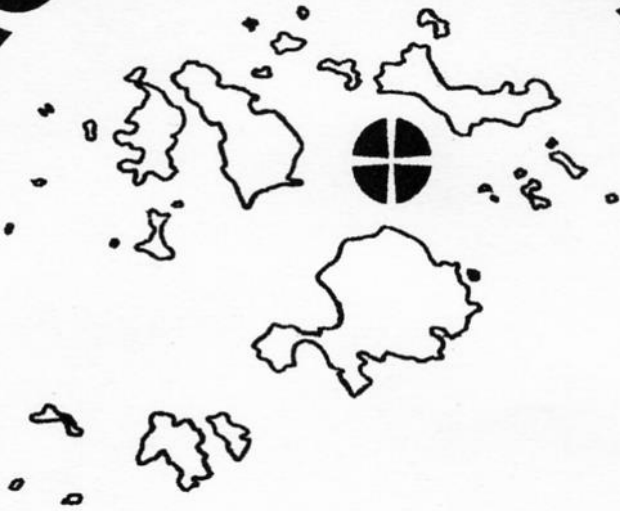


Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

February/March 2022

From The Manse ...

Since the last edition, I've enjoyed the privilege of my first Christmas on Scilly. My thanks to everyone locally for so much support for the events and services, inside, outside and connected with our Churches over Christmas and New Year. Managing and minimising the risks of Covid meant that some things were done differently this year and I'm enormously grateful for the understanding and openness with which new ideas were received.

With this first edition of the In Touch for 2022, I extend New Year greetings and prayers to all our readers, both residents of the Islands and folk further afield. We're encouraged greatly by all who take an interest in the Circuit's life and work, and on behalf of our Churches, I express thanks for the cards and messages received at Christmas time. Rejoicing with one another in the good things and being ready to listen and offer support in the more challenging times are indeed signs of deep friendship.

In the Methodist Church, the beginning of January traditionally includes the celebration of the Covenant Service, one of Methodism's most distinctive acts of worship. Dating back to (and before) John Wesley, the format of the service and version of the words have been revised at various points of Methodism's history. A contemporary form of the Covenant prayer is now offered in The Methodist Worship Book as an alternative to the traditional words.

Whether our preference is for the more modern version or that of the 1975 Service Book, 1936 Book of Offices or anything even earlier, the Covenant Service is an invitation to reflect, corporately and individually, on God's relationship with us, and our relationship with God and with each other.

First and foremost, the Covenant service celebrates the nature of God – generous, merciful, forgiving, compassionate, faithful, gracious, abounding in love. This same message is preached and celebrated in our churches week by week and there's surely no better way to begin a new year than with an intentional focus on the eternal reality of divine love.

It's from this foundation that the Covenant Service invites us to respond and to align our lives, priorities, choices and values with those we see embodied and revealed in Jesus.

The Scripture passages read this year at our Covenant Services had a common theme, challenging us to embrace the "here and now", and reminding us that God's presence is assured whatever the circumstances. Jesus, in Luke 4, proclaims the time to be "now", and the people of Nehemiah 8 are urged to live their "today", finding as they do that God hears, holds, blesses and transforms even their tears. The Covenant Service calls us to review our lives and experiences in a similar way, to acknowledge our mistakes, daring to believe that by grace, our failures of past days need not define our future.

This year, as in previous years on Scilly, the Covenant Service has been an act of ecumenical worship in both chapels. It's always a joy to host friends from other traditions and to welcome Perran as our preacher. Celebrating Covenant together in the Week of Prayer for Unity has been especially meaningful, giving opportunity for us to renew our commitment to pray with and for one another and to seek ways to express more fully the unity we share in Christ.

The coming weeks offer further occasions to worship together - On St Mary's, for Candlemas and the World Day of Prayer; on St Martin's, united services in both chapel and church buildings. By the wonders of technology, Zoom enables us to be connected in and beyond the Islands. Please drop us an email if you'd like the codes to enable you to join us for online worship on these dates. Looking beyond February, we're hopeful of opportunities locally to be together ecumenically in Lenten prayer, study and fellowship. More about that in the next edition!

Journeying together in life and faith, may we know God's blessing of presence and peace,

In friendship and with my prayers,

Revd Carole x

On Sunday 19th December a **Torchlight Carol Service** was held outside the Methodist Chapel on St Mary's led by the Revd Carole Holmes and supported by local musicians.

A large congregation gathered, including several families with children and mainland visitors in Scilly for Christmas, to sing favourite carols and to listen to the Christmas Story.

The outdoor venue was ideal for 'social distancing' and everyone felt safe and relaxed. Warm fruit punch and mince pies were enjoyed after the service and donations were received for 'Action for Children'

Barbara J

On Christmas morning we gathered together in Chapel to sing well known and loved Christmas Carols. (Adhering to government guidelines re covid, face coverings were worn).

The service was led by the Revd Carole Holmes. The Chapel looked very festive, the main focus being the nativity scene, reminding us of Jesus' birth.

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St Mary's Offerings

The Christmas Day and the Torchlight Candle Services offerings raised £321, and the proceeds went to the charity **Action for Children.**

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The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam

Not made out of his head to rule over him

Nor out of his feet to be trampled on by him

But out of his side to be equal to him

Under his arm to be protected

And near his heart to be loved

News from St Martins

We wish all our friends A Happy and Healthy New Year.

After celebrating Christmas and a new birth we now look forward to a new year and new beginnings, with hope and albeit some trepidation. The weather has already proved a challenge with services cancelled due to the recent storms. We continue to wear masks and observe social distancing.

On Saturday 18th December we held our annual 'Christmas Tree Party' for the local children in the Island Hall. The hall was already decorated so looked very festive, the tea was well received and the Christmas tree bit was held at Middletown where Father Christmas met the children in the Campsite 'pine forest'. A big thanks to all who made this a joyous occasion.

We were also able to celebrate the birth of Jesus in traditional style with our Carol Service held on 21st December. We all decorated our Chapel with plenty of greenery, candles and even a tree.

Thanks to Julia Walder for organising all the readings in Heather's absence. The young people as ever 'did us proud' with their contributions, and Rev Carole made sure they felt truly part of the service.

It is always lovely when our visiting families and Parish Church friends can also join us - and when Sue Murray plays the organ! We provided the usual mince pies after but decided to serve them outdoors - thankfully it was a nice afternoon!

Our collection was sent to Medcins sans Frontieres, as we felt there are still so many troubled areas of the world such as Afghanistan where their work is truly remarkable. We recently sent £112 to the British Legion and our Action for Children Boxes raised £152. We continue to sponsor Yusra a school girl in Tanzania through Action Aid.

We all hope and pray that the wealth of the world can be more evenly distributed.

We also wish Gladys Perkins better health, as she has been unwell recently, having just celebrated her 95th birthday. Derek beat her by two months and was 95 in October. He is often seen in the fields picking his flowers!

Val Thomas

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HYMNS FOR ALL THINGS

The Weatherman's Hymn	There shall be showers of blessing
The Tailor's Hymn	Holy, Holy, Holy
The Optometrist's Hymn	Open my eyes that I might see
The Gossip's Hymn	Pass it on
The Electrician's Hymn	Send the light
The Shopper's Hymn	Sweet by and by

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MEMBER? WHAT KIND ARE YOU

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings, mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home and criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?

Do you voluntarily help at the guiding stick?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about 'the clique'?

Come out to fellowship often and help with hand and heart.
Don't just be a member but take an active part.

A Prayer to Jesus our Saviour

Lord, hold my hand
I so need your loving kindness.
Lord, hold my hand
All through life, in joy or grief.
Lord, hold my hand
when I'm sick with fear and anxious.
Lord, hold my hand
in the wonder of relief.
Lord, hold my hand
when it's dark and storms are raging.
Lord, hold my hand
and help me live it through,
Lord, hold my hand
when I'm lifted, joyful, loving.
Lord, hold my hand
when I'm trying something new.
Lord, hold my hand
when I fail or faint or waver.
Lord, hold my hand
for I know your love is true.
Lord, hold my hand
when I'm lonely, weary, ageing.
Lord, hold my hand
when there's only me - and You.

Amen

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A famous Methodist Minister, Dr Watkinson, was asked by two elderly ladies to provide a suitable epitaph for their beloved dog, who had departed this life and was to be solemnly interred in their garden. He wrote, suggesting. "His barque is on the other shore".

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Yet O Lord you are our Father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter
We are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah 64 v 8

GIVE GOD THE FIRST MOMENTS OF YOUR DAY

“Early will I seek Thee” Psalm 63:1

What are the first moments of your day like? Do you turn on the TV, or rush into the bathroom, or allow your ‘to do’ list to come rushing in?

Instead try lying there quietly and allowing God to speak to you. With your mind a blank slate and your heart open, He will give you insights, ideas, solutions to problems, and the knowledge that He will be with you today.

Author Colleen Townsend Evans writes: ‘Silence need not be awkward or embarrassing, for to be with one you love without the need for words is a beautiful and satisfying form of communication. I remember times when our children used to come running to me, all of them clattering at once about the events of their day - it was wonderful to have them share their feelings with me. But there were also times when they came to me wanting only to be held, to have me stroke their heads and caress them into sleep.’

‘And so it is, sometimes, with us and God our Father. At times your most powerful prayers will be *thoughts* rather than *words*. Your words are limited by your vocabulary, but your thought life is an arena of infinite capacity in which God can give you life-changing concepts.’ Paul writes, ‘We have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). So be still and let Him think His thoughts through you. John writes, “You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things’ (1 John 2:20).

God can cause you to ‘know’ what you need to do, so give Him the first moments of your day.

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St Valentine's Day

Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius II who outlawed marriage for young men as he thought single men made better soldiers. Valentine defied the emperor and continued to marry couples in secret, but when found out he was sentenced to death and was executed on 14th February 269 A.D. A story goes that while in prison he fell in love with the jailor's daughter, and before his death wrote her a letter signed 'From your Valentine.' He was later made a Saint.

God's Valentine

For God so loved the world He sent His Son
There was no other way to let us know,
So Jesus came to us from heaven's realm
To bring God's love to all of us below.

He took on flesh, became like one of us,
Taught and healed and loved wherever He went
Showing the Father's love for all to see
He truly was a gift from heaven sent.

The Bible is God's precious Word of Life
A living breathing word like no other,
It is a heavenly letter of love to us
Sent 'From your God the Everlasting Father'.

Megan Carter

Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realise it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfil it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
Life is life, fight for it.

Mother Teresa

Hanging the New Calendar

I look at my last year's calendar

And know it is time for change

It has hung throughout the old year

Above my kitchen range

It tells a story all its own

Of dates marked to remember

Dentists, birthdays, meetings to make

From January to December

Hardly a square remained unmarked

Throughout that busy year

Some dates bring happy memories

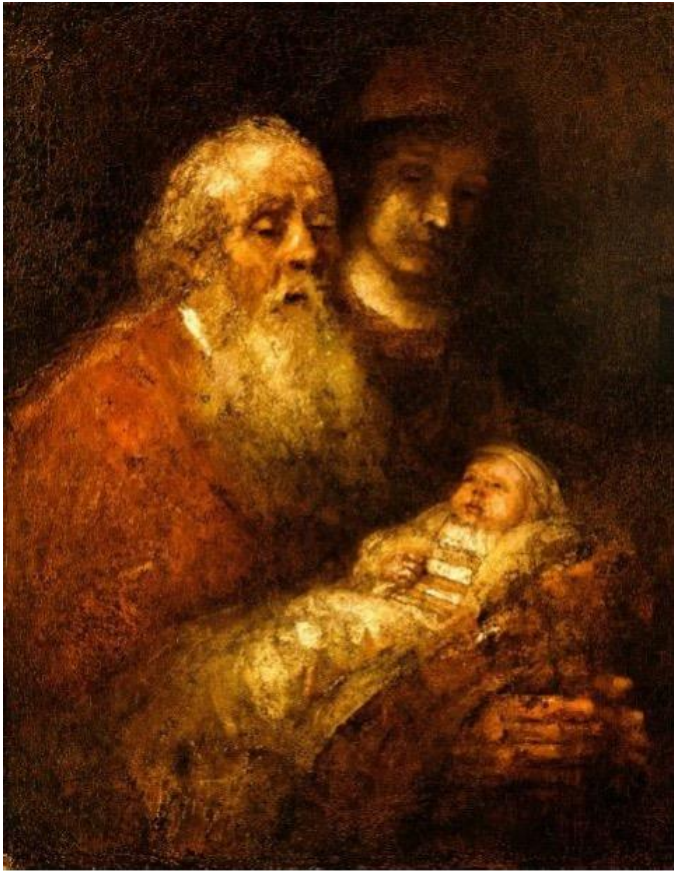
Some failures bring a tear

Like this new year God gives me

My calendar's pages are white

The days are waiting to be filled

God, guide me in what I write



God in the Arts

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a famous masterpiece by Rembrandt.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who

only stand and wait 'as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in this month's painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about.

When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God.

It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the new-born babe that impress us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open. As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years.

In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey?

Picture reprinted by kind permission of the National Museum, Stockholm.

TIME FOR A SMILE

CHURCH CHUCKLES

Don't let worry kill you let the Church help.

Thursday night Pot luck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

For those of you who have children and don't know it we have a nursery downstairs.

This being Easter Sunday we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the Altar.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement on Saturday.

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be "What is Hell". Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Published in a Canadian Church Bulletin

Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

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On the occasion of their golden wedding a couple shared with others the secret of their happy marriage. The husband said, 'I have tried never to be selfish. After all, there is no "I" in marriage!'. The wife said, 'For my part, I have never corrected my husband's spelling.'

Looking at God

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines' Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others.

God's love is unconditional: God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.'* (Philip Yancey).

God's love is sacrificial: God's love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God's love. He died for our sins to give us access to God's love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

God's love is forgiving: According to the film *Love Story*, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Yet Jesus' love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

We remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: *"I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!"*

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.

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Seek Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in. *CS Lewis*

Pass on the Message

I will pass on the message, is what the man said.
I will spread the good news as I go.

Tell those who I meet what Jesus has done.
Now it is time to let everyone know:

*How a paralysed man, told to get up, could walk;
A blind man was cured, made to see;
A young girl who died he brought back to life;
Another, with demons, set free.*

*With two fish and five loaves, fed five thousand;
Stilled the waves his disciples to save;
Turned water to wine at a party;
To many, it was comfort he gave.*

He had parables, all with a meaning,
With advice on the way we should live.
He said we were all given talents;
Is there something perhaps we can give?

Well, why don't we give an example,
Lead a good life and always be fair,
Show there's no need for cheating or stealing,
Have compassion for those in despair.

Be willing to give help if needed,
Start the day with a smile and kind word;
If we get in the habit and live life this way...

He'll know that the message was heard.

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St Paul was always travelling and had little time to visit home. One day he paid a visit to his aged Mother. "Where have you been?" she shouted. "Why haven't you been in touch? You write to the Romans. You write to the Corinthians. How is it that you never write to your Mother?"

*From an article written by Terry Waite*

## **GOOD NEWS.....IN CHRIST.....SECURE**

In times of trouble there is nothing more guaranteed to keep us stable than the Word of God - The Bible.

Children used to have stabilisers on their bicycles to keep them stable, safe. Today they have balance bikes.

In these bewildering times it is so comforting to Open The Book, read the Scriptures.....

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" Psalm 23.

What a wonderful promise, read it again. "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want".

*Oh, thank you God.*

"I have loved you with an everlasting love" Jer 31 v 3.

"Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" Matthew 11 v 28.

*Thank you Jesus.*

The Word of God, The Bible is vital for us Christians. It is our daily food, our guide to living.

"It is alive and full of power, sharper than any two-edged sword" Hebrew 4 v 12.

"Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" Psalm 119 v 18.

*I need to read it to keep on the right track.*

"The psalmist said it was his meditation all the day"

Psalm 119 v 97.

*Oh Lord may it be mine!.*

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Will you also go away?" Peter replied with these memorable words, "To whom can we go"?

"You have the words of Eternal Life" John 6 v 68 - Amen!

The One who flung the stars into space is still in control.

Praise God.

*Pauline Jackson Cocking*

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## **Take my Life and Let it be**

### **Take my life and let it be**

consecrated, Lord to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

### **Take my hands, and let them move**

at the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for Thee.

### **Take my voice, and let me sing**

always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee.

### **Take my silver and my gold,**

not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
every power as Thou shalt choose.

### **Take my will, and make it Thine;**

it shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
it shall be Thy royal throne.

### **Take my love; my Lord, I pour**

at Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all, for Thee.

The hymn "Take my life and let it be" was one of many poems written by Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879). Her first one, "Verses suitable for one who has entered heaven" was the name of her godfather, Revd W H Ridley, rector of Hambleton - a descendent of Bishop Ridley (burnt at the stake with Cranmer etc). Her father was a rector at Astley and then Worcester.

She was a prolific letter-writer and these give a clear picture of her life; part of which was spent travelling to Switzerland, Germany and North Wales with her close friend, Elizabeth Clay.

"Take my life" which was originally called "I gave my life for thee", was written in 1858 and was not intended to be kept.

She threw it on the fire, but it did not burn and tumbled out, so she smoothed it and put it away. Some time later she read the verses to her father, who liked them and wrote the tune "Baca" for them.

The verses were written as a result of a variety of profound spiritual experiences, which deepened Frances' commitment to her Lord and other people. The couplet "take my voice and let me sing, always only for my King" for example was added as a result of a request from Dr Marshall, conductor of Philharmonic Concerts, for her to take the part of Jezebel in "Elijah" at Kidderminster, which she could have done.

Upon receiving advice from a friend, Mr Snapp, who quietly asked how a Christian woman could impersonate Jezebel, she declined and wrote the couplet.

Each of these verses is a challenge to all people of any era as to their commitment to Jesus and other people.

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### **A Lenten Poem**

by Xhana Lopez

Lent is 40 days to be spent  
At the end of Lent we repent

The old rugged cross has been tossed through my mind  
God says open your mind and you will find  
The wonders that you have left behind

God tells me right from wrong  
In every hymnal and song  
As I walk along the beach I listen  
While the words of His mouth - and his feet glisten

So I will follow His word

**PRIEST    PASTOR    VICAR    MINISTER**

If they visit their flock, they are noseys.  
If they don't they are snobs.

If they preach longer than 10 minutes it is too long.  
If they preach less than 10 minutes they can't have prepared their sermon

If they run a car they are worldly.  
If they don't they are always late for appointments.

If they tell a joke they are flippant.  
If they don't they are far too serious.

If they start the service on time their watch must be fast.  
If they are a minute late they are keeping the congregation waiting.

If they take a holiday they are never in the parish.  
If they don't they are a stick-in-the-mud.

If they run a gala or bazaar they are money mad.  
If they don't there is no social life in the parish.

If they have the Church painted and redecorated they are extravagant.  
If they don't the Church is shabby.

If they are young they are inexperienced.  
If they are getting old they ought to retire

But .....  
When they die there has never been anyone like them

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Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart  
*Psalm 37 v 4*

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022

The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated nation wide on **Friday March 4th 2022.**

Here in the islands, we are expecting to follow the service, prepared by the Christian women of England, Northern Ireland and Wales, in the Parish Church, starting at **2.00pm.**

The planning and preparation meeting will also take place in the Church **(not the pavilion) on Friday 18th at 2.00pm.**

Should you wish to be involved in the service please come to the planning meeting, where you would be most welcome.

If you would rather simply attend the service your presence there is important too. So I trust we will have a good attendance. This year the service is entitled "I know the plans I have for you", a verse of hope from Jeremiah.

Not only is it good to be part of a global day of prayer, but our donations during worship help support a wide range of charities, which are listed at the back of the orders of service.

Last year I was able to send £189-10 to the World Day of Prayer movement.

Thank you

*Heather*

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### **An Old Irish Prayer**

- Take time to work - it is the price of success
- Take time to think - it is the source of power
- Take time to play - it is the secret of perpetual youth
- Take time to read - it is the foundation of wisdom

## Editorial Team

In Touch is the Circuit magazine of the Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit. Jean Duncan, Anne Gurr and Barbara James are the Editorial Team. Articles for the In Touch can be given or sent to them personally or emailed to [iosmethodist.mag@gmail.com](mailto:iosmethodist.mag@gmail.com)

Please support our Editors by contributing reflections, stories, news etc. (by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month please) so that the In Touch continues to be informative, interesting and varied.

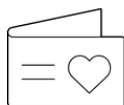
We welcome articles from our mainland readers as well as from Scilly.

In Touch can also be read online at [www.scillymethodists.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk)

Thanks to [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk) for the use of their material.



### **BIRTHDAYS**



**Happy Birthday and God's blessings**  
to all who are celebrating their birthdays in  
**February and March.**



### **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

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The Managing Trustees' Privacy Notice is published on the notice boards in the chapel buildings on St Mary's and St Martin's and is available to view online at <https://www.tmcpc.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice>

## **Preaching Plan for St Mary's**

|                           |                                                                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 30 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am At the Parish Church<br>Feast of Candlemass<br>Preacher: Revd Carole    |
| February 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am United on Zoom<br>Live-streamed to the Chapel<br>Preacher: Revd Carole  |
| February 13 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am Beryl Read                                                           |
| February 20 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am Revd Carole (Holy Communion)                                         |
| February 27 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am Revd Carole                                                          |
| March 6 <sup>th</sup>     | 11am United on Zoom<br>Live-streamed to the Chapel<br>Preacher: Canon Perran |

## **St Martin's Methodist Church Services**

Services are planned for Friday afternoons.  
Times of services may vary - usually 3pm but may be 2.30pm  
to fit boat times. Contact Revd Carole for further information.

|                           |                                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| January 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Revd Carole                                |
| February 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Christopher Savill                         |
| February 11 <sup>th</sup> | Revd Carole                                |
| February 18 <sup>th</sup> | Revd Carole (Holy Communion)               |
| February 25 <sup>th</sup> | Canon Perran (United at the Parish Church) |
| March 4 <sup>th</sup>     | to be confirmed                            |