, they form an archaeological treasure and funds are being raised to lift all of the wrecks out of the water and onto land. After the Hundred Years War, the Channel Islanders feared losing their independence during the War of the Roses (1455-87) – a series of wars fought over the English throne between the House of Lancaster and the House of York. They fought against the invaders. In 1481, the Channel Islands were granted neutrality by a Papal Bull, which also encouraged trade during times of war. Guernsey also experiences its first recorded meeting of the States of Guernsey that same year. Five years later, the English king appoints Edmund Weston as the first Governor of the States of Guernsey.

Modern Period to Present

During the English Civil War (1642-48), the Guernseians sided with the Parliamentarians against King Charles I while the Jersians remained loyal to the crown. Two facts caused the Guernseians to favor the side of the Parliament: 1) the large proportion of Calvinist and other Reformed churches on the island; 2) the King's refusal to intervene on behalf of some Guernsey seamen who had been taken captive by the enemy, Barbary or Ottoman corsairs.

Castle Cornet, however, remained loyal to the crown but had to surrender in 1651. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the British fought numerous battles against the French and the Spanish. Guernsey ship-owners profited from the island's proximity to mainland Europe by turning their merchantmen into privateers. Privateering became possible due to Guernsey giving up its privilege of neutrality.

The Napoleonic Wars of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries affected Guernsey to a large extent: the trade on the island was all but extinguished and the people lived with despair and anxiety. In the early 1800s, rich French people fled the revolution and made the Channel Islands their home. Their newly built houses remain until today. A total of sixteen forts and 58 coastal batteries were constructed to help protect Guernsey.

The dire situation as a result of the war led Guernseian authorities to form the island's own market house and to issue its own bank notes (1816). In 1848 boat services began which caused tourism to develop. During the second half of the nineteenth century, harbors were both built and expanded on the island. In 1879, Guernsey opened its first railway. This railway was steam-based. In 1892, the first electric tramway started. Guernsey received its first telephone system in 1898.

The last witch trial was held in Guernsey at the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Guernsey became involved in WWI when it formed the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry in 1917. The following year, the Light Infantry unit was decimated in France.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Guernsey improved its infrastructure. When it opened an airport in 1939, all of the Alderney residents and a large group of Guernsey residents left the island before the Nazi attack. The islands were demilitarized but nonetheless raided by the Luftwaffe. On June 30, 1940 the Nazis occupied Guernsey and in the following days Alderney and Sark as well. The Nazis built a concentration camp in Alderney – the only concentration camp on British soil – where they held forced (Eastern-European) laborers. The Jews on the islands were hunted down and sent to this camp as well as to other concentration camps like Auschwitz and Dachau. The Nazis built many defensive positions as part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall plan. In 1944, when most of the food supplies were exhausted and many people faced starvation, the Red Cross offered some solace by delivering food parcels. Finally, on May 9, 1945 Guernsey was liberated.

During the next decades, Guernsey continued to improve its infrastructure and its economic position. The process of modernization and the opening of museums were welcomed by the population. Tourism flourished. In 1985, Guernsey created its own flag. In 2004, Guernsey celebrated its 800-year connection with the British crown.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guernsey>

http://www.islandlife.org/history_gsy.htm

http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2004/07/08/timeline_11th_and_before_feature.shtml (this same website gives access to timelines of later centuries)

<http://www.visitguernsey.com/history/>

Christian History

Christianization – Fifteenth Century

The date of the Christianization of Guernsey remains a point of debate. Some scholars argue that Christianity was introduced toward the end of the Roman occupation of St. Peter Port (80 BC – AD 50). Others claim that Christianity reached the island in the third and fourth centuries. If one holds to an early arrival of Christianity, one might say that the church experienced a major expansion in and after AD 300. In 372, St. Martin founded Guernsey's first monastery, the Monastery of Marmoutier, where priests were trained to be sent out as missionaries.

Born in 485 and trained as a priest in Guernsey, St. Sampson left the island to be a missionary. He returned to Guernsey in 520 where, much to his dismay, he observed the practice of various fertility rites. On his next visit to Guernsey, Sampson founded a monastery and a church. The church dates back to 550, forming the beginning of the Celtic Church in Guernsey. This Church's influence decreased as the Normans ruled the island starting in the tenth/eleventh century. The Roman Catholic Church now was the major expression of the Christian faith in Guernsey. Benedictine monks from Mont St. Michel built the Vale Church and priory around 968. Around 1050, the Church of Guernsey became essentially a part of the Diocese of Coutances.

During the eleventh and twelfth centuries, all the Parish churches were built after Guernsey was divided into ten parishes. Between 1200 and 1400, the Roman Catholic Church invested money in the extension and beautification of the churches in Guernsey. As a result, some churches became the object of piracy. The Church and the people of Guernsey remained in a close relationship during those centuries: the Church fed the poor and assisted with private social welfare and education. Until 1529, the Church, too, provided a safe haven for people who tried to avoid capital or corporal punishment. Exile from the island usually followed after nine days of sanctuary.

Reformation and the Presbyterian Church

The Reformation reached Guernsey. As a result, the Channel Islands as a whole showed their support for King Henry VIII and expelled the Catholic faith in 1547. A year later, Calvinism began to spread throughout the Channel Islands. Despite Queen Elizabeth and

many Guernseians' wish to set up the Anglican Church in Guernsey, the Presbyterian Church, based on a Calvinistic model, was set up in 1576.

The Presbyterian Church gained much power when the Synod ordered each parish to have a consistory made up of ministers, elders, and deacons. The Synod also ordered the establishment of an Island Colloquy consisting of all ministers, representatives of elders, and the Guernsey governor. The Synod met bi-annually in Jersey and Guernsey alternatively. During the same year, Cartwright, a devout Calvinist Christian, became Chaplain of Castle Cornet. According to some reports, Cartwright believed in the death penalty for adultery. As was the case with other Catholic churches in mainland Europe, those in Guernsey were neglected, too. In accord with Calvinist opinion, all adornments were removed, tables replaced the altars, and the gentry could now sit in pews.

Presbyterian ministers' main task was preaching from the Hebrew and Greek biblical texts. People were no longer allowed to offer prayers for the dead or use Holy Water. They were forced to attend church services on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. A fine of five sous (Guernsey currency at that time) was imposed on those who missed a service. Activities such as gambling, banquets, knitting, and militia training were no longer allowed on Sundays. Noisy behavior, both inside and outside church, was punished with standing in the stocks. A wooden or metal cage in Town Church Square was set up to detain drunks for a whole day.

To make matters even worse, people were fearful of witchcraft: at least one hundred people were accused of witchcraft of whom eighteen were burned at the stake, twenty-seven hanged, thirty-two branded, two flogged, and some hanged by the thumbs. According to a local contemporary source, "This was a violent age and cruelty could be found everywhere but it was unfortunate to say the least that the church added so much to the misery of people" (*The Town Church of St. Peter Port* by R. I. Carré, p. 31 as found on http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2005/04/22/the_beginning_of_the_church_feature.shtml).

The Restoration – Nineteenth Century

The Presbyterian Church remained in control until the Restoration of the English monarchy in 1660. English Parliament called Charles back from exile and crowned him King Charles II. The Guernsey authorities petitioned for a pardon for their breaking allegiance to the crown during the English Civil War (1642-48, but also sometimes referred to as the period 1640-60). King Charles imposed the Act of Conformity upon his realm, including Guernsey.

This Act proclaimed the Anglican Church as the only church and all the ministers and all the people had to conform to Anglican practices, including attending Mass and following the Book of Common Prayer. Any form of nonconformity was punishable by law: fines, floggings, incarceration, and even death were common practices. Anglicanism replaced Presbyterianism and Guernsey used the French translation of the Book of Common Prayer at the King's command. A new Dean, John de Sausmarez, was appointed in 1663 and church wardens were appointed to oversee maintenance and repairs of the churches.

The wardens also had to ensure that the Anglican Church gained control over rents and revenues.

In 1768, Guernsey had ten Rectors of whom eight were French, one English, and one Guernseian. Guernsey did not have its own bishop. As a consequence, it was difficult for the Anglican Church to enforce confirmation before admission to Communion. Despite the strong Anglican influence, Guernseians were open to Methodism: upon John Wesley's visit to Guernsey in 1787, Methodism flourished in the island. The Anglican Church kept parish records until 1799 and also held on to records collected by the Presbyterian Church. Records of burials, births, and marriages, therefore, date back to 1565. Those of baptisms go back to 1630. Under the Anglican system, the Parish was in control of the Church and the Rectory. Each Parish, then, was rather self-governing.

Although the trade in Guernsey had been left for dead after the Napoleonic Wars, the islanders still managed to recover economically. A better economic position contributed to the fact that many places of worship were built in Guernsey during the nineteenth century. Non-conformist groups also blossomed during this century. The Roman Catholic Church was also allowed to gather believers for worship and to erect a new Catholic church. Different groups of sisters set up a convent and ran schools. In 1818, Bishop Fisher visited the island. Since then, bishops have visited Guernsey regularly for confirmations.

Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

During WWII, the Nazis allowed most churches to gather for worship as usual. They took over or closed down some churches. Propaganda, however, was strictly forbidden. Nazis used some churches for worship services in German led by their own chaplains. At St. Sampson's church, a German flag was laid on the altar for the monthly German service.

Today, as a British crown dependency, Guernsey has complete freedom of religion. Many Christian denominations are represented in the island: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, Reformed, Independent, and Salvation Army. Some non-Christian religions and Christian sects and cults are represented as well in Guernsey. Unfortunately, no numbers or percentages of church attendance are available for Guernsey.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2005/04/22/the_beginning_of_the_church_feature.shtml
http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2004/07/08/timeline_11th_and_before_feature.shtml (this same website gives access to timelines of later centuries)
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guernsey>

Religions

Non-Christian:

Islam (number unknown): Islam's holy book is the Qur'an. Some of the basic tenets of faith are belief in Allah and his unity, belief in the prophets (especially Muhammad;

Jesus was only one of the prophets and fully man), belief in paradise and hell, and belief in judgment day. A few dozen Muslims live in Guernsey. There is no mosque or other building where Muslims can gather for worship. (http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2005/09/29/islam_in_guernsey_feature.shtml)

Baha'i (number unknown): The Baha'i religion began in Persia in 1844 under the leader and founder Bahá'u'lláh, whose name means "Glory of God." According to Baha'i the world is but one country and all people are its citizens. Baha'i emphasizes the unity of humanity, the equality of male and female, elimination of extreme riches and poverty, religious tolerance, and access for all to education and culture. According to Baha'i, all religions are diverse expressions of the one universal religion. There is one Baha'i community in Guernsey. This website <http://www.bahajournal.org.uk/news-local.htm> features an article on celebrations in 2004.

Buddhism (number unknown): Buddhism is a religion and practical philosophy based on the teachings of Siddharta/Buddha Gautama (6th-5th centuries BC). Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world. A Buddha "is generally considered to be a person who discovers the true nature of reality through years of spiritual cultivation, investigation of the various religious practices of his time, and meditation. This transformational discovery is called bodhi - literally, "Awakening" (more commonly called "Enlightenment") (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism>). To reach this state of enlightenment or nirvana, a person must follow the Noble Eightfold Path, which is one of the Four Noble Truths. The Guernsey Buddhist Group follows the teachings of the Nichiren School of Mahayana Buddhism (<http://www.guernsey.net/~moorman/>).

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (number unknown): The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of which the members are known as Mormons, was founded by Joseph Smith in 1820. The Church claims 11 million members worldwide. In addition to the Bible, the Latter-day Saints consider The Pearl of Great Price, The Doctrine and Covenants, and The Book of Mormon (1830) as sacred. Although in 1890, the practice of polygamy was officially rejected, polygamy is still present in the state of Utah (USA). The Mormons are known for their extensive research in genealogy. Their views on the main Christian doctrines differ from those held by evangelical Christians. In Guernsey, Mormons gather every Sunday morning in a room in Castle (http://www.lds.org.uk/chapel_locator_details.php?id=259).

Catholic (number unknown): The Roman Catholic Church in Guernsey, Our Lady and the Guernsey Saints, is a part of the Diocese of Portsmouth. Other churches within this Diocese are Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, the other Channel Islands, and parts of Berkshire, Dorset, and Oxfordshire. There are three Catholic churches in Guernsey: Our Lady Star of the Sea (St. Sampson's), St. Joseph & St. Mary (St. Peter Port), and Notre Dame du Rosaire (St. Peter Port).

The church in Guernsey runs three Catholic schools, has parish groups and a pastoral council, and ministers to the sick in Guernsey's hospitals and nursing homes. Ultimately, the church in Guernsey falls under the Vatican. Some of the beliefs of the Roman

Catholic Church are the following: the papacy line goes back to the Apostle Peter; Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, was conceived immaculately and, therefore, is able to intercede for the saints; the Pope's expressions *ex cathedra* are infallible; and after death, believers will go to purgatory until they have paid for their sins. Only then will they be admitted into heaven. For more information on the church in Guernsey, see <http://catholic.org.gg/>.

Protestant, Evangelical, and Pentecostal Churches:

Anglican (number unknown): The Church of England came into being when Henry VIII approved the Act of Supremacy in 1531. The Church broke with the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope in Rome because the Pope refused to annul Henry's marriage. Henry VIII now became the head of the Church of England. Some of its practices and traditions have remained Roman Catholic in character; other aspects have undergone some reform. The Holy Trinity parish church describes itself as an evangelical Anglican church (<http://www.holytrinity.org.gg/>). Another Anglican church in Guernsey is St. Saviour's parish church (<http://www.stsaviour.org.gg/index.html>).

Baptist (number unknown): The Baptist denomination began as a British group in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1609 under the leadership of John Smyth and Thomas Helwys. In 1612, Helwys returned to England and founded the first Baptist church on English soil in London. Despite fierce persecution, the denomination experienced tremendous growth throughout the 17th century. Some Baptist distinctives are priesthood of the believer, separation of church and state, and believer's baptism by immersion. Shiloh Church, a Baptist church in Vale and affiliated with the Baptist Union of Great Britain, has a membership of around 300 adults. The church was founded in 1987 as a coming-together of two Baptist churches (<http://www.shiloh.org.uk/index.php>). Another Baptist church in Guernsey is Spurgeon Memorial Baptist Church.

Methodist (number unknown): John Wesley was the founder of the Methodist denomination in the USA in the early 1740s. The idea of "Christian perfection" or holiness of heart and life is important in Methodist thought. There are at least two Methodist churches in Guernsey: Ebenezer Methodist Church Union Street and St. Peter Port Methodist Church. No other information found.

Pentecostal (number unknown): With roots in the Holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement originated in the USA in the 19th century. An important Pentecostal doctrine is that speaking in tongues is the biblical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, Pentecostal doctrines are formed along the same lines as orthodox doctrines. Guernsey has four Elim Pentecostal churches. Eldad Elim Church in St. Peter Port was founded in 1936 by George Jeffreys, a Welshman (<http://www.eldadchurch.org.gg/>).

United Reformed (number unknown): The United Reformed Church in Guernsey and that in Jersey together form The United Reformed Church in the Channel Islands and as such are part of the United Reformed Church's Southampton District and Wessex Synod. "The United Reformed Church holds to the Trinitarian faith as expressed in the historic

Christian creeds” and views the Bible as supreme authority for faith and practice (<http://80.229.220.186/about/>).

Independent (number unknown): La Villiaze Evangelical Congregational Church is an independent church that is Reformed in worship and doctrine. The church is not affiliated with any other churches or the modern ecumenical movement (<http://www.lavecc.net/>). Some of the beliefs held by this church are the infallibility of the Bible; the eternal sonship of Jesus Christ; salvation by grace through faith alone; the return of Jesus Christ; and water baptism upon faith in Christ Jesus.

Salvation Army (number unknown): William and Catherine Booth, the founders of the Salvation Army, spent their two-week honeymoon on the island of Guernsey. As a result of their preaching every night in the Methodist church, many people became Christians. A request was made for Salvation Army people to live in Guernsey. By 1883, some Salvation Army soldiers had established themselves in Guernsey. The Salvation Army people mainly preached to working-class people. The Salvation Army is known for preaching the gospel in word and in deed (social ministry). For more information on the history of the Salvation Army in Guernsey, see <http://www.sacollectables.com/cmha/volume5/lislet.htm>.

People Groups

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British

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French

Some list the British and French as separate people groups. However, the Guernseians are made up of descendants of British and French people. They are, therefore, discussed in one group under Guernseians.

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Deaf (number unknown)

The number of deaf people in Guernsey could not be found. The deaf community is active and organized in different organizations: Guernsey Hard of Hearing Association, Deaf Christian Fellowship, Guernsey Deaf Club, Schools Hearing Impaired Service, Guernsey Deaf Children’s Society, and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. These groups can all be accessed through <http://www.guernseydeafnews.org.gg/>. The deaf of Guernsey use British Sign Language (BSL), which is not inherently intelligible to users of American Sign Language (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=bfj).

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Guernseians (67,200)

The Guernseians (or Guernesiais) are the descendants of a mixture of nationalities: they “are the descendants of refugees from ancient Gaul, medieval Norman settlers, and a later ad-mixture of mainland English and refugees from the religious wars in nearby France” (James B. Minahan, *One Europe, Many Nations* (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000), 305). The

Guernseians are considered British citizens but do not have the right to relocate anywhere in the EU under EU regulation because Guernsey is not a full EU member. English has replaced French as the main official language. The Dgernesiais dialect is spoken by a small group of Guernseians. The majority of Guernseians is Roman Catholic, a minority is Protestant.

A minority of the population of Guernsey is made up of immigrants. No further information was found on immigrants and their lands of origin.

Missiological Implications:

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should regard Guernsey as a field for missionary work.
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should develop methods for evangelizing Roman Catholics and nominal Christians and molding them into viable, reproducing congregations
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should develop and share programs for developing Christians and guiding them to become vibrant believers who share their faith with others
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should seek ways to work along side the church members in Guernsey to seek revival in the churches

Pictures:

See separate folder.

Links:

http://www.gov.gg/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=5924067

<http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/gk.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guernsey>

<http://www.gov.gg>