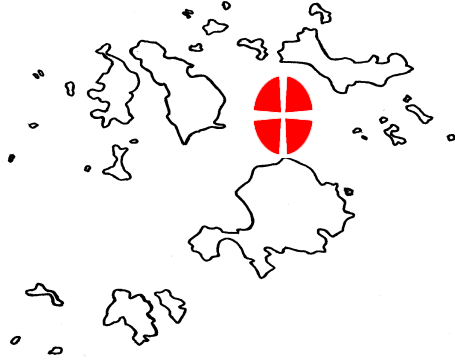


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

February/March 2013

Some thoughts from St Mary's Manse



In some ways February is one of the quietest months here on the islands, the number of hotels and eating places are closed, and some are making the most of the peace and quiet. But for others on the islands it is a busy time.

Our flower growers are busy with their harvest, our tradesmen are busy getting properties ready for the summer season, our boatmen are putting a fresh coat of paint on the tripper boats, and those working for our Council and Health Services are working away to provide for the day to day needs of those who live on these remote yet beautiful islands.

As I write this letter, beside me on the desk, are the details of the 2011 Census for the United Kingdom. The figures for the Isles of Scilly make interesting reading to say the least!!!

This Census lists what is termed as 'Ethnicity' on the Isles of Scilly. The figures are as follows: Gypsy or Irish Traveller: Nil (The lowest in the UK); White and Black Carribean: 3 (The second lowest in the UK); White and Black African: 3 Indian: Nil (The lowest in the UK); Pakistani: Nil (The lowest in the UK); Bangladeshi: Nil (The lowest in the UK); Chinese: Nil (The lowest in the UK);

and the last on the list is Arab: Nil (Again he lowest in the UK). *These figures make interesting reading, but I expect will come as no surprise to those of us who are resident on these islands.*

But the figures as regards '@Religion' maybe are a little more of a surprise to some! They are as follows: Christian 55%(Down from 71% in 2001); Those of 'No Religion; 34% 9 (Up from 20% in 2001)

These are challenging figures for our Methodist Mission here on these islands, especially when we find that the Isles of Scilly is now listed in the 'Top25' (out of 348) as those who claim to have no need of religion today.

What do you think? What is happening in our nation..... And what is happening here on the Isles of Scilly!.... Why is it that so many on our beautiful islands seem to be casting aside that which once was described as our 'Precious Christian Faith'

Looking back over the years, I am reminded of the countless initiatives that have been made by the church in Britain to bring people into a 'living faith' in God. There was the Decade of Evangelism in the 1980's over the years there have been numerous calls for those in the pews to 'share their faith', and more recently there has been a Back to Church Sunday' and what is sometimes called 'Fresh Expressions of Faith'. But as we know, the evidence is that in many places this has not had the desired effect. Instead people can and do live their lives without seeing any need of any faith in a remote and far off God, and it seems from the Census that people are telling us loud and clear that they do not need the 'trappings of religion', for they are content living their lives as they do without having a faith in God.

Some we meet will say." Religion is for a certain type of person.... Some need it and some don't" And, of course, the people who say these things will be those who say" They see no need of faith, or the church, in their day to day lives. The sad truth behind the numbers in our 2011 Census is quite simply 'Most people see no need of God!' They seem to be able to find their own solutions to the great challenges of life, they have made their minds up, faith is OK for the types of you or I, but not for them.

This of course, faces us with some difficulty in our daily lives. We look on those who seem quite happy and content without any belief in the great doctrines of our church, and we are tempted to perceive them as in some way being 'different' to us and I expect they too look at us as 'people of faith' and perceive that we are in some way 'different' to them.

We live alongside each other, we have family and friends who do not share our faith, and I expect for most of us it is the one thing we find most difficult to speak about.

But despite this, we must always remember that there will always be 'common ground' between those who have faith and those who do not have any faith at all. We are each human, we each have our hopes and aspirations for ourselves and our families, we each have times of joy and celebration, and we each have our times of sadness and disappointment.

Despite the findings of the 2011 census it is the case that whether we 'have faith' or whether we 'deny the reality of God' we are equally human. We each have to live through the ups and downs of life, and we are each equally capable of both good and bad upon our journey through life. Yes, in a very real sense we are in this together', and your or my belief in the sovereignty of God does not make us any less human than those without faith at all!

This, it would seem to me is exactly the view taken by the Bible from beginning to end. Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, Moses and Joshua, Saul and David, as well as all those countless men who opposed their way of faith were like us.....they were human.

In the Gospels Jesus makes no difference between people. He speaks to both Jews and Samaritans. He speaks to the teachers of God's laws and the sinners who they despised, and He shows love to those who even betray Him and deny Him. Jesus treats all whom He meets as human, because whether they are sinners or saints they are human in the sight of God. His teaching, His healing, His way of life, and His ministry to all is one of breaking down barriers, be they social, be they religious, or be they in the community, yes in Jesus we see the 'great need' of all humanity.

And in His dealings with all who He meets Jesus always speaks of God as Father. In Him we realise that we need to cast aside any wonderful ideas that we have about ourselves, we find the folly of in any sense 'being a snob' whether socially, or intellectually, or even morally. The Gospel time and time again reminds us that it is the humble who find salvation, and it is the proud and the arrogant who remain outside, and so often we find that those who consider themselves to be special for any reason are considered to be equal before the sight of Almighty God. Whether we like it or not, the Gospel tells us that God has not provided for 'special cases' but has instead in His great mercy provided hope for all. The message is clear, Jesus was not sent as a Saviour of 'some' but instead 'the Saviour of the World!... for all who will truly receive, and all who will truly believe.

It is with this hope that we, as followers of Jesus here on these islands, set out in mission, and it this life saving Gospel which makes us determined to proclaim the need of all to know Jesus and to trust in the gracious love of God.

The 2011 Census may remind us that we are living in difficult times but I hope that it makes us even more determined to be a mission minded church in the true tradition of Methodism. We are committed, locally and nationally, to remain a very real Christian presence on these Islands, we will continue to preach the saving grace of God, visit the sick and work with youth, children and families, and we will continue to give and serve sacrificially, so that by the time the next census is taken in 2022 many more on these remote islands will know that Jesus really is the Saviour of the World!

We give thanks to God for all those who came to our Lantern Making workshops in Advent, and for the vision we have to build on all that we have witnessed in this. Thanks too must be given to Neil, Rose and others who sacrificially gave of their time to make this possible.

We also give thanks to God for the 'Youth Alpha' course now established by Jen Nightingale, helped by Lynn Miller, here on St Mary's and we continue to uphold this important work in prayer, this linked in with our Children's Church and Saturday Seekers shows something of the determination to proclaim to all the great power of the Gospel today.

It is in this spirit of evangelism that we welcome Mr. Mike King to Scilly this month. He will be speaking throughout the weekend and will meet with the Friday Fellowship at some time during his visit. Be sure not to miss these special times with him and pray that his visit will inspire us all to be people of faith in the years to come! May our Methodist presence here on Scilly continue to be like a 'Solid Rock' in an age of change and doubt, and may we continue to build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus as we set out to share God's love and care in this island community.

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these fine islands for a while.

Charlie Gibbs



News from St Martin's

Christmas celebrations on St. Martins were tinged with sadness at the loss of three members of the small community in 2012; Mary Haley in January and then barely two weeks after he had attended the cremation in Cornwall and the memorial service on St. Martins for Steve Daly, John Goddard died suddenly and unexpectedly at the end of November. People of Scilly and family, friends and regular holidaymakers from beyond these islands were very sorry to learn of John's passing. The many, many people who filled St. Martins Chapel, the Sunday School room and outdoor seating at John's funeral, were a reflection of the respect and esteem in which he was held. Rev C Gibbs conducted the service. John's lifelong friend Douglas Nance recounted their childhood years on St. Martins and time spent at Truro School. A friend of later years, Chairman of the Council Mike Hicks spoke about his many years of service as a Councillor and their shared holidays in Madeira and Norway. John's lifelong love and respect for the sea was highlighted when his eldest son Andrew read John Masefield's Sea Fever.

John was brought up "Chapel" and had a good voice well versed with Methodist hymns. Together with Edna he attended worship and supported both the Anglican and Methodist churches on St. Martins. We extend our sincere sympathy to Edna and her family, and continue to hold them in our prayers.

The annual Christmas Tree Party was a little different this year. Work on the new community hall has started and the Reading Room is being used by the builders. Therefore we transferred the party to the Sunday School room. Also Rev Gibbs had indicated that he wanted to lead

a soft toy Nativity for the Island children. It seemed appropriate to combine the two events, so after the very successful Nativity service we moved next door for games, tea and a visit from Father Christmas. There was a pleasing response from families to the Soft Toy Nativity, when the children had to find the characters hidden around the Chapel. We sang carols and other Christmas songs, with the youngsters singing some verses on their own. Games in the Sunday School had to be a little more sedate than usual because of a lack of space, but nevertheless a good time was had by all. As a result of our efforts, a box of gifts has been despatched to disadvantaged children in Cornwall and £63 has been sent to Action for Children.

As always the Carol Service on December 23rd was well attended. Children and young people read most of the lessons with fluency and clarity, and we thank them for their willingness to help in this way. As Uncle Rodney was away for Christmas, we were grateful to Sue Murray for her accompaniment to the hearty singing of well loved carols. Charlie, Mary, Alan and I were joined on the boat from St. Marys by a visiting couple from Cornwall who shared in our worship. Mr Miners knew St. Martins well, as he was one of the gang who had installed mains electricity on the Off Islands in the 1980's. I was impressed by the number of homes and local residents he could recall.

Travel problems caused by extreme weather resulted in some delays and disappointments. But those of our congregation who were spending Christmas with family on the mainland made it, and conversely almost all of those returning home arrived in time for the festivities. When images of flooded homes and news of loss of life appear on our television screens we are reminded that all inconveniences and frustrations are relative.

It was good to have Canon Paul Miller join us for the Covenant service on January 13th, when Charlie welcomed him to St. Martins Chapel for the first time. In his address Paul reminded us of the link between Covenant and Baptism, each focusing on God's promises to us. Our Anglican friends joined us for this special time of renewal at the start of the year.

Members of our fellowship are saddened by the news of Philip Hygates resignation and early retirement. He has been a good friend to St. Martin's in many ways and we wish him, his wife and children well in the years ahead.

St. Martin's Chapel folk were very sorry to learn of Fiona's death, and extend their sincere sympathy to Gordon and his family at this sad time. We recall memories of her many visits to our Chapel for worship at Easter, Harvest and Circuit services. In the 1980's she joined the Youth group who camped at the school for a fellowship week. Together with Gordon and Rev. Colin Allen, Fiona encouraged the young people on their spiritual journey. Fiona will be remembered with affection and respect for the way she lived according to her strong Christian faith.

Heather Terry.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 7.30p.m. at Old Town Church Church followed by torch-light walk to the Parish Church

On **Good Friday** there will be an act of worship at 10.00a.m. followed by a walk of witness and luncheon at the Manse.

Easter Sunday Up with the Lark, as the clocks spring forward, for a 6.30am united act of worship on Buzza.

Services as listed in next months magazine.

Remembering Fiona –Len & Sylvia Michell

Many people will have their own memories of Fiona and the same attributes will be echoed time and time again for the qualities she possessed were lasting, genuine and possibly envied. She brought up a family of five while helping Gordon with his farm work and work with the young people at church, including their annual camp. Following a severe stroke nearly 40 years ago from which she made a miraculous recovery, she continued to help with young people's activities and also with the ladies' prayer meeting until it ceased.

After being asked to write something for 'In Touch', we wondered what Fiona herself might like to be remembered for, and these are our thoughts.

Jesus could have said the same about Fiona as he said about Nathaniel (John 1.47) **'Here is [a lady] in whom there is nothing false'** -what a lovely thing to say about someone, and we have heard many people pass the same sentiments about Fiona over the years many times. She was always a gentle lady, a lady slow to anger or to judge, yet possessing a depth of understanding of what was right and what was wrong. Her family possessed a treasure, and those in the family of the church also found her a treasure in their lives too.

Fiona's secret ingredient might be found in Psalm 119.105 – **'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path'**. Her knowledge of God's word in the scriptures was not just a matter of knowing and remembering (we think of the times at a Bible study meeting when she would enlighten our thoughts by quoting a verse), but also applying God's word to her living, so that not only was she an example to those in the church family but to those outside too.

Words from Micah (6.8) come to mind – **'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God'** We're sure Fiona lived her life by this pattern. Her prayer time must have been her 'walk with God', daily renewing her witness, and reflecting her Lord's light upon those who met her. As with Peter and John before the Jewish council, (Acts 4.13) we know that Fiona had been with and, now even more gloriously, is with Jesus.

Covenant Service Jan 13th 2013

Once again we worshipped with our Brothers and Sisters from the Parish Church at our annual Covenant Service. This is a service with the enormous challenge to us all in giving ourselves to God out of gratitude for what He has given us in and through Jesus, His only Son. Canon Paul Miller gave the address encouraging us to work together in all things throughout the weeks not just when we meet together for joint services of worship.

The Covenant service took place this year on the day when many Churches remember the Baptism of Christ and Paul reflected on the way in which the elements of that occasion and at our own Baptism are valuable reminders that God uses to enable us to follow the way of Christ. He also reminded us that fishermen spend a lot of times mending their nets challenging us, with the obvious fact, that we need to mend our nets before we go fishing for new disciples. A truly magnificent lunch was shared together in the hall before both Paul and Charlie left to take another Covenant service on St Martin's. We give thanks for their faithful ministries and look forward to growing closer together in the coming year, with its many opportunities to make known Jesus Christ, who gives life in abundance to all who believe in Him. These begin by

Journeying together through Lent

Parish Church Ash Wednesday 13th Feb. 7.30 pm A service of Holy Communion with the signing of the cross led by Canon Paul Miller.

Wesley Room Friday 22nd Feb 7.30p.m. An evening led by Steve Wild helping to prepare us for working in unity to proclaim the Gospel.

Wesley Room Friday 1st March 7.30p.m. an evening led by Len Michell as we journey through Lent.

Old Town Church Friday 8th March 7.30p.m. A special time in a special place led by Canon Paul Miller.

Wesley Room Friday 15th March 7.30 p.m. An evening led by Charlie Gibbs A closer look at Mark 8-31-38 " Take up your cross"

Wesley Room Friday 22nd March 7.30pm An evening led by Fiona Maybrey exploring discipleship

Visit of Mike King, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. Michael is a Methodist local preacher and rural church and community coordinator in the Banbury Circuit. From 2000-2011, he was leader of the Methodist Church's World Church Relationships team. Prior to that he spent most of his working life teaching in Sierra Leone and UK comprehensive schools.

Mike describes himself as 'glocal', with a passion for thinking globally and acting locally. He said: "I want to see God's love shared with all people. I want to see Christians deepen their understanding of what it means to welcome others, offering genuine hospitality and inclusion. I long to see our overseas partners taking part and making decisions at all levels of church life in this country. I want to see our Church enriched and invigorated by people from all over the world."

Mike is married to Isabel, has two married children and a young grandson. He is a life-supporter of Birmingham City FC and Warwickshire Cricket Club.

At the end of June 2012 Mike began his year of office as the vice-president of the Methodist Conference. We look forward to welcoming Mike between 8th-11th February when he will be preaching and meeting with us all.

Important dates for our Diaries

United Lent meetings

Fridays at 7.30pm beginning on February 22nd

Local Preachers Meeting 28th February at 6.30pm

St Mary's Church Council 7pm - all at the Manse

Wesley Cottage Trewint

2012 drew to a close at Wesley Cottage with a Watchnight Service where we shared communion at midnight in The Prophet's Chamber. With a good turnout that night our total visitor numbers for 2012 were one thousand and twelve.

Although 'closed season' as far as tourists are concerned January has continued to see reflective activity at this historic venue. On the 12th January Wesley Cottage turned back the clock several centuries and, as would have happened hundreds of years ago, a Covenant Service was held in the lounge where Methodist Classes met to worship in years gone by.

Under the leadership of Rev Eleanor Reddington bread and wine was shared in a moving and challenging service. We contemplated what it means to be fully reliant on God, willing to be employed or laid aside, exalted or brought low, yielding all we have and are to our mighty God, recognising we are no longer our own but His, as Covenant Promises were renewed.

Although time passes by these promises mean the same today as they did hundreds of years ago and it seemed fitting, and indeed a privilege to share in these words at Wesley Cottage, remembering the challenge to wholehearted discipleship, following Jesus Christ, which remains central to Methodism just as it was back in the days of John Wesley.

Throughout the winter months Wesley Cottage remains open to visitors by request.

If you will be passing by on the A30 **please organise your visit by email: wesleycottage@live.co.uk or telephone: 07938013939.**

John Hogarth

Wesley Cottage Curator and Missioner

LENT LUNCHES Each year throughout Lent simple lunches are served in the Methodist Hall and the Church Hall. This is a joint effort between the churches to raise funds for Christian Aid. Usually these lunches raise about £1000 over the six weeks. It is a very special time of fellowship and the first visitors in the season also come and join us. So please come and help/ eat or do both! The first date is Wednesday 13th February in the Methodist Hall as will the lunches on the 20th and 27th then the lunches will be in the Church Hall on 6th; 13th; and 20th March

Birthdays in February and March

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you.
God Bless you and keep you
and watch over you.

February

Keith Guy, Barbara James, Jacky Pritchard, Beryl Read, Philip Roberts, Jake Sandford, Emily Smith, Ryan Thomas.

March

Steve Burrows, Lilly Didlick, Claire Jenkins, Len Michell, Simon Morris, Val Parker, Margaret Smith, Heather Terry.

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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 us

Action for Children

Gwen Clarkson our representative for the society was thrilled by the generous amount of £500+ raised over Christmas.

Heather Terry tells us that since taking over the boxes, copper trail and other bits of fund raising in March 2012 she has sent £406-67 to Jamie Lee. That total also includes the AC Gift Envelope week at St.Marys Chapel,(£127) the stall inside the Manse door(£5-95) Gwen's August Bank holiday stall (£110) and Kathy sale of plants (£16). The boxes and copper trail itself raising £147-72.

Thank you Heather and Gwen for this valuable work on behalf of Action for Children.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year's service has been arranged by the women of France and its theme is Church '***I was a stranger and you welcomed me***'

It will be held on Friday 1st March " pm at the Star of the Sea Roman Catholic . We shall be delighted to welcome our speaker Mrs. Lynn Miller. A meeting will be arranged by Claire Jenkins to discuss the service and to learn any music, if need be during February. We are grateful to Claire for being our representative on the Island and making all the arrangements year on year.

Thank You Claire.

Prayers On Monday afternoons at 2.15 at the Manse, prayers are offered for the needs of the World, our island community and those known to us in need of our prayer. It is a precious time and we rejoice in Jesus's promise that "when two or three are gathered in my name I am there with them".
Matthew 18 v 20

Christmas Lantern Workshop

As a lead up to Christmas, Charlie suggested that we organise a community event throughout Advent. It was decided we would make lanterns to enhance the Walking Nativity and lead onto the Candlelight Service.

The response was fantastic and we had nearly 50 people attending the sessions on Sunday afternoons during December. It was encouraging to see the hall full of families & individuals taking part and having so much fun together. Everyone especially enjoyed the homemade cakes & biscuits at the end of each session!

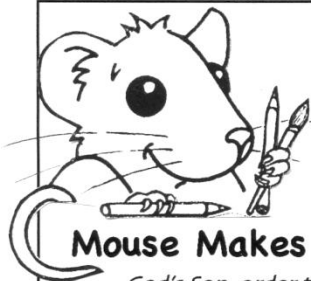
We had lanterns of all shapes and sizes including lots of lovely stars, angels, candles, Christmas trees, fish, snowmen and even a bauble. They looked very impressive as a large number of people processed through Hugh Town and then around the Chapel during the singing of 'Once in Royal David's City'.

Thank you to all those who came and took part and made the event such a great success. There are lots of photographs on our Church Facebook Page – *St Mary's Methodist Church, Isles of Scilly*. Please keep your eyes and ears open for details of any future events. Watch this space!

Rose and Neil

New Links

The difficulty with travelling before Christmas led to me spending time with Philip and Caroline Rodda at Scorrier. What a delightful weekend of Christian Fellowship that was and a friendship only began last year cemented by God's love. From it has come several things of value; a new welcome leaflet for our church with ideas from theirs! Further knowledge of the work Ambassadors for Christ is achieving in Cornwall and an email telling me that Lindsey Hamon - who carries the cross through many countries, explaining the gospel, wishes to come and visit the Islands. Lindsay's work has been used by God to bring knowledge of God's love to all people with many receiving Jesus Christ as their Saviour. We hope to arrange this visit soon. Again Watch this space. Mary



Mouse Makes

God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **Human beings cannot live on bread alone.**"

Then the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power and all this wealth, it has been handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this then will be yours if you worship me." Jesus answered,

The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'

Then the Devil took Jesus to the Temple and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" But Jesus answered,

The scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

READ
Luke 4: 1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After he was baptised Jesus returned full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Human beings cannot live on bread alone."

read Deuteronomy 8:3



WE LEARN:
**Read the Bible
Learn God's word.**

THE DEVIL SAID:
"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me"

JESUS REPLIED:
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only him"
read Deuteronomy 6:13

1

WE LEARN:
**Put God first
Worship only Him**

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take good care of you"

JESUS REPLIED:
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

read Deuteronomy 6:16



WE LEARN:
**God cares, trust Him
do not test Him.**

Cut out the three cards and during Lent learn the bible verses

March Services

St Mary's

3 rd	10.00am	Children's Church
	11.00am	Mary Ratcliffe
	4.00pm	Park House.
10 th	9.15am	Mervyn Bird & Neil Didlick
	11.00am	Parish Church Mothering Sunday
	6.00pm	Canon Paul Miller & Barbara Hasler
17 th	9.15am	David Pender
	11.00am	Beryl Read & Rev Charlie Gibbs
	6.00pm	Neil Didlick
		Rev Charlie Gibbs
		Holy Communion

Palm Sunday

24 th	9.15am	Barbara Hasler & Neil Didlick
	11.00am	Rev Charlie Gibbs
	6.00pm	Len Michell

31st Easter Day

	6.30 am	Buzza at Sunrise
	11.00am	Rev Charlie Gibbs
		Holy Communion
	8.00pm	Easter Songs of Praise
		Rev Charlie Gibbs

St Martin's

3 rd	11.00am	Rev Charlie Gibbs
		Holy Communion
10 th	3.00pm	Canon Paul Miller & Mary Ratcliffe
		at St Martin's Parish Church
17 th	11.00am	Barbara Hasler
24 th	3.00pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs
31 st	3.00pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs
		Holy Communion
		Please note :- Clocks go forward on
		Easter Day 31st March

February Services

St. Mary's

Feb. 3rd

10.00am Children's' Church
11.00am Barbara Hasler
4.00pm Park House David Pender
6.00pm Revd C Gibbs

Feb. 10th

9.15am Mervyn Bird & Mary Ratcliffe
11.00am Joint Service at the Parish Church
Canon Paul Miller & Mike King
6.00pm Mike King

Feb. 17th

9.15am Beryl Read & Neil Didlick
11.00am Revd. Charlie Gibbs
Holy Communion
6.00pm Mary Ratcliffe

Feb. 24th

9.15am Revd. Steve Wild & Neil Didlick
Holy Communion
11.00am Revd. Steve Wild
6.00pm David Pender

St. Martin's

Feb.3rd

11.00am Revd. Charlie Gibbs

Feb. 19th

3.00pm Mike King

Feb 17th

11.00am Len Michell

Feb.24th

3.00pm Revd. Steve Wild