

**Isles of Scilly**



**Methodist Church Circuit**

**IN TOUCH**

**August/September 2017**

## Thoughts from the Manse

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Isles of Scilly, except that as I write this I'm actually in our home on the mainland near Truro, so it would be more truthful to say Greetings to the Isles of Scilly – and to all those visitors who are seeking its' beauty and peace at the present time.

First, I would like to thank all those of you who have given so generously to our appeal for help toward the re-wiring scheme, both those who live on the Islands and those of you who hold them dear. We are so grateful for all your kindness, I've tried to write a note to each of you when I've been able to know your address. However, I'm concerned that this is not all of you and I ask that you will accept this, but also that I am still trying to find ways of contacting you to say 'thank you' personally. I ask also of our visiting friends, please, make yourselves known to John and I while you're over this summer as so many of you are well known to the true islanders, but not to us!

The “thought” which follows my letter in this edition of 'In Touch' comes from the Revd. Tony Pudner. Tony and his wife, Wendy, lived on St. Mary's when he was a probationary minister, he is now a supernumerary minister in the Helston Circuit but still spends each August on St. Martin's and holds the Isles of Scilly in his love and prayers. He has written several “Wandering Thoughts” for his local parish magazine and I thought it would be good to share some with us from his experience of a lifelong commitment to the work of God.

John and I send you our best wishes for these summer months and pray God's blessing on you, whether you are holidaying or busy providing for others' to holiday, may the days be, for you, truly “holy.”

With love and prayers,

Jane

## **Wandering Thoughts**

Google tells me that it was only as recently as 1918 that the editor of the *San Antonia Light* coined the phrase "One Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" - I thought it was far more ancient than that.

I'm no artist but our home has several pictures, most of them of the Isles of Scilly and most painted by our favourite artist, Sue Lewington, who used to live there. Sue has her own distinctive style and has produced several books of pictures of Cornish towns and coastal villages. Her paintings are often peppered with her words and comments. So she's made use of both mediums. When I look at them I'm almost back there and on holiday, seeing the folks we know and love.

And me, I like to treat most of the Bible like a picture book - like one of the earliest books that I had as a child, somehow constructed so that when you opened some of the pages up came a three-dimensional scene - that flat story came to life, to a child a source of mystery and delight. Of course, Jesus was a word artist and that's most clearly seen in his parables, and the prophets and other biblical authors were not far behind him.

If you think like this you quickly realize that we will see pictures in diverse ways and great art will communicate to us so much more if we share and combine our various impressions and move towards a greater appreciation and understanding of what the artist was trying to convey. But even then we may not get the whole picture!

So why not, when you take up your Bible, or hear the lessons read in Church, let your imagination run riot - see the pictures and don't be too tied to the mere words and share what you see with others. We may then get nearer to the truth even if we don't get it all bottled up.

**Revd Tony Pudner**

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

We celebrated the marriage of Merryn Thomas, daughter of Val and Graham, and Christopher Frey-Davies, son of Anne and Wayne from Swansea, on Monday 29th May. With some 100 guests the singing raised the roof! The weather was glorious and it was wonderful to share in such a happy occasion when there seems to be so much angst in the world these days.

Rev Jane conducted a truly memorable service, with much fun and the traditional reading from Corinthians 'Love is....'

James Thomas read from Pathways by Rainer Maria Rilke and young Adela (niece) and Jak (nephew) read together 'Us Two' by AA Milne.

Merryn looked amazing in a long cream beaded dress, and was attended by best friend Jen and sister-in-law Jo. All the flower girls and page boys really looked the part (the couple have 10 nieces and nephews!) and they left Chapel under a guard of honor provided by gig paddles.

The Chapel looked stunning with a large altar piece and garland on the gallery by Steph of Churchtown, augmented by showers of island flowers created by the Chapel ladies.

The family would like to thank everyone who helped make Merryn and Chris' day so very special and we wish them every blessing.

We have enjoyed a selection of preachers over the last month, including our own Chris Savill who took the annual Sea Sunday service on the 9th July.

Several members have relatives at sea, including in The Royal Fleet Auxiliary, British Antarctic Survey, and Swire Pacific off-shore, and two such - Jackie and Julia - read the lessons.

The theme Chris took was the 3 'C's - namely our reliance on commerce, challenges at sea and, the essential, companionship.

Our own island seafarers know how valued the Mission stations are in faraway ports around the world and envelopes are available for gifts to help with this work.

Well loved hymns were sung including 'Will your anchor hold?'

With our local waters much busier at this time of the year we give thanks to those who look out for our safety, and we all hope for a safe haven in Christ.

**Val Thomas**

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**SEASIDE ROCK**

**HOLIDAY CLUB 2017**

**at the Methodist Church**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August (incl.)**

**0930 – 1130 50p. per session**

**All primary age children welcome**

Bible based activities, crafts and games. At the beach on Wednesday weather permitting.

There was a clergyman who was an avid golfer. One Sunday was a picture-perfect day for golf and the minister could not resist the temptation. He rang his assistant and told him he was too ill to attend church. Then he packed up the car and drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognise him. Happily, he began to play the course. But an angel up above was watching the minister and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, 'Look at the minister. He should be punished for what he's doing.'

God nodded in agreement. The minister teed up on the first hole. He swung, and the ball sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup 350 yards away. A perfect hole-in-one. The minister was overjoyed. The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said: 'Begging your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him.' God smiled. 'Think about it; who can he tell?'

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## **Lifeboat Service**

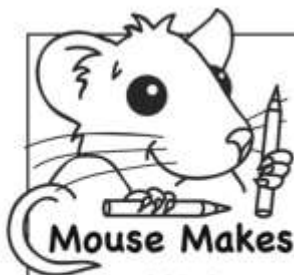
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July  
8 p.m.  
in  
St. Mary's Methodist Church

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When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows, like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to know,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul".

*Ira D. Sankey*

*From Sacred Songs & Solos*



## Mouse Makes

Where did God ask Jonah to go?

Read Jonah 1-4



What did Jesus tell his disciples *not* to take with them on their journey?

Read Matthew 10:9-10



Who spoke to Saul on his journey to Damascus?

Read Acts 9:3-8



What animal took Balaam to Moab?

Read Numbers 22:22



How did God guide the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness?

Read Exodus 13:21



Who did Abram take with him on his journey to Canaan?

and

Read Genesis 12:4-5



Have you ever been on a long journey?

Where did you go?

How long did it take you to get there?

The Bible reminds us that wherever we travel and wherever we go, God is with us!



↻ = a	↗ = f	↙ = n	↓ = t
↖ = b	↑ = h	⌚ = o	♯ = u
→ = c	↘ = i	↗ = p	∪ = v
∪ = d	∞ = l	← = r	↖ = w
∞ = e	∪ = m	∩ = s	♯ = y

God is with us

The Lord watches over all who love Him Ps 145:20

Can you decipher the verse on the suitcase?

## **Some thoughts from Merryn on his life in Scilly .....**

The two toughest people to tell about our forthcoming move to the mainland have been from the Chapel family. As melodramatic as it may sound, I was close to tears and could hardly get my words out. I may have moved to the islands when Dad got the job as music teacher in 1985, but my family's relationship with the Chapel extends further back than that, deep into the 70's and before I was born. Dad would visit the islands and provide instrumental lessons for the school children every couple of months and my first real memories of the Islands I was to call "home," are of Easters spent sleeping in a cupboard in the old Carn Thomas building and the week long workshop that Dad would run for the School's Windband. It was these occasions as a 6/7/8 year old that I remember the faces of "The Chapel" some now gone but many others still there... a constant in my life and that of the family I was to raise with Vicki.

Other members of the Methodist Church on Scilly can remember a lot further back than I, can name more ministers, have been to countless candlelit services and remember the introduction of Hymns and Psalms. But for me the memories I have are personal and very much treasured. Looking back to those early days of living here, Lewis Stephens had just retired from the primary school and we were lucky enough to be at his and Pam's last service here. May Harris was my Sunday School teacher, followed by Beryl and then Jean Wiltshire. Bertie Ashford shared the organist bench with Len and Bob Dunstone left the Manse for Jeremy Dare and family. I remember the Sunday School Anniversary services that June put together and we took on "Tour" to St Martins. There was the Cliff College mission in about '88, the "Eye to Eye" drama team in 1991 and, of course, "SWoT", Scilly's Worship Team".

Then there was Gordon and the Youth Fellowship on a Sunday evening..... it was something I aspired to, I was desperate to hit the age where I could join and take part and when I did, it did exactly what it said on the tin.... Fellowship with other young



people, from the islands, sometimes visitors, there was Wolfgang from Germany, Matt from Australia and, of course, during the holidays those adventurers who had gone to the mainland for further education returned.

That became me in 1992, and during the Christmas YF meeting I mentioned that I had a girlfriend. "How long have you been together?," I was asked. " A couple of weeks," I replied. That got a bit of a giggle. Nearly 25 years later, that 'girlfriend' is taking me on the next step of life's adventure.....

We married in 1995 and probably my most touching memory of the Chapel family as a whole was their insistence of celebrating it here on the islands as the ceremony had taken place in Vicki's home parish of Ludgvan in West Cornwall. Not many brides have worn their wedding dress twice, but Vicki got the chance at a lovely evening in the Chapel Hall in early August.

The Methodist Family has been there for me, pretty much my whole life, celebrating the good times and supporting when things are difficult. Losing Dad so suddenly in 2002 was awful, but the Chapel was there for all of us. I have struggled with depression at times in my life and one lady in particular has popped up out of the blue with a kind word or a small present not wanting to stop and talk, just to let me know she's thinking of me. A simple, gentle but deeply touching offer of love and care.

Having four children was always going to be interesting and I know that for each of them, the Chapel has been a focal point of their life. Family services, Childrens Church, Holiday Club, Saturday Seekers and quite simply an acceptance of each one as they are and believe me..... all four of them are different!!!!!! The Methodist Church has been a positive influence on their lives that has helped to shape and mould them. Something that will stay with them for life wherever they are in the world.

"St Mary's Methodist Church" has never been the building to me (though it holds some remarkable memories), but those familiar faces both on St Mary's and St Martin's. Some do what they do quietly and without fuss, others are more prominent and obvious,

but each one is no less important and each one will be remembered dearly. Characters ready to share and give, with no expectation in return. A family in its true sense. Disagreements and arguments come and go, but the fellowship, the sharing and the love and compassion we have for each other within the Chapel and for the Islands' community is its very essence.

There is so much to be grateful for but all I can say is, from all the Smiths, Vicki, Katy, Joshua, Emily, Rebecca and myself, thank you, for everything. I truly believe we couldn't have done it without you.

***To Merryn and Vicki, Katy, Joshua, Emily and Rebecca - we wish you all God speed and every blessing for your new life on the mainland. We will miss you.***

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## **Christians Against Poverty**

Christians Against Poverty has launched an appeal for more supporters who can donate as little as £5 a month to help it to free people trapped in poverty.

Many of those whom CAP helps are in crisis - missing meals, choosing between heating their homes or having clean clothes. Often their furniture has been repossessed and some are sleeping on bin bags filled with old clothes. One in three of them even consider suicide.

More than 28,000 people now give regularly to CAP, so that it can bring hope to desperate people in the 293 communities where it has debt centres. More details at: <https://capuk.org/>

## **The Transfiguration - a glimpse of Jesus' future glory**

*The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).*

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was - immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

*Why on top of a mountain?* In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

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How can we make the most of this summer season and keep focused on God? We need to maintain a 'gratitude attitude:' thankful to God for all His blessings to us. 'When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God.' (Deuteronomy 8:10/11). So, stay close and stay grateful to God in this summer season of life!

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Don't worry.  
God is never blind to your tears.  
Never deaf to your prayers  
And never silent to your pain.  
He sees, He hears  
And He will deliver you.

## The beheading of St 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 ever 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.

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The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need.

## Grave Cleaning Project

During August and September it is proposed to hold a display of photographs in the Church showing the grave cleaning work that has been carried out this year.

The display will run from Monday to Saturday each week and you are warmly invited to come and see what has been achieved.

Thank you to all who have supported this fund raising effort and for contributing to its success. The work is ongoing.

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Thanks to [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk) for the use of their material.

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We do publish the magazine on line at [www.scillymethodist.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodist.co.uk) and we also have a Facebook Page, St. Mary's Methodist Church. It is good to receive feedback about the articles in the magazine and we do appeal for contributions. Please could you let us have them by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. Thank you.

## Giving

On St. Mary's the offerings in May amounted to £1,180.90 and in June £2,576.95. Both figures include standing orders.

## **Belarus 2017 with 'Leaves of Hope' – Adele Bird**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017, myself and 12 other music students from Cardiff University, went to Belarus to volunteer with the charity 'Leaves of Hope.' Whilst out there, we worked with 31 children all aged between 4-7 years.

Prior to our trip, each volunteer was required to raise a minimum of £750 which was achieved through many generous online and offline donations, with fundraising events including cake sales and a charity concert. Between the 13, we managed to raise over an incredible £9,875 in just four months.

As a group, we were very fortunate to visit an orphanage which the charity had been working with for the past 20 years. We were told many awful stories about the treatment of orphans in Belarus. As we approached the orphanage on our first day, we were pleasantly surprised at the condition of the orphanage.

Throughout the 10 days we engaged in various activities which included decorating hats, making play-dough, hand painting and making hanging mobiles. These activities were done in our morning session and in the afternoons we worked with a smaller group who were performing in the concert. On the Monday, we invited the British Ambassador to a concert at the orphanage, where the children performed a Russian Fairy tale and we provided musical backing. This was a particularly important day as it was the first time the British Ambassador had visited the orphanage. All the children watched and behaved so beautifully, dressed in their best clothes and the children who performed did an incredible job. This day brought so many emotional challenges as it was difficult to see why these beautiful children were treated so badly by society.

On the days we were not at the orphanage we had the opportunity to go to Minsk, which was an hour's drive away from Zhodino (where we were based). We also had the opportunity to

visit Khateen, a village which was demolished, like a lot of Belarus, during the Second World War. It was important that we learnt about the history of the country as it put into perspective the cultural differences between the UK and Belarus. We were extremely fortunate to be invited to the Queen's birthday celebrations at the British Embassy in Minsk as we were able to learn more about the country and explain to them what we were out there to do.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the charity and gave me the opportunity to visit the orphanage and work with the amazing charity 'Leaves of Hope'. It was an experience that I shall never forget and I hope to work with the charity in the future.

### **Birthdays in August**

Jenny Burrows, Neil Didlick, Rev. Charlie Gibbs, Anne Gurr,  
Peter Laverock, Daphne Perkins, Jeremiah Roberts, Paula Rose,  
Katie Smith, Rebecca Smith, Alan Terry, Julia Walder,  
John Willcock.

### **Birthdays in September**

Patti Brooks, Angela Jenkins, Lois Morris, Flora Newrick,  
Mary Ratcliffe, Vicki Smith, Sue Williams.

*Happy birthday to you,*

*To Jesus be true*

*God bless you and keep you,*

*Happy birthday to you.*



## PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Revd. Jane Willcock (422406) who will pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

<b>Meryn &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>
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 Revd. Jane Willcock on 422406.*

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

## **August Services**

### **St. Mary's**

6 <sup>th</sup>	0915 1100 1800	Revd. Jane Willcock/S. Crompton - Sacramento Revd. Jane Willcock L. Michell
13 <sup>th</sup>	0915 1100 2015	B. Read/K. Watson Revd. Jane Willcock Old Town Church
20 <sup>th</sup>	1030 1800	N. Didlick Revd. Jane Willcock – Sacramento
27 <sup>th</sup>	0915 1100 1800	G. Bird/M. Bird L. Michell Revd. Canon Perran Gay

### **St. Martin's**

6 <sup>th</sup>	1100	Revd. Tony Pudner/C. Savill
13 <sup>th</sup>	1800	Revd. Jane Willcock
20 <sup>th</sup>	1100	Revd. Tony Pudner
27 <sup>th</sup>	1100	C. Savill

### **Park House**

6 <sup>th</sup>	1600	L. Michell
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## **September Services**

### **St. Mary's**

3rd	1030 2015	Worship Leaders Old Town Church
10 <sup>th</sup>	1100 1800	Revd Jane Willcock – Harvest Festival Revd Jane Willcock - Sacrament
17 <sup>th</sup>	1100 1800	Parish Church – Harvest Festival L. Michell
24 <sup>th</sup>	0915 1100 1800	M. Bird/ Revd Jane Willcock - Sacrament Revd Jane Willcock - Sacrament Revd Jane Willcock

### **St. Martin's**

3rd	1100	Revd Jane Willcock
10 <sup>th</sup>	1100	B. Read
17 <sup>th</sup>	1800	Revd Jane Willcock - Sacrament
24 <sup>th</sup>	1100	G. Bird

### **Park House**

3rd	1600	L. Michell
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