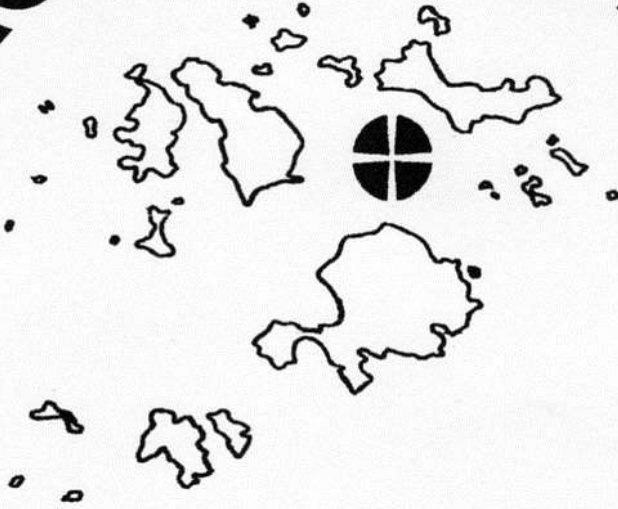


**Isles of Scilly**



**Methodist Church Circuit**

**IN TOUCH**

**August 2014**

## **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**

### **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

**Organist** Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

**Connexional Link Person** Beryl Read 422977

## **Some thoughts from the St. Mary's Manse**

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the saving grace of our Sovereign God and say **"People will come from the east and west and north and south, and will take their place at the feast in the Kingdom of God!"**

I often use these words as a call to worship when leading worship on St. Martin's and St. Mary's; indeed they seem very appropriate during the summer months when we welcome visitors from all over the world who come to experience for themselves something of the beauty and tranquility of these remote islands in which our Methodist Church plays such an important part.

On St. Mary's in particular, visitors often join us for our mid-week meetings and it has been good over the summer months to have welcomed visitors at our Friday Fellowship evenings, when often the speakers have also been guests from the mainland, or even further away, as in the case of the Nigerian bishops visiting last year.

On Thursday evenings we have been meeting at Seagull Cottage on St. Mary's, praying for revival, and it has been a great joy to have had visitors join us at these meetings and to find that we are not alone in meeting to pray for a fresh outpouring of Gods' Spirit upon His people. It has been a very uplifting exercise to meet with Christians from all over Britain who, like us, feel the need of this type of prayer. Some speak of how their churches have become more determined in seeking fresh opportunities for mission and service as a result of these meetings, and how things are changing for the better. This is our hope or these islands, and we rejoice that there are a growing number of people from churches of all denominations who have caught this vision for the future of our precious Christian faith in our nation.

August is certainly the month that we hope to welcome visitors to our islands, and it is also the month that for many years we have held our annual children's holiday club on St. Mary's. As in previous years, Gordon Bird and his team have in place a weekend of fun with Bible based activities. This event is always popular with our island children, and children visiting from the mainland will often join us. This year the holiday club starts on Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>. For more details and offers of help telephone Gordon on 422550.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August we shall be holding our evening worship at 7pm on the quay at St. Mary's. For the last few years we have had an evening service in August where we worship outdoors on the quay by kind permission of the harbourmaster. We try to time it so that we are singing our closing hymn at sunset, and these evenings seem very popular with our visitors, as does our annual St. Mary's Lifeboat Service which is held on Holgate's Green in July (subject to the weather).

The Bible is of course full of examples of people gathering outdoors; indeed, most of Jesus' teaching was not in the synagogues of His day, but instead in the countryside or the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Sometimes here on Scilly, especially during the summer months, on our wonderful beaches we can just imagine Jesus speaking there about the Kingdom of God to those who had gathered.

Each of our four Gospels tells of the prophet-like figure of John the Baptist whose entire ministry took place out among the people. We are told of how he lived in the desert, and how he baptised those who came to him in the river of Jordan. Some have said that this is what we need today, a prophet sent from God, a voice that will again remind our nation of the ways and values of God's

Kingdom, and a church leader who will challenge the many things which keep us from truly living lives that are pleasing to God

Yes, John the Baptist, just like the prophets before him, had a tremendous impact upon the people of his day. He reminded all of their need to take stock of their lives and to repent. He spoke of how it is possible to make a fresh start in life, and he spoke of how by receiving Jesus as their promised saviour, new hope could again be seen in their nation. Historical records from that time speak of how large numbers of people came from Judea and Jerusalem to be baptised by John in the river Jordan. Those who had lost hope came to hear his message; lives were changed, and the bible tells us that many were challenged by his call to repentance, and found that by trusting in the promises of God they could make a fresh start in life.

Whenever I read about John the Baptist and his outdoor ministry to the people of his day, I find myself asking the question: **'Just how many of those who came to be baptised by John did in time come to truly believe in Jesus?'** I expect some who had been baptized by John would have been there later when Jesus fed the five thousand with loaves and fishes, and it is quite likely that some may have been in Bethany when, at the end of His ministry, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. So, what real difference did John make to the lives of those he baptised in the river Jordan? And I wonder how many of them were there to witness for themselves how Jesus was condemned by the people of His day and led out to die between two criminals on the Cross of Calvary?

In a sense, these same questions could be asked about us. Time and again we hear that invitation from God to repent and make a fresh start in our lives, and we have also heard the message of how by truly believing in Jesus we may find hope and the promise of life eternal. But where is the evidence of this change on our daily lives? Are we more loving and kind than we once were? Are we slower to condemn and quicker to offer forgiveness than we once were, and does our Church on these beautiful islands truly reflect the ways and the values of this Gospel message in this very special Island community?

So we give thanks for those who travel from afar to worship with us in our chapels on St. Martin's and St. Mary's, and for those who gather for worship on St. Mary's quay in August. We pray that our message to those who gather will be the same as that of John the Baptist – that we will make time to stop, to think, to repent, and to be directed to Jesus the Son of God so that we shall each be ready for the promised coming of His Kingdom. We His Church have been called to baptise with water, but those who are baptised by us truly repent and receive Jesus as Lord will they then, and only then, truly know the joy of being baptised in His Holy Spirit.

Next month we shall celebrate God's provision in our lives at our Harvest Thanksgiving services on St. Martin's and St. Mary's. God's promises are true and His Word can be trusted, and we shall continue to meet and pray earnestly for the coming of His Kingdom on these remote yet stunning islands. Our Harvest Thanksgiving this year on St. Martins is on the 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm, and on the following day in the evening we meet for a short service in the chapel, followed by our annual harvest sale in the Chapel Sunday School room. This is always a lively event with Christopher Savill as our auctioneer, and refreshments will be served by members of the chapel. Please let me

know if you intend to join us so that boating arrangements can be made.

Our Harvest celebrations on St. Mary's will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> September, with our Harvest Thanksgiving at 10,30am and a special Harvest Songs of Praise at 8pm. As in previous years, on the Saturday of harvest weekend (September 20<sup>th</sup>) we shall be holding a gift day at the manse on St. Mary's. Please do come along any time between 9am and 8pm to contribute to our chapel funds; refreshments will be served at the manse throughout the day. I know that many of our friends from the mainland like to send donations on our gift day to help the mission of our church. If you would like to send a gift, please make your cheque payable to 'St. Mary's Methodist Church' and send it to Rev. Charlie Gibbs, The Manse, St. Mary's. Isles of Scilly, TR21 0JT  
So let us rejoice that by the saving grace of our Sovereign God, people will come from the east and west and north and south and take their place at the feast in the Kingdom of God!

I remain by the grace of our Lord the Methodist minister on these islands for a while!

*Charles R Gibbs*



## **News from St. Martins**

As a lovely summer unfolds we continue to welcome visitors, family and friends and it was good to see Alison (Rodney's daughter) who joined us. Unfortunately her Dad has been unwell, so we wish him better health. Rodney was really missed in Chapel when we had to sing without his accompaniment on the organ! It makes us realise how much we take him for granted, and are so lucky to have a resident organist.

In our small congregation we celebrate three Ruby Weddings this year (1974 was a very special year!) and last month was the turn of Chris and Chris Savill. We congratulate them and wish them many more happy years together.

We always welcome news of Feruzi, the young man we support in Tanzania through Action aid. In the year of the World Cup, it is perhaps not surprising that he enjoys playing football, and we were heartened to read that he attends church every Sunday.

Action aid seem to focus on the very real, and often small scale needs of the local community such as providing desks and books for the school children.

Congratulations are also due to Gladys Perkins who has just had a book published. 'Times Remembered is full of anecdotes and memories of over 80 years of Island life, and our Methodist Chapel is very much a part of these. Clearly one is never too old to become an author! We continue to think of Mary Evans who is still having treatment on the mainland.

Val Thomas



## Advance Notice

Where does the Methodist Church go in the light of recent government legislation on marriage ?

This Act Reads: Marriage of same sex couple is now lawful.

In these seven short words, section 1(1) of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 enacted a fundamental change of the law of England and Wales. What will our response be as a church?

In June of this year, our minister was asked to represent the Cornwall District of the Methodist Church at the Methodist Conference. Part of this seven day conference was to hear a report from the church working party on marriage and civil partnerships as regards this change in law. Starting in September on Friday evenings at 7.30 on St. Mary's, a series of meeting will be held to look at the details and implications for Methodists here on Scilly.

Week 1	Setting out the background of where we are today.
Week 2	Themes which have emerged form the report.
Week 3	A cross-section of comments from the connexion.
Week 4	Emerging thoughts form the consultation.
Week 5	Should the Methodist Church's position be revisited?

Please make every effort to come and listen. There will be the chance to comment and debate. For more details contact Charlie Gibbs ☎422406. It is hoped to hold the first of these meetings on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

## 'Meeting people where they're at...'

**MUNDESLEY** --- Meeting with the young people at Mundesley on my monthly trips has been great. It's simply a time of games, fun and relationship building. Getting to know them and showing them Christians are down-to-earth, everyday people that they can relate to. There's nothing heavy or structured, and it's great. If any of the young people want to ask questions, that's great, and if not, that's fine too.

**TAG CONNECTOR** --- is held at the school, offering young people the opportunity to be challenged and ask questions. It's a half hour session with a game, some food and a short video or talk that's thought provoking, about God, the Christian faith or a relevant issue from a Christian perspective and a time for questions. There's usually anywhere between three and twelve young people who come and I've been really moved by some of the questions the young people have. Big thanks to Anthea Roberts who has been amazing with a steady supply of hot pizza cooked just before the Connector sessions - and this month she even brought some ice lollies along to cool us all down! Legend!

**ALPHA FOR ADULTS** --- The alpha video talks explore who Jesus is, prayer, the bible, guidance and much more. Very inspiring and challenging too. So much food for thought! So many opinions, thoughts and personal stories are shared during the discussion time which has been really encouraging, and lots of positive comments shared personally by individuals who feel they are growing, learning and being really inspired. More big thanks to Heather & Ian for their help with the catering during the first few months, it's really appreciated.

**CY** --- Jono, Emily & Tianna continue to inspire me with the depth of their faith and their fantastic personalities! They've chosen to follow Jesus and we're looking at what this looks like in their day to day lives. We've been joined by Gemma Chapman who's helped out with some of the sessions when Lynne's been away, and were joined spontaneously by another young person who had come to Connector last month, and it was great to welcome him too.





**MENTORING** — Mentoring on the mainland has come to it's natural end due to the end of an academic year and Grace returning to Scilly for the summer. I've enjoyed meeting with her for lunch whilst over in July and also meeting with Catherine for coffee too - she's back from Uni for the summer on Scilly. Being a part of their lives is a real privilege.

**THE FUTURE** — As my last visit is in October (my contract comes to it's end and Dave & I are moving to Exeter to live) I'm keen to ensure particularly Emily, Tianna & Jono still have people to encourage and support them in their faith, and a time and a place to meet up for fun, bible study, prayer and sharing life together. I'm delighted to say that Lynne is happy to continue, which is fantastic as she's totally brilliant!

The relationships that Lynne, Jono, Tianna, Emily & I have grown with each other over the last two years have laid a great foundation for the continuation of meeting together. Both Lynne & I totally love these guys!

We've been pushing some doors as to who might be interested/able/keen get involved for the next season, and would love to get together in September with anyone who has a heart for young people and would be interested in either the possibility of getting involved, offering ideas, thoughts or suggestions, if you're a parent or friend of these young people, or would just like to come and be a part of the chatting!

What the next season will look like in terms of where and when we meet and what we'll do in the sessions is yet to be decided. It will ultimately be shaped by the next team to emerge, and what the youth themselves would like to do (they've said they're really keen to continue meeting together). Please do put the date in your diaries:

**Diary Date - MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER - 6.30pm - The Manse**  
**Meeting Re: 'FUTURE OF SCILLY YOUTH INITIATIVE'**

Thanks for your continued prayer and encouragement. Jen

## **News from St Mary's**

July has been a mixed month for members of the St Mary's Church. There has been much to celebrate but also times to reflect on the contributions made by some of our more long standing members of the congregation.

The sales of scones at the manse and at Porthloo have continued to raise valuable funds for the Church. Our thanks go to Patti and Andy Brooks for organising this. The slide shows have been well attended and we appreciate the work from June and Charlie that goes into preparing and delivering these shows. Congregations have been higher in number than last year. It has been good to welcome old friends and new and share in the wider Christian community.

The Lifeboat Service was held on 20<sup>th</sup> July on a glorious summer evening on Holgate's Green. Again this was well attended and gave us all the opportunity to give thanks to those who serve as the crew of the lifeboat.

We have been saddened by the loss of three valued members - Dorothy Beedell, Margaret Jones and Myra Christopher. All three ladies have been valuable contributors to the life of the Church and will be much missed. The services for Dorothy Beedell and Margaret Jones were held on the mainland. The service for Myra Christopher, who comes from a Scillonian family, was held on St Mary's. We are thinking of their families at this time and give thanks for their lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Harriet Pender who has been unable to join us recently due to ill health.

On a happier note we celebrated Joe Fairburn's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of this month. He is now our oldest St Mary's male member of the congregation.

Val Parker

*Be sure not to miss this!.....*

# SONGS OF PRAISE

## ON THE QUAY

### At ST MARY'S

With the St Mary's Brass Band  
Led by Rev CHARLIE GIBBS

**SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST**

**7pm till 8pm**

**An Hour Of Worship At St Mary's Harbour.**

*WITH THE HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING!*

**A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**

**BY THE KIND PERMISSION OF THE ST MARY'S HARBOURMASTER.**

ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH



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"We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again."

## **Birthday Greetings for August**

We wish Jenny Burrows; Sybil Gandy; Rev. Charlie Gibbs; Anne Gurr; Daphne Perkins; Jeremiah Roberts; Paula Rose; Katie Smith; Alan Terry; Julia Walder, and Neil Didlick a very happy birthday this month

God's blessings to you all.



## **So far so good**

So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm going to need a lot more help. Thank you.

In Jesus name.

Amen

## **Only me**

Can you do anything that other people can't?  
Sure, I can read my handwriting.

## **Editorial Team**

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**Any contributions will be gratefully received.** *The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe.*

## **Holiday Club**

The Romans is the theme of this year's holiday club which will be running from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August. Over the week the children will be putting the armour on a Roman soldier. The theme is based on putting on the armour of God. As usual there will be a mix of crafts, games and bible texts.

If anyone would like to help, please contact Sonia Crompton soon. Please would everyone pray for the club? It is always a fun filled week which has the opportunity to bring the word of God to our local children and to holiday makers children alike. I know how much my own children loved it.

## **Are you left-handed?**

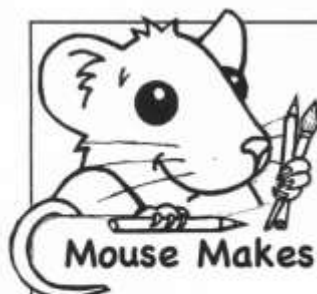
13th August is Left Handers Day. There are a lot of famous left-handed celebrities, including Tom Cruise, Matt Dillon, Angelina Jolie, President Obama, Prince William and Sir Paul McCartney. (In fact, Sir Paul McCartney found it so hard to learn to play the guitar in a right-handed way that he reversed the order of the strings.)

On a more serious note, Left Handers Day aims to promote awareness of the difficulties left handed people can face. And at the Left Handers Day website you can celebrate and embrace your left side on 13th August!

## **40 years of Methodist women ministers**

This summer the Methodist Church in Great Britain celebrates 40 years of women's ordination. Although women were permitted to become deacons in the Methodist Church from 1890, they were not ordained as presbyters until 2 July, 1974, at the Methodist Conference in Bristol.





## Mouse Makes

Draw some more fish  
in the picture then  
colour it in.

## A PICNIC ON THE BEACH

The disciples had fished all night but caught nothing. Jesus, standing on the shore, called out "Throw your net on the right side of the boat". So they did and they caught so many fish they could not pull the net into the boat. When they reached the shore there was a fire already burning with fish on it and some bread.

**READ** the complete story  
in *John 21:1-25*

How many fish did  
the disciples catch?



Aug14 © deborahnoble @parishpump.co.uk

## **4th August – Time for Lights Out!**

Every householder in Britain is being asked to turn out their lights at 11pm on 4th August, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The nationwide event is based on the famous comment attributed to Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, on the eve of the conflict in 1914. He said: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." He made the remark the day before war was declared, as he gazed across St James's Park from his window at the Foreign Office at the gas lamps being lit.

The switch-off is being called Lights Out, and is backed by the Government as "one of the most dramatic UK-wide events ever organised." Throughout the UK, everyone is being invited to "turn off their lights and to replace them with one single light, to remember a day that changed the world forever."

The 'Lights Out' will take place at the same time as a candlelit vigil of prayers, readings and music held in Westminster Abbey. There candles will be extinguished one by one until a single flame is snuffed out at 11pm.

### **Prayer of thanks for Mary and others**

Loving Father, You called Mary to carry your Son into the world. Thank you for her positive response to a calling which led her along an unknown path, where criticism and misunderstanding might well lie in wait. Thank you that she stood firm and walked forward in obedience, trusting you to lead and protect her in her vocation. May we respect the different ways.

In the name of Jesus - and for his glory alone.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## 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.

<b>Mervyn &amp; Stephanie Bird</b>	<b>423117</b>
Sue Williams	422605
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360

<b>Claire Jenkins</b>	<b>423546</b>
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854

<b>Barbara Hasler</b>	<b>422208</b>
Margaret Crane	422596
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pamela Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404

<b>Beryl Read</b>	<b>422977</b>
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.

## August Notices

### St. Mary's

- 3<sup>rd</sup>            10:00 All age worship  
                 11:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs  
                 19:00 Songs of Praise at the Quay
- Park House    16:00 Barbara Hasler
- 10<sup>th</sup>            10.30 Mary Ratcliffe / Mervyn Bird  
                 20:00 Revd Charles Gibbs Communion
- 17<sup>th</sup>            09:15 Revd Charles Gibbs / Beryl Read  
                 11.00 Barbara Hasler  
                 20.00 Revd Charles Gibbs Songs of Praise
- 24<sup>th</sup>            09.15 Mary Ratcliffe / Sonia Crompton  
                 11:00 Len Michell  
                 20.00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
- 31<sup>st</sup><sup>h</sup>            09.15 Gordon Bird / Kim Watson  
                 11.00 Revd Charles Gibbs  
                 20:00 Gordon Bird

### St. Martin's

- 3<sup>rd</sup>            11.00 Mr. Len Michell
- 10<sup>th</sup>            11.00 Revd Charlie Gibbs Communion
- 17<sup>th</sup>            11:00 Gordon Bird
- 24<sup>th</sup>            11.00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
- 31<sup>st</sup>            11.00 Barbara Hasler