

From the Manse

Dear Friends,



It hardly seems possible that we are in August already. At long last, after a very lengthy term – made longer for our Island children by the fact that they have a week less holiday now, to compensate for their two weeks in October – the school holidays have arrived. We hope that all the children, especially those linked with our churches, have a great time. Our annual Holiday Club (for details see the article elsewhere in the magazine) is being held in the week beginning Sunday August 10th. Later in the month Fusion are off again to Soul Survivor. We wish all the children and young people and team leaders a very happy and successful time at both these ventures and pray that God may be at work in both of them.

People sometimes speak of children as ‘the church of tomorrow’. In one sense, of course, that is true. All things being equal, they will be here long after the rest of us have ‘ceased our earthly labours’. But children and young people are also part of the Church of today. I’m not sure that, as a church – and I don’t just mean on the Isles of Scilly – we are very good at recognising that. How do we integrate young people and children into what we do? Do we – the adults – see it as our role to provide ‘something for the children/young people’? Or, do we see that they have something to provide for the rest of us? And, anyway, what’s all this talk about “they”?

If we see anyone in the Church – adult or child – as ‘they’ rather than ‘us’, perhaps we are missing the point about the church. In the letters of the New Testament there’s a lot about the Church being like a body – the Body of Christ. Our hands, feet, eyes and ears, etc, are all part of ‘us’, not ‘they’ or ‘them’. In the same way all in the Church – old, young and those in between – are ‘us’, the Body.

I wonder if, in the coming year, we might explore together what it means to be an all-age ‘family of Jesus’.

Meanwhile, have a great holiday. We welcome all those returning to our Islands and those here for the first time. Strength, grace and love, too, to those living here as they welcome so many to our beautiful Islands.

Every blessing,

David

Holiday Club 2008

This year, Holiday Club – which is mainly for children of Primary School age – will be taking place from Monday August 11th to the 15th. We will be using material prepared by Scripture Union, called *Champion's Challenge*. This will be helping the children to look at some of the stories in Luke's Gospel through the medium of games, drama, art and craft, songs, etc, and a DVD which tells the particular Bible story for each day. We have a team of enthusiastic helpers from the Methodist and Anglican Churches, for which we are grateful.

The title *Champion's Challenge* hints at the fact that there will be a sporting theme running through the week – very appropriate in an Olympic year. On the Friday night there will be a Games Night on the Garrison. We will be inviting all the parents of the children along, and hope that everyone from the Church will be able to come along as well, to help make this a great evening. On Sunday 17th there will be an all-age service to celebrate what we have shared together. *Champion's Challenge* will begin at 9.30 each morning.

Carreg Dhu Service

On a beautiful 20th July a good congregation of visitors and local people attended the annual service in Carreg Dhu garden. David told us that gardens are places of possibilities and choice and asked us what choices can we make about our own lives and about the world we live in. The first reading told of the Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve's expulsion after they ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Gardens can also invoke in us a sense of longing and 'if onlys'. Sam and Jono went and hid to illustrate Adam and Eve hiding from God, and after they had been found small 'gardens' were given out for people to tend.

David then continued to talk about other gardens mentioned in the Bible including the Garden of Gethsemane where Christ had to make a choice, and the garden of the Resurrection. The cross is the tree of death and life. Finally we had a reading from the Book of Revelation telling of the Tree of Life, the seed of which brings new life and the chance to begin again. Tree seeds were given out to everyone to represent the possibilities that we are presented with.

After the service some people stayed on to share a picnic together.

Birthday Greetings

This month we send greetings to Jenny Burrows, Neil Didlick, Sybil Gandy, Anne Gurr, Peter Laverock, Paula Rose, Katy Smith, Beccy Smith, Alan Terry, Julia Walder, and special greetings to Daphne Perkins who will be 80.

We hope we haven't missed anyone, but if Gwen has not yet got to you with her birthday list and you have an August birthday, we hope you have a very happy day.



Prayer- does it influence our actions?

I am about to prepare a new Prayer List for the Circuit and wonder if prayer influences how we act on the prayers we make. Does God sometimes reply to our prayers with the response “you go and make a difference”?



I remember vividly when we first came to Scilly and lived in Silver Street, how we soon discovered that we needed somewhere else, somewhere with greater light and outside space. Several people were praying that we should find such a house, and we ourselves thought we had found one. This proposed deal fell through and so we continued looking and hoping for somewhere to become available. In the end it was Pam, the owner of our present house - who had been praying - who came and told us that her house was for sale if we would like it. An answer from the pray-er!

I'm sure I am not alone in making a casual phone call to someone who was on my mind, or more specifically in my prayers.

So, as you read your new prayer list, remember that God sometimes asks us to make the difference that is needed in a person's life, and the person we are praying for will thank God that you cared enough to put prayer into action.

Lord Jesus, make a difference in the lives of your people.

Lord Jesus, become the difference in the lives of your people.

*Lord Jesus, use your church, use your disciples,
use me, to make the difference in the lives of your people.*

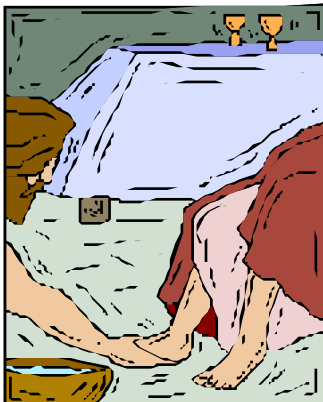
Pray without ceasing, Rejoice in the presence of God. Draw on God's strength; God's gracious love in Christ, enfolding peace, forgiveness for our sins. In stillness and in silence, pray; for silence too is prayer.

Mary Ratcliffe

The foot washing by Gerald Gardiner

Choral harmonies spiral on the incensed air
Lifted on the organ's resonant tones
And drift through prayer thoughts
Above the six tall, flickering, altar candles
And the wall painted host of heavenly places.
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts
Heaven and earth are full of His glory'.

Bring now water, towel and basin.
Man of God, now become servant,
Kneel before your congregation,
Roll up your sleeves! Give menial service.
Take these feet, young, old, misshapen,
That have walked and worked for God.
See their feet today, not faces,
Handle them with care
And wash them. Pouring on the water,
Wiping them with gentleness
As the servant kiss those feet
As a slave might greet his master.
This is the sacrament of service,
This was the action of the Master, and He,
Has given us this great example,
Man of God. Now become servant.



NCH Action for Children

NCH Sunday was celebrated nationwide this year on July 13th and we in St Mary's Methodist Church took due note. Mention of the event was made at each of the three services and descriptive leaflets and envelopes for donations were available. The financial response has been much appreciated, with £85 being contributed towards the NCH work with needy children and families in crisis throughout the UK. Very many thanks to all who have made donations.

Next month, on Thursday August 7th we have our Coffee Morning in the Bell Rock Hotel, from 10am until noon. There will be our usual book, cake and plant stalls and we can have a raffle there. So, once again comes the appeal for contributions to stock the tables (except the book stall!). Then, on the day, please come along and bring your friends. Sadly, the work of NCH Action for Children is needed as much as ever.

Gwen Clarkson
NCH Representative

Some more Bible howlers from children

Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

Sampson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert, afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.

The first commandments was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow

Yesterday I met a stranger

Today this stranger is my friend. Had I not taken the time to say hello, or return a smile, or shake a hand, or listen, I would not have known this person.

Yesterday would have turned into today,
And our chance meeting would be gone.

Yesterday I hugged someone very dear to me. Today they are gone and tomorrow will not bring them back.

Wouldn't it be nice if we all knew tomorrow they would be here?
But this is not to be, so take time TODAY to give a hug, a smile,
an 'I love you'.

JUST FOR TODAY

- ...smile at a stranger
- ...listen to someone's heart
- ...drop a coin where a child can find it
- ...learn something new, then teach it to someone
- ...tell someone you're thinking of them
- ...hug a loved one
- ...don't hold a grudge
- ...don't be afraid to say 'I'm sorry'
- ...look a child in the eye and tell them how great they are
- ...look beyond the face of a person into their heart
- ...make a promise, and keep it
- ...call someone, for no other reason than to just say 'hi'
- ...show kindness to an animal
- ...stand up for what you believe in
- ...smell the rain, feel the breeze, listen to the wind
- ...use all your senses to their fullest
- ...cherish all your TODAYs.

Obituary

I am sure your parents, like mine, told you about Mr Common Sense early in your life and we were told we would do well to call on him when making decisions. It seems he was always around years ago and less and less as time passed by, until today I read his obituary. Please join me in a moment of silence in remembrance for Common Sense had served us well for many years.

Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend,

Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children are in charge).



His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin, sun lotion or a sticky plaster to a student but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your home and the burglar could sue for assault.

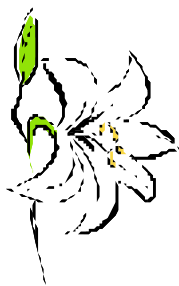
Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of tea was hot. She spilled it on her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust, his wife Responsibility and his son Reason. He is survived by his three step-brothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else Is To Blame and I'm The Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

This article originally appeared in the magazine of Trinity Methodist Church, Royton. We thank the editor, Dorothy Armstrong, for allowing us to use it.

Lily



The white lily represents purity, chastity and innocence in Christian symbolism. It is often associated with the Virgin Mary. Religious commentators, including the Venerable Bede, explained that the white petals represented her spotless body and the golden stamens her soul glowing with light.

Many paintings of the Annunciation show a lily somewhere in the picture. Sometimes it was placed in a vase in the foreground of the scene or held by the angel Gabriel. In other paintings saints are pictured bringing white lilies to

Mary and the infant Jesus.

There are several other legends about the lily. One is that it sprang from Eve's tears when she was expelled from the Garden of Eden. Another says that Mary chose Joseph because he was holding a lily. A third is that lilies were found in the Garden of Gethsemane having sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat had fallen.

White lily bouquets are very popular at Easter-time because they symbolize the Resurrection.

Anne Gurr

God is Present

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer.

You say: 'It's impossible'

God says: 'All things are possible' (Luke **18** : 27)

You say: 'I'm too tired'

God says: 'I will give you rest' (Matthew **11** : 28-30)

You say: 'Nobody loves me'

God says: 'I love you' (John **3** : 16; John **13** : 34)

You say: 'I can't go on'

God says: 'My grace is sufficient' (II Corinthians **12** : 9)

You say: 'I can't figure things out'

God says: 'I will direct your steps' (Proverbs **3** : 5-6)

You say: 'I can't do it'

God says: 'You can do all things' (Philippians **4** : 13)

You say: 'I'm not able'

God says: 'I am able' (II Corinthians **9** : 8)

You say: 'I can't forgive myself'

God says: 'I forgive you' (I John **1** : 12; Romans **8** : 1)

You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'

God says: 'Cast all your cares on me' (I Peter **5** : 7)

You say: 'I don't have enough faith'

God says: 'I've given everyone a measure of faith' (Romans **12** : 3)

You say: 'I feel all alone'

God says: 'I will never leave you or forsake you' (Hebrews **13** : 5)

Lammas Day

Lammas day falls on August 1st. It used to be Thanksgiving time (Harvest time) and many places celebrated it with a fair. The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word – Hlafmaesse – which means ‘Loaf Mass’. It marked the beginning of the harvest period when people went to church to give thanks for the first corn to be cut and it predated the Christian harvest festival.



On Lammas day farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to the local church. They were then used as Communion bread during a special mass thanking God for the harvest. The custom ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church and now we have Harvest Festival at the end of the season. Michaelmas Day (September 29th) is traditionally the last day of the harvest season.

It used to be a time for foretelling marriages and trying out partners. Two young people would agree to a ‘trial marriage’ lasting the period of the fair (usually 11 days) to see if they were really suited. At the end of the fair, if they didn’t get on, they would part.

In many parts of the country tenants had to give their landlords a present of newly harvested wheat on or before 1st August. Also it was the time when farmers gave their workers a present of a pair of gloves. In Exeter a large white glove was put on the end of a pole which was decorated with flowers and held high to let people know that the Lammas Fair was beginning. This custom is still continued but not in August.



Anne Gurr

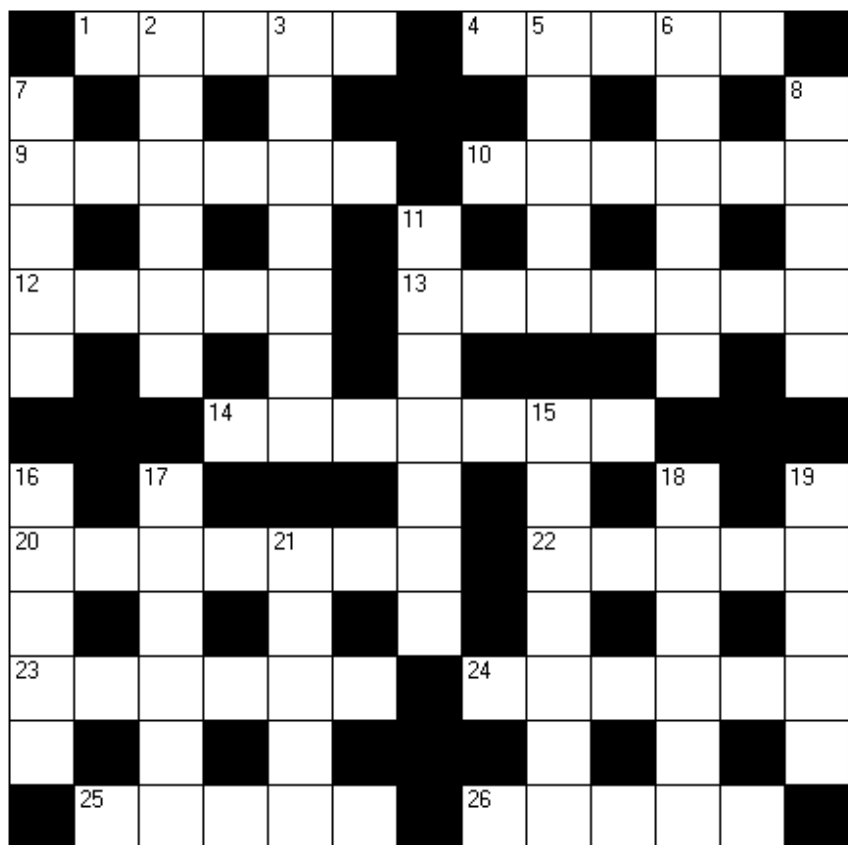
Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 Makes supplication to God (5)
- 4 Piece of wood cut by Elisha in 2 Kings ch. 6 (5)
- 9 Scattered (6)
- 10 When I _____ at them (Job 29:24) (6)
- 12 More competent (5)
- 13 Type of backless sofa (7)
- 14 But the prince of the _____ kingdom (Dan 10.13) (7)
- 20 Each _____ had taken plunder (Num 31:53) (7)
- 22 Psalm 3 calls on the Lord to break those belonging to the wicked (5)
- 23 Deadly (6)
- 24 The Israelites took such an oath in Judges ch. 21 (6)
- 25 One of the building blocks made in Exodus ch. 5 (5)
- 26 Noah had this many sons (5)

Down

- 2 Seldom (6)
- 3 Plant often found in a church yard (3, 4)
- 5 Satan will not _____ you (1 Cor 7:5) (5)
- 6 Plume of smoke in Isaiah ch. 9 (6)
- 7 Attempt (5)
- 8 Inhabitant of a certain city in Yemen (5)
- 11 Monastic hairstyle (7)
- 15 City where the disciples were first called Christians (7)
- 16 Sacred song (5)
- 17 Irish province (6)
- 18 Unruffled (6)
- 19 Use ones brain (5)
- 21 Son of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis ch. 21 (5)



Solution on page 16

Some unexpected church notices

We are always grateful to the ladies and gentlemen who type out notices to go up on our notice-boards. Here are some notices that do not read quite as intended.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'; the sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.



Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8pm in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer those who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

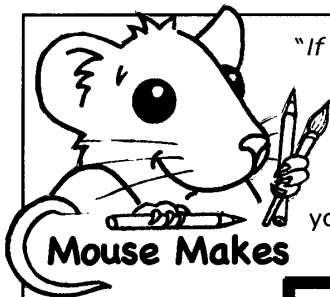
Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



"If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west, you would be there to lead me, you would be here to help me"
from Psalm 139



Whenever you leave home and wherever you go, remember that **God will be with you.**

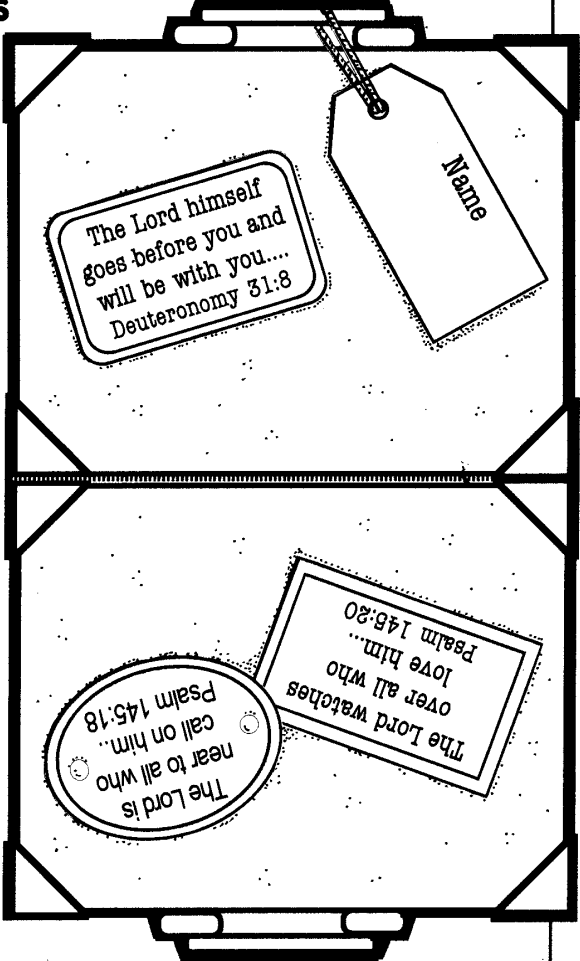
The Long Journey

The Lord said to **Abram:**

"Leave your country, your people and your father's home and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless the nations"

So **Abram** left, as the Lord had told him... He took his wife **Sarai**, his nephew **Lot**, all their possessions and they set out for the land of **Canaan**.

Read Abram's story in **Genesis** chapters 12-25.



The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you....
Deuteronomy 31:8

Name

The Lord is near to all who call on him...
Psalm 145:18

The Lord watches over all who love him...
Psalm 145:20

Glue the suitcase to thin card, cut out and fold in half. Write inside what you would take with you on a long journey.

Diary Dates

July

27th Annual Lifeboat Service, Holgates Green, 6.30pm

August

Each Day of Month: Photographic Exhibition, St. Martin's Chapel

2nd Wedding, St. Mary's

5th Fusion, 7.00pm

7th NCH Coffee morning, Bell Rock Hotel, 10am

10th St. Helen's Pilgrimage

11-15th Holiday club, St. Mary's

12th Fusion, 7.00pm

15th Games Night on the Garrison, 6.30pm

16-22nd Soul Survivor

September

Each Day of Month: Photographic Exhibition, St. Martin's Chapel

2nd Fusion, 7.00pm

9th Joint Social Action Group , Garden Pavilion, 2.00pm

Crossword Solution

Across 1 Prays 4 Stick 9 Strewn 10 Smiled 12 Abler 13 Ottoman 14 Persian 20 Soldier 22 Teeth 23 Lethal, 24 Solemn 25 Brick 26 Three.

Down 2 Rarely 3 Yew tree 5 Tempt 6 Column 7 Essay 8 Adeni 11 Tonsure 15 Antioch 16 Psalm 17 Ulster 18 Serene 19 Think 21 Isaac,