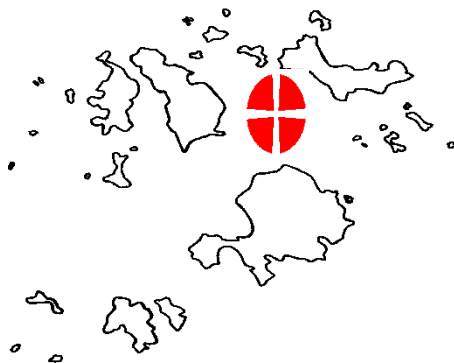


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

July 2013

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 Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams (422605)

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 thoughts from the St. Mary's Manse

July is one of the busiest months here on the Isles of Scilly, and despite the difficulties in the nation's economy there are many who still make the long and sometimes difficult journey to visit our beautiful islands.

Mary and I are now at the end of our fourth year here on St. Mary's, and have certainly enjoyed this period in our lives, and the experience of living in this unique island community. We usually take two breaks on the mainland each year, in May and October. This May, on our trip to Norfolk to be with family, we went via Aberystwyth to visit David Easton, who was the minister on Scilly before us. It was good to be with David and to worship with him in a service that he led in Welsh. He certainly seems to have mastered the Welsh language, and this month he moves from this appointment to Sterling in Scotland where he has been called to serve as Chairman of the Scotland Methodist District. David has warm memories of his time on Scilly, and sends his love to us all.

Whenever friends go on holiday, we wish them well and pray that they have safe journeys. Mary and I certainly enjoyed our time away, and had uneventful journeys until we arrived back here on St. Mary's on May 24th; what happened as we drew into the harbour, I expect we shall never forget. The tide was low, and a strong wind was blowing, and our dear old Scillonian was unable to draw alongside the quay. A second attempt was made, but it ended up with the Scillonian drifting away from the quay. As I stood on the deck, it became clear that all was not well, and as the boat drifted away from the quay it got closer and closer to the tripper and fishing boats moored in the harbour. By now it was clear even to me that something had gone seriously wrong! Slowly, as the Scillonian drifted, it ran into tripper boats and broke their mooring, causing

them to drift into other boats; it was only the swift and brave action of local boatmen that brought the situation to a safe ending. A line was put to the Lioness Lady cargo boat, which pulled the Scillonian towards the harbour, as a jet boat from Bryher and the harbormaster's boat pushed from the other side to stop it drifting.

Many attempts were made to get a rope from the Scillonian to the quay, but in the end James Terry, the skipper of our medical launch, was able to get in between the Scillonian and the quay and get the rope ashore. What could have been so much worse than it turned out was saved by the skill of our local boatmen, and all on board were truly thankful for their heroic efforts. We on board felt helpless, and could only look on, and more than one person on board asked me to say a prayer.

In life, the unexpected does happen, and when it does we usually find that we are completely dependent on the gifts and skills of others to put things right. Those of us who know the blessings of our precious Christian faith can see this very clearly in the Gospel. When things had gone wrong in this world, we were unable to put them right. Sometimes in life we find ourselves drifting! Life seems to have lost direction, and we begin to doubt the reality and power of God, and we begin to doubt the great promises of His love, His grace, and His promise of eternal life. The Gospel reminds us of God's power and His ability to save. In Jesus, He came to share in all that makes us human; He reminded us of God's great promises, and he gave Himself to save us from all the perils of this life, that we may in all circumstances feel safe and secure in the knowledge of Life Eternal won for us on the Cross of Calvary.

Yes, the unexpected can happen in our personal lives, in the lives of these beautiful islands, and in the lives of our nation. Those who follow the life and mission of our church closely are aware of the many challenges that are before us in this fast-changing world. Some are troubled by the legislation going through government regarding same sex marriage; others are troubled by the threat posed by Muslim extremism, and others by the decline in church attendance in recent decades. It is against this background that we are called to give testimony to our precious Christian faith, to live the victory won for us by Jesus, and to take up our cross and follow the way of sacrificial love.

In Luke's Gospel, we have the moving record of how John the Baptist comes to the people of his day, and calls them to be ready for the promised coming of God's kingdom. He calls those before him to look closely at their lives, and to make changes so they will be ready for the unexpected, and he reminds all who hear his message that by receiving Jesus they will know that God's promises are true, even in the great turmoils of life. John, like some of us today, had complete trust in what has sometimes been described as 'the mighty plan of God'. He was confident that by God's grace and mercy lives could be changed, that each of us can make a fresh start in our lives, and that we can be confident that at the coming of God's kingdom that the wrongs of this world will be put right. Through Jesus we will find safety and security in these heavenly promises, even in the face of the unexpected turmoils of our earthly lives. Yes, the incident in St. Mary's harbour on May 24th was saved by the brave and heroic action of our Scillonian boatmen, but we are reminded in the pages of the Gospel that we can know true salvation in the great challenges of life because God sent His Son Jesus to be the Saviour of this world.

It is clear as we read the Gospel that at the time appointed by God, the promised coming of His kingdom will happen! In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist uses powerful language and images to challenge those who hear his message to be ready for the unexpected. He says 'Stop and think!', and he says 'Repent now! – for the axe is already at the root of the tree!' Yes, John warns us to be ready for the unexpected, to be ready for a new way, and to be ready for the coming of God's kingdom. For according to him, this will not be a superficial or gentle reform, but a new way and a new order which have the power to completely sweep away all that is past and enable God's people to live a new and better life.

Yes, there is thoroughness in the Gospel! It reveals the great need this world has for hope and salvation; it challenges us to look honestly at our lives, and it offers hope to all who will receive from our gracious and loving God. The message of the Gospel is clear and uncomplicated; it brings a great challenge to our lives, and to our relationships with one another, and it reminds us that even in the darkest moments of our lives, hope can be found in Jesus. We pray for safe journeys to and from our islands; we give thanks for those in our island community who are here to help us in times of difficulty, and we pray that by receiving the Good News of God's love to us in Jesus we shall each know His gift of life eternal, even in the face of the unexpected.

We thank God for all that is past, and we trust Him for all that is to come. May the blessings of His grace continue to be seen in our love of one another. I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these remote yet beautiful islands for a while.

Charles R Gibbs



"How thoughtful, wearing something
all the wedding guests could shelter
under in case of rain."

Best wishes

We remember David in our prayers as he prepares to take up his new post in Scotland as Chairman of the Scotland Methodist District. It is perhaps a little far away for most of us to be able to visit but we will continue to hold him near in our hearts.

NCH Action for Children

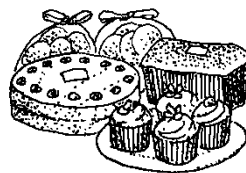
Second hand book sale and coffee morning 8th June 2013

Our grateful thanks to all the dear friends who provided lovely refreshments, helped on the day in so many different ways and / or who bought books!

We welcomed a steady stream of folk all through the morning and well into the afternoon. It was mostly the visitors who came in, and we soon realised we should have put out far more paperbacks and novels for them to read during their stay on the islands. No doubt our local reader friends expected to have seen the selection on previous occasions!

In the event we did not raise as much from the day as we did on 1st April. But are still thankful to have made £132.42 and to have fewer books to put back in the garage! Even so, there are still umpteen boxfuls in there awaiting sale, so, please, friends do not give us any more volumes! We expect to stage another Grand Book sale and Coffee morning on Bank Holiday Monday, August 26th, with a lot of cheap fiction put out for the visitors!

Dear local friends,--please bear with if I ask you to help in some way yet again! It is, after all, for a very good Methodist outreach!



me

Gwen Clarkson Representative for NCH

Friday Fellowship 21st June 2013

During the summer weeks we only meet in the Manse on Friday evenings when the preacher friends are visiting and can lead our Fellowship in religious study. John Hogarth, the Curator of the Wesley Cottage in Cornwall whilst here for a few busy days, was in charge of our meeting on 21st June.

In the years since our Lord God led the people out of Egypt they had, sadly, turned away to the worship of Baal and other local gods. In punishment God allowed the Midianites to overpower His flock and rule the land. He then chose Gideon to organise the return to true worship, but this man needed lots of convincing that he is the one to lead the movement. He is indeed a reluctant servant of the Lord! In due course, however, at God's command, Gideon destroys the altar of Baal and builds a new one to the Lord God. He does it secretly at night as he is afraid of family members and the reaction of the general populace. Then God orders him to take up arms against the Midianites, using a very small force of men and with some help from the Ephraimites. The enemy is defeated at last and the praise of the true Lord God is restored.

Then Israel had forty years of peace, during the rest of Gideon's long life. Sadly, after he died and in the long reign of his son Abimelech, the nation turned again to the worship of Baal: a weak commitment to the Almighty! Thinking about the land of Israel and those nearby with so many lethal conflicts today, we may well fear the lack of worship of our Father God in spirit and truth, as ever!

Gwen Clarkson

The Covenant for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

With the whole Christian Church, we believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We share a life of faith which is the Spirit's gift, continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together.

We believe that we are being called by God to realize more deeply our common life and mission, to share and respect the distinctive contributions of our traditions and to bring about a closer collaboration in all areas of witness and service.

We commit ourselves and our churches :

- a) To seek out every possible opportunity for joint initiatives at local and county level in mission to all the people.
- b) To work together to equip both lay and ordained ministry whenever possible, and to share that ministry wherever appropriate.
- c) To continue the work of developing strategies whereby we optimize the use of our church buildings for the benefit of communities throughout the county.

We believe that God has given our three churches a particular opportunity to work together more closely.

We also affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses, so that people may be led to love and serve God more and more.

Signed May 2013

*The Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro.
The Church of England.*

*The Revd David Grosch-Miller, Provincial Moderator.
The United Reformed Church.*

*Revd Canon Steven J Wild, Methodist District Chair.
The Methodist Church.*

100 million shoe boxes

Last year, Operation Christmas Child hit a significant milestone, delivering the 100 millionth gift-filled shoebox to a needy child. It took a global effort of over 23 years to do this, but OCC is still growing and says: "we are trusting God for another 100 million."

Do you have friends or family who have yet to wrap and pack their first shoebox? They may be at home, or a member of your community group or church, or at your school or other workplace. Would you help OCC to reach them? Why not tell them why you support Operation Christmas Child – about the impact a gift-filled shoebox can have on a needy child, showing the child that he or she is loved and not forgotten at Christmas.

Editors note: I thought people might be interested in this, although I know Christmas is a long way away! The school, along with lots of others support this charity every year.

News from the North.

I am now well settled here and much blessed to be regarded as one of God's family. As I write this I am conscious that today I was to take part in leading worship at the Circuit Day service, instead I shall be part of the service here by playing the organ. I have missed having a keyboard here as when I am at home it is a daily and precious joy to be able to make music.

My sister and I are aware that this is a precious time for both of us. We reminisce about our childhood, she knowing more of my quirks than myself! Together we enjoy our meals and as both of us are similar in taste watch quizzes in the afternoon, Countdown being a favourite

The weather has been good all month and this has meant the growers around here have had an abundance of strawberries. Prices have been low with 800gms for £2 ! Yum yum!

Time for study is given and I plough on through the course to be a "proper" local preacher.

I thank you all for your love and prayers

Mary

As fine silver...

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study. They got to wondering what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, and then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

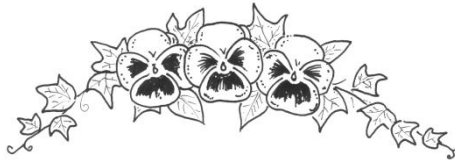
So if today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you. His aim is not to abandon or destroy you, but to refine you - until he sees his image in you.

News from St.Martins

The congregation on St .Martins have welcomed two visiting preachers during early June. First Rev. Mollie Greenwood and then Dudley Coates, a past Vice President of the Methodist Conference. Dudley crossed from his holiday accommodation on Tresco to join Charlie in leading worship on June 9th. He told us of his recent experiences at a very large Christian gathering in Hamburg, and conveyed a message of striving to live as people, who through the grace of God, have all that they need in terms of love, joy, guidance and material requirements.

We extend our congratulations to Hannah and Andrew Walder on the birth Lowena Ruby, a grand-daughter for Julia and Steve and great grand-daughter for Gladys and Derek. We trust that Lowena will have a happy and healthy life; a childhood on St. Martins is sure to be a good start for her.

Our exhibition of photos in the Sunday School room continues to attract visitors and the money raised since 2008 has just passed the £5000 mark. We give thanks for people's generosity ensuring a steady income.



Heather Terry

Happy Birthday to you! **Birthday Greetings for July go to**

Joe Fairburn , Christine Savill,
Barbara Anderson, Val
Thomas, Adele Bird, Shannon
Aston, Benjamin Jenkins, Pam
Manning, Margaret Snowball,
Pam Thomas, Isobel Trenear

God's blessings to you all.
If we haven't included your
name, and you have a birthday
this month, please feel included in
best wishes and prayers.



Pleasure

Some people won't suffer in silence because that would
take all the pleasure out of it.

Heaven help me

One Sunday in church a little boy was 'acting up' during the
morning worship. His parents did their best to maintain
some sense of order in the pew, but it was a losing battle.
Finally, an exasperated father picked up his son and strode
sternly down the aisle. Just as the church doors closed
behind them, the little boy cried loudly to the congregation:
"Pray for me! Pray for me!"

Circuit Service

23rd June 2013

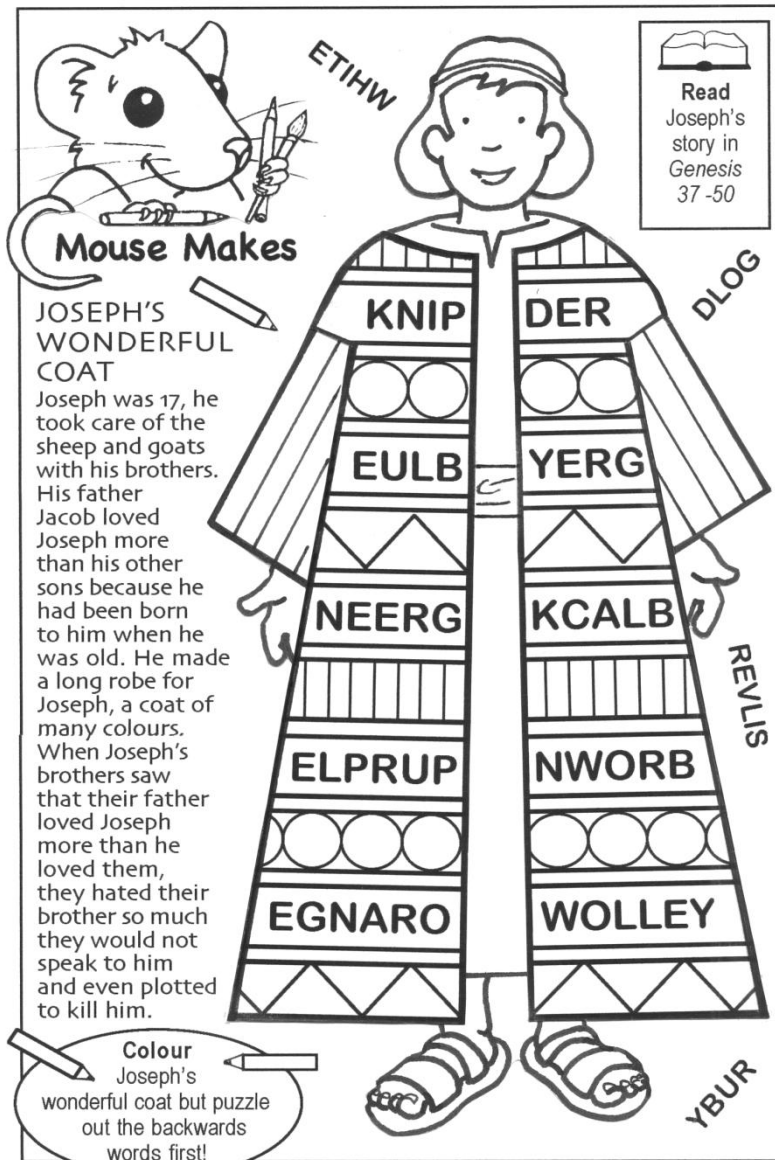
Low Tides and blustery weather delayed what proved to be an enjoyable time of fellowship for the Isles of Scilly Circuit.

The boat was due to take the St Mary's folk over to St Martins at 9:45. However a combination of very low tides and a strong wind meant that the boat was delayed until 1pm. This meant that everyone went straight to Adam's Fish and Chips on St Martins, where we all enjoyed an excellent lunch. We were greatly helped to get there in time by the St Martin's folk who turned out in force to ferry us by cars from Lower Town to Higher Town. The lifts were much appreciated.

This was followed by a lovely service at the Chapel taken by John Hogarth. I am going to apologise now for my poor attempt to spell the camelephantelopelicanary – I am sure I have got that wrong! The theme was that we all have different gifts to bring to God and we shouldn't try to be like anyone else. God values us as we are. The service had a message for us all whatever our age.

Despite the tight time schedule owing to the late start, St Mary's folk made it back to the quay in time for the boat back. The journey back was greatly enjoyed by some!

Many thanks for such a successful and enjoyable Circuit Service have to go to Rose who organized everything so well; to St Martin's folks who ferried us around and without whose help some of the older members of the congregation would not have been able to enjoy the occasion; and to John Hogarth for the service.



July13 ©deborahnoble @parishpump.co.uk

Youth Alpha

Taken from Jen's up-date June 13th

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the Garden Pavilion from 4:30-6:30 (Years 7- 9) , and 7:30-9:30 (Years 9-11) with great sessions about what Christian life is in terms of who Jesus is faith, prayer, guidance and reading the Bible. The sessions are filled with games, food teaching, video clips, chat, growing relationships and going deeper with each other and God.

April saw our away weekend where Lynne and 4 young people came over to Cornwall for the weekend. We considered the question 'What about the Holy Spirit', with 3 great teaching sessions, along with fun and games with our Youth group in Truro including bowling and a picnic in the park. Thanks to those who helped with the amazing cake bake fundraiser for this!

On a personal note I got married in May to the fab Dave, who is encouraging about the net:scilly and keen for me to continue. Many thanks for your prayers and support. God is really at work and I pray that his kingdom come and Hiss will be done on the Islands

Jen

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

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
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360

Claire Jenkins	423546
Neil & Rose Didlick	422838
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854

Barbara Hasler	422208
Margaret Crane	422596
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pamela Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404

Beryl Read	422977
Gwen Clarkson	423106

For the Prayer Chain to be effective it is essential that requests are forwarded to the person in the column beneath your name, if that person is not available please ring the next person on the list.

JULY NOTICES

St. Mary's

- 7th 10:00 Children's Church
11:00 Len Michell
Park House 16:00 Barbara Hasler
- 14th 09:15 Neil Didlick / Mervyn Bird
11:00 Revd Charles Gibbs *Communion*
20:00 Gordon Bird
18:00 Revd Charles Gibbs
- 21st 09.15 Neil Didlick / Beryl Read
11:00 Mary Ratcliffe
20:00 David Pender
- 28th 9.15 Barbara Hasler / Mervyn Bird
11.00 Revd Charles Gibbs
20:00 Revd Charles Gibbs
Lifeboat service

St. Martin's

- 7th 11:00 Revd Charles Gibbs *Communion*
- 14th 18:00 Revd Charles Gibbs
- 21st 11:00 Revd Charles Gibbs
- 28th 11:00 Len Michell