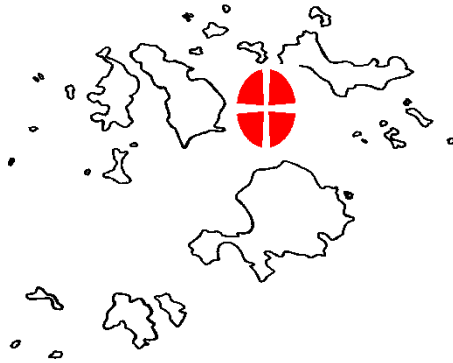


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

APRIL 2015



Christ is Risen Alleluiah!

Chairman of the District

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Meeting Secretary Heather Terry 422329

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read

Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Leigh Kendrick

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Property Secretary Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry 422329

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE ST MARY'S MANSE....

On the last Sunday in March, which this year was Palm Sunday, our clocks went forward and 'British Summer Time' officially began! At this time of year we begin to welcome visitors to our beautiful islands and we look forward to welcoming visitors to our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services which this year are on the first weekend in April.

On Good Friday on St Mary's we meet for a morning service of hymns and readings at **10.30** in the chapel. At **11am** there will be a walk of witness through the town and to the top of Buzza Hill.

On Buzza Hill the wooden Cross will be placed overlooking Hugh Town, prayers will be said, and at about 11.30 refreshments will be served at Seagull cottage by kind invitation of Mrs Mary Ratcliffe.

On **Easter Sunday** on St Mary's we meet at **6.30am** on Buzza Hill for the singing of Easter hymns and to hear the Easter story read from Mark's Gospel. At 7am refreshments will be served at Seagull Cottage.

Later on **Easter Sunday** at **10.30am** we meet to share in the joy of Easter in our St Mary's chapel. As people gather for worship the empty Easter Cross will be dressed with Scillonian flowers and will be brought into the chapel as we sing Easter hymns. At the end of this joyful act of worship Easter eggs will be distributed to all in the congregation and refreshments will be served at 11.30.

On **Easter Sunday Evening** on St Mary's at **6pm** we meet for a special Songs of Praise with our wonderful Easter hymns and readings from the Easter Gospel. Refreshments will be served at 7pm.

We will be celebrating **Easter** on **St Martin's** on Easter Sunday at **3pm** with a service of Easter readings and hymns with Holy Communion. Visitors from St Mary's will be most welcome, please speak to arrange boating.

We hope to welcome many visitors to our worship on St Mary's and St Martin's over the summer months, and we give thanks that together the Good News of the Gospel will be celebrated every Sunday on these beautiful islands. Over the winter months I often receive letters from mainland friends who say they are

looking forward again coming to Scilly and being with us in worship, and it is clear that many of these regular visitors do find the worship in our chapels welcoming and helpful in celebrating their precious Christian Faith.

How people react to an act of worship and the witness of the church in the community is an interesting subject and one that is addressed in part by what we read in the opening words of the sixth chapter of Mark's Gospel. Here we read of how when Jesus is in His home town of Nazareth that the people there question His authority to teach, and Mark comments that because of their lack of faith the healings and the miracles that happened in other parts of Galilee do not happen in Nazareth.

Yet despite this Mark tells us that when people are open to receive the Good News of the Gospel things can be very different! In Capernaum fishermen leave their boats and follow, they witness the sick being healed and how the ordinary people of the day find hope as Jesus speaks clearly about the promised coming of God's Kingdom, and maybe the challenge from these words in Mark's Gospel is very clear for us all to see. Are we like those in Capernaum with hearts open to the Good News of The Gospel, or are we like those in Nazareth with hardened hearts that make it all but impossible for The Lord to work among us?

Someone said to me the other day, "Charlie it's not easy being church today!" I expect we all know what this well meaning friend meant, but I also expect that this has always been the case, and in a sense it has never been easy to 'be church'. We rejoice that week by week on St Martin's and St Mary's we meet together on the first day of the week to celebrate the love and the power of our gracious God and we look forward to visitors being there with us this summer.

Looking back over the winter months we give thanks that the weather has been much kinder than last year, and we also give thanks for all the good things that we have been able to do to in furthering the mission of our church.

Another new idea over the winter months was the 'Monday is for men!' mornings held in the Wesley Room at the manse. We were delighted that so many men turned up to enjoy being together and eating bacon rolls and drinking tea. This was certainly much appreciated by those who came, it was good to talk to one another, and it was a good way for us to share the love and generosity of our gracious God. These kind of events certainly break down some of the invisible barriers that sometimes surround the life of our church.

Later on in Mark's Gospel Jesus says to His disciples "If anyone would come after me they must deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow!"

Yes, Jesus understood that maybe our actions say much more about our faith than our words! May our precious Christian Faith continue to be seen in our love of one another!

Charlie Gibbs .

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us, Revive your church with life and power; O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us, and fit your church to meet this hour.

With Easter in mind...

The face of Jesus must be very near our own when the thorns from His crown of suffering are pressing our brow and hurting us.
Anon

Of all the things that will surprise us in the Resurrection morning, this I believe, will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died. J C Ryle

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope. Anon

News from St. Martin's

Our annual Covenant Service , led by Rev Charlie, was held on 18th January, when we we're joined by Canon Paul Miller and friends from the Anglican Church. It is an important time when we reflect on God's promises and our own commitments. In his address Canon Paul reminded us of why the date was chosen to celebrate this very special occasion - it was Church Unity Week.

We were also reminded of the many changes that face our churches today, and quoted the Bishop of Chelmsford, who has 40 languages spoken in his diocese. With more female bishops and fewer new clergy, the horizon looks very different. We must adapt to, and welcome change, but not loose sight of the roots of our religion.

We held our winter Church Council Meeting after the morning service on Jan 25th. Items regarding the running of our Chapel were discussed and a sincere thanks go to Chris Savill and Alan Terry for maintaining the buildings and managing our finances. We continue to give thanks for the generous donations received and fund- raising efforts, such as the fete and photo exhibition, which help 'to keep us a float' Derek Perkins expressed a wish to hand over the responsibilities of church steward. Some 60 years ago he became a 'leader' of what was then an independent chapel. He was warmly thanked for all his help and such enormous contributions made over so many years. I'm sure he will continue to keep an eye on things - opening the windows every day in the summer, putting on heaters in the winter, ferrying water for coffee mornings etc etc !!

Barbara Jones was welcomed as Derek's successor and we wish her God's guidance in her new role.

We also discussed our role in the local community and it was felt that holding more 'family' services were of value, on a quarterly basis and perhaps with a particular theme.

The first of these was held on 15th of Feb when Beryl Read joined Charlie with her Christmas (singing) teddy! Young Lowena was not too sure what to make of him! It is always a pleasure to welcome Beryl and also some new faces.

We were reminded of the choices we have when deciding whether to follow Jesus. Cakes, cookies and coffee were then enjoyed and we agreed that our time of fellowship had been enriched. We

were also able to admire Beryl's well deserved St John's medal. We have only been able to hold one evening of fellowship this winter and we thank Rodney for his hospitality.

Based on an interesting debate held on Radio Cornwall we considered the challenge of 'Not very Christian is is?' Some far reaching questions were discussed, such as 'Is it possible to be so Heavenly minded that we are no earthly good?' 'What is a Christian - how should we behave?'

As Spring approaches and Lent is here we can reflect, and hope that we can do much 'earthly good'

Val Thomas

O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us, 'till humbly we confess our need; Then in your tenderness remake us; Revive, restore; for this we plead.

Report from Circuit meeting in April on Working Together

Rev. Steve Wild and Bishop Tim Thornton have been discussing shared ministry throughout Cornwall and both would like this idea developed and shared here in our Circuit.

The Circuit Meeting membership would make any decision about future provision and we were reminded by Rev Charlie Gibbs that we should seize the requirement for change as an opportunity for mission, as any money freed up in any way could be used to employ a family/youth worker. There were no agreed actions but a meeting between local Methodist members was suggested by Chris Savill and Sue Williams thought a meeting with Bishop Tim Thornton and Rev. S Wild would be beneficial.

O Breath of love, come, breath within us, Renewing thought and will and heart; Come love of Christ, afresh to win us, Revive your church in every part.



Exciting prospect!

St Mary's held a Church Council meeting on 6th March 2015. Members unanimously approved a proposal by Gordon Bird to go ahead with a feasibility study regarding the removal of pews and pulpit, moving the inner wall of the lobby forward to the pillars supporting the gallery and making it glass, carpeting the whole interior and having comfortable chairs. An external glass porch would give weather protection. There is money available in the Connexion to fund projects like this as long as they are linked to mission. In our case the room would be used for worship and outreach whilst providing the community with a flexible room to hire. We have help from the District to steer us through the process and already people in our community have offered us their expertise.

We thank God for his provision of such kindnesses and pray for continuing wisdom by the Holy Spirit that this development will be blessed as we in obedience seek to reach out into our community with the Good News.

Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.

For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen



Open the Book

We rejoice that we have been able to Open the Book to our primary age children during the winter. It has been well received by all at the school and those telling the story have been blessed. The great story of Joseph has been told, especially reminding the children of that forgiving those who have hurt us is God's way and after Easter, when we remember that God's sacrifice made deliverance from the power of sin and fear of death, we shall be telling the story of the deliverance of God's people out of slavery.

May God continue to bless this work here in Scilly and throughout the United Kingdom.



Celebrate Easter on St Mary's
Good Friday. 'Together before the cross of Jesus'

3rd April 2015 10.30 a.m. followed by a walk of witness to Buzza Hill where prayers will be said.*

Easter Sunday 'The coming together of God's people to celebrate the Resurrection'

5th April 6.30 a.m. on Buzza Hill*

10.30 a.m. Includes dressing the Easter Cross with flowers Joyful worship with Easter hymns and the giving of Easter eggs to all.

6.00 p.m. Songs of praise

*Refreshments will be served, for all to enjoy, following the services at Seagull Cottage on Buzza.

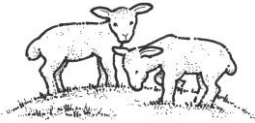
St Martin's

Easter Sunday 5th April 2015

3.00p.m. Easter Celebration. Easter readings and our wonderful Easter hymns.

We invite visitors to join us on St. Martin's for this wonderful island service. Please contact our minister for details of boating.
422406

*Come on and celebrate His gift of love, we will celebrate
The Son of God who loved us and gave us life.
We'll shout Your praise, O King,
You give us joy nothing else can bring,
We'll give to You our offering
In celebration praise.*



Spring has Sprung

How wonderful is God's creation and we on the Islands are truly blessed in that Spring arrives here first in the U.K. We have much to give thanks for. We are half way through Lent as I write this and already have held three of our Lunches to raise money which will be used by Christian Aid to help others help themselves. Over £500 has been given at these. We move down to the Parish Church Hall for three more occasions of fellowship and super soup! By Easter may our desire to raise a thousand pounds be realised.

We have also welcomed three new worshippers to our fellowship on St Mary's. Beverley and Ian and Jane. It is an answer to our prayer that Christians would come to work and witness on these islands. May they be blessed through being part of our community.

It is a year since the Lay Witness weekend and we continue to thank that team for their encouragement. Our prayer meeting for Revival, led by Dean, on a Thursday evening is a time when we were given the idea of holding a Community Day and that was a great success. Charlie's **Mornings for Men** are much appreciated and offer not only bacon rolls but opportunity for people to talk. Thanks to our menfolk who support Charlie in this venture. We thank God for the continuing work of Seekers and thank God for those who help to make this a happy time for children and an opportunity to sow seeds of faith.

The vision to bring the chapel building up to date is already being welcomed. Despite the cost of refurbishing the hall being greater than expected it has been very good to worship closely together instead of keeping to our distant, long preferred seating preferences in the Chapel! We remember Joyce Pym's generous bequest which made this possible. May we never forget the generosity of those who built the chapel, those who worshipped here and those who showed us the love of Jesus. May we be faithful in our generation.

The Lent meetings held at the Catholic Church have been a special time giving us the opportunity to worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Bishop Christopher Budd has led us in meditating on the readings set for this season.

The Bible Society reminds us that:-

'It can be hard to find time to speak to God when your day is full of work, family and the pressures of daily life.

Lectio Divina is a dynamic way of reading the Holy Scriptures which has been around since AD 300.

By following the four-step approach:

- Reading
- Meditation
- Prayer
- Contemplation ,you will eventually start hearing God's voice.

Lectio Divina invites you to savour and mull over God's words quietly, slowly and intently until you begin to respond to what God is saying.

It helps you build that vital bridge between your encounters with God and everyday life with its joys, humdrum and challenges.'

So we thank Bishop Christopher and his flock for giving us all the opportunity to meet together.

*Come, divine
devoted breast;
kindle there the*



*and peaceful Guest, enter our
Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
Gospel- fire.*

The General Election will be held on Thursday May 7th 2015.

We have the freedom to vote for any party but as Christians should consider voting for the party most likely to embrace Christian principles.

Christians engage in acts of service to the wider community as a natural consequence of their faith. In recent years the food banks which have sprung up all over the country have largely been established by Christians of all denominations and traditions.

Equally people in all the churches have supported the homeless, the unemployed, those affected by drug and alcohol misuse and many other social issues, and also employed many more youth workers in the past decade whilst such workers paid from public funding have diminished considerably. These things are not done to criticise lack of provision by government, whether national or local, but because there are needs which should be recognised and met. Our society needs intermediate institutions such as our churches which serve the common good and build strong community life. Everything cannot be left to government. Yet we often seem to assume governments are omni-competent. As we approach a General Election Christians should not place upon any government wholly unrealistic expectations.

We recognise every government is imperfect. Christians are not put off politics by that. We believe the world is good and created by God but disordered by human sin. Christians can therefore cope with defective institutions. Viewed in simply human terms the Church is herself far from perfect. Yet Christians are always inspired by the vision of the Kingdom of God which, in the Lord's Prayer, we pray will one day come "on earth as it is in heaven".
We too have that vision of peace and unity

The above is an extract from a Pastoral letter by an Anglican Bishop published for use by churches by the Parish Pump. I have edited it slightly as I believe that what was written can help us all. Ed.M.R

Lord, our Hearts we lift to Heaven

Lord, our hearts we lift to Heaven
and this joyful song we sing;
Lives made new and sins forgiven,
Praise the love of Jesus our King.

Peace shall be upon the mountains,
dried-up wells be living fountains,
sight restored through parted curtains;
Look, for the Kingdom of Heav'n is near.

Lord, our hearts we lift to Heaven
and this yearning song we sing;
Beyond the Cross the Son is risen,
come and rule Lord Jesus our King.

Prince of Peace be our peace making,
Wine of life be our partaking,
Light of all be radiating;
Shine in our darkness and banish our fear.

By David Williams

Editor: This poem by David Williams was first written as a hymn for use at his church in Meopham.

Election smile- it may be the only one we get!

At the pearly gates, St. Peter greeted a minister and a member of parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." The vicar began to protest that this was unfair. "Listen," St. Peter said, "ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."

Winter Visitors fly away and Summer Visitors arrive.

David and Elizabeth, Christine and Keith have been winter visitors to the Island and have contributed to our fellowship by their presence and their encouragement. Elizabeth has already been roped in to making bags for Teddies as well as making a textile hanging for the Wildlife Trust. At home during the autumn she had encouraged sewers to take their machines into a local shop to make known the work of Samaritan's Purse by sewing similar bags. I'm sure this encouraged others to use them in making up their shoeboxes. We shall miss them all but hope to see them all again later in the year.

I am always reminded of the writing about a ship leaving port and there being someone to welcome them on another shore and it is true that when we wave goodbye here we are already reaching out our hands in friendship to old friends returning, like swallows, to share our lives, be it only for a short time.

This year we shall be again welcoming Nigel and Corinne Pocock. They have been visiting the Islands for years. My first meeting with them was when Guy and myself used to take people on Christian Walks around the island. This year Nigel will be holding evenings telling the story 'Scilly, Slavery and Sunken Wrecks' These will be on Saturday May 17th; Saturday 23rd; and Saturday 30th

We are pleased to support those holding shows in our hall over the summer months and wish them well. This year we shall be welcoming a Gig Crew from Italy to sleep in our hall. Truro Gig Club who normally use the hall have generously offered it to them.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The day was a very special occasion with many women taking part. Eileen Martin led the service beautifully and the collection, which is given by the central committee of WWDofP to Bible Societies was over £400. Bahamas and Scilly women united in worship and service.



Teddies for Uganda

Thanks to the dear ladies here in St Mary's who keep knitting lovely Teddy Bears .We will soon be able to send a boxful away to arrive in due course in Uganda. We post them to the U.C.D.F.

organiser in Wales, Mrs Kate Rees, who arranges their transport to Uganda by various means.

The Teddies, each one in its own cotton bag, are given to children

from very poor families. They do not expect to be given anything to call their own so it is a great gift to them. Each bear is almost unique, sporting garments of varying sizes and colours and with facial expressions ranging from lovely smiles to the occasional cross look!

The need for Teddies is immense. Sadly we now have a very small band of ladies who knit for us and even fewer who sew the bags! So please, if you enjoy knitting or using your sewing machine, do consider joining them! Knitting patterns are available and we have good supplies of all the materials needed, with lots of different coloured wools and the best stuffing for the bears. We have all that is needed to make the bags and ribbon to tie round the teddies tummy!

It is a very practical outreach for our church commitment to do God's work in the world!

Gwen Clarkson

Objects of faith.

An infants teacher gave her class a 'show and tell' assignment. Each student was asked to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

Benjamin got up in front of the class and said " I am Jewish and this is the Star of David.

Mary got up next, and she said "I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary.

Then Tim stood up. " I am a Methodist, and this is a casserole."

Mary, first of all (John 20:1-18)

It was early
and still dark.
So dark,
with the darkness weight
of a loved one lost.

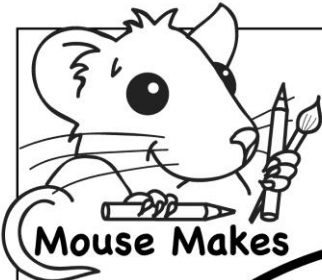


Crying, despairing,
peering into death's resting
place.
Stunned
by the shock of angels
with a question instead of a corpse.

A question,
and a spinning
away from darkness
to the light of her world,
the Light of the World,
unrecognised
yet re-ignited.

And in the speaking of her name
he passes on his fire and life,
and sends her out,
Mary,
light-bearer, truth-bringer,
witness - first of all -
to the Living Lord Jesus. *By Daphne Kitching*

The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought; what we call the 'gospels'... were composed later....The miracle of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. CS Lewis in 'Miracles'.



Jesus said to Martha,
"I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again. He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish. Do you believe this Martha?"

"Yes, Lord," she said "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one we have so long awaited."
 Matthew 11:25

Colour the picture and cut out. Make into an Easter card or hang up.

<p>JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED</p>	<p>JESUS SON OF GOD Matthew 3:16-17 SAVIOUR John 3:16-17 LORD 1 Corinthians 1:9 SHEPHERD John 10:11</p>	<p>JESUS WAS BURIED</p>
<p>JESUS IS WITH US</p>		
<p>JESUS IS RISEN</p> <p>JESUS IS ALIVE! Read the Easter story in Luke 22-24</p>	<p>THE WORD John 1:1-50 THE WAY John 14:6 THE LIGHT John 8:12 THE BREAD John 6:35 THE LAMB John 1:29 THE DOOR John 10:9 THE LIFE John 11:25-27</p>	<p>JESUS IS ALIVE</p> <p>✠ Jesus said: <i>"I am the resurrection"</i> Read Matthew 11:14-44</p>



Birthdays in April

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you.

God Bless you and keep you
and watch over you.

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

We give thanks for Clare Jenkins 80th birthday celebration and her work and witness to our Lord in this community.

Forthcoming events

The service arranged by Methodist Women in Britain will be on Sunday May 10th at 10.30.a.m. The service will include an offering, all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain.

On the weekend of Pentecost May 24th we shall be welcoming Gareth Bolton and his wife Malou to our Circuit. They travel the world encouraging Christians and we are extremely blessed that they are coming to our tiny islands. We pray a blessing on this weekend when we are given the opportunity to invite others to meet them.

On Trinity Sunday May 31st we will be welcoming Rev. Steve Wild for we hope, a welcome break from his preparations for his year as President of the Methodist Church which begins in September.

We pray a blessing on him and his family as he undertakes this work. We are indeed blessed to know and love Steve who loves to share his faith with anyone. I pray we may catch his enthusiasm and his skill.
Mary

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Mary Ratcliffe maryratcliffe@live.com

Thanks to www.parishpump.co.uk. for the use of their material.

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030 or Revd. Charles Gibbs 422406. 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**
Margaret Crane 422596
Len & Sylvia Michell 422409
Pamela Thomas 423115
June Lethbridge 422404

Beryl Read **422977**
Gwen Clarkson 423106

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 Mary Ratcliffe on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of His grace.

April Services

St. Mary's

April 5th Easter Day
10.30 a.m. Rev C. Gibbs Holy Communion
4.00 p.m. Park House Gordon Bird
6.00 p.m. Easter Songs of Praise

April 12th
9.15 a.m. Mary Ratcliffe & Kim Watson
11.00 a.m. Rev. Stephen Poxon (Ex President)
6.00 p.m. Rev. C Gibbs

April 19th
9.15 a.m. Gordon Bird & Sonia Crompton
11.00 a.m. Rev. Peter Bolt
6.00 p.m. Barbara Hasler

April 26th
9.15 a.m. Rev C Gibbs & Beryl Read. Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Rev. C Gibbs Holy Communion
6.00pm Songs of Praise Rev C Gibbs

St. Martin's

April 5th
3.00/6.00p.m. Rev. C Gibbs Holy Communion

April 12th
3.00/6.00p.m. Rev. Stephen Poxon

April 19th
11.00 a.m . Mary Ratcliffe

April 26th Rev. C Gibbs Holy Communion