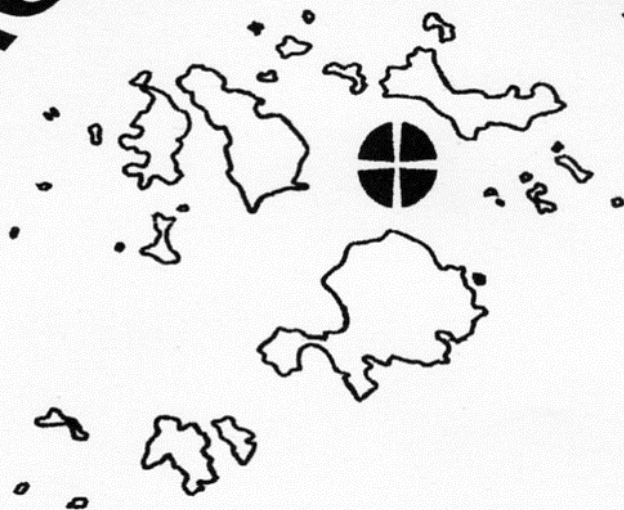


Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

APRIL 2014

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Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

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Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 422563

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Circuit Meeting Secretary

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Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read

Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Leigh Kendrick

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

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Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Property Secretary Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977

Some thoughts from St Mary's Manse



The clocks go forward as British Summer Time begins on 30th March, which also happens to be the fourth Sunday in Lent and Mothering Sunday. We certainly hope for some fine spring weather as the visitors come to our islands, and those of us who live here recover from what at times have been pretty testing periods of weather. Soon our summer season slide shows will begin and I know that June Lethbridge has some very dramatic shots of waves crashing into the Mermaid pub in February, and I am looking forward to showing visitors to my slide show some dramatic pictures of waves flooding over the road at Old Town just a few days later.

It seems to me that when the weather is good on Scilly it is very good and when the weather is bad it is very bad! But despite the weather, life goes on. Transport has certainly been difficult, but we give thanks to all those who have their utmost to fly our planes when possible, and we are especially thankful to the crew of our cargo boat the Gry Maritha who have braved raging seas to make sure that even in this difficult winter we have had food to eat and all the other things that are needed in this island community.

Throughout the winter we have been able to worship each Sunday on both St Mary's and St Martin's. Some of the crossings to St Martin's have certainly been exciting and on the few occasions that I have not been able to get across, our local preacher on St Martin's, Chris Savill, has been there to step in and lead worship.

Hopefully the weather in April will be fine and we certainly look forward to welcoming visitors to our islands and to our chapels on St Martin's and St Mary's. Easter Sunday this year is on 20th April and our worship on St Martin's will be at 3pm. On St Mary's we will be celebrating Easter Sunday in the morning at sunrise on Buzza Hill followed by our morning worship at 10.30am. In the evening at 8pm we will have a special Easter Songs of Praise. On St Mary's we will also be meeting for a short service of readings and passion hymns on Good Friday at 10am.

At the end of the month we will welcome our District

Chairman, Steve Wild to our islands. He will be with us from the 25th to the 28th and will be leading worship on St Mary's on the Sunday, leading our fellowship on St Mary's on the Friday evening and free to visit members on St Martin's and St Mary's on the Saturday. If you would like to speak with Steve during his visit please let me know so we can arrange a time.

During the summer months, especially when the weather is good, the scenes on Scilly remind us of the setting into which the Gospel story is told. Our sandy beaches remind us of the shores of Lake Galilee where Jesus spoke to the gathered crowds, we see fishermen landing their catch, and it is easy to imagine the many stories that we read in the New Testament being in a place just like these islands.

In the very last chapter of John's Gospel we have the moving story of Jesus on a beach in the first light of day as the fishermen returned from a night of fishing during which very few fish had been caught. We are told that the fishermen were so caught up in their disappointment that they failed to recognize Jesus. As the story unfolds we are reminded of how we may meet with Jesus in the ordinary things of life and the message of the Gospel becomes clear – Jesus certainly has the power for us all to make a fresh start in our lives. Yes, in every way this is truly an Easter story.

The story starts with an atmosphere of disappointment. We find that the disciples, despite having seen the risen Jesus twice before, had now, for a while put the past behind them and had returned to their work as fishermen on Lake Galilee. We are told that throughout the night they had cast their nets but no fish had been caught. Then, as daylight began to dawn on the sad and tired fishermen, Jesus came and stood on the shore and saw their disappointment.

The fishermen heard His voice and they heard Him call them 'Friends', they did as they were instructed and cast their nets again, and it is at this point that the whole atmosphere of the story changes. A large number of fish were caught, their sadness turned to joy, despair turned into hope, and it was at this point that the disciple John cried out at the top of his voice 'It is the Lord!'

This Easter story set by the sea on a sandy beach ends up with Jesus asking Peter the question 'Do you love me?' This question was asked not once but three times by Jesus and each time Peter answered 'Yes'. And as we read this moving story it is as if Jesus appeared to His disciples especially to speak with Peter. Peter now had the chance to put behind him his past mistakes. He was now able to draw a line under the past and under that occasion when, just a week before, he had denied being a follower of Jesus, and now he, just like us, was able to be sure of God's forgiveness and to start afresh in a life of service to the Lord who had been raised from the dead. What Jesus said to Peter is of great importance to us all, for Jesus did not say to Peter that from then on his life would be 'plain sailing'. Instead He simply said 'Feed my sheep' and be prepared for a life that at times might be far from comfortable. The message is clear: when we make a commitment in our lives to follow Jesus and the ways of His kingdom, we are also called to a life of service and we are also called to live by His ways in every aspect of our lives. The risen Jesus promised His followers that He would always be with them on their journey, and today in the light of the Easter story we know this to be true. In the power of His Holy Spirit He is with each one of us, He calls us to tell others of His love and forgiveness, He calls us to make a fresh start in our lives. Yes, He promises to be there with us in all that we may face as His followers in this world today. Those fishermen who were so disappointed that morning after having fished all night without a catch did not expect to see Jesus standing on the beach to greet them, but there He was, with them in the ups and downs of life. May we who live on these beautiful islands know the presence of our Lord. May we celebrate the Easter story in the way we live and relate to one another and may the mighty power of His Holy Spirit enable us to truly follow His great commandment and love as God loves us. On the 5th of this month Len Michell and I will be representing our circuit at the Cornwall Methodist Synod in Truro: please remember to pray for all who met on that day to further the work and mission of our precious Methodist Church in Cornwall and on these islands.

Where ever you may live, may you know the blessings of our risen Lord Jesus. I remain, by the grace of our loving God, the Methodist minister on these islands for a while.
Charlie Gibbs

Letter from Rev. Peter Bolt

We were glad to receive the copy of the February/March "In Touch" and to catch up on the news of the Churches on Scilly, and we look forward to being with you for a little while later in the year.

The article on page 13 about 'John Wesley's Elm' brought back memories of our ministry before we started coming to the islands in 1967. When I left theological college in 1953, my first appointment was to Wolverton, a railway town in what is now Milton Keynes. One of my Churches was at Stony Stratford and we well remember the elm tree with a small plaque which said that John Wesley used to preach there and I believe we held a short service there to commemorate the occasion.

Then, on the adjoining page of "In Touch" there was Anne's account of her visit to Wesley's Chapel in London. In the 1960's the Church was closed and there was much discussion about the viability of restoring it. As the British Secretary to the World Methodist Council, I was involved in this and a group of us, led by Dr Kenneth Greet formed a committee to look into the cost of not only the restoration, but also the renovation of the garden at the rear where John Wesley is buried. I was made the secretary and we decided to ask our architect to make a model of the whole site which we could take to the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the WMC which was to be held in Mexico City. I was given the job of taking the model, which was some four feet long, to Mexico, which I did with some difficulty. The story of how I was detained by customs for a couple of hours until I was rescued by Bishop Ruiz of Mexico is only part of the problems I faced, but eventually I got - rather late - to the meetings and the American United Methodist Church delegates offered to raise

Continued on Page 11

Lay Witness Weekend We were greatly blessed by the visit of members of the Lay Witness Movement. Sorry though that Peter and Catriona Wyatt and Chris Thompson were marooned at Newquay. We send our condolences to them as with heavy hearts they could do no other than return home. Thankfully we know that they and many others were praying for us all. The weekend brought us all together for meals or services or discussion. In this issue of the magazine we will share the points made in our discussion.

Question 1 What would you like to see happen on St Mary's?

1 Revival.

2 More people in church (being relevant to young people)

3 Greater desire to know God

4 To see God at work

5 To listen to God

6 To share God's love

7 To expect great things to happen as in the early Church (Acts)

8 Harmony and relationships through... tolerance of each other, acceptance of each other and working and worshipping together all across the different services and different churches. **We have already held the first Prayer Meeting for Revival and invite others to join us at 7.00pm at Seagull Cottage on a Thursday evening. The evenings will be led by Dean Watson who has long been given a vision for revival on these Islands.**

Thank you Mike and Ruth, Keith, Mary and Robin for coming and God for giving us blessings.

News from St Martin's As I write (9th February) yet another Sunday service has had to be cancelled due to exceptional storms that seem to have been relentless this winter. We are reminded daily of the need for safety at sea – and indeed in the air – and are thankful to those who service these islands. We began January with our Annual Chapel Meeting, when new flooring in



the Sunday school and plans to update the picture display were discussed. The need to reach out to our local Community was also addressed and family services were suggested. The first will be on Sunday March 23rd. with the theme of "living close to the sea" - when it is hoped a wider group of islanders will join us. There are so many ways in which islanders do come together and we hope such community spirit will prevail when the Old quay needs rebuilding – one of the casualties of the recent storms. We were finally able to celebrate our Covenant Service on the 19th January when the following sentiments were affirmed; "we are proud to be part of the worldwide Methodist Church and we welcome people from all walks of life and from all Christian traditions." Rev Charlie reminded us that this must surely be one of the most important services in the year. In the beginning God made a covenant with Israel – called to be a holy nation. This covenant was "renewed and extended in Jesus Christ our Lord in his life and work, death and resurrection, that in him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience." It must surely be a good practice to review and renew who we are and how we intend to live our lives for the common good.

We were delighted to welcome Barbara Jones into our Church membership during the Covenant Service. After Charlie's formalities Derek welcomed her with a warm handshake. We joined our friends at the Parish Church for a short service on Sunday 2nd February and look forward to welcoming them on Mothering Sunday.

Val Thomas

Since writing these notes Val has been on holiday to Peru, thus fulfilling a long held ambition. Her sister Julia has also been travelling this winter.

Julia has been to New Zealand and Australia with her husband, where they visited Steve's aunt and sister. Jackie and Terry have been to the Caribbean. We give thanks for chances to travel and safe journeys home.

For a long time Mary Ratcliffe has been working towards bringing a team from the Lay Witness movement to our two chapels here on Scilly. Her personal effort and the prayers of many came to fruition between March 13th and 16th. So firstly, on behalf of the members at St. Martins I want to thank Mary and her helpers on St. Marys for their commitment to this project. Next of course we must thank Ruth, Mike, Mary, Keith and Robin for crossing to St. Martins and sensitively encouraging us to look at our relationship with God and his gift of unconditional love.

On March 14th Chris Hensleigh and Jackie coordinated a shared lunch with the "team" and some members in the new Community Hall. After that time of fellowship other members and some of our Anglican friends joined us for worship, shared testimonies, discussion and a final drawing together in prayer and reflection. Individually and collectively, we were truly blessed by this opportunity to think deeply about where we are in our relationship with God, and to be reminded that God sets no targets, he just wants us to love him.

Keith and Robin returned to St. Martins on March 16th to lead worship in our Chapel. Once more we were able to learn of the varying ways God calls people into a closer relationship with him, through hearing their two different experiences. Keith spoke of the early influence in his life of his Boys Brigade Captain (Alan), of how he had lost touch with him, of how God must have been at work in the way they were reunited towards the end of his life and of how Alan's deep belief sustained him in the days prior to his death. Here an example of how the faithful lives of others can help us to know the Lord.

..... continued on page10

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NET-SCILLY YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH SYNOD IN CORNWALL...

NET-SCILLY...

Since July 2012, I've been visiting the Isles of Scilly once a month to support and inspire young people in their walk with God, and to give those with questions an opportunity to explore faith, God and life from a Christian perspective - an initiative we have called NET:SCILLY.

It began as a voluntary initiative after an inspired appointment with Andrew Nicholson (District Youth Work Enabler) and a recognition of the needs of young people on the islands. There had been no Christian youth group on the islands for over three years. After four months of voluntary visits, a District grant enabled me to develop the project further to work for four days each month from November 2012. NET:SCILLY secured a further grant from the District in October 2013 to continue this work for another twelve months, and is also now partly funded by the Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit and the Anglican Church on Scilly.

A little bit of background about me (Jen Scott was nightingale)...

I was born and grew up on the islands, went to school on Scilly, leaving aged 16 to go to the mainland for college and university. After a time traveling I moved back for a further 8 years to start my own business as a Freelance Illustrator and Graphic Designer. During those 8 years, amongst other things, I was involved in running a youth group through the Methodist Church, volunteering at the local council run youth club and hosting an alpha course. I moved to Cornwall in 2009 where I currently live with my husband Dave.

I became a Christian aged 13 through a drama mission group who visited the youth club I attended on St Mary's, run by the Methodist Church. I was not from a church background and Christianity was all new to me. Having experienced the joys and challenges of being a young Christian on the islands, I have a real heart for the young people of Scilly and desire to inspire them that life with God is a fantastic adventure that's totally relevant to them.

What's been happening?...

* Last year we ran youth alpha with a small group of 11-16 year olds (who are absolutely brilliant!) and this year that same group (minus one who has moved to the mainland for college) are growing in relationship with God and each other, and we're using the CY materials from Christianity Explored for our monthly sessions.



youthalpha.

These gatherings are designed to encourage the youth in their own walk with God, and to equip them for living out their faith in their school, home, family and community.

The youth alpha/CY group includes a weekend away in Cornwall each year which gives opportunity to meet other Christian teenagers and to build stronger relationships with each other and with God.

- * It's been great to work with the school on the islands and I've had the privilege of participating in a series of RE lessons and taking a number of assemblies. We are currently meeting in a room in the school for our CY group. We hoped to run youth alpha again this year, alongside CY, for new young people, but as yet this has been unsuccessful.
- * For the last few months I've been visiting the local hostel on my visits, to build relationships and enjoy games with the young people from the off-islands. They're all so great and fun to be around!
- * As part of NET:SCILLY, I also mentor a girl who's just turned 18, who is currently studying in Truro College after moving away from the islands. We've been a part of the 'Rise-Up' mentoring program, meeting fortnightly/3 weekly for lunch, study, chat and prayer. She also is really lovely and it's a real pleasure to be a part of her journey.
- * Lastly, through a growing hunger amongst some adults on the islands, God led us to begin Alpha for adults in February. The first session saw 8 guests, with a further 4 keen to join us in March. Guests are from a mixture of backgrounds, some connected with church and some not, which is great. I'm continually encouraged by evidence of God at work in the community on the Isles of Scilly, it's so exciting.

The future...

NET:SCILLY began as a way of re-establishing Christian-based youth work on the islands. Though my background makes me well-placed to identify with the young people of Scilly, ideally Christian's living locally would be a much better longer-term solution for the young people. I have had the privilege of working with an amazing lady called Lynne Miller, who has been God's provision since 2012 of someone to partner with. She's been absolutely vital to the success of NET:SCILLY. She is fun-loving, wise, has years of experience of walking with God and is able to relate so well to the young people. It's also been great to have occasional help from a couple of others who've stepped in for special events. At this time, there is no-one that I am aware of locally with capacity/desire to take on this role for the next season. I'm praying that God would raise up people on the islands to carry the vision and I'm hopeful that in His time, this will happen. For now, this calling is on me and it's a privilege to be able to invest in so many lives in this way.

For more information please visit the NET:SCILLY website: www.netscilly.org.uk

Robin told us of his life changing experience, when, unusually, he attended evening worship and heard the local preacher speak of a "living relationship with Christ in the here and now". He went on to tell us of the way in which his personal experience of God had been such a source of comfort and peace through very challenging times in his life. At the end of a moving time of worship, we were invited to reaffirm our desire to know the Living Lord in our lives today, and to seek his help in removing any obstacles that might be in the way. Perhaps I can end these notes with the sensible straightforward advice Keith's Boy's Brigade Captain gave his lads; "put others first, give and take but give more than you take and trust in the Lord
Heather Terry



Good Friday This year we will be holding a brief service of Passion Hymns and readings at the Methodist Chapel at 10.00am. This will be followed by walk of witness taking the cross from the chapel through the town along Porth Cressa to the top of Buzza Hill.

At about 11.00am the cross will be secured on Buzza ready for our short sunrise service at 6.00am on Easter Sunday Morning.

This year we are delighted that our two District Evangelists John Hogarth and Chris Clark will be with us in our Good Friday worship and the walk of witness and will be with us as we celebrate Easter.

After the service on Buzza Hill we are invited to go to Seagull Cottage for Refreshment

Peter Bolt's letter continued

\$1,000,000 towards the costs. So the scheme went ahead. The model is still in the WMC museum at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. Many British Methodists were against the scheme, but we got it through Conference and the Queen and Prince Phillip attended the re-opening service a few years later. Incidentally, at a special service at the Mint Methodist Church which I was attending as an ex-minister, when the Rev Lord Leslie Griffiths was the guest preacher, he went out of his way in public to say how he was one of the ones who opposed the restoration and that he was wrong and we were right to maintain our Methodist witness in the city of London! So I am glad that I had a share in making it possible for Anne to enjoy her visit to Wesley's Chapel.

Editors note. Thank you Peter for writing to us. We welcome letters and articles for the magazine.

The Donkey G.K Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

Lay Witness Weekend

Question 2 What would you desire in your life?

1. Trust God
2. Be led by the Holy Spirit
3. To know God more
4. To be revitalised by His power
5. To be surprised by His presence
6. To know we are part of His family and His plan
7. To be given continued strength to worship and serve
8. To know and trust more people in the church and the community
9. Build on existing relationships
10. Create deeper relationships by support and be supported
11. Belonging and witness through words and action

Revive O Lord your work among us

Let not our hearts be faint, and, in our love for you may we not grow weary.

Strengthen those who strive to be faithful.

Recall to your fellowship and service those who have given up.

Unite us all both in worship and helping others

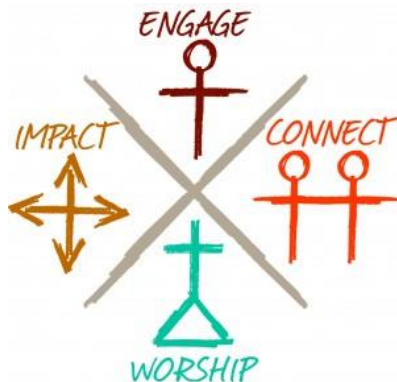
And may your church find fresh courage and energy to face the challenge of a new age.

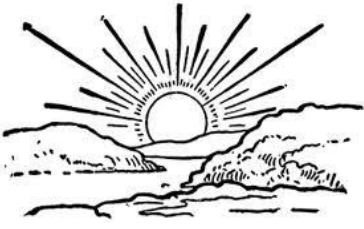
In the strength of the Holy Spirit and in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lay Witness Weekend

Question 3 What can I do to help bring these things about?

- 1 Pray
- 2 Be Disciplined and Committed to pray
- 3 Listen to God
- 4 Seek discernment
- 5 Study the Bible (read, mark, and inwardly digest)
- 6 Worship
- 7 Focus on God
- 8 Not worry about different styles of worship
- 9 Meet together between services (over Coffee)
- 10 Fellowship- invite people into homes





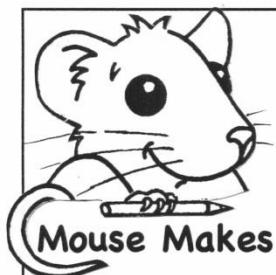
See what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes
Tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in

love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping: 'Where is He laid?
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope,
Bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit
Who clothes faith with certainty,
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned
With power and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won
Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Copyright © 2003 Thankyou Music



Glue onto card, colour, cut out the cross and hang up.

HE IS
RISEN

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women went to Jesus' tomb. They found the stone rolled away but when they went in they did not find Jesus' body...



Jesus is risen

The angel said;
"Jesus...is not here, for he has risen, just as he said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said;
"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."
Matthew 18:20

Jesus will come again

Jesus said;
"I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am."
John 14:3

...Suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them and said,

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



READ the Resurrection story in **Luke 24** and **John 20** and **21**.

How many people saw the risen Jesus?

JESUS
IS ALIVE

Teddy Knitters

More dear knitters are making lovely bears to send to children in dire troubles around the world. Normally each one is encased in a cloth bag, tied with a ribbon round its neck. It means that each child receives two little gifts, often the only items they have ever owned.

Up until now all the bags have been made by my dear friend Mary Barnes, bless her! However with the increase in the number of knitters we are facing a shortage of bags! Materials are available for anyone volunteering to sew for us. It would be a valuable offering!

Gwen Clarkson.

Teddies for Tragedies.



Birthdays in April

Gwen Clarkson, Mary Gibbs, Barbara Hasler,
Stephen Morris, Jenny Nightingale.

Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to you

God Bless you and keep you

Happy Birthday to you.

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In Touch can be read online. Just go to our Circuit website www.scillymethodists.co.uk and click the link to the newsletter. Please see our Facebook page. St. Mary's Methodist Church Isles of Scilly.

Some material in this magazine was obtained from www.parishpump.co.uk We thank them for providing material for editors of church magazines to use.

Be joyful in the Lord always and praise His Holy Name!

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact Charlie Gibbs 422406 and then me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030. I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird **423117**

Sue Williams 422605

Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

Claire Jenkins **423546**

Margaret Snowball 422896

Gordon Bird 422550

Sonia Crompton 422854

Barbara Hasler **422208**

Len & Sylvia Michell 422409

Pam Thomas 423115

June Lethbridge 422404

Margaret Crane 422596

Beryl Read **422977**

Gwen Clarkson 423106

Dorothy Beedell 423384

For the Prayer Chain to be effective it is essential that requests are forwarded to the person in the column beneath your name, if that person is not available please ring the next person on the list.

If anyone else would like to join in this special ministry please contact me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.

April Services

St. Mary's

April 6th

10.00am	Children's' Church
11.00am	Trevor Adams
4.00pm	Park House
6.00pm	Revd Charlie Gibbs

April 13th

Palm Sunday

9.15am	Mervyn Bird and Barbara Hasler
11.00am	Rev C Gibbs
6.00pm	Trevor Adams

April 20th

Easter Day

6.00am	Sunrise Service at Buzza
10.30am	Rev C.Gibbs Holy Communion
6.00pm	Easter Songs of Praise

April 30th

9.15am	Beryl Read and Rev Steve Wild Holy Communion
11.00am	Rev Steve Wild Holy Communion
6.00pm	Rev Steve Wild

St. Martin's

April 6th

11.00am	Revd. Charlie Gibbs
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April 13th

Palm Sunday

3.00pm	Rev C Gibbs
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April 20th

Easter Day

3.00pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs
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April 27th

11.00 a.m.	Rev Charlie Gibbs
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