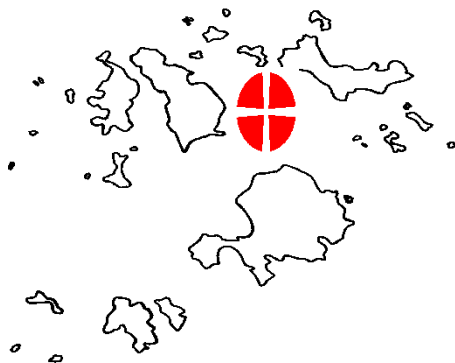


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

Methodist Church Circuit

August 2016

Chairman of the District

Revd Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd Jane Willcock 422406 (from August 31st)

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell
Gordon Bird Mary Ratcliffe
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 Mrs Heather Terry

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 Mrs Barbara Jones

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Hall Booking Secretary Mary Ratcliffe 423030

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



From the Circuit

As we are all aware, Charlie held his final services on Sunday 17th July. Both on St Mary's and St Martin's there were farewell lunches, which were well attended. By the time I am writing this, Charlie and Mary will be well on with their move. They have been with us for seven years. We would like to thank them for all their hard work, for their care and their commitment to the work of the Methodist Church here on the islands.

We wish Charlie and Mary every blessing as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We hope the move went well and that they will shortly be unpacked and settled back into Norfolk life.

We would like to welcome Rev Jane Wilcox and her husband John who join us in a month's time. Her welcome service will be on 31st August so look out for details. Jane and her husband were here when Charlie was on his Sabbatical so many of us have already met them. They will be staying for the year. We hope they have a happy time with us.

We would also like to thank the Right Reverend Professor W.P. Stephens, Bishop Emeritus of Gambia serving in the Methodist Church in Penzance, who conducted our Annual Lifeboat Service on Sunday 24th July.

As we look forward to a new chapter in the life of the Methodist Church on the islands, we pray that the Churches will thrive and be a good witness to the Christian faith.

In the absence of an occupant at the Manse, the following is taken from the Parish Pump.

This month sees the start of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, as the eyes of the world focus on the games. A number of New Testament letters make reference to Olympic sport including Hebrews: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2).

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher-bearers came over to him. However, Redmond wanted to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line.

Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. 'You don't have to do this,' he told his son. 'Yes, I do,' said Derek, to which his father said, 'We're going to finish this together.' They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side.



News from St. Mary's

In August we have our annual 'Children's Holiday Club' on St Mary's which this year is from the 22nd August. The theme this year is Romany Camp. This is always an important event in our church calendar.

Every child has a right to be both well fed and well led.
Ruth Smelter

It is worth considering how this club meets the needs of children to be well led. 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. If anyone is interested in helping out please contact Sonia Crompton as all offers of help are most welcome.

Our prayers for a speedy recovery go to Claire, who is back at home now. We hope she will soon be able to join us on Sundays.

We wish Vicki every success with her teacher training on the mainland. Our prayers go with her and with Emily who will be starting college. I am sure we will be seeing her every holiday as Merryn and Becky will still be here. Our prayers for every success go to Tianna Rose who also starts college and will be moving to the mainland with her Mum, Paula.

Val Parker



News from St. Martins

We came together as a whole community to celebrate the life of Rod Bluff, and hope Barbara can take comfort from such warmth and support shown at his memorial service which was conducted by Rev. Charlie.

The annual circuit service was held on St. Martin's this year, and was enjoyed by all, including the fish and chip lunch after. Thanks go to Philip for playing, and to Mary, June and Gordon for sharing their 'Open the Book' walking and talking experiences.

It was a good time to share fellowship together. On 10th July Christopher led our service to celebrate The Mission to Seafarers 'Sea Sunday'. This was the 160th Anniversary of the enduring and vital work of the global maritime Christian mission, and it was good to welcome mariner Andrew, and his family to the service.

Chris gave us a brief reminder of the mission's origins in Bristol and a summary of their work. We sang the familiar hymns and were reminded that the Lord is our anchor - grounded firm and deep. So many journeys are documented in the bible, such as that made by Abraham, Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Good Samaritan on the road to Jerusalem. Seafarers are often at sea for many long

months, away from families and land. We were treated to the story of the amazing journey to the South by Shackleton and the more incredible record of his hike over the hostile S Georgia to seek help for the rest of his crew.

He said "I have no doubt providence guided us and it the hostile S Georgia to seek help for the rest of his crew. It seemed we were 4 and not 3 on that terrible journey" They had known the guidance of God.

Past and present, men and women of the merchant fleet have given their lives to serving their countries during war and peacetime. We give thanks for the work of The Seafarers Mission.

Val Thomas



Thank You

Martin and Val would like to say thank you for the cards and well wishes for Joe on his 99th birthday. Special thanks go to Sonia for organising the cakes and to Barbara for baking them – they were delicious.

NCH Action for Children

Our heartfelt thanks go to all who came and/or contributed to our Grand Book sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday June 18th. In a way, sadly for us, it was a lovely sunny day which meant that very few visitors came to the hall but went off to other islands or to one of the several events also scheduled here on St Mary's. However, the receipts for the few books that sold and for the excellent refreshments meant that the day was still of great value financially to our Methodist children's charity. God's blessing was on the event!!

Gwen Clarkson



St Mary's knitted teddies

Dear Methodist friends still continue to knit lovely teddies and two others are sewing the bags the teddies occupy. Thank you all – please keep up the supply!

Sadly none can be sent to Uganda until the New Year, so it was decided that they should be given to children who are baptized here in our country. Already six have been given or soon will be, in the Parish Church. It is also likely that more will go back to Cornwall with Rev Professor Peter Stephens when he is with us in July, and children in the Camborne area can benefit.

Gwen Clarkson

The Beheading of John the Baptist

When you go back to work after the August Bank Holiday this month, spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hip-hop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised him in the Jordan at the start of his ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even the most dedicated press officers literally lose their heads over a client.

In our Christian race we have a great crowd of witnesses to cheer us on. We also have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. Let's keep our eyes fixed on Him, to ensure we finish the race!

Theological literacy boosted by new resource for Schools

Teaching of Christianity in schools is set to be transformed by a new resource from the Church of England. Understanding Christianity is a set of comprehensive materials and training which will enable pupils from age 4 to 14 to develop their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to making sense of the world and their own experience within it.

Available to all schools across the country, the resource was written by a team of RE advisers from RE Today Services, in collaboration with more than 30 expert teachers and academics. It has been tested in more than 50 schools.

Understanding Christianity was commissioned by the Church of England Education Office with the generous support of Culham St Gabriels, The Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the Jerusalem Trust and an anonymous donor.

The Revd Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for The Church of England, explains: "RE is primarily about teaching

religious literacy. The ability for young people to have informed conversation and dialogue about belief and faith is key to building a peaceful society and helps combat ignorance and extremism. We recognise that within the rich Christian heritage of Britain, a particular responsibility of the Church of England is to ensure Christianity is well taught in our schools. This large-scale resource promotes theological literacy and a deep understanding of the whole Christian narrative for children and young people.”

Understanding Christianity will not be available in the shops. Accredited trainers will train teachers to use the resource in their own setting. The project also comes with up to 15 hours of professional development support.

Over 800 teachers and staff have signed up for training in Understanding Christianity in one diocese alone. Jane Chipperton, Adviser for RE and Worship at the Diocese of St Albans which covers Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and part of north London said: “Our teachers are hugely excited about this resource. Over 100 schools have signed up for training, mostly on inset days. Some schools have sent their whole staff to be trained. I have never had such a positive response to one initiative.”

David Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Cambridge University and consultant on the project said: “This resource manages to interconnect the text of the Bible, the beliefs and practices of Christians, and the world of the pupils — a remarkable achievement.”

Miscellaneous Observations on life

More people fail for lack of encouragement than for any other reason. Anon

Love looks through a telescope, envy through a microscope. John Billings

Experience is the one thing you can't get for nothing. Oscar Wilde

What we desire our children to be, we must endeavour to be before them. Andrew Combe

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises. Demosthenes

We should all swap problems; everyone knows how to solve the other guy's. Anon

It is better to learn late than never. Publilius Syrus

The egotist is an 'I' specialist. Anon

Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall. Anon

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis. Anon

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it. Anon

Every Christmas the school 'pack' shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and many of us support this. The following may well be of interest, as it is the same organisation: Samaritans Purse.

An Appeal for water from the newest Country on Earth

Still, sparkling or dirty? For many in South Sudan there is no choice. Years of war have seen hundreds of thousands of people displaced across Unity State in the north of the country, and now water resources are running dry. A third of the wells have broken down, and seven out of 10 people have no access to clean water.

And so it is that Samaritan's Purse, the international disaster relief organization, has launched a 'Turn on The Tap' appeal to help. It wants to help people like Angelina, one of over 4000 refugees forced to live in the Mawut camp, with no access to clean water. Having ten children to look after, she now has to walk six hours a day, in intense heat, to collect dirty water. Already exposed to starvation and illness, Angelina now faces the danger of physical attack.

Sudan's rainy season washes excrement into surface water supplies, making the need for access to clean water ever more critical. Samaritan's Purse is eager to drill and rehabilitate 70 wells in the area, serving 35,000 people. For this it needs to raise £525,000. More details at: www.turnonthetap.org.uk.



"Standing up for the National Anthem in the middle of the sermon was a a bit of a giveaway that you were watching the Olympics on your iPhone!"

Birthday Greetings for August

We wish Jenny Burrows; 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.



Yum Yum

A notice outside Chichester Cathedral advertised lunchtime concerts with the encouragement that: "Sandwiches may be eaten."

Someone had scribbled underneath: "So if you are a sandwich, don't come!"

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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.*

Observations on Christian Life

Don't bother much about your feelings. When they are humble, loving, brave, give thanks for them; when they are conceited, selfish, cowardly, ask to have them changed. C. S. Lewis

Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God. Jim Elliot

If God maintains sun and planets in bright and ordered beauty, he can keep us. F. B. Meyer

Faith is the capacity to trust God while not being able to make sense out of everything. James Kok

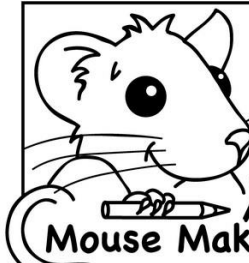
Faith is not idle; it works while it waits. Ronald Dunn

Whatever our trust is most in, that is our God. Richard Sibbes

If God forgives us, we must forgive others. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than him. C. S. Lewis

What we can know about God is so great and glorious that we can confidently trust what we do not know about him. Our God is a good God. Frank Retief

The great of this world are those who simply loved God more than others did. A. W. Tozer

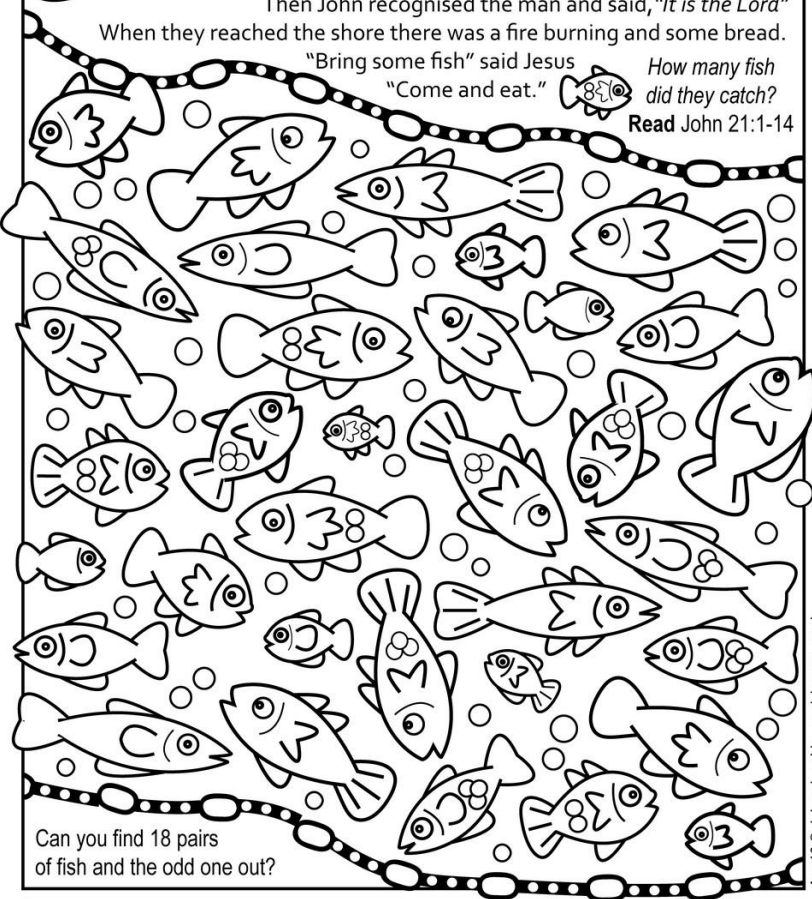


Mouse Makes

THE BIG CATCH OF FISH

The disciples had spent all night out on the lake fishing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked them, "Have you caught anything?" They answered, "Not a thing". He said to them "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they threw the net out and could not pull it back in because they had caught so many fish.

Then John recognised the man and said, "It is the Lord" When they reached the shore there was a fire burning and some bread. "Bring some fish" said Jesus "Come and eat." *How many fish did they catch?* **Read John 21:1-14**



Can you find 18 pairs of fish and the odd one out?

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Faithful God

(Jn6:68)

Faithful God,
Present in the crisis,
Reminding,
Re-assuring,
Real now, as then,
In sunshine,
In storm,
In beauty and in pain.

God, who created and called,
Who gave and gave and gave
Is the God of giving still.
Is the God of giving more...
More love,
More presence,
More hope,
More peace,
More life moments
With him in the middle.

To whom shall we go?

By Daphne Kitching

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact 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

'Rejoice in the Lord always I will say it again, Rejoice!...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God' *Paul's letter to the Philippians Chapter 4*

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.

Please join in this special ministry you can contact me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.

August Services

St. Mary's

7 th	09:15 All age worship team
	11:00 Gordon Bird
	19:00 Barbara Hasler
Park House	16:00 Beryl Read
14 th	09.15 Beryl Read / Gordon Bird
	11:00 Len Michell
	20.00 Mary Ratcliffe
21 st	10:30 Len Michell / Mervyn Bird
	20.00 Gordon Bird
28 th	09.15 Len Michell/ Vicki Smith
	11:00 Barbara Hasler
	20.00 Stewards to arrange

St. Martin's

7 th	11.00 Len Michell
14 th	11.00 Gordon Bird
21 st	11:00 Beryl Read Family Service
28 th	11.00 Chris Savill