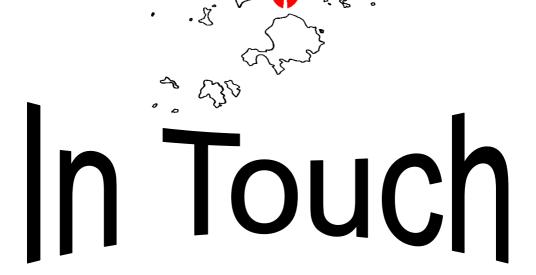
# sles of Scill



August 2013

### Chairman of the District

Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

### **Minister**

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs

### **Local Preachers**

Barbara Hasler Len Michell Neil Didlick Gordon Bird Christopher Savill

### Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 423563 Mr Mervyn Bird 423117 Mr Len Michell 422409 Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs Rose Didlick

### Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Beryl Read

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams (422605) Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read Property Secretary Mrs Mary Ratcliffe 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

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)

### **Thoughts from the Manse**



The contrast between summer and winter is an aspect of life in Scilly that I expect is more extreme than in many parts of the UK. Winter here in Scilly is certainly much milder than in many other parts of Britain, indeed I have seen people cutting their lawns in December and Mary and I have found that our bill for heating the Manse here is much less than it

was in Norfolk.

In the summer St Mary's seems full of people at times, especially if a cruise liner is visiting the islands; our churches and chapels welcome many summer visitors and all of this is a reminder of how dependent these islands are on our summer visitors, many of whom return every year.

In the winter things are very different, and the population of St Mary's falls to that of a small village on the mainland. I have often wondered how our Co-op copes so well with these extremes, with such high demand in summer and so much less in winter, but it does and those of us who are resident all the year round are thankful for their service to us all.

One of the very special things about living in Scilly in the winter is that you very soon get to know everyone, many by name, and some just to greet as we meet on the way to the shop or Post Office. In a very special way our islands have kept their sense of being a community over the winter period.

This summer has been a busy one in the life of our church. It started with the visit of two Nigerian Methodist bishops who were made very welcome on both islands. Much of what they said was very challenging; they encouraged us to be faithful in prayer and attended our Monday prayer meeting on St Mary's and in particular urged us to pray for the children and young people of our church. This has resulted in a group of us meeting on a Monday evening for this purpose. We have promised to keep in touch with our Nigerian friends and it is hoped that some from Scilly will be able to follow up the invitation for us to visit the church in Nigeria.

In June our Chapel on St Mary's hosted the three-day centenary celebrations of Captain Scott's expedition to Antarctica. The unique event was organized by Mary Cleveland and it proved very popular. At the same time our friends in the Parish Church were holding a wonderful flower festival and, in the same week, Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro visited Scilly to the delight of many.

Later that month we welcomed John Hogarth who led a Friday Fellowship evening on St Mary's and worship on St Martin's at our circuit service on the  $23^{\rm rd}$  – he even managed to lead a study day on St Mary's for our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders on the Saturday.

On Scilly many of us rejoice in our rich Christian heritage and the very real opportunities that we have for sharing our precious Christian faith with both those who live here and those who visit our beautiful islands. Both Canon Paul Miller and I enjoy leading assemblies at our Five Island School, and I enjoy my role as Chaplain to our hospital here. From time to time we are both asked to lead prayers at the meetings of our Council of the Isles of Scilly. All these things remind us that the presence of our churches here is still seen as an important part of island life.

Giving testimony to our precious Christian faith is the very lifeblood of our church and this is as true here on Scilly as in any other place where God's people gather together. Some have said that to stand up and be counted as a follower of Jesus is not as easy as it once was, but I expect it has never been easy. I would like to know what some of our readers may think about this – do let me know.

In Luke's gospel, Jesus speaks about this very matter to a large crowd that had gathered as he travelled through Galilee. He says that, before becoming His disciples, we need to count the cost, and then goes on to say how costly at times it can be. He was not talking in terms of money, but of how our faith can sometimes affect our relationships with others when they do not share our faith.

Jesus spoke to the large crowd about all that He knew would lie ahead. He spoke of how there would be times when His followers would face pain and persecution. He spoke of times when they might even be rejected by friends and even family members, and he spoke of conflict and self-denial as part of our discipleship. He pointed out that whenever and wherever His disciples set out to live by the ways and values of His Kingdom this will bring them into conflict with those who are living by the ways and values of this world, and this is certainly true even here on the beautiful Isles of Scilly.

Some of our readers will know that at times the demands of Jesus for us to take up our cross and to follow can be painful, and it is certainly a heavy cross to bear when those close to us do not share our precious Christian faith. We may pray for them to receive God's gift of eternal life and we may long for them to know that God's promises to us in Jesus are true, but the Lord also reminds us that even in these great turmoils of life, we are called to do nothing less than to take up our cross and follow Him.

The great Apostle Paul must have known something of this when he came to know the saving grace of God to him in Jesus. His Jewish friends and family were no doubt in despair at his life-changing conversion, and maybe we all should take heed of what he said about the pain and the conflict of being a follower of Jesus.

Yes, it has always been the case that to be a true disciple of Jesus will place great demands upon our lives. To just be a 'nominal Christian' is not enough. We may attend chapel, we may say the right

words at the right time, and we may give of our talents and money, but Jesus says this is not enough.

The Gospel calls for more. We need to listen to Jesus, we need to follow Jesus, and above all else we need to believe in Jesus. Before Him we are called to examine our motives, we are challenged to see when our pride has made us blind to His will, and before Him we will be constantly called to follow the way of His cross instead of following the ways of this world. There will be things for us to cast aside, and there will be things for us to take on. Yes, before any of us decide to truly follow the way of Jesus, we do indeed need to count the cost.

When Jesus had finished speaking about these thing to the people of Galilee, He then remarked that salt which had lost it's saltiness is no longer fit for purpose, and these words are certainly true for us today. What good are we if we look the other way when others are in need, what good are we unless we are prepared to live truly sacrificial lives, and what good is our church if we follow the ways of this world instead of following the ways of Jesus?

In life, even here on the Isles of Scilly we will be faced with many choices, but there is no greater and none more important, than the choice of truly becoming a disciple of Jesus. In Him we find life and Life Eternal, in Him we receive the assurance of God's love, and in Him we find God's forgiveness for the mistakes we have all made on our journey through life. Yes, when we truly follow Jesus each of us will find strength for today and a very real hope for tomorrow.

May these rich blessings be seen in the life of this island community, and be celebrated in our love for one another.

I remain by the grace of our Sovereign God the Methodist minister on these fine islands for a while.

Charles R. Gibbs

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The loneliest place in the world is the heart where the Lord is absent. The closer each of us is to the Lord, the closer we are to each other.

### A Step towards Ecumenical Unity

Our regular readers will have read the Church Covenant that has been signed on our behalf by the leaders of the Anglican Church (Rt Rev Tim Thornton), the Methodist Church (Rev Canon Steve Wild) and the United Reform Church (Rev David Grosch-Miller) in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

On Scilly we do not have a United Reform Church, but we rejoice that many from that church worship with us when they visit our islands, and we note that Gwen Clarkson on St Mary's is an 'ordained elder' in that church and a member of our church too.

This ecumenical covenant means that we will seek to engage in 'Joint Initiatives' as set out in clause 'a' of the covenant. The result will be a closer working relationship with our friends who worship in the Church of England. Clause 'b' of the covenant speaks of the need to 'Share ministry wherever appropriate', and clause 'c' speaks of 'Making the most of our buildings for the benefit of the community'. The last part of the covenant speaks of us working towards a 'Visible unity' between our churches.

Some have asked what this will mean in the day-to-day life of our churches and the answer I expect depends on the local membership and leadership of our denominations. We rejoice in the strong links and friendships which are already in place.

Over the past year the Methodist Church have funded a Children's and Youth Worker to visit our islands. This has resulted in a Youth Alpha course being established and a report of this excellent work was in our July *In Touch*. This work has been offered to our Church of England friends and we are thankful that Lynn Miller has helped our lay worker on the evenings they have met. This is an example of how 'joint initiatives' may work in our island community.

Below are listed some of the joint acts of worship planned over the next twelve months, and we look forward to the blessing we will receive by being together in worship.

**10<sup>th</sup> November:** United Remembrance Sunday Service at Parish Church on St Mary's 10.50 am.

United Remembrance Sunday Service in Chapel on St Martin's (Preacher Rev Penny Prince) 2 pm.

**1<sup>st</sup> December:** United Advent Service at Parish Church on St Mary's 6.30 pm.

**22<sup>nd</sup> December:** United Carol Service at Chapel on St Mary's (Preacher Canon Paul Miller) 6.00 pm.

**5<sup>th</sup> January:** United Covenant Service at Chapel on St Mary's (Preacher Canon Paul Miller) 11.00 am.

United Covenant Service at Chapel on St Martin's (Preacher Canon Paul Miller) 2.00 pm.

**2<sup>nd</sup> February:** United worship at Parish Church on St Mary's 11.00 am.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March:** United worship at Parish Church on St Mary's 11.00 am.

**9<sup>th</sup> March:** United worship at Anglican church on St Martin's 2.00 pm. (Possible joint service on St Mary's at 6.00 pm re `Lay Witness' weekend?)

**30<sup>th</sup> March:** United Mothering Sunday Service at Chapel on St Mary's (Led by Canon Paul Miller and Neil Didlick).

United Mothering Sunday Service at Chapel on St Martin's (Led by Rev Penny Prince and Len Michell).

In addition to the above Canon Paul Miller is hoping to put in place a joint Lent Study for united fellowship evenings on St Mary's.

We give thanks for the ecumenical covenant now in place and pray that this important covenant will know God's blessing here on the Isles of Scilly.

Charles R. Gibbs

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Here are some church notices that don't read quite as intended!

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

#### News from north of the border.

Thank you for your prayers and love.

Arbroath's Methodist church is an octagonal building which was opened Weslev 1772. He visited Arbroath 15 John in It was in the adjoining manse that a son (George Scott Railton) was born who became one of the pioneers for the work of the Salvation Army in America. His parents died when he was 15 and he was forced to leave his native county to find work in London. After seven years there he joined the Salvation Army and in 1880 aged 39 he travelled to America with seven ladies(!) to start the first Salvation Army mission in the United

The Salvation Army is now the second biggest charity in the United States with more than 1200 churches and 123,843 members. It reminds me of the phrase 'mighty oaks from little acorns grow'. We cannot see how God can use us in His service but His kingdom grows out of the obedience and love of those who follow His dear son, Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love and service here in Arbroath.

Mary



### I am God

Haze upon the meadow, calm on yonder hill,
The hush of nature's beauty holds God's promise, to fulfill
A day of countless blessing for those with eyes to see
The ever-changing glory He provides for you and me!
The early morning chorus starts the day with joyful praise,
And life begins to stir and show the measure of man's ways.
It is in calmly waiting before such wondrous scenes
That we can draw our daily strength and learn what loving means!
For in such times of gazing into the heart of 'Love'
We grasp the way to just
''Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10)

### Wesley's sermons

I am enjoying reading these and two have caught my attention. The first is about the 'almost Christian'. In this Wesley reminds his audience that anyone can do the things believers do. He used as his text Acts 26:28 'almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian', which Agrippa said to Paul. He speaks first of what is implied by the word almost. The common thoughts about how everyone can live: being fair to the poor, not to steal another's goods or to cheat in any way, to help our neighbours, the feeding of the hungry. We know the great amount of donations to charity on the islands but John Wesley remarks that being almost a Christian is the having of a form of Godliness prescibed in the gospel of Christ. He also frequents the house of God. Wesley admits to being such a person, and had a sincere desire to serve God and to do His will in all things. 'Yet my own conscience beareth me witness in the Holy Ghost, that in all this time I was but almost a Christian'. His answer to how to be a Christian is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, with all thy mind and with all thy strength. 'His spirit continually rejoices in God his Saviour.' Wesley knew that at the heart of a Christian was faith in Jesus who died for THEIR sin.

To be continued Mary

#### **Praise**

When light creeps in through the chinks of the door When the mist ascends from the mountain floor, When the ocean shimmers like burnished ore, Let me give the praise.

- O God of the morning, Christ of the hills,
- O Spirit who all the firmament fills,
- O Trinity blest who all goodness wills,

Keep us all our days.

From 'Morning', an ancient Celtic poem

### **Birthdays in August**

This month we send our greetings 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.

We send them all our love and best wishes.





#### **Editorial Team**

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Mary Ratcliffe <u>maryratcliffe@live.com</u>

This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Please send your contributions to the editor by  $15^{th}$  of the month.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website <a href="https://www.scillymethodists.co.uk">www.scillymethodists.co.uk</a> 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 <a href="https://www.parishpump.co.uk">www.parishpump.co.uk</a>. We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

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### Clare of Assisi

By David Winter

In the year 1212 Clare, the 18 year old daughter of a local Count, heard a young preacher called Francis. A few years earlier he had caused a sensation in the centre of the town where they both lived, Assisi in Italy, by stripping himself of his wealthy clothes and declaring that from now on he would live the life of a peasant. This, he said, was in obedience to the call of Christ, for whom the poor were 'blessed' and the rich were in peril of judgment. He gathered a group of seven men prepared to embrace what he called 'joyful poverty' for Christ's sake, but that day he was to enlist a female disciple. 'You are a chosen soul from God', he told Clare, when she expressed her eagerness to embrace the same strict rule as his male followers.

In due course, after a period in a Benedictine convent, Clare and her sister Agnes moved into the church of St Damiano, which Francis and his friends had restored, and gathered there a group of like-minded women. Eventually Francis made Clare the abbess of a religious Order, at first called the 'Order of Poor Ladies', eventually, and universally, to be known as the 'Poor Clares'. Unable to operate an itinerant ministry like the men, Clare's sisters concentrated on a life of prayer and simplicity. In fact, their dedication to poverty was such that it affected the health of many of them.

Francis and Clare remained friends and colleagues over the next 14 years in this remarkable movement of renewal and mission. For them, poverty was not a burden but a joy - a release from the delusions of power and ambition. Their witness made an enormous impact on the poor people of Umbria and beyond, who saw an authenticity in their lives which spoke as eloquently as their words.

Clare died in 1253 and was canonised two years later. She is buried in the basilica of St Clare in Assisi, a few hundred yards from the basilica of St Francis. In life they proclaimed the same message of sacrificial love and service, and in their deaths they were not divided. Her special day is 11th August.

A few years ago I stayed in Assisi and visited the convent of St Damiano. Sitting in the quietness of the cloisters there, I experienced a deep sense of peace which I have never forgotten.

Anne

### **Action for Children**

# Grand Book Sale and Coffee Morning – August Bank Holiday Monday 10am to mid afternoon

Once again we shall be holding a good value book sale, with refreshments, in the Methodist Hall. We still have lots of lovely books for sale, so do come along and browse. This time there will be plenty of



paperbacks, mostly novels, for sale at 10p each. Hopefully we will have reduced the number of boxes to go back in the garage, having sold lots of books by the clearing-up time!

Gwen Clarkson Action for Children Representative

### Food for thought from the Book of Proverbs

- Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than to pretend to be somebody and have no food (*Proverbs* 12:9)
- Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones (*Proverbs* 16:24)
- Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting with strife (*Proverbs* 17:1)
- A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor (*Proverbs* 23:9)
- Eat honey, my son, for it is good: honey from the comb is sweet to your taste.
  - Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul: if you find it, there is a future hope for you and your hope will not be cut off (*Proverbs* 24:13-14)
- Keep falsehood and lies far from me: give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread (*Proverbs* 30:8)

### **Scilly Teddy Knitters**

My warmest thanks to dear friends who have made lots of lovely teddies recently and to Mary Barnes who provides us with so many different coloured bags for them. In recent months they have all gone to UCDF, the charity we support in Uganda.

Sadly, I have now heard from Kate Rees who takes them that she will not have room for any more until the end of the year, so in the meantime we need to find an alternative outlet!

The original charity, Teddies for Tragedies is still working and they send them to disasters all over the world. Our last batch to them went in November 2011. They will be happy to receive teddies from us again but are very strict about the size and the condition of the bears they are sent, so it is important that henceforth we stick to their rules. No teddy should be any longer than 10 inches; they must not have white faces and must be stuffed with polyester. Some I have already been given do not comply and will have to wait for the next dispatch to UCDF.

If you are knitting, and several of you are so diligent, please from now on stick to the rules!

Many thanks

Gwen Clarkson

### **Laughter lines**

A small boy wanted a baby brother so Dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. After a few weeks he didn't bother to ask any more.

Some months later, his Dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got into the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. 'Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?' his Dad asked.

The little boy thought for a moment and then replied: 'It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did!'

**Prayer for faith in God** Heavenly Father, When the world is wobbling and our lives spin out of our control, when everything seems wrong and we don't know how to put things right, give us the gift of faith: believing faith, trusting faith, expectant faith.

Faith to believe that Jesus is Lord, your Son and our Saviour, alive today.

Faith to transfer our trust from our own efforts, which are insufficient, to his achievement on the cross, which is all-sufficient, bringing forgiveness and reconciliation with you, our creator and loving Father. Expectant faith, that in our trouble, in our helplessness, in our fear, you will hear our prayers and act; you will bring hope and healing, rest and resolution, for your kingdom's glory and for our benefit and wellbeing.

In every circumstance of our lives, give us faith – in you, Sovereign Lord.

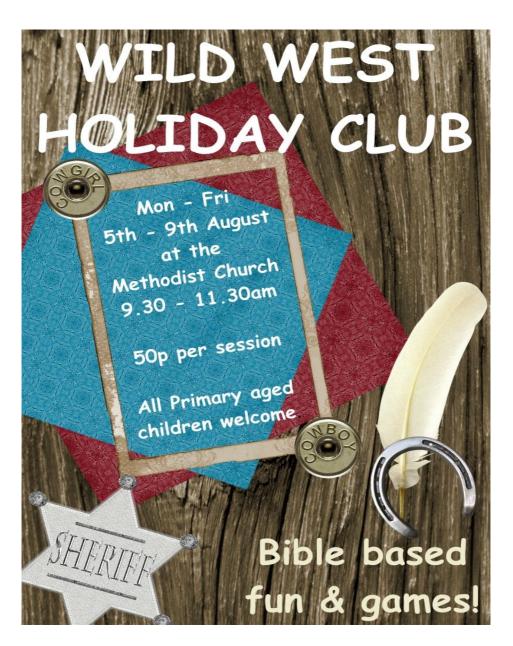
In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



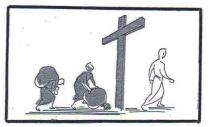
### **Laughter lines**

After church one Sunday, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, 'Mum, I've decided to become a Minister when I grow up'. 'That's okay with us', Mum replied, 'but what made you decide that?' 'Well', said the boy, 'I have to go to church on Sundays anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and talk than to have to sit and listen!'



# Welcome to St Mary's METHODIST CHURCH SUNDAY 4th AUGUST

In the year of our Lord 2013



Come and Worship with our

# CHILDREN'S CHURCH at 10am.

With VICKI SMITH and her team.

# MORNING WORSHIP at 11am

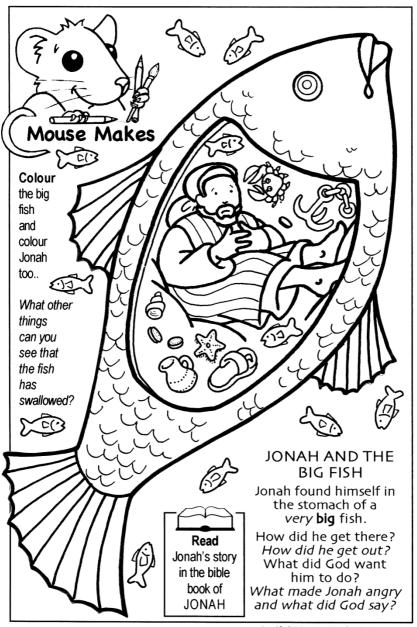
LED BY REV STEVE WILD M.A.

Methodist District Chair and International Evangelist. ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT 12 NOON A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS.

# EVENING WORSHIP at 7pm ON ST MARY'S QUAY.

WITH STEVE WILD & CHARLIE GIBBS.

BE SURE NOT TO MISS THIS GREAT EVENT With the hymns we love to sing!



Aug13 @deborahnoble @parishpump.co.uk

### **Dates for your diaries**

2<sup>nd</sup> August: An evening with Steve Wild. 7.30 pm in the Manse

**4th August:** Steve Wild, our District Chair and evangelist will be leading worship on St Mary's in the morning and a very special outdoor service on St Mary's quay at 7pm in the evening. All of these visitors help to give our church the feeling of being a part of our worldwide Methodist Church and we greatly value their love of our islands.

**18**<sup>th</sup> **August:** The Rt Rev Professor Peter Stephens will again be with us and this time he will be leading worship at St Mary's in the morning and St Martin's in the evening. On the Friday evening **(16**<sup>th</sup>**)** Peter will be speaking on St Mary's about the Methodist Church in Europe. Be sure not to miss this special meeting at 7.30 pm in the Manse.

**14<sup>th</sup> September:** At our Harvest weekend on St Mary's we will be having our annual Church Gift Day. Your gifts can be taken to the Manse on that day or sent by post to St Mary's Methodist Church, The Manse, Church Street, St Mary's TR21 0JT.

There will be more details about our Gift day in next month's In Touch.

### Looking forward to our Lay Witness Weekend

We are looking forward to our special 'Sharing God's Love' weekend on  $8^{\text{th}}$  and  $9^{\text{th}}$  March next year. A presentation about the weekend was put before our Church Council on St Mary's last October and all voted for us to go ahead.

We rejoice that Mike Owens and his team of six are coming to Scilly and we expect them to be with us from the Friday to the Monday. They will be leading worship on St Mary's and St Martin's on the Sunday.

We thank our local link persons Mary Ratcliffe and Beryl Read for helping with the arrangements. Invitations have been given to our friends in the Anglican Church to share in this ecumenical event.

### 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<br>Sue Williams<br>Merryn & Vicki Smith                              | <b>423117</b> 422605 423360               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Claire Jenkins Neil & Rose Didlick Margaret Snowball Gordon Bird Sonia Crompton              | <b>423546</b> 422838 422896 422550 422854 |
| Barbara Hasler<br>Margaret Crane<br>Len & Sylvia Michell<br>Pamela Thomas<br>June Lethbridge | <b>42208</b> 422596 422409 423115 422404  |
| <b>Beryl Read</b><br>Gwen Clarkson                                                           | <b>422977</b> 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.

# **AUGUST NOTICES**

## St. Mary's

4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Children's Church

11:00 Rev Steve Wild Holy Communion

Park House 16:00 David Pender

1900 Rev Steve Wild (on the quay)

11<sup>th</sup> 09:15 Len Michell and MervynBird

11.00 Barbara Hasler

20:00 Revd Charles Gibbs (Songs of Praise)

18<sup>th</sup> 09.15 Beryl Read and Rev Charlie Gibbs

(Holy Communion)

11:00 Rev Peter Stephens 20:00 Rev Charlie Gibbs

25<sup>th</sup> 09.15 Gordon Bird and Neil Didlick

11.00 Revd Charles Gibbs

20:00 Len Michell

# St. Martin's

4<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Revd Charles Gibbs

11<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Revd Charles Gibbs

18<sup>th</sup> 18:00 Revd Peter Stephens

25<sup>th</sup> 18:00 Mary Ratcliffe and David Pender