



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

August



2009

Chairman of the District

Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

Minister

From Sept. 1st. Revd. Charles R. Gibbs

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Neil Didlick Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill (422888)

Mr Mervyn Bird (423117)

Mr Neil Didlick (422838)

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill (422888)

Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs Rose Didlick

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Claire Jenkins

Mrs June Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read

Mrs Sue Williams

St. Martins Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mr Len Michell

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read

Property Secretary Mrs Mary Ratcliffe

Organist Mr Len Michell (422409)

St. Martin's

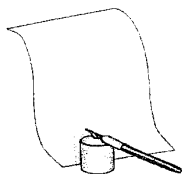
Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford (423109)

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read (422977)

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird. (423117)



From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity – my final letter for *In Touch* – to say thank you for all that we have shared together over the past seven years.

I know that many people say this when they leave Scilly, but it has been a privilege to have lived here and to have been the minister of the Methodist church on the Islands. Scilly is a very special place, as the thousands of visitors who come here every year testify. To have been a part of this community has meant a very great deal to me. I am sure that one of the things I shall miss will be knowing most people, and being known by them – one of the gifts of living in a small and contained community. It has felt good to be part of a place where you 'belong'.

But now the time has come to move on. This month I will be moving to Aberystwyth and you will be welcoming Charlie and Mary Gibbs. I hope that you will give them a warm welcome and pray for him during his ministry here on the Islands. There are disadvantages to the Methodist system whereby ministers move on every few years, but there are advantages too. New ministries bring new insights and opportunities and times to reflect on the direction the church should be taking. I trust and pray that, together, you will see new doors opening and some old ones closing firmly behind you.

I wish God's blessing on you all, whether you live on Scilly or are one of the many mainland readers. May the Lord lead you in all his ways, now and always.

With my love and prayers,

David.

News from St Martin's

On the Wednesday before Action For Children Sunday, a most successful Coffee Morning and Afternoon was held at Celia and Rodney Ashford's home. They had plenty of helpers, and a grand total of £504-72 was raised for this Methodist supported charity, until recently known as NCH.

Sunday July 19th, David's last service with us. Many people gathered, almost filling the Chapel, to worship and hear his final message with the broad theme of "Moving forward with faith". The singing of some favourite hymns (mostly Charles Wesley's) was robust, fitting for a minister whose good voice has kept us in tune when numbers have been low. On a related musical theme, David made a surprise presentation to Rodney Ashford. In recognition of being our organist for fifty years, Uncle Rodney was given a certificate from the Methodist Music Society; a most deserved award for his skill and commitment.

After the conclusion of worship, Christopher Savill spoke about David's ministry on St. Martins, referring to past sermons and fellowship discussions. He also reminded us that as we were bidding goodbye to David, so Charlie Gibb's congregations were saying farewell to him and Mary in what would be an equally emotional time. Christopher concluded his tribute by offering David a blessing that is sometimes used as we leave the Communion Rail.

We then made our way to the hotel at Lower Town, where almost sixty people mingled before enjoying a great lunch together. Later some Chapel members and a "Doubting Thomas", who had attended David's book group, paid their tributes. Then Julia Walder, who had organised the practicalities of the occasion, presented David with a cheque, a selection of St. Martins pottery made by Caroline Gillett and the book of underwater pictures taken by Tim Allsop and Anna Cawthray. In addition David received a book specially made and decorated by the artist Sue Lewington. On each page there was a small watercolour painting, under which Islanders had written their personal messages. Derek Perkins ended with a toast.

Chris Hensleigh had made a cake to mark David's farewell. It was decorated with a map of St. Martins and a message in Welsh which translated read, "David thanks from the heart from St. Martins". A few words that succinctly summed up our gratitude.

Heather

Gwennap Pit



Gwennap Pit is a natural open air amphitheatre in which Methodist founder John Wesley preached in the latter half of the 18th century. The pit was naturally formed by mining subsidence. During Wesley's time Gwennap was the greatest copper

mining area in Cornwall and was described as the 'richest square mile to be found anywhere on earth'. Wesley didn't come to Cornwall to speak to the wealthy, but to the poor and ordinary working people.

Wesley preached at Gwennap Pit on eighteen occasions between 1776 and 1789 always on a Sunday. On the first of these, he was unable to stand in his usual spot in Gwennap village due to high winds and wrote in his diary

'....but a small distance was a hollow capable of containing many thousands of people. I stood on one side of this amphitheatre towards the top and with people beneath on all sides, I enlarged on those words in the gospel for the day - Blessed are the eyes which see the things which ye see... hear the words that ye hear'.

In 1806 in memory of Wesley, local people excavated the pit and terraced it to provide seating. A Whit-Monday service has been held here every year since.

David is preaching here in August during his move to Aberystwyth.

From mid-August David's address will be:

32 Min Y Bryn
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 1LZ

Prayer - the strength of the faithful.

I recently received a testimony from Colin Salter who many of you know here on Scilly. He has been undergoing intensive radio therapy to try and stop the spread of cancer in his throat and neck. The treatment is hard as Colin has had to remain still for 12 minutes of each session and the side effects are very unpleasant.

In this testimony he writes "I am ready to die. You don't live with cancer for three years and not think about the end of life as we know it. The Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, is my Saviour. In fact it was on this very day forty seven years ago that I was born again by the Grace Of God. Today, I have total confidence in my Father God in heaven. He has blessed and used my earthly life. He has saved me to be with Him for ever. He will look after my family when He calls me away, presuming they are still around then".

"I am confident in my God, whatever the human outcome. On the third day of treatment He graciously gave me a little picture through which I could hang on to His Sovereign control. In the radiography room three projected laser beams intersect and the point where they cross is the focus of treatment. The radiographers kindly showed me these green and red guiding rays, one from the ceiling and one from each of the two side walls. All the hidden wires above the ceiling feed these rays controlling the linear accelerator. On the ceiling surface a cross had been cut out of the tiles so that the ray could beam out from there on to the patient below. In that glimpse, God showed me that these deadly healing rays I was facing *could only strike my body if they passed through a cross!*"

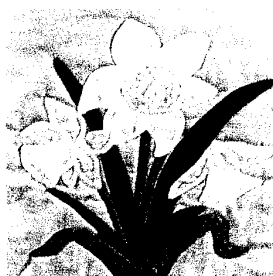
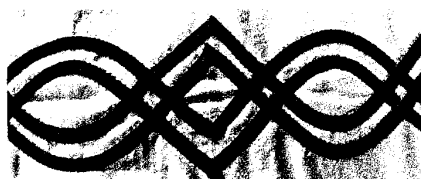
"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal".
2 Cor. 4: 17-18.

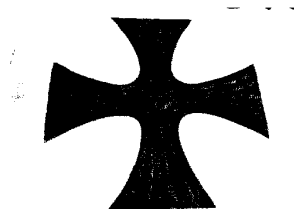
We rejoice in the ongoing work for the Christians in the Sudan which is undertaken by Colin and give thanks for this and pray for him and his wife Brenda.

Communion Table Cloth.

We now have a most beautifully worked covering for our Communion Table. It has been designed and made with great skill by Sue Williams and her friends of the Lyonesse Quilting group. The top surface is outlined with a Celtic Knot Border with a central cross, and each of the sides is enhanced by narcissi grown on the Islands.



The intricacy of the design and workmanship can only be seen in reality. It will be a joy to many for many years to come.



Library of Christian Literature

In one corner of St. Mary's Methodist Church Hall we have a large collection of books of Christian interest, with titles suitable for all ages and sympathies. In recent years it has been used very infrequently, so please have a browse! Visitors are very welcome to borrow books for the duration of their stay in Scilly --- just sign the exercise book with a note of what you are taking. The titles are grouped together according to the subject matter of their contents --- i.e. The Christian Life, Mission, Biographies, Children's books, etc.

To encourage more use may we suggest that if you have borrowed a book you have found especially interesting or helpful please consider writing a short review and/or recommendation to appear in the pages of "In Touch".

Taking up this suggestion I have recently been enthralled while reading the biography of Susanna Wesley. She was a Rector's wife and her life was hard, corresponding to that of many women in the Third World today.

She bore nineteen children many of whom did not survive childhood. Yet she was a true believer and "Valiant for God". She left the world a wonderful legacy in the lives of her two younger sons, John and Charles. I found this a truly inspiring story.

Susanna Wesley - A Radical in the Rectory by Marion Field.

Gwen Clarkson. Librarian.

This Magazine uses material from The Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe.



Action for Children

This children's charity was started one hundred years ago by Methodists and has been supported by them ever since. We in the Isles of Scilly Circuit have always been active in raising money for the National Children's Home, as it was known until recently.

The second Sunday in July is recognised as Action for Children Day and this year it was on the twelfth when bookmarks and envelopes were available for worshippers who wished to be involved. Many thanks to all who took the opportunity, for including tax gift aid rebate. The collection raised £80.

A few days earlier the St. Martin's Methodists held their annual Coffee Morning in aid of the Charity. Their commitment is huge and the proceeds of their efforts are quite mind-blowing for such a small band of helpers. Friends and visitors supported them to the tune of £504.72 !!

Well, we cannot manage to match such a result on St. Mary's but we will be holding our own Coffee morning, this year in The Atlantic Hotel from 10.00 a.m. until 11.45 a.m. on Thursday, August 27th. We will be able to have a Raffle and the usual Cake and Plants Stall, for both of which we shall be requesting donations!! There will also be a small tables for Bric a Brac and Books. Please come along!

Then only four days later, on Bank Holiday Monday, we shall be back on Holgates Green in conjunction with Carreg Dhu Gardens, selling more Bric a Brac and we trust lots of cheap books. We hope for a sunny day! I trust support for our prestigious children's charity will be as generous as usual!

Gwen Clarkson Action for Children Rep.

John Newton



On my recent holiday I visited the Cowper and Newton Museum in Olney, Buckinghamshire with the intention of re-acquainting myself with their collection of the beautiful local lace. The museum is housed in the one-time home of William Cowper the poet, who was a friend of John Newton, at that time the curate of Olney. The museum has a room devoted to John Newton with a very interesting display about his life.

John Newton was born in London and went to sea with his sailor father at the age of 11 and eventually came to work on slave ships. Nearing the end of the triangular slave trade route in March 1748, Newton's ship was caught in a severe storm in the North Atlantic. Fearing that the ship would sink, Newton called on God and later marked this as his moment of religious awakening.

He worked on slave ships for another six years but in 1754, he suffered a convulsive fit and was forced to give up his seafaring life. Newton became involved in the evangelical Christian movement and was ordained in 1764. He was appointed curate of Olney, and soon gained a reputation as a preacher and hymn writer. He collaborated with the poet William Cowper, a neighbour in Olney, in publishing a volume of hymns – the Olney Hymn Book. Newton's contributions included 'Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken', 'Amazing Grace' and 'How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds'.

In 1780, Newton was appointed vicar of St Mary's, Woolnoth, in London where he became involved in the anti-slavery movement. He came to know William Wilberforce and persuaded him not to enter the Ministry but to remain in parliament to fight for the abolition of slavery. In 1788 he published a pamphlet called 'Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade' which he began with an apology for his part in

the trade and then described what he had witnessed during his time as a slave trader more than 30 years before. The first edition sold out. A copy of the second edition was sent to every MP. Newton also testified before the Privy Council and at parliamentary hearings on slavery. He died at the end of 1807, nine months after parliament had voted to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire. In 1893 he was re-interred in the churchyard at Olney.

*Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
And He will lead me home.*

/

PS. I didn't get to see the lace because the collection was being rearranged but I had a very interesting time learning about John Newton's life.

Anne

Farewell and Welcome

This month we say farewell to David and welcome to Charles. Our prayers and best wishes go with each as they begin ministry in very different areas of the British Isles. We pray that David soon manages to speak fluently in Welsh, so that he can preach at the Welsh Services and we pray for Charles to have good sea legs as he carries the Gospel to St. Martin's and the other Islands. We also welcome Mary and pray that she will enjoy her new home amongst us.

Give

How do you decide how much to give? Give God what's right -- not what's left.

Five-finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a 'sweet duty'.

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3 . The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the prime minister, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, 'The least shall be the greatest among you.' Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

A minister on visiting his local hospital would glance at the list of patients on display in the sister's office. He noticed that the letters R.C. appeared frequently after the names of patients and remarked one day to the sister on the high percentage of Roman Catholics.

"Oh that's not their denomination," replied the sister smiling, "R.C. stands for their breakfast preference - RICE CRISPIES."



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGH THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published Monarch

Prayers for August

Father of all, we ask a blessing on David and Charles as they begin their new ministries. We also ask this blessing on all who are taking up new posts within the Methodist Church this September. May all carry to their new communities clear messages of God's love in Christ and the forgiveness wrought by His death on a cross, for the whole world. To the honour of Jesus' name. Amen

Heavenly Father, we ask the blessing of peace and renewal of body, mind and spirit for all holidaymakers. May their rest amongst us invigorate them in their service to others as they return to their own homes. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

O God

Enlarge my heart
that it may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love.
Stretch my heart
that it may take into it all those who with me, around the world
believe in Jesus Christ.
Stretch it
that it may take into it all those who do not know him, but who are my
responsibility because I know him.
And stretch it
that it may take in all those who are not lovely in my eyes,
And whose hands I do not want to touch

O God, in whom we live and have our being,
You hold all life together,
Enfolding us and each thing with love,
Weave your Spirit through the whole of our lives
That wherever we are, and what ever we do we may know you
amongst us.

How fast do you go?

Sitting by the side of the road one day, on the lookout for speeding drivers, a police officer spotted a car puttering along at 20 mph. He thought to himself: "That driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turned on his lights and pulled the driver over.

Approaching the car, he noticed that the four passengers were all old ladies, and all wide-eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, also a very elderly lady, was upset at being stopped. "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit!"

"Madam", the officer replied patiently, "you weren't doing the speed limit, you were driving at 20 miles an hour. That can be dangerous to other drivers".

"But it says A20 on the sign over there - and so I was doing it!" she protested.

"But that is the road number, not the speed limit."

"Well, I never! That explains a lot", said the old lady in evident relief.

"Before I let you go, madam, I have to ask, is everyone in this car okay? Your passengers seem awfully shaken". "Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, officer. We just got off the A120".

Earth-bound

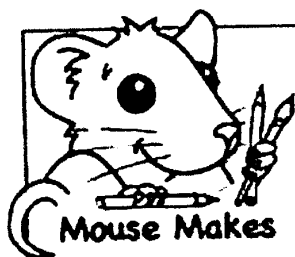
At a village costume party for children, a police officer was stationed at the door, with instructions not to admit any adults. Then an excited woman came running up to the door and demanded admission. "My child is in there as a butterfly, but she has forgotten her wings!"

"Can't help it", replied the officer, "orders are orders. She'll have to stay a caterpillar".

Nathan's News

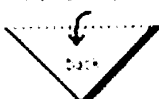
A number of friends have been asking about Nathan and his Bible Core course in South Africa so this is a brief update on his experiences there. His fellow students came from South Korea, the Congo, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Ghana, USA, Venezuela, Nigeria and South Africa itself. There were 14 in all and during the three month course they each read the bible through out loud and had specific studies in the books of Revelation, Daniel, Hebrews, Acts, Romans, 1 Peter, 1 Timothy, Deuteronomy and Esther. We kept in contact through Skype (a video and audio link-up through the computer) and to hear Nathan talk so enthusiastically about what he had been learning was a real joy to us. Even more so was the experiences he had of being baptised (by water and the Holy Spirit) and seeing miracles at first hand. These experiences and in-depth study of God's Word have greatly influenced him and he has felt called to serve God in his own community. We felt that his choice of having himself tattooed was a reaction to us forbidding that while he was at home with us but he is now using them to exemplify to his peers that being a Christian does not depend upon a sombre appearance but rather a heart that is right with God. His appearance, coupled with his past experiences, has enabled him to get alongside others in a way that those of us with a more conservative approach would find difficult. When his course finished he was invited to join others from a South African church to visit Mozambique to complete a building project there in preparation for a mission to that area. On completion of this he had a few days to experience the surf at Durban - and the dubious experience of being the last man out of the water when a great white shark was spotted! He is currently back home at St. Ives and working on his 'trolley' around the harbour selling items that he had purchased from Christian families in Uganda and South Africa, and has been invited to work in a youth ministry within a local church. He has a girlfriend! – Mary is from the Faroe Islands and was a leader at his Discipleship Training Scheme in Switzerland and they have been keeping in touch through Skype and emails and both feel that the Lord has brought them together- so watch this space!

A big Thank you for those of you who have supported him in your prayers, please continue to pray for him and others from our fellowship who serve the Lord in other places. William and Tricia



The little boat was being tossed about in the storm
 "Be still, be calm" said Jesus, and the wind and the waves obeyed him!
 Read Mark 4:35-41

Cut out the square at the bottom of the page and follow these instructions to make your own little boat.



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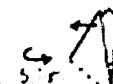


2 Fold corners to bottom

3 Fold up 2 sheets except the flip over and stay



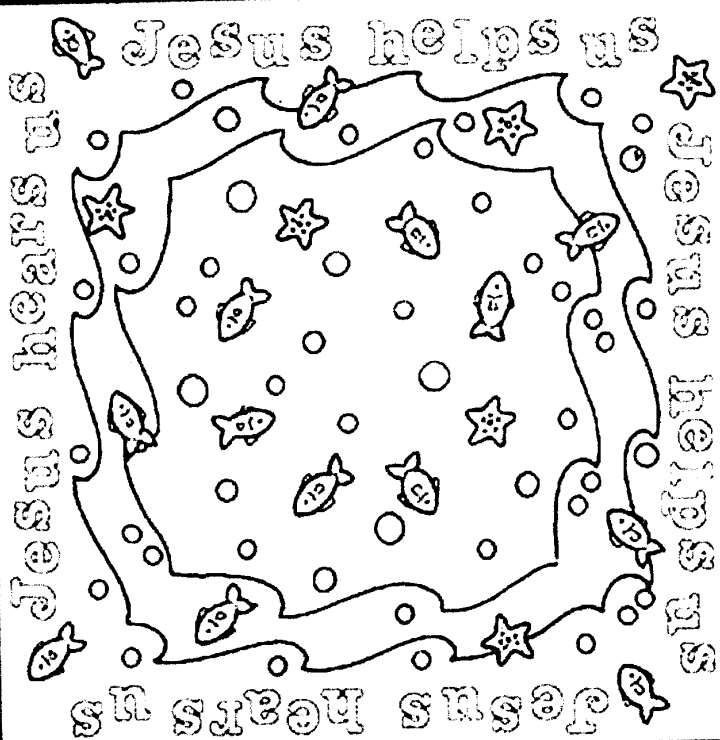
4 Fold corners to bottom



5 Fold up 2 sheets except the flip over and stay



6 Fold up 2 sheets except the flip over and stay



Diary Dates August

- 8th 50th Wedding Anniversary of Bill and Barbara Hasler, also of Donald and Margaret Marr. Congratulations!
- 9th Please note: The service to have been held in Carreg Dhu will now be held in the Chapel, to mark the end of Holiday Club week.

Holiday Club
Monday August 3rd-Friday August 7th
9.30- 11.30
THE BUILDING CLUB
Open to all primary-aged children
50p per session

Each year over the summer holidays, a holiday club is run for primary children. It is always well attended both by local children and those on holiday. It is hugely enjoyed by everyone involved, so the hard work is fun too - thanks to all the adult helpers, refreshment makers, leaders and craft helpers. Please pray for all involved.



Birthday Greetings

This month we send our love and prayers to Anne Gurr; Katie Smith; Paula Rose; Neil Didlick; Sybil Gandy; Peter Laverock; Vicki Smith; Alan Terry; Daphne Perkins; Julia Walder; Jenny Burrows.

Editorial Team

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PRAYER CHAIN

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

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird 423117

Sue Williams 422605

Keith & Sam Grossett 422503

Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

Claire Jenkins 423546

Neil & Rose Didlick 422838

Margaret Snowball 422896

Gordon & Fiona Bird 422550

Sonia Crompton 422854

Barbara Hasler 422208

Margaret Crane 422596

Len & Sylvia Michell 422409

Pam Thomas 423115

June Lethbridge 422404

William & Tricia Thomas 423144

Peter Laverock 423692

Beryl Read 422977

Gwen Clarkson 423106

For the prayer chain to be effective it is essential that requests are forwarded to the person in the column under your name, if that person is not available please ring the next person on the l

AUGUST NOTICES

ST. MARY'S

2nd	9.15 am	Leader Neil Didlick Preacher Barbara Hasler
	11.00 am	Revd. Peter Bolt Sacrament
	8.00 pm	Len Michell
9th	10.30am	Revd. Peter Bolt
	8.00 pm	Neil Didlick
16th	9.15 am	Leader Mervyn Bird Preacher Philip Michell
	11.00 am	Len Michell
	8.00 pm	Barbara Hasler
23rd	9.15 am	Leader Beryl Read Preacher Neil Didlick
	11.00 am	Barbara Hasler
	8.00 pm	Gordon Bird
30th	9.15 am	Leader William Thomas Preacher Len Michell
	11.00 am	Len Michell
	8.00 pm	Sankey Evening of Praise

ST. MARTIN'S

2nd	6.00 pm	Len Michell
9th	11.00 am	Tony Pudner
16th	11.00 am	Tony Pudner Sacrament
23th	11.00 am	Tony Pudner
30th	11.00 am	Christopher Savill

PARK HOUSE

2nd	4.00 pm	Barbara Hasler
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