



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

August/September 2021

Chairman of the District: Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Superintendent Minister:

Revd. Michael Pullan B.Ed., B.D. 422406

Local Preachers:

Mr Len Michell-(*not taking services this quarter*) 422409

Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Stewards:

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer: Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

Circuit Meeting Secretary: Mrs Heather Terry 422329

Church Stewards:

St. Mary's	Mrs Claire Jenkins	Mrs Jean Duncan
	Mr Philip Lethbridge	Mrs Leigh Kendrick
	Mrs Sue Williams	

St. Martin's Mrs Barbara Jones

St. Mary's

Treasurer: Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary: Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Hall Booking Secretary: Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

Organist: Mr Len Michell 422409

Deputy Organist: Mr Philip Lethbridge 422404

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary: Mrs Jackie Perkins 422814

Church Treasurer: Mr Alan Terry 422329

Connexional Link Person: Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Barbara James 422674

Thoughts from The Manse.....

Dear Friends

As I write, in the words of a song, "This could be the last time".

God, in His wisdom, has called on me (in Methodist terms!) to 'sit down'.

I have valued and enjoyed my time in the Circuit, despite half the time being changed by covid.

We have met some great people with deep faith, seeking to advance God's work and Kingdom in a variety of ways. The future in all your hands is secure ("I know who holds the future" etc - another song)

The word last has been running through my mind - a cobblers tool for shoe repairs. - Do we allow God to shape our lives? Are they Jesus - focused.

We may come last in a race, but whatever the distance, do we run with perseverance the race before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12 v 1b, 2a)

The last shall be first. God's Kingdom values through Jesus' teaching turn the world downside up and He invites you to join the revolution.

Engleberts" song - The last waltz. I'm certainly not the 'dancing king' but music contributes much to our lives and worship and has done for a long time (maybe appreciated more within the last 18 months when not able to sing corporately - hopefully doing so by the time you read this!)

Singing helps us to express ourselves and our faith - gives glory to God and witnesses to others of our faith.

Arguably these three things are a fair summary of our role as Christians and Christ's church.

'Thank you for the music' and for the support we have received in our time here.

Assuring you of our thoughts and prayers as you share ministry with Carole.

Yours, because His.

Michael and Ann

You may wish to keep in touch.

Our address will be:

6 Friendship Road

Nailsea

Bristol

BS48 1AE

Tel 01275 853380

(Used stamps still collected on 'retirement'.)

NO RUSH

In retirement I've a new motto
For when folk try to give me a push
When they want me to go a bit faster
With a smile, I reply "There's no rush".

At work life was timed to the minute
Amidst all the bustle and crush
It wasn't quite the thing to say,
"I'm late, but there's really no rush".

So one day when the Lord comes to take me
As he will, as sure as shove comes to push,
He might just say with a twinkle,
"Bide a while, Lad - There's no rush".

(The title might apply to life on Scilly and to getting all sorts of jobs done in the home or in church!)

Michael

TIME

Some people run, some people crawl
some folks don't even move at all
Some roads lead on, some roads lead back,
some roads are bathed in light,
some wrapped in fearful black.

Time oh time where did you go?
Time oh good time where did you go?

Some people never get, some never give
Some people never die, some never live
Some folks treat me mean, some treat me kind
Most folks just go their way don't think any mind

Time oh time where did you go?
Time oh good time where did you go?

Sometimes I'm satisfied, sometimes I'm not
Sometimes my face is cold, and sometimes it's hot
Sunset I laugh, sunrise I cry
At midnight I'm in between wondering why

Time oh time where did you go?
Time oh good good time where did you go?
Time oh time where did you go?

Lyrics by Cliff Richard

He also sang 'Time drags by real slow'

Not really the case since I arrived despite COVID

Michael

News from St Martin's.....

We have continued to welcome visitors to our services under current restrictions and have decided we can now fully open our doors.

Recent folk who joined us in Chapel were friends of Val's from Devon who are Street Pastors. They are part of a National Organisation, all of whom are Christians, of all denominations. They do amazing work, in their spare time, mostly late at night when the pubs close and some people are 'the worse for wear.'

Their aim is to be a presence when needed, to offer a listening ear, and a friendly face for those who may end up in trouble. They work closely with the 3 emergency services, Ambulance, Fire, and Police and are trained first aiders, trying to prevent a bad situation becoming a crisis.

On Sunday 3rd July Christopher led our service commemorating 'Sea Sunday' in support of The Mission To Seafarers. As always we were reminded of the essential, caring work of this organisation who again have a Christian base, in this case The Church of England. They work closely with other denominations including the Methodist Sailors Society. As a group of Islands surrounded by the sea, their work impacts on so many of us with relations and friends who work on or in the sea.

At the moment local attention is focusing on Wally the Walrus who has taken up residence here. A solution is being sought to encourage him back to his natural Arctic habitat; many maritime personnel are involved in such a challenge.

Some 90% of all the worlds cargo is moved by sea and we were reminded recently of the impact of disruption to such transport when the 'Evergiven' went aground in the Suez Canal.

Examples of ships being abandoned by their bankrupt owners can result in crew, often from poorer countries, being left without means of returning to their families, without being paid. This is when The Seafarers Mission comes to their aid.

How apt is the hymn we sang - "Let the Lower lights be burning"

Brightly beams our Father's Mercy
From the lighthouse evermore
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore

People Matter, and coincidentally today (4th July) is National Thank you day!

Which leads me to a very special thank you to a very special person from all of us here on St Martin's.

Michael has been our minister under most unusual conditions, and has maintained his Yorkshire good humour and care of us throughout.

A true 'Man of God' he has had to brave the elements on many occasion, to ensure we continue to keep the faith.

We will miss you Michael and wish you and Ann a happy retirement, hoping you can 'keep on cruising' and come back to visit us!

Val Thomas

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Consider what you owe to his immutability.

Though you have changed a thousand times, He has not changed once.

Charles Spurgeon

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Prayer is a door into the hospitality of God's home

Time for a Smile

The sacristan was in a hurry to inform the congregation that their minister had recovered from an illness, so he put the following notice outside the church: God is good. The vicar is better.

Fire in church

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister:

"Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

Bowls

A small boy stunned his parents when he began to empty his pockets of coins. Finally his mother asked him where he had got all that money. "At church," the boy replied nonchalantly. "They have bowls of it there."

Church notices that didn't quite come out right....

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

The minister is going on holiday next Saturday. Could all missionary boxes be handed into the vicarage by Friday evening, at the latest.

Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot, please stand upside down in the sink.

There will be a procession in the grounds of the monastery next Sunday afternoon. If it rains in the afternoon, the procession will take place in the morning.

Good News *Something Beautiful*

Yes, I am here in Carreg Dhu garden again!

To those of you who love Scilly, how grateful we are for Richard and June's foresight in leasing the old Quarry in 1986 and creating such an oasis of calm, beauty and peacefulness! Thank you to all who help to keep its natural charm.

I happened to be here, (on holiday then) when the redoubtable lady, Mrs. Katy Thompson of Longstone Terrace, declared the garden open.

This year I have watched the progress of Camellias, Daffodils, Bluebells – and I found several clumps of Primroses, too. There's Apple Blossom, Japanese Cherry, Rhododendrons from tight bud to full flower, now going over. The fresh young green of the Oak, now deep green. The Tulip tree, Conifers of every shade from glaucous green to palest grey. Dracaena Palms in green and gold raise their heads below the encompassing Pines.

Really, I thought this is like a good book. You turn the pages and there is always more to enjoy. It is like the Bible, God's word to us who believe – the most precious thing this world affords.

Open the Book, it tells of the Creator of the universe, the fall of man right at the beginning. The provision of a Saviour, Jesus Christ, He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Read Psalm 19 – "The Heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows and proclaims His handiwork" In Jeremiah 15 v.16 we read, "Your words were found and I ate them, and your words were to me a joy and rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by your Name, O Lord God of hosts" **Worship Him.**

Pauline Jackson Cocking

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The world is charged with the grandeur of God

Gerald Manley Hopkin

The congregation at St Mary's Methodist Church wish to say a special 'thank you' to Michael our Minister for his ministry, his passion for bringing God's word and love to us, and his exceptional pastoral care over the last three years, especially during the very difficult time that was covid.

Michael your sermons were inspiring with always a touch of humour woven through them. As we would say in the Isles of Scilly you really did 'a proper job'. We were blessed in having you as our Minister.

We wish you a joyful retirement and that you and Ann continue to enjoy your love of cruising.

Irish Blessing..... Upon your retirement:

May you always have work for your hands to do
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.....
May the sun shine bright on your window pane
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain
May the hand of a friend always be near you
and may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you

Retirement Sentiments From Famous People

"Retirement at 65 is ridiculous. When I was 65 I still had pimples"

George Burns

"When a man retires, his wife gets twice the husband but only half the income"

Chi Chi Rodriquez

"You know you are getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you are down there."

George Burns

"You don't stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing."

George Bernard Shaw

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Mark Twain

"My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned sixty and that's the law."

Jerry Seinfeld

If anything could have pulled me out of retirement, it would have been an Indiana Jones film.

Sean Connery

I don't even think about a retirement programme because I'm working for the Lord, for the Almighty. And even though the Lord's pay isn't very high, his retirement programme is, you might say, out of this world.

George Foreman

The language of church-going

BULLETIN:	Your receipt for attending the service.
HOLY WATER:	A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.
HYMN:	A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.
INCENSE:	Holy Smoke!
JUSTICE:	When your children have children of their own.
KYRIE ELEISON:	The only Greek words that most Catholics and Anglicans can recognise besides gyros and baklava. (it means Lord have mercy)
PEW:	A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.
PROCESSION:	The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.
RECESSIONAL:	The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service - led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the car park.
RELICS:	People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.
TEN COMMANDMENTS:	The most important – and oldest - Top Ten list.
USHERS:	The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

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When we work we work
When we pray God works

GOD IN THE ARTS

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with 'Jacob's Dream' by Ribera. It now hangs in the Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain. You can see a copy of the painting at:

http://www.spanisharts.com/history/barroco/imagenes/ribera/ribera_suenojacobo.html



'The Lord is in this place'

In the 3rd century a Chinese philosopher, Chang Tsu, had a very vivid dream. He dreamed he was a butterfly, happily flying here and there. When he awoke, he thought to himself, 'Did Chang Tsu dream that he was a butterfly, or did the butterfly dream that it was Chang Tsu?' Dreams are often like that: crucial experiences which cause us to ponder and wonder about their meaning. The prophet Joel suggested that it was old men who dream dreams, while young people see visions. But dreams invade and colour our sleeping hours, whatever age we are.

In the Bible dreams are vital events. Think of Joseph in the Old Testament dreaming of his superiority among his brothers, the dreams of the cup bearer and baker at Pharaoh's court, Daniel

interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, and Joseph's dreams in the Gospels that were so crucial for the safety of the Holy Family. This month in our paintings we focus on 'Jacob's Dream' by Ribera.

Jusepe de Ribera was a Spanish artist, whose most productive years were spent in Naples, where he died in 1652. This painting from 1639 is based on Genesis 28. After depriving his brother Esau of his birthright, Jacob is sent to Laban. At Bethel he rested and in his sleep received the vision of God's angels on the ladder to heaven with God's reassuring words of promise and blessing. When he awoke, Jacob set up an altar at Bethel, which he declared was the house of God and the gate of heaven.

To baroque artists, this scene in Genesis was seen as a prefiguration of the coming of Jesus, and in John's Gospel Jesus Himself told Nathanael that he would see the angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. For Ribera the subject of Jacob's dream is treated with great tenderness as Jacob sleeps beneath the luminous expanse of sky, which occupies a major part of the canvas. Not for him the depiction of winged messengers; no, the light of heaven falls down upon the sleeping figure, casting shadows on the ground. The angels, ethereal and insubstantial, are contained in the glory of light. The tree at the other side looks like a fallen cross, and Jacob almost like a sleeping disciple in Gethsemane. But here, he is in deep repose as his face is lit up with the golden glow of the heavenly messengers.

For Jacob, the dream is the golden assurance of God's blessing. As his saga continues in Genesis, he marries Laban's daughters, wrestles with the divine stranger, is given the name Israel, and his 12 sons become the ancestors of the 12 tribes of God's people. So, the blessing of the dream is worked out in his life and the life of Israel.

Dreams can come to give visions of the way life should be. Like Jacob, or perhaps like Martin Luther King and his prophetic words in 1963. In this month of August many of us will go on holiday to enjoy rest and recreation. As we end the days with sleep, we pray that like the Psalmist we will lie down in perfect peace and safety and know the refreshment Jacob found at Bethel: a repose which will restore our souls and bodies to bring life and vision wherever we may be.

P-R-A-Y!

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always

1 Chronicles 16 v 11

To help you remember the four parts of prayer, think of the acrostic

P-R-A-Y

P - Praise the Lord!

Not sure how? Think you will run out of words? Not if you use the Scriptures. David gives us a beautiful example in 1 Chronicles 29: 11-13. It's one you can use: 'Yours, Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour...Yours, Lord, is the kingdom...In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name'.

R - Repent of your sins!.

Just as heat forces impurities to the surface so the metal refiner can remove them, your prayer time will reveal attitudes that must be changed, habits that must be broken, and barriers to blessing that must be removed. It's not enough to tell God about your sins. He already knows them. You must ask Him to help you turn away from them. This is true repentance.

A - Ask for yourself and others!.

Your prayers invite God into the situation, and your faith activates His power to change it. There's no distance in prayer, no culture or language barrier it can't overcome. It's like throwing on a power switch - things begin to move when we pray. Jesus said, 'I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.... whatever doors you open on earth shall be open in heaven' (Matthew 16 v 19).

Y - Yield yourself to God's will!.

Declaring the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life is like signing your name to the bottom of a blank cheque and inviting Him to fill in the amount.

This devotional (11th May 2021) was taken from UCB Word for Today as the source

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Address: United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST65 4JF

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Thirteenth-century mystic and poet Meister Eckhart wrote:

Do you want to know what goes on in the heart of the Trinity.
I will tell you:

In the heart of the Trinity the Father laughs and gives birth to the Son

The Son laughs back at the Father and gives birth to the Spirit

The whole Trinity laughs and gives birth to us

(We are born from the laughter of the Trinity. What an amazing thought. As image bearers of the Living God surely joy is written deep in our very hearts.....)

quote taken from the book 'Defiant Joy' by Stasi Eldredge)

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I do not at all understand the mystery of grace only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.

Anne Lamott

The ages of life

Old Age

On the outside: why so faded,
Colours chipped and hair awry?
Ageing's price has been exacted,
Hope extinguished, love gone by.

Middle Age

Halfway there with lines appearing,
Self-help books are piling high.
Dreams still beckon; future yearning,
Life has not yet passed me by

Adolescence

Teenage daring, risk unflinching;
Health and vigour promise more
Every passion lurks, so tempting
All sensations to the fore.

Childhood

Child amazement, world untested;
Safely kept in others' care.
Now emerging, trusting, fearless
Stain-free soul to taste the air.

Moral

Cast off now your stubborn pride.
Liberate the child inside.

(See Matthew 18:3)

by John Barton

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021

After a considerable delay because of Covid restrictions, the World day of Prayer service finally took place at St. Marys Methodist Chapel on Friday July 9th.

It was encouraging to have several in the congregation, including some parents and grandparents of children from the Five Islands Academy.

I wish to sincerely thank all those from the Anglican and Methodist congregations who willingly took a role in the act of worship prepared by the women of Vanuatu.

Also, I am most grateful to Rachel Thornton at the school for her work with a primary class, which enabled a few of the youngsters to participate with a RAP and personal reflections based on the parable of the wise and foolish builders. Their Vanuatan flags and flower garlands certainly added colour and helped to create an impression of these Pacific islands.

As the pandemic regulations were still in place, we could not sing the hymns and songs, so were appreciative of Canon Perran Gay's musical arrangements on the piano.

I am pleased to report that I have £189-10 to send to the World Day of Prayer organisation, for their continued support of a wide range of charities. This sum will be increased through Gift Aid.

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions.

Heather Terry

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The love you give and receive is a reality that will lead you closer and closer to God as well as to those whom God has given you to love

Henri J. M. Nouwen

HYMN:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...

The story behind 'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken'

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano.

There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'.

Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem.

It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 - 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything).

In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it.

This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides.

He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar.

Now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

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God grant us the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference

Reinhold Niebuhr



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Jean Duncan	davidandjeanduncan72@gmail.com
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This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Please send your contributions to the editor by the 15th of the month.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website www.scillymethodists.co.uk and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed. If you would prefer to read In Touch in this way please let us know and we can save the cost of a paper copy.

Some material in this magazine has come from www.parishpump.co.uk. We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.



Birthdays

August:

Jenny Burrows, Neil Didlick, Jean Duncan, Revd Charlie Gibbs, Anne Gurr, Peter Laverock, Daphne Perkins, Revd Michael Pullan, Paula Rose, Katie Smith, Rebecca Smith, Alan Terry, Julia Walder, John Willcock

September:

Patti Brooks, Angela Jenkins, Lois Morris, Ann Pullan, Mary Ratcliffe, Vicki Smith, Sue Williams

Children's Birthdays

August: Harry Clark, Jeremiah Roberts, Ben Schwartz

Happy birthday and God's blessings to everyone

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

St. Mary's

5th	1030	Revd Carole Holmes
12th	1030	Revd Carole Holmes <i>United Harvest Festival</i>
19th	1100	<i>United Harvest Festival</i> Parish Church
26th	1030	Revd Carole Holmes <i>Holy Communion</i>

St. Martin's

5th	1800	Revd Carole Holmes <i>United Harvest Festival</i>
12th	1800	Revd Carole Holmes
19th	1500	Revd Carole Holmes <i>United Harvest Festival Parish Church</i>
26th	1800	Revd Carole Holmes <i>Holy Communion</i>

Park House

No service this month

PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Rev Michael Pullan (422406) who will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird	423117
Sue Williams	422605

Claire Jenkins	423546
Margaret Snowball	422896
Sonia Crompton	422854
Jean Duncan	422527

Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pam Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404

Beryl Read	422977
Gwen Clarkson	423106
Barbara James	422674

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 Rev. Michael Pullan on 422406.

We thank God that we can be channels of His grace.

Editorial Team

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Barbara James	bjjethen@gmail.com

This is the Circuit magazine and it needs your contributions to make it informative and interesting. Please send news, notice of events with dates etc. and personal reflections to the editor by 15th of the month. Articles from our mainland readers are always welcome.

In Touch can be read on line.

Just go to our Circuit website **www.scillymethodists.co.uk** and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of 'In Touch' can also be accessed.

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BIRTHDAYS

April

Gwen Clarkson, Mary Gibbs, Barbara Hasler, Stephen Morris, Jenny Nightingale, Alex Schwartz, Aurelia Schwartz

May

Mervyn Bird, Andy Brooks, Michael Jenkins, Nick Jenkins, Fraser Clark

Happy Birthday and every blessing on your special day.

PRAYER CHAIN

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June Lethbridge	422404

Beryl Read	422977
Gwen Clarkson	423106
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We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.

AUGUST SERVICES

St. Mary's

1st	1030	Revd Stephen Wild, District Chair
8th	1100	Revd Michael Pullan. <i>United Service</i>
15th	1030	Mrs Beryl Read
22nd	1030	Revd A Pudner
29th	1030	Mrs M Brock

St. Martin's

1st	1800	Revd Stephen Wild, District Chair
8th	1800	Revd Michael Pullan
15th	1100	Revd A Pudner
22nd	1100	Mr Christopher Savill
29th	1100	Songs of Praise

Park House

No service this month