

Isles of Scilly



In Touch

February/March 2011

Methodist Church Circuit

Chairman of the District

Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Neil Didlick Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mr Len Michell 422409

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs Rose Didlick

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Claire Jenkins

Mrs June Lethbridge Mrs Sue Williams

Mrs Beryl Read

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's Mrs Sue Williams (422605)

Treasurer

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)

Some more thoughts from St Mary's Manse

I recently received a letter from a brother Methodist in Somerset who last year visited St Mary's. He included in his letter some thoughts of George Carey, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, and having read through this I found myself agreeing with so much of what he had written. I will attempt to say just why, but maybe when you have read the following you could let me know what you think. Do you agree or disagree? What should we be doing about these challenging issues here on Scilly?

One of the most challenging texts to be found in the New Testament I believe is in St Paul's letter to the Romans, where he writes" **I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God to bring salvation to all who will receive and believe!**"

This verse of Scripture always inspires me to keep going when I get fed up!..... I like that little word "All", for it reminds me that we always have a duty to share the Good News of the Gospel with others, that they too can make a fresh start in life!

And despite the setbacks, which are often part of Church life, I just hope, and earnestly pray, that we will never be ashamed of the Gospel on these remote, yet beautiful islands!

Looking back over my life I realize that I have always been proud of our nation. We all get the vote!.... We have continued, despite the difficulties, to see the importance of having a Monarchy!... And despite mistakes sometimes being made, it is the British way to have an underlying culture of 'fairness and fair play', which has resulted in a long history of tolerance towards others, and a basic commitment to the outcast and even the stranger!

All these virtues I believe (just like Lord Carey) come from the fact that for many generations we have been a Christian Nation, where the person of Jesus Christ , and his ways and His values have been taught and lived in our daily lives.

Last summer a visitor who had worshipped at our St Mary's chapel said to me that he thought that slowly, little by little, these foundations of society are subtly being brushed aside. He spoke to me of recent cases reported in our newspapers where teachers and council employees have been suspended for offering to say a prayer. He spoke about the well documented case of the British Airways worker who had been banned from wearing a cross, and he told me stories of adoption agencies and marriage registrars, who have found themselves in trouble because the new legislation has been in conflict with their Christian upbringing, I expect you too will have read or heard about these situations reported in the media. What do you think? Do we need to be concerned? Does it really matter?

Lord Carey spoke about these things, and over the Christmas period, commented on how in some places it seems better to use such words as Seasonal Greetings rather than Christmas Greetings. Local councils even refer to Winter Lights instead of Christmas lights.

What has caused these changes? Is it just another case of well meaning political correctness? Is it because of multiculturalism, or is it, as George Carey says 'a result of an overt opposition to Christianity, and a new climate, hostile to our Christian traditions and the history of our Church.' These are Lord Carey's words not mine. Again I ask you 'What do you think?' Please let me know. Like Lord Carey, I too feel it would be a sad day if we as a nation were to be ashamed of the Gospel and our Christian traditions. Are these things an issue here on the Isles of Scilly? Well you have something to think about in the last remaining weeks of winter

All of this of course, reminds us how important it is for us to explore our faith and to check just what it really means to each one of us and what it may mean to others. On another page in this issue you will see listed some of the planned topics for our Friday Fellowship evenings up to the end of the month. Each meeting stands alone and this means you may choose to just come to the one of interest. These evenings have proved to be well received with those who come every week and those who just come for a subject that is of interest to them. Last year we welcomed many guest speakers to these meetings from the mainland and during the summer we will be doing the same and I am glad to say that in May the Rev Andrew Bell from Essex will be back on Scilly to lead us in worship both on St Martin's and St Mary's, and to speak at our Friday Fellowship.

Soon the season of Lent will be here, and I am delighted that our new Chaplain to the Isles, Canon Peter Walker, has agreed to lead our Friday Fellowships when we will be joined by our brothers and sisters from our Parish Church.

We continue to offer all these things to our Heavenly Father in prayer, and we continue to ask him to bless our ongoing work with children through Saturday Seekers, and our Children's Church on the first Sunday of the month.

May the flowers of our fields produce a good harvest during the month of February, may we continue to show love and care for each other, as we cherish our rich traditions, and especially cherish the free gift of faith in the living Lord Jesus, of which we must never be ashamed.

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist Minister for these fine Islands for a while. May you like me be truly thankful for God's saving Grace that constantly reminds us of His great love for us all, despite the mistakes we may have made upon our journey through life

Charles R Gibbs

News from St Martin's.

Christmas followed its usual pattern on St.Martins. There is much to be said for maintaining traditions, as comfort and security can be gained from those things that have long been part of the small community. Celebrations of Christ's birth began with the Anglican Candlelit Carol Service led for the first time by Canon Peter Walker. A very big thank you to the children and young people who read the lessons so well at the Methodist Carol Service. Both these acts of worship were well attended, with opportunities afterwards for a chat over some refreshment. The special efforts made to decorate the Church and Chapel for Christmas do not go unnoticed.

Despite the circulating germs, there was a good turnout of children with their parents for the Christmas Tree Party. A range of active and less noisy games were enjoyed before the arrival of Father Christmas. Although not many adults stayed for supper, those who did enjoyed the quizzes and games prepared by Christopher. All the gifts left under the tree have now been dispatched to deserving children in Cornwall, and Action for Children has benefited from the supper proceeds, a sum of £47-50.

It was good to welcome Canon Peter Walker to our chapel for the first time, when he gave the address at the Covenant Service. At this special time we were conscious of those who could not be with us and remembered them in our prayers.

Towards the end of the St. Martin's news in the December/January issue of In Touch, I referred to Mary Evans 90th birthday celebrations, and a very enjoyable party it was too. Unfortunately, on Boxing Day Mary was taken to our local hospital, where she joined Celia Ashford who had been admitted a few days earlier. It is good that they both have been able to go home and our thoughts remain with them.

During this second week of January our television screens have shown us images of the continuing devastation in Haiti, the unbelievable floods of Queensland and the mud slides and torrents in Brazil. Perhaps the next time we feel like moaning about "no flights, no papers or post", we should keep things in perspective and hold the victims of natural disasters and aid workers more regularly in our prayers.

Heather

St Mary's News

Our Congratulations go to Jenny and Paul who were married on New Year's Eve. We would like to wish them every happiness. At this time of year many of us are suffering with all sorts of illness from tummy bugs to flu. We remember in our prayers Sylvia, Kenneth Cocking, Barbara Hasler and all those who have been laid low recently by any illness.

Jesus is the bread of life, not the cake for special occasions.

Anon

I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered. Jean Ingelow

Children's Church

We have had two children's church services now, they are held on the first Sunday of each month at 9:15 and we try to keep them to 45 minutes in length. Our first service was all about 'Who is God' and helping the children to think about who God really is.

Merryn and Katy performed a sketch about God sending his son Jesus to be like a bridge across the Grand Canyon and Gordon used boxes to explain the Trinity! Rose helped the children think about prayer being like blowing bubbles to God...we blew lots of bubbles! Each child also lit a tea light and placed them in the shape of the cross to remind us of what Jesus did for us and how we can all be part of that.

Our second service was all about the real meaning of Christmas and Mat did an excellent monologue about trying to find time to open this huge parcel (with lots of packing) but he had just been too busy with 'Christmas'. In the end he found a baby and a cross...the real meaning behind Christmas that we mustn't lose sight of in all the trappings. In our creative prayer time we wrote or drew or even scribbled our prayers on paper chains before linking them all together and draping them along the pulpit. Our prayers ranged from lost cats to people we wouldn't see at Christmas and those who were sick, God listened to them all. The adults go into the hall while the children are creatively praying and Peter Laverock has been provoking thought and discussion with short DVD's called Noomas. Everyone is welcome to come and join in these short services but be warned the music is noisy!

Many thanks

Vicki

Countdown

Be sure not to miss a great evening!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Countdown

Based on the TV programme

Friday 25th February
7pm- 9pm

In the **Methodist Church Hall**

Presented by Mary and Charlie Gibbs

Refreshments served in the interval

Prize for the winning team

There is no charge for this event but a collection will be taken for
Church Funds

Methodists in Haiti

The Revd Tom Quennet is the partnership coordinator for the Americas and Caribbean in the Methodist Church. He visited Haiti soon after the earthquake. Last autumn he retraced his steps to see what progress had been made. He writes:

"It looked as if a lot had taken place, but I could well imagine that for Haitians it must seem as if progress has been slow and very painful. Demolition of unsafe properties has taken place and rubble is being cleared; repairs to business that escaped the worst of January have been completed and new coats of paint have been applied.

“Only a few hundred yards from the airport, I was confronted by the informal tent settlements that had been erected by desperate people shortly after the earthquake. The ‘new’ look they had in February had been replaced by nine months’ worth of dust, the effects of weather and the bleaching of the sun. Some people had begun to use corrugated iron and wood and plastic and almost anything else to add to their little spaces. I couldn’t help but think what I thought many times in February: “This is a nightmare for years to come! When will you save the people, O God of mercy? When?” But then, all around me, despair at what had not happened gave way to signs of hope.

“The children in their immaculately clean uniforms going to school; the thousands of micro businesses on every inch of the roadside; the tap-taps (Haitian form of public transport) with their biblical references; the determined faces of Haitians getting on with living. This is a people that not even the worst forces of nature are going to cower down so as to give up, lay down and die. This is a resilient and resistant people.

“Much had been done and much remained to be done. Yet for many there was a home where previously there was none and a place to plant a flower and a fruit tree and to begin to hope.

“I left with an assurance and belief in the durability and tenacity of the Haitian spirit. A spirit carries you with it in search of justice, peace, faith and hope ... and Haitians’ unconquerable minds.”

Women's World Day of Prayer

How many loaves have you got?

4th March 2011

2 p.m. Methodist Church

This year the interdenominational day of prayer is prepared by the women of Chile. The theme 'How many loaves have you got?' is appropriate for this service from Chile since bread is eaten with every meal and is very much a part of everyday life. The women of Chile provide us with an insight of what it means to them as they share this service.

Chile occupies a long stretch of land 2,640 miles long but is very narrow 110 miles wide. Four fifths of the country is mountainous with the Andes being the most well known mountain range and has a very varied landscape from the Atacama (the world's driest desert) to glaciers and ice fields (Patagonia) and Pacific coastline. Before the Spanish arrived it was the land of the Incas. In more recent times, the country suffered under the repressive regime of Pinochet.

Chilean women represent one third of the work force and have to juggle work and family responsibilities. Domestic violence is a cause for concern, especially femicide. The Churches have taken a stand on this issue offering workshops and spiritual support.

The history, landscape and resources of this country are explored as the women show the place and meaning of Christianity in their country.

Health and Safety at Christmas

At our very topical Christmas concert planned by June, and involving many from our church and the wider community, we were all reminded by Barbara Hasler of how today it seems as though the Big Brother like figure of Mr Health and Safety is always looking over our shoulder. This same idea was also the theme of the comedy sketch planned by Maggie in which even the annual pantomime became caught up in yet more Health and safety Red Tape.

While all this was going on our minister was having yet more sleepless nights as the Carols by Candlelight service got nearer and nearer. Yes he too had got caught up in the constant mantras of Mr Health and Safety! Would the age old traditions of naked candles in church come to an end? And what would be the price to comply with the countless pages of 'Being safe at Christmas' sent out to those who live on remote islands by those living in air conditioned offices in faraway places?

Came to the rescue two gallant and brave young men! Yes, against overwhelming odds, two knights in shining armour stepped in and put things right. Mr Martin Parker and Mr Phil Roberts , using their great skills, saved the day, enabled our minister to get a good night's sleep , and were even able to put a smile on the face of Mr Health and Safety.

Now those naked candles are no longer a cause for concern to the faithful souls who worship in the chapel, for thanks to faithful friends (and no doubt God) all will be well....All will be well indeed!

Well done Phil! Well done Martin! If the Methodist Church gave medals for bravery you would be top of the list!

Rev Charlie Gibbs

Fair Feast

Last night over one billion people went to bed hungry, but millions more didn't, thanks to fair trade and community projects supported by MRDF (Methodist Relief and Development Fund). You can help by taking part in Fair Feast. It is a chance to feast together, promote Fair-trade and help eradicate hunger. You can celebrate Pancake Day (8 March) or Fair-trade Fortnight (28 February – 13 March), whilst raising money that will be invested in some of the world's poorest communities. There are many ways to get involved: you could hold a community feast for your friends and neighbours or host a mini-feast – add pancakes or Fairtrade treats – after an event that is already planned. You might want to 'feast in worship' by using our specially-prepared sermon notes or reflection. However you choose to feast, MRDF has resources to make your event or service meaningful. You can contact them on 020 7467 5132 or download material from their website www.mrdf.org.uk.

God's army

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"

Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

Monday Prayer Meeting



Mondays 2: 15 at The Manse

45 minutes of prayer
Followed by tea at 3 pm
A chance to chat

Feel the love of God

New friendships made
Hope is found

We look forward to meeting every Monday at 2:15

Singing the Faith, telling the story

A website is offering a new insight into the story behind the new Methodist hymn collection, Singing the Faith.

Visitors to www.singingthefaith.org.uk can read about the journey from the initial proposal for a new collection through to the work now being done to launch the Singing the Faith collection in June 2011. They can take a peek inside the collection at the full list of hymns and songs, check out the online users' guide and read John Wesley's rules for singing.

Anyone can also now take advantage of the pre-publication discounts on Singing the Faith. These include a saving of £5.00 on the full music edition, £2.50 on the words edition and £5.00 on the electronic words edition. Discounts are available when ordering direct from Methodist Publishing (tel: 01733 235962).

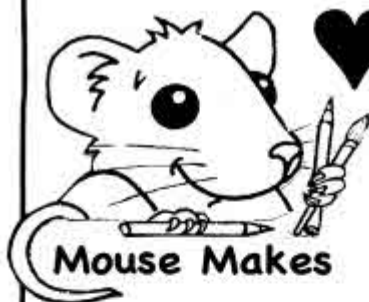
People can also pre-order the free Singing the Faith sampler from Methodist Publishing, which will be published in January 2011.

Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

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Any contributions will be gratefully received by 15th of the month. The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe



Mouse Makes



WHAT IS LOVE?

*Cross out every **second** letter and find the bible verse:*

OHNMETJ~~S~~OAHYF,
CAHQAXPZTDEKR
WFBOHUKRL,
VAECRLSWE
CTMER
NQ

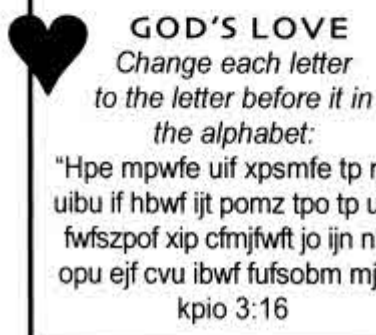


HOW DOES GOD SHOW HE LOVES US?

Look at this page in the mirror

"God showed his love for us by sending his only son into the world, so that we might have life through him"
1 John 4:9

"The **steadfast** love of the Lord **never** ceases, his mercies **never** come to an end, they are new every morning"
Lamentations
3:22-23



GOD'S LOVE

Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet:

"Hpe mpwfe uif xpsmfte tp nvdi uibu if hbwf ijt pomz tpo tp uibu fwfszpoif xip cfmjfwft jo ijn nbz opu ejf cvu ibwf fufsobm mjgf"
kpio 3:16



HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?

*Cross out all the **xxx** to find out.*

"Oxgxixvxextxhxaxnxkxsxtxox
xxhxexLxoxrxdx,fxoxrxhxexi
sngxoxoxdx,xhxixsxsxtxexa
dfxaxxsxtxlxoxvxexxn
dxuxrxexsxxfxoxrx
exvxexrx."
pxsaxlxm
136:1

Feat11

Happy Birthday to you

Happy Birthday



February Birthday greetings go to Barbara James, Jacky Pritchard, Philip Roberts, Beryl Read, Emily Smith and Keith Guy

March Birthday Greetings go to Claire Jenkins, Heather Terry, Len Michell, Lily Didlick, Val Parker, Margaret Smith, Alistair McNicol, Simon Morris and Steve Burrows

God's blessings to you all.



Diary Dates

Events

18th February – 13th March Fair Trade Fortnight
4th March Women's World Day of Prayer
13th or 20th March Corrymeela Sunday

Corrymeela is a religious community in Ireland seeking reconciliation following the way of the Gospel.

Regular events

Mondays 2:15pm Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays 2.00pm **At Home**

Fridays 7.30pm **Fellowship**

Fellowship topics for February

4th February Aspects of everyday life in the Old Testament - Len Michell

11th February to be arranged

18th February The Son of God and temptation - Rev Gibbs

25th February Countdown Evening – Hosted by Charlie and Mary Gibbs

Meetings will resume on 11th March and through Lent will be with our Anglican friends.

They will be planned by Canon Peter Walker.

True Love (Lk2:22-35)

Broken world,
Broken lives,
Broken hearts
Without hope
Until there, in the Temple,
In that bundle of a baby,
Love provides
Restoration,
According to his word.

By Daphne Kitching

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030 or Revd. Charles Gibbs 422406. 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
Pamela 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.

Services for February and March are included inside the magazine.

Special services and themes for services with Rev Gibbs.

St Mary's

Sunday 13th February 11a.m.

Let us abide in the love of God

Sunday 20th February 6p.m

Things will get better

Sunday 27th February 6 p.m.

The gathering of God's people

Sunday 6th March 11a.m.

Have you fought the good fight?

St Martin's

Sunday 27th February 11a.m.

Have you fought the good fight?

Sunday 27th March 11a.m.

The gathering of God's people

Children's Church St Mary's

Sunday 6th February 9:15 a.m.

Theme: Love

Sunday 6th March 9:15a.m.

United services

St Mary's

Sunday 13th March 11a.m.

At Parish Church

St Martin's

Sunday 13th March 3p.m.

At The Chapel