

Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

August



2011

Some Thoughts from the Manse

August is here again, the visitors still keep coming, the sun keeps on shining, and having now been resident on these fine islands for two years, I said to Mary only the other day 'We've never had it so good!'

Yes, we've never had it so good! We may not all be rich but most of us here on Scilly have enough! We have food to eat, we have comfortable homes, we have good medical care and, for most, at least for the time being, we are well provided for.



All this is good, but is it good for our souls? Well, we can come to chapel on a Sunday and thank our God for his provision, we can share these good things with others, and if we are wise we can keep some of these blessings for a rainy day! Yes, it does sometimes rain even here on these fine islands.

When all is going well it can sometimes be the case that we forget our need of God. The harsh realities of the call of Jesus to 'Take up our cross and to follow' can seem remote. The Christ-like way of 'Sacrificial Living' slips low down our list of priorities, and in a comfortable place such as this, there is of course, much to distract the good Christian people of these islands to all sorts of things other than church or chapel.

At the end of our Bible we have the often misunderstood Book of Revelation. It is about seven churches in Asia Minor and what the Lord has to say to them, and to one of those churches the Lord says "*I know you better than you know yourselves! I know your deeds! I know your way of life! And I know that you are neither hot nor cold for me! And the truth is, you are nothing more than 'Lukewarm' in your faith!*"

Well, I don't know about you, but as the Methodist minister here on Scilly, I certainly find these words quite challenging. Maybe there's more to life than just saying 'We've never had it so good!' But what do you think? What do you see when you look at the Church here on the beautiful Isles of Scilly? Are we 'Hot!?' Are we 'Cold!?', or are we like that church in Asia Minor, and just 'Lukewarm?' Or to put it another way, are most of us just 'Indifferent' about the things of God?

I wonder what the main priority in your life is. Is it what has been described as 'Our precious Christian faith'? Or are there more important things going on here in Scilly at the moment?

Is the church on Scilly 'Fit for purpose'? Are we meeting the needs of this island community in which we live? Do we still speak about the sovereignty of God? Or have we somehow 'lost our edge' and have become rather comfortable with the way things are? I really would love to know what you think. Please do let me know, it would help me a great deal.

Now, it seems to me that those words from the Book of Revelation have a certain irony about them, indeed if the subject wasn't so serious it

would seem almost like a joke. Those who had once been so 'Greatly Blessed' had now turned from the very source of their blessing. Those who knew of God's provision and had found meaning in the Good News of The Gospel, had now 'gone off the boil!' And the writer goes on to describe them as 'Pitiful, Poor, and Blind to the Grace of God'. They certainly had become lukewarm in their mission to others, lukewarm in their worship, and also lukewarm in their care and concern for others. And I expect that because, on the whole their lives were comfortable, they had not noticed how slowly, bit by bit, their relationship with God had changed. In the end it was little more than a pale reflection of what it once had been.

Experience tells us that when a church is 'Lukewarm', or indifferent to the teaching of its Lord, it begins to lose its credibility in that community. It would indeed be very sad for these islands if such a thing happened here, especially as the Church has played such an important role in the ups and downs of life throughout the history of the good people who have lived here.

I wonder what happens when a church slips into such a sad decline as the one we have been told of in the Book of Revelation. What can be done? Is it possible to regain that which has become lost? Is it possible for a church such as that to ever again be 'Fit for Purpose'? Thankfully, that particular story ended on a note of hope. For according to John, the author of the book, the Lord shows His grace and His provision yet again, and in those words that I expect most of us have heard many times before, He says '*Behold, I stand at the door and knock! And I say to all who hear my voice, and open the door that I will surely enter in to eat with them and they will eat with me!*' (Revelation 3: 20)

Maybe we have never had it so good after all!

On the first Sunday in September the good people of St Martin's will be celebrating their Harvest Thanksgiving at 6 pm. There will be some good harvest hymns to be sung and there is always a warm welcome to be found on St Martin's. On the following evening (Monday 5th September) there is the wonderful St Martin's Harvest Sale. It is hoped that a good number of people from St Mary's will want to come to either one or both of these special harvest events. Please let me know if you are coming with me so that I can arrange the boating. All will be welcome, the more the better.

On St Mary's we are having a special Bible exhibition from 1st to 7th August to celebrate 400 years of the Authorised (King James) version of the God's living Word. A lot of interest has been shown in this event and we have been lent some old and interesting Bibles. Do come along and see it in the Wesley Room at the Manse!

Our dear friend and evangelist Steve Wild is visiting Scilly over the weekend of 6th and 7th August. I know he is looking forward to being with the Children's Church on the Sunday at 10 am. Later that day Steve will be preaching on both St Martin's and St Mary's and he is also

planning to go to St Helen's that afternoon on the annual St Elidius Pilgrimage. Steve Wild will also be speaking on Saturday evening at the Manse at 7.30 pm. This will be a good time to come and meet him; ham sandwiches and cocoa will be served at 8.45 pm.

This year we are again going to be holding a special Out-door Songs of Praise on St Mary's quay. This will be on the evening of 21st August at 7.45 pm. The last week in August will be very special for the children because our annual children's Holiday Club runs from 22nd to 26th with a special celebration children's service on Sunday 28th at 10.30 am. Gordon Bird and his loyal team will be upheld in our prayers.

Yes, we've never had it so good!

Every blessing to you all in the mighty name of Jesus!

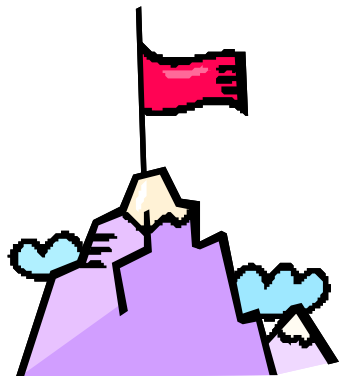
Charlie

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### **Children's Holiday Club**

Our Holiday Club this year will be from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August. We are turning the church into a Mountain Experience for primary-aged children and will be having a Bible-based two hour session from Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 11.30 am at 50p per session. Each day we will have lots of fun with games/crafts, teaching activities and refreshments.

If you are too old to come and join in the groups in the camps, you can always come along and help with some of the 'jobs' that need doing. Please speak to Sonia or Gordon for more information. Please pray for the staff and children who will be taking part in this year's Holiday Club.



## **News from St Martin's**

Our regular congregation has been joined by a few holiday makers in recent weeks. It is always pleasing to welcome long standing visitors and fresh faces and we trust that they feel blessed during a time of worship at St. Martins Chapel. We were encouraged to learn from one lady who attended on July 10<sup>th</sup>. a little of the work of her evangelist son and how some churches in London are rapidly growing and attracting younger people.

It is good to be able to report that Daph has returned home after a hip replacement. Josie and her granddaughter have come too, so Daph will remain in good hands with their support and that of other family members who live on St. Martins.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Auntie Celia and Uncle Rodney. I'm sure their spirits have been raised by having their daughters home for a while to help with the caring. Also of course, St. Martins folk, especially Christine, have been doing what they can to assist.

The photo displays about Island Life continue to attract visitors. Most weeks Gladys passes to Alan, our treasurer, a sum of money that has been donated. We do urge readers of In Touch who have not yet seen the exhibition, in the Sunday School room adjacent to the Chapel, to do so. The visitor's book contains very favourable comments!

*Heather Terry*

## **Some observations on Life**

The only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. Our charities should pinch and hamper us. If we live at the same level of affluence as other people who have our level of income, we are probably giving away too little. *C. S. Lewis*

If you would like to live a quiet, peaceful, uneventful life, you are living at the wrong time.

## **Changing Scenes**

Change is one of the few things in life that is certain, since change and growth are two sides of the same coin. Every period of change, whether it is from childhood to adult life, singleness to marriage, middle life to old age requires some degree of giving up and letting go. So growth can either be painful or a rewarding experience. It all depends whether we fight it or accept it. Remember, hands which are grimly clutching on to the past are totally unable to grasp hold of the present and the future.

Clutching on to the past or grasping the present – it's so easy to do the first, Lord. To cling resolutely to the happiness, achievements and people in my past, while refusing to see that it is part of life's pattern that my relationships, life-style and goals should change with the years, as well as my appearance.

Thank you that you deal so gently with me, Lord. Remind me often that every day is a gift from you, to be tasted and savoured as if life itself has just begun, and that you intend me to develop one day and one year at a time, taking with me into the future the best of every stage experienced so far.

The future sometimes looks a little frightening, Lord. Thank you that there is no pathway that I need to tread without your company. And thank you, Father, that in all the changing scenes of life one thing is certain: you are the same yesterday, today and for ever.

## **Words of Wisdom**

It is about eight hundred years since St Francis of Assisi wrote these words, yet it seems they are still the best advice you can give anyone who thinks the task asked is too big or too difficult to tackle.

The wise St Francis said; *'Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible'*.

*Thanks to the magazine of Trinity Methodist Church, Royton for these pieces.*

## John Bunyan

*Recently I visited Bedford and a friend took me to the Bunyan Meeting House and Museum. I lived near Bedford for eleven years some time ago but in that time I knew of John Bunyan's birthplace in Elstow, just south of Bedford but I didn't know of the museum in Bedford. The museum is small but they have a very interesting display relating the story of John Bunyan's life and a collection of many editions of Pilgrim's Progress in many languages.*



*When I came across this article about John Bunyan who we remember particularly in August, the month of his death, it seemed meant that I should include it.*

*Anne*

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only

Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant-for-Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ has received his summons to 'go home'. Calling his friends together he says, 'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder'. ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

*We all know the hymn the words of which are based on Pilgrim's Progress*

### **He Who Would Valiant Be**

He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round with dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound - his strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight,  
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.



## **Flip Flop Ministry**

Street Pastors have become a familiar sight on the streets of many towns, this account refers to their work in Cambridge but I assume that it is the same wherever it operates.

The Training for Street Pastors is intensive and lasts twelve weeks during which they learn about self defence, conflict resolution, first-aid, and all the skills needed in the real world of street evangelism.

They are not there to preach, but to show care and engage with the people where they are – in streets, outside pubs, clubs, and spilling out of premises after a party. They do not initiate exchanges about the gospel, but the prominent logos on their shirts and baseball caps invariably start people asking questions about who they are, and what they're doing. That, more often than not, leads to further questions why and that's the time they talk about Jesus.

The Street Pastors in Cambridge usually work in groups of four, every Friday, Saturday and Bank Holiday Mondays. On the streets, they are in constant touch with each other either via radios, or mobile phones. They make sure they are in range of CCT cameras in case of problems, and work very closely with the Police and other Agencies. And they always make sure that they are within sight of each other in case of trouble.

If there seems to be trouble brewing in a group of late night revellers and police turn up, there is usually a fight; the tactic employed by Street Pastors is to pray, and then talk to the people on the periphery of the group. When that happens, the problems seem to dissolve!

You may wonder why this article is titled Flip Flop Ministry. The reason is that everyone carries a bag in which they carry a handful of flip-flops, a dust-pan and brush, sick bags, and headbands, also a handful of Gideons' New Testaments.

The flip-flops are for girls drunk almost to oblivion who have lost or left their shoes behind in clubs, to protect their feet from broken glass in the street.

The head-bands are for them to keep their hair out of their faces whilst they are being sick.

The sick bags are for people who have to catch a taxi, which will not take them home unless they stop being sick or have taken precautions to contain the vomit.

And the dust pan and brush are to sweep up, in the early morning, the broken bottles on the street (on a quiet night 60 or 70 broken bottles!).

The Street Pastors work from 10 pm till 4 am

They are making a difference

They are trying to engage with the people on the people's terms. They are trying to make a positive difference in the lives of the people they encounter.

They are trying to show they care.

They are trying to show that they care in the name of Jesus.

And we all know that Jesus was the original street pastor!

*With grateful thanks to Mary's friend Ted Karwowski from Emmanuel Church, Chatteris for permission to use this article to enable us to pray for this ministry.*

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Teach us to pray

Lord, teach us to pray. Some of us are not skilled in the art of prayer. As we draw near to thee in thought, our spirits long for thy Spirit, and reach out for thee, longing to feel thee near. We know not how to express the deepest emotions that lie hidden in our hearts. ...We know that we are closest to thee when we have left behind the things that have held us captive so long.we pray that thou wilt give unto us only what we really need.give us the vision, the courage, that shall enlarge our horizons and stretch our faith to the adventure of seeking thy loving will for our lives.

By Peter Marshall (1902 – 1949; a former chaplain to the US Senate)

Methodists Support People of Korea

The Methodist Church in Britain has expressed solidarity with the people of Korea after Churches distributing food aid were threatened with legal action by the South Korean government.

The Rev Alison Tomlin, President of the Methodist Conference, sent a letter to the President of South Korea this week urging the government to resume food aid. The Methodist World Mission Fund has issued a £10,000 grant to the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) in response to the crisis.

The NCCK sent 172 tons of flour to the Korean Christian Federation (KCF) on 18 May through the Amity Foundation, an organisation that receives funding from the Methodist Church's World Mission Fund. The flour was sent in response to food shortages in North Korea reported by the World Food Program and the NCCK. The emergency supply was distributed by the KCF in North Korea to kindergartens in three towns, reaching around 31,400 children.

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## **New recommendations for Anglicans and Methodists in Covenant**

The Methodist Church and the Church of England should work more closely together in their local communities. So says a new report from representatives of both Churches. The Joint Implementation Commission, set up under the Anglican-Methodist Covenant of 2003, is recommending that the two Churches should share their mission and ministry far more widely.

Its interim report 'Moving Forward in Covenant', has been considered this summer by both the Methodist Conference and the General Synod. The report urges Methodists and Anglicans to join forces on the ground in a more far-reaching way than ever before.

## By the Sea

I walked alone beside the sea  
And as I walked there seemed to be  
An unseen friend walked by my side  
As I wondered at the changing tide.

He rules the sea, the sky, the land  
The moon and stars hear his command,  
All else, but man, joins his melody  
Of love and faith and harmony.

His gentle voice spoke from the sea  
'Be not afraid, just follow me'.  
I noticed not the time or way  
As we walked and talked that day.

I lingered there until the sun  
Dipped in the sea, and day was done.  
My cares, my fears all slipped away  
Because I walked with him that day.



I hurried home, by duty called,  
All seemed right within its walls.  
My hopes renewed, tears washed away  
Because I talked with God that day.

## Birthday Greetings



This month our best wishes and prayers go to Jenny Burrows, Neil Didlick, Sybil Gandy, Rev. Charlie Gibbs, Anne Gurr, Peter Laverock, Daphne Perkins, Jeremiah Roberts, Paula Rose, Katie Smith, Rebecca Smith, Alan Terry and Julia Walder.

**ELDER CARE.....** *Doing our very best!*

**WHAT ARE METHODIST HOMES?**

*An evening to ask question and get the facts.*

**WEDNESDAY 17th AUGUST 7.30pm**  
**At the Wesley Room in The Manse.**

**THE Rev PETER SLEE MA, BD.**

*Lead Chaplain to MHA Homes for the elderly.*

*Peter is the full time Chaplain to  
Methodist Homes in Bristol.*

*This includes the newly opened  
Horfield Lodge in Bristol.*

**What are the core values of the MHA?  
What is needed to provide the very best  
in care for the elderly?**

*Come and meet Peter Slee.  
Ask him the questions that you may have.  
Find out why MHA Homes are at the  
very cutting edge in providing the very best  
in care for the elderly in Great Britain.*

**This meeting will end at about 8.45pm  
when refreshments will be served.**

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Quotes

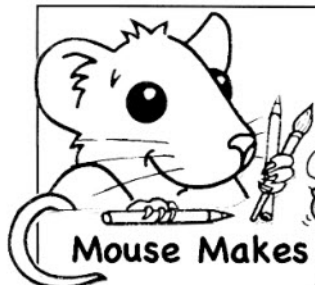
Faith brings a man empty to God, that he may be filled with the blessings of God. - John Calvin

Wherever there is genuine faith it must blossom into works. -

Joseph B Mayor

Peace is not the absence of trouble - peace is the presence of God.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.



Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**, a song of praise to God, it tells us why and how to worship God.

How do you worship God and tell him how much you love him?

Praise God in his Temple,
Praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power
Praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise him
with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD !



Colour in this praise poster, cut out then glue to a sheet of coloured card. Punch out the holes, tie on ribbon and hang up to remind you to PRAISE THE LORD!

ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

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**11am Rev Steve Wild**

*Evangelist and Chairman of Cornwall Methodist District.*

*Come and meet Steve Wild,  
and join in this joyful act of worship.*

REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 12 NOON

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8pm Evening Praise

Led by Rev Charlie Gibbs.

WITH GUEST SPEAKER

STEVE WILD.

*Be sure not to miss this unique evening
worship, with our much loved hymns, and
a powerful message of hope about our
precious faith in a loving God of grace!*

Refreshments served at about 9pm, and the chance
to chat with Steve Wild. *ALL ARE WELCOME!*

ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH.
Helping all to re-discover the love of God.

ST. MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH.

Sunday 21st August.

11am Morning Worship

The Rev Charlie Gibbs.

He Graciously Calls Us His Friends!

All your best loved hymns, with a
message about the grace of God.
Refreshments served at 12 Noon.

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**7.45pm SONGS OF PRAISE  
ON ST.MARY'S QUAY**

*Be sure not to miss  
this very special event  
led by Rev Charlie Gibbs.*

Well known hymns with an Isles of Scilly  
Sunset.....

.....We will end the day  
singing the praises of God!

ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH.  
**SUNDAY 14th AUGUST**

**11am Morning Worship**

*Led by Rev Charlie Gibbs.*

**GOD'S GRACE  
TO ALL!**

*Traditional Methodist worship with the hymns we love  
to sing and a message of hope for this world today.*

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL  
OUR VISITORS TO THE FINE  
ISLAND OF ST MARY'S.**

REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 12 NOON.

ST. MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH.

**Sunday 28th August**

**8pm Evening Worship**

The Rev Charlie Gibbs.

***We've never had it so good!***

All your best loved hymns, with a  
message about the grace of God.

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**DRINKS AND BISCUITS SERVED
AT THE MANSE AT 9pm.**

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***There is no better way to end the day  
than being together and singing  
the praises of God, one with another!***

**TAKE A FRESH LOOK  
AT *THE BIBLE!***

**WITH STEVE WILD**  
***Leading Methodist Scholar  
and Evangelist.***

**BE SURE NOT TO MISS  
THIS GREAT EVENT!**  
*at St Mary's Methodist Chapel*

**SATURDAY  
6th AUGUST  
at 7.30pm**

*All will be made welcome to this special  
presentation led by Steve Wild who is  
visiting these islands from Truro.*

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT  
8.45pm IN THE MANSE.**

**ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH  
SUNDAY 4th  
SEPTEMBER**

**11am STEVE CANNING**  
**FROM THE ROYAL NATIONAL MISSION  
TO DEEP SEA FISHERMEN**  
*REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 12 NOON*

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**8pm Evening Worship**  
***Led by Rev Charlie Gibbs.***

**With Guest Speaker *STEVE CANNING***  
**With all our much loved hymns to end another  
splendid day on the Isles of Scilly.**  
**Refreshments served at 9pm.**

*St Mary's Methodist Church,  
the church that is at the heart  
of this island community*



## Diary Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August. Exhibition of Bibles. Wesley Room, The Manse.
- 6<sup>th</sup> August. Rev Steven Wild. *Take a Fresh Look at the Bible.*  
7.30 pm, Methodist Church.
- 7<sup>th</sup> August St Helen's Pilgrimage. 2 pm.
- 17<sup>th</sup> August Rev Peter Slee. What are Methodist Homes?  
7.30 pm, Wesley Room, The Manse.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Children's Holiday Club

## Editorial Team

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This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website [www.scillymethodists.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk) and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed. If you would prefer to read In Touch in this way please let us know and we can save the cost of a paper copy.

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

AUGUST SERVICES

ST MARY'S

7th	10.00 am	Children's Church
	11.00 am	Rev Steven Wild <i>Holy Communion</i>
	8.00 pm	Rev. Charlie Gibbs & Rev. Steven Wild
14th	9.15 am	Gordon Bird & Beryl Read
	11.00 am	Rev. Charlie Gibbs
	8.00 pm	Mary Ratcliffe
21st	9.15 am	Mervyn Bird & Len Michell
	11.00 am	Rev. Charlie Gibbs
	8.00 pm	Rev. Charlie Gibbs <i>Songs of Praise</i>
28th	10.00 am	Gordon Bird
	8.00 pm	<i>Holiday Club Service</i> Rev. Charlie Gibbs

ST MARTIN'S

7th	6.00 pm	Rev. Charlie Gibbs & Rev. Steven Wild
14th	6.00 pm	Rev. Charlie Gibbs
21st	6.00 pm	Rev. Charlie Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i>
28th	11.00 am	Trevor Adams

PARK HOUSE

7th	4.00 pm	Len Michell
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