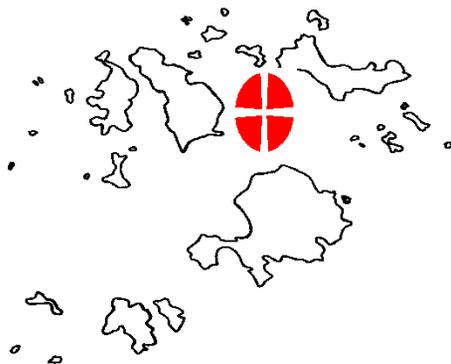


**Isles of Scilly**



# **In Touch**

**Methodist Church Circuit**

**August 2015**

**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**

I write this letter before I go the Mainland for my sabbatical to continue my ongoing work on St John's Gospel and to attend various meetings and courses, where I hope to meet up with some old friends and colleagues. This means that during my time away that various visiting ministers will be here making sure that there is someone to offer help in times of need.

During the second week of August our old friend Rev Professor Peter Stephens will be with us and will be leading worship on St Martin's and St Mary's, and the following weekend our services will be led by Rev Derek Lee who is a minister in the Church in Wales and a regular visitor to our islands. We look forward to welcoming them to the islands and worshipping with them while they are with us. Peter Stephens will also be providing cover for us at the start of October, for two Sundays.

From the middle of August until the middle of September Rev Jane Wilcock will be with us and residing on St Mary's, we look forward to Jane's visit especially as she has been to the islands many times before and led us in worship on St Martin's on some of these visits. Jane has certainly shown a great generosity to us as she will be returning to be with us again at the end of October. We are looking forward to getting to know her well.

Lastly, but by no means least, we are delighted that Rev Margaret Barnes will be on our islands and leading worship on St Mary's over the last weekend in September. It is good for us to have visiting friends to lead us in worship, and it is always a delight to be challenged and enriched by those who serve in our mainland churches.

The last service that I will lead before my study leave will be the planned Songs Of Praise on Sunday 2nd August on the quay on St Mary's. These outdoor songs of praise evenings during the summer months on St Mary's have proved to be popular with visitors and locals and we give thanks to the harbourmaster for being so helpful in allowing us to worship together on the quay.

Also in August we have our annual 'Children's Holiday Club' on St Mary's which this year is from the 17th to 22nd of the month. This is always an important event in our church calendar, and we give thanks to all who work so hard to make this possible. We rejoice that so many children on St Mary's enjoy coming along to our Saturday Seekers Children's Club and to this annual summer holiday club.

It is certainly good news that so many are working so well together to further the work and the mission of our church on these islands, for this is the way that the Good News of The Gospel is shared and how we together can proclaim the grace of our loving God in this island community.

Grace is a crucial gift in the life of our church, and this word 'Grace' is found on almost one hundred occasions in the writing of Paul when writing his letters of encouragement to the early church. To Paul grace is the very bedrock of our precious Christian Faith, and it's Paul who writes "By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect!"

Paul speaks of how grace brings freedom to our lives, he speaks of lives freed from legalism and ritual, and he speaks of how this way of living helps us to reflect the generosity and character of our loving and forgiving God. Indeed to Paul, us living grace-filled lives is the very proof of God's power in this world to those around us.

Yes how we relate to others on our journey certainly is crucial in our mission as a church. How graceful are we in the face of adversity? How do we react when we are let down by others? And is God's grace seen in our lives being built upon the solid rock of faith in the crucified and risen Christ?

Whenever we seek the 'easy way' and fail to take up our cross and follow we are denying the grace of God; When we look the other way in the face of suffering or lack the courage to befriend the friendless we are denying the grace of God; when we evade our responsibilities and deny God's provision we are denying His grace, and whenever we are quick to condemn and slow to forgive we are denying the power of the Cross and we are living lives that lack the power of God's grace to us in Jesus. Maybe the only hope for this world, this island community, and for our church is to be found in us again rediscovering The Grace of God!

As we again think of God's provision in our lives I am reminded that our annual St Mary's Church gift day this year will again be on the Saturday of harvest weekend on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September. Please do come along to the manse that day and give your gifts to our stewards, but if you are unable to do this please send a cheque made payable to 'St Mary's Methodist Church' and send it by post to 'The Manse, Church Street, St Mary's, Isles Of Scilly, TR21 0JT. On my return to the islands I will write a letter of thanks to all who have communicated in this way. We give thanks to God for all that is past and we continue to trust Him for all that is to come. Together we certainly are determined that the joy of our precious Christian faith will continue to be shared on Scilly.

Finally we give thanks that our District Chair and evangelist Steve Wild is serving for a year as the president of the Methodist Conference. During his time in this office we are delighted that Rev Carole Holmes is standing in for Steve as our District Chair. Carole will be visiting our islands over the summer and autumn to chair various meetings, but should you need to speak with her she can be contacted at the home in Redruth on 01209 216638.

May the grace of God made known to us in Jesus continue to be seen in the fruit of His Holy Spirit, and may the power of this continue to be seen in our love of one another.

I remain by the grace of God the Methodist Minister on these remote yet beautiful islands for a while.

Blessing!

*Charles R Gibbs*

Saturday 1st August

A warm welcome awaits you  
At

## **Grand Sale of Books**

*In aid of NCH Action for Children*

Refreshments served all day

In Methodist Church Hall

**10:30-4 pm**

Come and get a bargain

## **News from St. Martins**

On Sunday 14th June we celebrated nearly 50 years of boating service by Terry Perkins. Tea was laid on at the Tennis Court Pavilion after Terry was taken on board the Voyager on a mini cruise around the islands with family and past crew members. Christine Savill spoke on behalf of islanders of his long service - including the transportation of our ministers! Terry was then presented with a commissioned Sue Lewington painting, which was a montage of all his boats, as a thank you and to mark his retirement. We wish him many more years of boating in his new pleasure craft.

The annual circuit service was held in the St. Mary's Chapel due to poor weather, which, along with injury, prevented some of our members from attending. Fortunately Derek Perkins attended, as Len's address referred to working in a Vineyard!

On Sunday July 5th we gave a warm welcome to Rev David Easton who returned to the islands after 6 years. We all enjoyed a sumptuous tea in the Sunday School Room followed by our evening service. It was good to catch up with David again and hear about all his recent work, which included time in Aberystwyth preaching in Welsh and ministering to the undergraduates. He is now "first minister" of all the Methodists in Scotland, and it was also good to hear news of Jeremy Dare and family and the Shetland Isles

David took as his theme "Prayer" and we were reminded of the need to find quiet times to reflect and connect. It is important not always to pray selfishly, especially in a time when the refugee problem escalates and people flee

oppression and war. We also need to be able to forgive; if we are unable to do this we may compromise our own lives with bitterness. Serious messages, but as always there was also much laughter. "They do say ...laughter is the best medicine"! We hope David will return before another six years pass.

On Sunday 12th July we celebrated 'Sea Sunday' when our worship was led by Chris Savill. He reminded us of the amazing work carried out by The Mission to Seafarers which is on call everyday in over 260 ports to support some 1.5 million seamen, many of whom are thousands of miles from home. So many of us have family and friends who make their living on the sea and, being surrounded by it, it seems appropriate to acknowledge the work of this voluntary organisation. The well-being of seafarers is at the heart of the work of The Mission which includes emergency response, care and hospitality and of course, spiritual support.

We sang some familiar hymns with a nautical note, and Chris took his theme from Luke's writing in Acts - of St Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta, of Paul's leadership and subsequent respect gained by the captain and captor, which enabled him to save all hands on board. We hope all ships have a safe passage through our islands, as we hope all people can have a safe passage through life.

Val Thomas

## **NCH Action for Children**

The Methodist Church annually devotes a Sunday to celebrate the work of its children's charity, now known as Action for Children. This year it was held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, especially here in St Mary's. The 11 am service was led by our minister, the Rev Charlie Gibbs and many visitors joined us in the congregation. Friends were generous in giving their donations towards our financial support. Sadly, the work is still important in helping so many children in this country!

Among other ways of raising money we hold a Grand Book Sale and Coffee Morning and the next one will be Saturday 1st August from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Offers of cake and/ or biscuit making etc. for the refreshments and help with serving it all would be much appreciated.

Please let me know if you can help.  
Gwen Clarkson  
Representative

### **Prayer to believe and trust**

Faithful, loving Father,

Sometimes we lose sight of who you are and what you ask of us. Help us to come back to basics, to see clearly that being in a right relationship with you has nothing to do with our doing good works, and everything to do with receiving the benefits of the good work Jesus has done for us on the Cross. Help us to believe in Him and to put our trust in His perfect, life-saving good work, already completed for our sakes.

In Jesus' Name, Amen. *By Daphne Kitching*

## Troy Town Maze

Over the course of our warm summer, many of us, both residents of the islands and holiday makers will visit St Agnes.



Apart from a trip to Troy Town Farm for ice cream, I am sure many will visit Troy Town Maze. It had fallen into disrepair so people thought it was a maze but after its repair it was discovered to be a labyrinth.

So what is the difference? Mazes tend to have high walls and choices as to where one should go. A labyrinth on the other hand, has only one route in and out. The only choice is whether to enter.

Labryinths, in the past, were used as an alternative to pilgrimage for those who were unable to cope with the journey. Many were set up in cathedrals. The idea was that the journey into the centre was longer than you might expect allowing time to leave everyday pressures behind in the centre and to return out of the labyrinth refreshed.

*The concept of pilgrimage is ancient. Each pilgrimage comes with a challenge: it may be the sheer physicality of the journey, or it may be the inward journey as we plumb the depths of our true selves. We may notice physical changes – wearing out boots and shoe leather on the roads that take us to the holy places, feeling the ache of limbs and the burden of our luggage, enduring the rigours of the weather with the burning sun and the biting wind and rain.*

*But we may also notice important changes within: perhaps a sense of peace and unity with the world and people, perhaps a more tolerant understanding of our own weaknesses and foibles, perhaps a desire to live life more fully and more faithfully. Basil Hume assures us that for all the rough paths we have to take, whether alone or with others, whether in speech or in silence, the crucial thing is to keep looking for the right way. 'There is one who is on the look-out to guide us: it is the Son of God, who is the way, the truth and the life.'*

The use of labyrinths has been revived today as by Christians as a form of reflection on the path of life. At the Methodist Conference at Southport, a beach labyrinth was set up and people were invited to use this as a means of reflection. People were invited to take rubbish into the centre, leave it at the cross in the centre of the labyrinth and then walk out ready to start afresh.



So, if you do happen to go to St Agnes, why not take a little time to go on your own mini pilgrimage at Troy Town labyrinth?

Val Parker

**For the Attention of all St Mary's Church Council  
Members**

**Extra Church Council Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> September**

**7pm**

**St Mary's Church**

There will be an extra Church Council Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September at 7 pm in the Church. This is to specifically discuss the proposed alterations and issues which have arisen from the preliminary investigations into the proposed idea.

Please would everyone on the Council make a note of the date and try to attend. If you already know you will be unable to attend, please inform Beryl as soon as possible. This is so that, if we know in advance that there will not be enough people, Beryl can try to reschedule the meeting. If you are unable to attend but wish to share your views please pass them on to someone you know who will be attending.

There is much to discuss and consider. Trying to fit this into the agenda for October will not allow for sufficient time to come to considered conclusions, hence the need for the extra meeting. Beryl will be giving out copies of reports with the minutes from the July meeting. Please ask her if you wish to see these well in advance.

The prayers of the members and friends of the Church would be much appreciated, especially for those who are working so hard on our behalf. We give thanks to God for their commitment and their abilities.

## **Ecumenics of a crisis**

During a recent gathering of local faith leaders, the church caught fire.

The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed.

The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?"

The Anglicans formed a procession and marched out.

The Quakers silently praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.

The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damage.

The Jews posted symbols on the door hoping the fire would pass over.

The Congregationalists shouted, "Every man for himself!"

The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"

The Charismatics praised God for another falling of the Holy Spirit.

The Christian Scientists concluded that, actually, there was no fire.

The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

J E S U S  
L O V E S Y O U



*Wendy checked the message on her mobile*

## **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.

## **Conversation**

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

## **Jolly**

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have had to wait for them?

## **Editorial Team**

Anne Gurr      [e.anne.gurr@gmail.com](mailto:e.anne.gurr@gmail.com)  
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Val Parker      [martinandval.parker@gmail.com](mailto:martinandval.parker@gmail.com)

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

## **Be Still and Know...'**

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

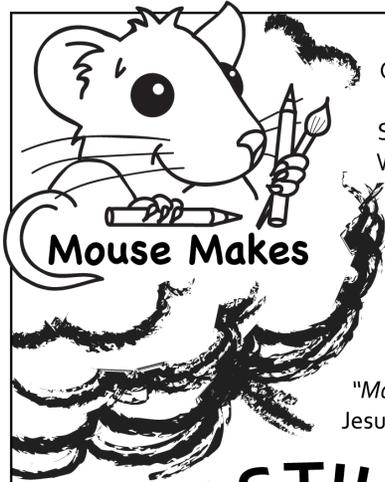
Have you ever thought of taking some time out of daily life, to simply 'be still' with God? To hear His voice, enjoy His presence, and perhaps receive His direction for your future? When I mentioned to a friend that I was taking some time out to 'be still' and listen to God, she startled me with her reply: "What does His voice sound like?"

This made me think. And my response is this: His voice for me is always calming, always reassuring, it always makes me feel overwhelmingly loved. It always gives me a sense of peace, which is deeper than any pain and stronger than any fear. No wonder the Scriptures talk of a 'peace that passes all understanding!'

He speaks to me through His word, the Bible. Then, as I sit in my 'prayer chair', a rocking chair by my window looking out at the world, He gently whispers His instructions through all of nature, it sounds a bit like this.....

The blue sky says; "Always Look Up", the Sun says; "Shine," the birds say; "Sing", the trees say; "be fruitful", the flowers say; "consider the Lilies", The open road ahead says; "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" The gentle rustle of the wind in the trees says; "Though you can't see My face, you can hear Me, see reflections of Me, feel Me, touch Me and know me though all I create, if you just take the time to be still!"

*Norma Murrain is a jewellery designer at  
[www.silverfishjewellery.co.uk](http://www.silverfishjewellery.co.uk)*



Mouse Makes

### A Storm on the Lake

One day Jesus said to his disciples,  
"Come with me across the Lake."  
So they got into a boat and set out.  
While they were sailing Jesus slept.

A big storm *blew* across  
the lake and the boat  
began to fill with water.  
They were in **great** danger.

The disciples went to  
Jesus and woke him. They said:  
"Master, Master, we are going to drown!"  
Jesus got up, and gave a **command** to the  
wind and the waves

# "BE STILL, BE CALM"



The wind stopped, and the lake became calm.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Where is your faith?"

They said to each other, "What kind of man is this?"

"He commands the wind and the water and they obey him!"

READ Luke 8:22-25

"Be still, and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10

## 5th August 1945

*Nigel Beeton considers the 70th anniversary of the day, 5th August 1945, that a single bomb fell upon a Japanese city, a city hitherto untouched by air raids, and in a moment of incredibly intense light and heat, 80,000 people were dead. Civilians – old men, women and children. Approximately the same number were to die in the following months of burns, blast injuries, and radiation sickness.*

### **The Day Enola Called**

A silver bird, high in a summer sky  
The morning sun is glinting on her wings;  
While, far below, as washing hangs to dry  
A mother rocks her new born babe and sings.

The baby sucks upon his mother's breast  
Partaking of his first meal of the day.  
Then in the sky a simple switch is pressed  
Something large falls out from 'Enola Gay'.

And so it is – a little boy is fed,  
As 'Little Boy' comes hurtling to the ground.  
A second sun! The little boy is dead  
Of him and thousands more no trace is found.  
Think on that morning – think, and be appalled,  
That summer morn on which Enola called.

*By Nigel Beeton*

## PRAYER CHAIN

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

**Mervyn & Stephanie Bird**           **423117**  
Sue Williams                           422605  
Merryn & Vicki Smith               423360

**Claire Jenkins**                       **423546**  
Margaret Snowball                  422896  
Gordon Bird                           422550  
Sonia Crompton                       422854

**Barbara Hasler**                      **422208**  
Len & Sylvia Michell                 422409  
Pam Thomas                           423115  
June Lethbridge                       422404

**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 me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.*

## August Notices

### St. Mary's

- 2<sup>nd</sup>                    09:15 All age worship team  
                          11:00 Mary Ratcliffe  
                          19:00 Songs of Praise at the Quay    Revd. Charlie Gibbs
- Park House       16:00 Beryl Read
- 9<sup>th</sup>                    09.15 Beryl Read / Gordon Bird  
                          11:00 Bishop Prof. Peter Stephens Communion
- 16<sup>th</sup>                   10:30 Len Michell / Mervyn Bird  
                          20.00 Revd Derek Lee / Mary Ratcliffe
- 23<sup>th</sup>                   09.15 Mary Ratcliffe / Mervyn Bird  
                          11:00 Barbara Hasler  
                          20.00 Revd. Jane Wilcock
- 30<sup>th</sup>                   09.15 Revd. Jane Wilcock / Sonia Crompton  
                          Communion  
                          11.00 Len Michell  
                          20:00 Revd. Jane Wilcock / Philip Lethbridge Songs of  
                          Praise

### St. Martin's

- 2<sup>nd</sup>                    11.00 Revd. Charlie Gibbs
- 9<sup>th</sup>                    18.00 Bishop Prof. Peter Stephens Communion
- 16<sup>th</sup>                   11:00 Revd. Derek Lee / Mary Ratcliffe
- 23<sup>th</sup>                   11.00 Revd. Jane Wilcock – Family Service
- 30<sup>th</sup>                   11.00 Gordon Bird