

Isles of Scilly



In Touch



Chairman of the District

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell
Neil Didlick Gordon Bird
Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 422563
Mr Mervyn Bird 423117
Mrs Beryl Read 422977
Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 422563

Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs Rose Didlick

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge
Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read
Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Dorothy Bedell

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read

Property Secretary Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

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

Some thought from St Mary's Manse.....

Our prayers at this time of year are especially for those who live and work on these remote islands in the winter months. We think of our boatmen who serve us sometimes in very difficult conditions.....What would we do without the dear old Gry Maritha bringing all we need to Scilly, or the Lyonesse Lady taking what is needed to the off islands?.....We do indeed have a lot to be thankful for. We also think of our farming community, and those who are still growing the flowers that for many generations have been part of the Scilly way of life.



Over the years life on Scilly has changed much, and it seems that there will be more changes to come, but in the midst of all this is the church and chapel. We are not as strong in number as we were a generation ago, but there are still many in this community who look to us in times of need. We give thanks for each opportunity we have to show love and kindness to others, and as we come towards another new year we pray for the life of our churches, that we will hold fast to The Gospel, and be truly rooted in Jesus.

Over the next few weeks there is a lot happening in our chapels, so please do be sure to invite friends to come along.... Tell them of the warm welcome they will receive, and of our faith in a loving God, which has made us a strong people even in the storms of life. We all need God's strength, and He offers it to all who will receive... That is the real message of Christmas.

I start by telling you what is planned on St Martin's On the 5th of December at 3pm we will be having a special service of Advent readings and Advent hymns, and on the 18th December their Christmas Tree Party, 19th December will be the St. Martin's Carol Service, again at 3pm. The Carol Service will be very special as it is put together by local people and local children with Heather

Terry bringing it all together. If you would like to come to this unique act of worship let me know and I will arrange for you to travel with me on the special boat booked for this very special event.

Here on St. Mary's we continue our weekly Friday Fellowship evenings at the Manse, starting at 7.30pm and ending at about 9pm with refreshments. On the lead up to Christmas on the 5th December at 6pm we will be holding a simple service of Advent hymns and readings, and mince pies will be served at 7pm. The St Mary's carol Service with walking Nativity is on the 19th at 6pm (note ½ hour earlier this year).

At St. Mary's Mr Len Michell will be leading us as we visit homes full of Christmas cheer and singing carols! This is a great event. Starting at 6.30pm at the chapel on the evening of Tuesday 21st. December.... don't miss it. You will not need warm clothing as the winters are so mild on Scilly!!! Give Len a ring on 422409 and tell him you are coming, and again tell others.... we need singers. Refreshments will be served at the Manse after we have finished... this should be a very good evening... Thank you Len!

On Christmas Eve at 11.30pm there will be a service of carols with Holy Communion, with the joy of being together at midnight in our wonderful chapel. This will be followed on Christmas Day morning at 10.30 for all to come too... bring your children and grandchildren, they will love it. It will end at 11.15 in time to get dinner ready at home!

On Boxing Day which falls on a Sunday this year there will be a short service led by Mervyn and Neil at 10.30a.m. In the evening the Manse will be open at 6pm for those who wish to meet for prayers and fellowship, we do not expect that many will be coming, but to those who do come refreshments and a very warm welcome will be provided.

We do not know what 2011 will bring to these islands, but we do know that The Lord will be there to meet our deepest needs. This will be acknowledged at our annual covenant services to be held on the 9th January on St Martin's at 3pm, and on St Mary's at 10.30am, both these services will be held jointly with our Anglican friends who will be joining us at chapel for this special and moving act of worship, again tell others, they too are loved by God!

Finally, just some thoughts about our friends who worship at the Anglican Church, we look forward to the united services that are planned both on St Martin's and St Mary's over the winter months. I was delighted to have met Canon Peter who is now our Church of England minister, we, I am sure, will become close friends in the days ahead as together we seek to serve the people of Scilly.

Both Mary and I look forward to our second Christmas on St Mary's and we send our love and best wishes to all readers of this letter. We will be here throughout Christmas and New Year, the door is always open, there is a cup of tea in the pot, and we are here to offer support and care should you need it!

Have a great Christmas, be strong in the winter storms, and as another year comes let us set out to live out our Christian faith in acts of Human kindness, for this way was the way of Jesus, and in the power of His Holy Spirit we can do it again today!

God Bless you all! I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these fine islands for a while! What a joy it is to share in all that God is doing in this place!

Charlie Gibbs

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged
and inspired us, cheered us on
our way, sought us and saved us, pardoned
and provided.*

Lord of the years we bring our thanks today.

News From St. Martin's

Once again it is Autumn holiday time with smaller congregations. Whilst some of us have safely returned to Scilly after our breaks, others have recently departed. Chris Hensleigh will be away until the New Year and Val and Graham Thomas until just before Christmas. They are travelling to the Caribbean and Australia respectively.

We are pleased to have Daph back home on St.Martins, and we trust that Josie will be well enough to join her and other family members at Christmas.

After the several years that have elapsed since he visited as Chairman of the District, it was good to have Rev Dr Stephen Dawes back taking a service on St. Martin's. He certainly hadn't lost his ability to inspire and reinforce a message of hope in a straightforward way. The following week it was the turn of Rev Steve Wild, who shared worship with Charlie. Although I was on holiday then, I would imagine something similar could be said of him.

A well attended act of Remembrance was held at the Anglican Church this year. Rev C. Gibbs guided us through the order of worship whilst Canon Peter Walker gave the address and led us in prayer. In addition to the usual poppy displays in Church, it was very good to have a banner made by the Island school children. The large red poppies, white doves of peace and crosses made an effective focal point. On leaving the Church, Cuth Stevens placed a wreath at the foot of our War Memorial and Canon Peter offered more prayers. He and his wife Lyn were then able to meet with Islanders over a cup of tea and biscuit. We trust they will both find contentment and fulfilment during their time in Scilly.

We extend our love and congratulations to Mary Evans on celebrating 90th Birthday in late November. As I write, we are looking forward to her birthday supper at Adam's Fish and Chips.

Finally, St. Martin's folk would like to wish all In Touch readers happiness and peace during the festive season. In the busy weeks before then may we find time to reflect on the babe of Bethlehem and his significance in our world today.

Heather

Presents

We are entering the time of the year when lists are drawn up for Christmas presents. I have always been intrigued by people's choices. How do you choose a present? Do you -

(a) Try to pick a present you would like? For instance - you look for a nice scent for Mum - something you have always wanted for yourself or (b), have a chat with her to find out something she would really like. She might say that she can no longer smell the lovely scents of yesteryear and would like some really warm gloves. Yes buying presents is often fraught with difficulties.

God wanted to give everybody a present. Should He give something He wanted to give us - or should He ask us what we wanted and give accordingly? Ooo. Now there was something to think about. But, being God the answer was easy. He knew what man was like. If (b) was followed man would want power above all things. But God knew that was not good, so He sent a Present that was, in this world, powerless. God knew that man would want riches, but He knew that that would not be good, so he sent a Present that, in this world was poor. He knew that man was not truly interested in real caring love, so He sent a Present that was all Love.

For some this present was just what they wanted, but for others they had no use of it. What will you do about God's Present this Christmas?

Barbara Hasler.

ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH

CELEBRATING .

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR ON ST MARY'S!

SUNDAY **12th** DECEMBER 6pm. In The Wesley Room.

READINGS and HYMNS FOR ADVENT.

A Short act of worship with Bible and secular readings

Followed

by Coffee and Mince Pies.

SUNDAY **19th** DECEMBER 6pm

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE WITH

'WALKING NATIVITY'

Led by Rev Charlie Gibbs and Canon Peter Walker

FRIDAY **24th** DECEMBER 11.30pm

Christmas EveTOGETHER AT MID-NIGHT!

CAROLS WITH HOLY COMMUNION led by Charlie Gibbs

SATURDAY **25th** DECEMBER 10.30am *THE JOY OF*

CHRISTMAS DAY

A 45 minute act of worship for all the family!

Led by The Rev CHARLIE GIBBS.

FRIDAY **31st** DECEMBER AT FROM 10pm.

A GRAND BUFFET SERVED AT THE MANSE *BY KIND*

INVITATION OF Mrs and Rev Gibbs.

AT MIDNIGHT HYMNS WILL BE SUNG AND PRAYERS WILL
BE OFFERED FOR THE NEW YEAR TO COME

BE SURE NOT TO MISS THIS

GREAT EVENING!!!!!!!!!!!!

The angel said to the "Do not be afraid" Luke 2 v 10

but for the children of the Holy Land, fear is never far away..

Lalah lives in Hebron. She is four years old and every day she wakes up frightened. In her community, political and religious tension can erupt into violence at any time. The morning we visited Lalah and her friends in the kindergarten at a Biblelands school, rioting broke out in the town. Twenty five miles away in Jerusalem further riots followed the shooting of a Palestinian man, and a few days later, we heard reports of the death of a toddler from tear gas.

For very young children like Lalah, the situation is terrifying and impossible to understand. Some have been threatened while playing outside. Some have seen loved ones injured or killed.

Surrounded by anger and resentment, they live in constant confusion and fear, too young to express what they are going through. They are in danger – not only the immediate danger of violence, but also the danger of growing up thinking it's futile to try to change things.

Please help us to continue to provide a haven for children like Lalah. Somewhere where they can learn and play in safety, grow up in an atmosphere of love and support and most of all gain hope for the future.

The land of Christ's birth is in trouble today and its children desperately need your help.

They can be the peacemakers of tomorrow... but only if you help us to protect them today.



Maybe we can say, through our giving, those words of the angel "Do not be afraid"

The Bethlehem Carol sheets many churches use are produced and sold in aid of Biblelands .

What does the New Year offer us?

The opportunity to draw closer to Christians of other denominations is especially on our minds. For our witness in Scilly to be effective it is good for us all to be seen of the same mind, showing the love of God to all in word and deed. We already share services throughout the winter with the Parish Church and the venue for the World Day of Prayer on the first Friday in March rotates between the three churches.

At 2.00pm on Wednesdays at the Wesley Room in the Manse games such as Scrabble, Rummykub and Upwords are played and if you would like to join us you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Seekers is a well established group working with Primary aged children. The next Seekers is on December 11th and January 15th.

We now have a Children's Church which meets on the first Sunday of the month.

This service starts at 9.15a.m and ends at 10.00a.m.

Come along and bring a friend!

Grown ups are welcome.....but be warned it could be very noisy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

There is no charge for this great time together!

Tea, Coffee and soft drinks are served. Any questions ask Charlie Gibbs 422406

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus and with the love He came to demonstrate at Calvary.

We thank God for the opportunity to fellowship with you over the past 12 years and for your kindnesses shown in welcoming us and allowing us to share in your lives. That experience, we believe, was through God's Will and we trust that His purpose

was fulfilled in our lives as we sought to serve the community on the Isles.

The move back to St. Ives was straightforward enough although the challenge of finding places to fit-in all our belongings has yet to be completed!!!!

Scarcely had we settled in when we were asked to perform at Truro and Looe, and Christmas will be a busy time for us with a number of concerts lined up with various choirs.

We keep up with the news on Scilly as we have had visits from some of you and phone calls from others. (although sitting on packing crates must have been uncomfortable, we've now got the lounge more or less sorted, so do come again).

We hope that the ladies will enjoy their renditions from Roger Jones' musical this Christmas and that many will come along to hear the wonderful story of God taking on human flesh and coming to earth to redeem us - in a contemporary format.

We were privileged to live awhile amongst you and thank you for the cards you sent and presents that you gave us on our departure. Thanks also to those who came to make sure that we left and saw us off on the Scillonian III!

May God's rich Grace dwell upon you as you minister to one another and may His unfathomable love enfold you as you live out your testimony day by day as Christ's body on the Islands.

We shall miss the many friendships we made with visitors to the chapel and our concerts. Please pass on our good wishes if they should ask of us. For those who wish to keep in touch our address is

Maranatha

63 Back Road East

St. Ives,

Cornwall

TR26 1PF

With every blessing, William & Tricia (Thomas)

SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER at 11am

MORNING WORSHIP

With Holy Communion

Preacher: Rev CHARLIE GIBBS

THE LORD GOD HAS NOT TURNED AWAY FROM US!

*WITH ADVENT HYMNS TO GET US READY
FOR CHRISTMAS!*

Tea and Coffee served after the worship at 12.15.
At St Mary's Methodist Church

We will offer to all the true message of the Bible.... That God's love is for all who will receive.

You will be glad you came to St Mary's Methodist Chapel....
Where all are made welcome.

An Unexpected Visit

God came into my home today
Offering love, peace and hope.
God will help me along life's way,
Giving me the strength to cope.

God came to me so gently today
To Him I give my heart and soul
I know with me He will forever stay
For He has made my being whole

My eyes are opened- I can see
Pray for me, help me tread the road
That He has always been walking with me
For with Him I carry a lighter load.

Anne Smith

May I wish Charlie and Mary and all my Methodist friends a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. Love and every blessing
Margaret(Jones)

Advance Notice

COUNTDOWN.

BASED UPON THE TV GAME SHOW.

Friday 25th FEBRUARY 7pm to 9pm

In the Methodist Church Hall

Come and bring a friend to this great evening together!

Presented by Mary and Charlie Gibbs.

Refreshments served in the interval.

A PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM!

There is no charge for this unique event,
but a collection will be taken for church funds

The Brick - Meditation by Michel Quoist.

The bricklayer laid a brick on the bed of cement.
Then with a precise stroke of his trowel, spread another layer,
And without a by-your-leave, laid on another brick.

The foundation grew visibly.

The building rose, tall and strong, to shelter men.

I thought, dear Lord, of that brick buried in the darkness at the
base of the big building.

No one sees it, but it accomplishes its task and the other bricks
need it.

Lord, what difference whether I am on the rooftop or in the
foundation of your building,

as long as I stand faithfully at the right place?

Contributed by Dorothy Beedell

Favourite place on Scilly

We have no been visiting Scilly for some fifty years plus (guess where we went on our honeymoon!) but for the last few years in the summer we stay in St Martin's self catering (we think it is as quiet there as it was on St Mary's when we first came on those years ago!) Whenever I can I go out early in the morning for a short walk and usually walk up to the lookout point in Higher Town. There I stand and enjoy the quietness and the view over the islands and there I think my 'deep' thoughts. One morning I was joined by a man and in conversation I learned that he hailed from New Zealand and to my comment "That's along way away from here" he said his ancestors had emigrated from St. Martin's and, as he put it "See where it all began". I thought it quite moving. We shall not see you at Christmas this year, we do come over for that time some years but we are invited to our daughter's new home in Geneva.

Brian and Yvonne Baxter.

Thank you Brian for this and your donation for In Touch Ed.

Feeling close to God on Scilly.

At the beginning our first holiday on Scilly, nine years ago, we decided to spend time exploring. That first day, we set off from Church Street, not knowing what to expect. We left the road and took the leafy path descending to Pelistry Bay. My first glimpse of the bay took my breath away – the sky was bright blue, the sand was dazzling white and I was amazed by the beauty that surrounded us. I felt at one with God's creation, yet such a tiny part of it. Each year, when we return to Scilly, Pelistry is the first place we go, whatever the weather, just to feel close to God, to experience again that sense of wonderment and to renew the spirit within us.

Incidentally, we have named our house 'Pelistry' and enjoy talking about our faith when people ask what our house name means.

Mary Innes

You've Got The Time

Did you know that the Bible Society has arranged a free download of the New Testament that means you can listen to the Bible wherever you go – at the gym, walking the dog or doing the housework.

Just 28 minutes a day!

Download from biblesociety.org.uk/yggt

other Christian websites offer daily devotionals.

www.lifetime.org/devotional.php www.actsweb.org - click on daily encounter and featured article

www.maxlucado.com

www.rejesus.co.uk

www.oddb.org - our daily bread www.biblegateway.com- at the bottom of the page under LINKS click gospel.com At the top page of gospel.com click "ministries"

Then you will find A-Z –all ministries and you can choose from then onward. This site allows you to see many translations, a useful tool for those who lead studies etc.

I am grateful for Jean Duncan for these web addresses. Ed.

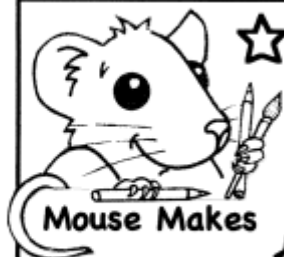


Sympathy

We pray for the families and friends of William Thomas Evans (Tommy); Nicholas John James (Johnny); and James Bryan Richards.

May the Lord grant to all, who mourn, peace and friendship at this time of loss.

We have a hope that is steadfast and certain. Everlasting life. Thanks be to God



There were shepherds that night
in the fields taking care of their
sheep. An angel of the Lord
appeared and said
"Don't be afraid, I am here with
good news of great joy that
will be for **all** people. Today a
saviour has been born to you,
He is Christ the Lord".

from Luke 2:11-12.

Read The Christmas
story in
Luke 2:1-20.



glue

To make this Christmas decoration:

• Carefully cut out around the edge then
colour in • Curl around and glue into a
cone shape



• Tie a length of
ribbon through
each

• Fill with sweets
and hang on
the tree!



MERRY CHRISTMAS
from all over the world!

JOYEUX NOEL

(French)

GOD JUL

(Swedish)

BONN NATALE

(Italian)

FELIZ NAVIDAD

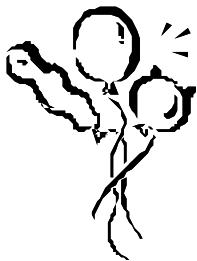
(Spanish)

Dec10



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Friday 17th December Christmas Concert in the Chapel featuring songs from Roger Jones Musical 'While Shepherds Watched and many other musical contributions. Also the Entertainers Christmas Sketch specially commissioned!



Birthdays in December and January

December

Louis Asten, Margaret Crane, Keith Grossett,
Pauline Jackson, Merryn Smith.

January

Sue Bavin, Gordon Bird, Stephanie Bird, John
Goody, Layla Guy, Martin Parker, Anthea Roberts, Tony Thomas,
William Thomas, Nathan Thomas, Liz Turner.

Action for Children. Thanks to the Entertainers for their generous donation. Offerings given at the Carol Service are also given to this charity. Gwen Clarkson Representative.

In Touch

You will see that we have combined the Dec/Jan magazine as usual but the plan is for us to combine the Feb/ March edition as well. The costs of producing the magazine increase as well as postage and rather than charge this small change will help. Many thanks to those who have sent us generous donations to cover the postage on their magazines. If you can read it online at our website Please let one of us know.
www.scillymethodists.co.uk

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

We send all our readers good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and pray that God's Blessing will surround us all and the Holy Spirit will encourage us to be faithful in our witness.

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact Charlie Gibbs 422406 and then 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

Beryl Read **422977**

Peter Laverock 423692

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.

DECEMBER NOTICES

St. Mary's

Dec.5th

- 9.15am Children's' Church
11.00am Parish Church Joint Service
4.00pm Park House Len Michell

Dec.12th

- 9.15am Beryl Read& Barbara Hasler.
11.00am Revd. Charlie Gibbs(Holy Communion)
6.00pm Advent Hymns Revd. Charlie Gibbs

Dec.19th

- 9.15am Revd. Charlie Gibbs & Beryl Read
(Holy Communion)
11.00am Revd. Charlie Gibbs
6.00pm Carol Service Revd. Charlie Gibbs

Dec.24th

- 11.30pm Revd. Charlie Gibbs(Holy Communion)

Dec.25th

- 10.30am Revd. Charlie Gibbs

Dec.26th

- 10.30am Mervyn Bird & Nell Didlick
6.00pm Revd. Charlie Gibbs

For January Services please see plan

St. Martin's

Dec 5th

- 3.00pm Advent Hymns Revd. Charlie Gibbs

Dec. 12th

- 11.00am Christopher Savill

Dec.19th

- 3.00pm Carol Service led by Members
and Revd. Charlie Gibbs

Dec.26th

- 11.00am Christopher Savill

For January Services please see plan