



# In Touch

# **JULY 2015**

# **Chairman of the District**

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

#### Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

# Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell Gordon Bird Christopher Savill

# **Circuit Stewards**

Mrs Christine Savill 423563 Mr Mervyn Bird 423117 Mrs Beryl Read 422977 Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

# Circuit Meeting Secretary Heather Terry 422329

#### Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mrs Claire JenkinsMrs June LethbridgeMr Philip LethbridgeMrs Beryl ReadMrs Sue WilliamsMrs Leigh Kendrick

St. Martin's Mrs Barbara Jones

#### St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605 Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977 Property Secretary Mrs Anne Gurr 422224 Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117 Hall Booking Secretary Mary Ratcliffe 423030 Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry 422329 Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977



Some thoughts from the St Mary's Manse...... Sometimes it seems that the months go past so fast that we wonder where they have gone, and this seems to be especially the case when we are busy. The summer months are certainly a busy time for many who live on our beautiful islands. Because our main industry is 'welcoming visitors' many of us are caught up in all that

this entails. Those who are responsible for our transport to and from the islands are busy making sure that the thousands who come to Scilly have safe and enjoyable journeys. Those who provide places to eat and drink are busy making the most of the Summer season, and those who provide accommodation are busy with the 'changeovers' and being there to care for the many visitors who in many cases return to our islands year after year for their summer holidays. While all this is going on there are others who are there dealing with the day to day ongoing needs of the islanders who live here. The Council of the Isles of Scilly are there making sure that our bins are emptied, our roads and airport are maintained, and that our children are educated at our wonderful Five Islands School. For all these things we give thanks as we come to the busy month of July here on Scilly.

The summer is also a busy time in our island churches. In our chapels on St Martin's and St Mary's we welcome visitors to our weekly worship, and over the summer months on St Mary's there are always midweek events that many of our visitors love to come along to and to find out more about island life.

On St Mary's often we find that visitors will be delighted to be invited to our midweek house groups and fellowship meetings, and it is always a delight for us to share in this with other Christians and to hear what is going on in their churches on the mainland. Often these visitors are surprised at how much we are able to do in the life of our church here on Scilly. Also we give thanks for those who put in place our weekly slide shows on Monday and Friday evenings on St Mary's. This year June and Philip Lethbridge's new 2015 show is entitled 'A Scilly Miscellany', and the Monday show continues with the theme 'The Ups and Downs of Life On Scilly'. It is good that so many visitors love these shows, and we are thankful for the money raised at these evenings for chapel funds.

This summer on St Mary's on Pentecost Weekend in May we held a special 'Blaze Sprit Blaze' mission weekend. We were delighted that the international evangelists Gareth and Malou Bolton were able to lead this weekend which was arranged by members at our St Mary's chapel. We are particularly thankful to Ian and Beverly Hodgson who did so much in making sure that all the arrangements went so well. During this weekend we were challenged to place our trust in the Holy Spirit who longs to be at work among us, and we celebrated His presence in the ongoing mission of our church. On the Saturday evening there was a special barbecue for our church family and for visitors, and on Sunday there was a very well attended luncheon at the chapel. Our Pentecost Sunday morning worship before the lunch was very lively with members taking part in the celebration and giving thanks for the sending of The Holy Spirit, and in the evening we came together again for a special service with prayers for healing which was appreciated by our members and the visitors who joined us.

The following weekend we were again blessed by the visit of Steve Wild. Steve was able to go over to St Martin's to lead the worship on the Sunday morning, and to lead the worship on the Sunday evening at St Mary's. We give thanks that Steve is such a great evangelist as well as being the Chairman of our Cornwall Methodist District and we pray that as he takes up his position as President of the Methodist Conference many will learn even more about the abounding grace of our loving God. Yes summer is a busy time of the year here on the islands but we give thanks that in all of this busyness we can know and feel the leading of the Holy Spirit who has promised to be with each of us on our journey.

During our Blaze Spirit Blaze weekend we were reminded of how

on the last evening that Jesus was with His disciples He promised that His followers would never be left alone because they would be sent a helper, and in John's Gospel we find recorded for us some of the things that Jesus said about this important subject to His disciples. This crucial message lies at the very heart of our mission here on these beautiful islands. It was of course celebrated in our worship on Pentecost Sunday, but the power of this life changing message is also seen in the day by day and week by week work of our church here on Scilly. In summer when we welcome visitors, and in winter when at times we can feel remote and cut off from the outside world our mission continues, and it continues in the Name of Jesus, and in the promised power of His Holy Spirit.

Here in this upper room with His remaining eleven disciples Jesus describes this promise of God as 'The Spirit Of Truth', and in each of our busy lives it is indeed refreshing to be reminded of this promise today. Yes the Holy Spirit reminds us that the promises of our Sovereign God are true and that we really can trust in God's provision on our journey through life. This same Spirit reminds us of the message of hope, reconciliation, and forgiveness that lies at the heart of the Gospel, and it urges each of us to believe that in whatever we may face in this life God has promised to be with us every step of the way. During our Blaze Spirit Blaze weekend we were reminded yet again of how The Holy Spirit can touch our lives even at the most unexpected moments, and we were reminded of how this 'Spirit Of Truth' is a gift that our loving God longs to be received by His people today. Yes this free gift from our Father God is not something that we have to work for, it is not something we can achieve through our own efforts, it is there when we need it, and it is God's gift to us all in Jesus His Son.

On the first Sunday in July we look forward to the Rev Dr David Easton leading our worship on St Martin's and on St Mary's. David of course is a much loved friend of us all and is now serving as the Chairman of the Scotland Methodist District. He will be coming to us after spending time at Southport for the annual Methodist Conference, and we give thanks that he has been able to make time to come to our islands. Yes the summer can be very busy here on Scilly, and the month ends with our annual Lifeboat Service on St Mary's on the 26th. We continue to thank God for all that is past, and we continue to trust Him for all that is to come.

Every Blessing to you all!

Charles R Gibbs. By the grace of God your minister for a while!

# Minister's Report to St Mary's Annual Church meeting (7th June)

We meet to mark the passing of another year in the life of our church as we faithfully wait and pray for the promised coming of God's Kingdom.

In this past year we have faithfully met for worship each and every Sunday. We give thanks that numbers at our early morning 9.15 service have been up as new friends have come to our islands to work and are now worshipping with us. Our numbers at the 11am and evening services have remained much the same over the winter months, and many have commented how our worship in the hall during this period has helped to bring us together and has created a good atmosphere for worship.

During the summer months we have again welcomed many visitors, and in particular the summer evening services, often in the form of Songs of Praise have been well received, with visitors enjoying the refreshments put on at the manse after this service. Our welcome to visitors remains an important part of our work in this summer holiday location.

During the winter months our work has been focused on our mission to those who live among us. A new venture was our 'church in the community day' which we held in January.

This was held on a Sunday with activities for all ages and food being available all day. All of this took place in our church building with our morning worship being held in the Wesley Room at the manse. Many new faces came to join in the events and a lot of people from our island community thanked our church for putting this new event on.

Another new form of outreach during the winter period was the 'Monday is For Men' meetings at the manse. Again this new initiative was very well attended, bacon rolls and tea was served to men from a wide range of ages and backgrounds, there were new opportunities to speak about our church and we will certainly be putting these mornings on again next winter.

Another new step in mission was the 'Holy Spirit Weekend' put on over Pentecost in May. The international evangelists Gareth and Malou Bolton brought new challenges to our church and taught us more about trusting in God's provision.

Our work with children continues. Our minister is still warmly welcomed into our Five Island School to lead assemblies and many of our members have worked hard with the 'Open The Book' assemblies which have been well received by the staff and junior school pupils. In addition to this we had an excellent Summer Holiday Club on the theme 'Putting on the armour of God'. This was well run, and much appreciated by parents and children and certainly showed our commitment to reaching out to island families. All of this good work has been linked in with the ongoing work of the Saturday Seekers children's activities. We give thanks for those in our fellowship who make it possible to welcome children and families into the life of our church.

It has been a great blessing to our church that in the past year we have been able to train and to receive three new worship leaders to bring a freshness to our worship. Sonia Crompton, Vicki Smith, Kim Watson, and each completed a worship leaders course and now regularly lead at our 9.15 services. Mary Ratcliffe has now been training as a Local Preacher for almost three years. She has achieved a high standard in her studies and has proved to be a much valued member of our preaching team. Later this year she will become a fully accredited Methodist Local Preacher and we look forward to holding a special service to celebrate this in the New Year.

We give thanks to all who contribute to our weekly worship and especially our musicians who play such an important role in helping us all to worship our Sovereign God week by week.

In addition to these things we have also met together in a wide range of mid-week meetings. Every Monday afternoon we have met in the manse for our weekly prayer meeting which has been greatly valued by those who come faithfully week by week. Our long established Wednesday Evening House Group has explored together the challenges of being a disciple today, and on a Thursday evening we have been meeting at Seagull Cottage to pray for a revival of faith on our islands.

In addition to these mid-week meeting our minister has produced a series of Bible study notes that can be used for devotion and study at home. These initiatives are all part of our vision of being a church where others can explore more about our precious Christian Faith.

In July last year our minister was able to represent our Cornwall Methodist District at the Methodist Conference in Birmingham. Following on from this he was able to lead a series of discussions at our Friday Evening Fellowships on how our church may respond to the change in British law allowing the marriage of same sex couples. These meetings helped us to understand more about some of the challenges facing the church in Britain today, and were very well attended.

We give thanks that despite the ever increasing costs we have been able to pay our way over the past year. We give thanks for those who have generously given over the past year, and we rejoice that last summer over £3,000 was raised for church funds by a team making fresh scones each day and selling them at the manse. These scones were much appreciated by visitors and residents of St Mary's. We give thanks also that we have been able to support other good causes through the life of our church. We continue to give generously to NCH Action for children, we have been able to send more money to the Leprosy Hospital in Nepal, and in addition to this we have been able to send a record number of knitted teddies to the children of Uganda. Clearly giving to those in need is an important part of our Christian discipleship and we have achieved much in the past year.

We give thanks for the work of our property committee who have worked so hard to keep our church building in such good order. At our Church Council it was agreed to investigate the cost of modernising the interior of the chapel. At present a small group of members is looking into this. An architect has been asked to help draw up plans and costing, and they are also investigating what grants will be available to help with the costs. We are hopeful that this scheme will be put before our church council very soon as we believe by having a modern and more flexible worship area it will further the usefulness and mission of our church.

At the end of May this year the membership of St Mary's Methodist Church was 49. Mrs Barbara Anderson is now a member of the Methodist Church in Falmouth, and three of our faithful friends have been called home at the end of their earthly lives among us these are Margaret Jones, Dorothy Beedell and Myra Christopher. We give thanks for their lives and for their contribution to the mission of our church.

I end by just saying that considering our location, and the age in which we live, I feel that we have a lot to be thankful for. The Methodist Church on St Mary's is still a much valued part of this island community, our membership is clearly very committed to living out the Gospel among our neighbours and friends, we are still determined to share the Good News of the Gospel, and we have witnessed how the Lord is continuing to bless the life and mission of our church. On a personal note I report that Mary and I have made the difficult decision to leave these islands in the summer of next year. This means that we will have completed 7 years of ministry among you. We pray for those who will be making arrangements for the furtherance of our Methodist Mission on Scilly, and we look forward with hope because we know that God's promises are true and that in the power of His Holy Spirit He will always be with us.

# Who is that Man in the stern?

"What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41 KJV)

You won't be taking photographs in the



face of a storm on Lake Galilee – the whole experience never fails to be overwhelmingly scary! Here were 12 men in a boat, and – although several of them had known the lake from childhood as lifelong fishermen – once the winds were to start up, they would know they were in a crisis, hauling down the sail, bailing for their lives - they're all hard at it.... bar one.

Excuse me, who is that man in the stern? Why is he not helping?

Why, it's their leader, Jesus, asleep on a cushion. Is He not aware of our predicament? People have been asking that all down history. Exactly 800 years ago England's famous Magna Carta had to be signed on the banks of the River Thames at Runnymede, to curb the abuse of King John's power that had led to civil war and widespread distress. Eighty years earlier, the reign of King Stephen was so terrible that it was said, "God and His angels slept."

Is Jesus asleep in heaven, as far as events in Nepal, Syria, North Korea or the Sudan are concerned? Or when that answer to prayer seems a million miles away?

As the terrified men wake the Lord up, and as He stills the storm with just a word, He then asks, "Where is your faith?" Implication:

It's all very well to believe when things are calm.... but if we're only disciples of Christ for the happy days, then we're going to be let down one day. The 17th century Puritan minister Stephen Charnock once wrote on the subject of faith despite `Trouble':

'Without it we shall be as light as a weather-cock, moved with every blast of evil tidings; our hopes will sink or swim according to the news we hear.'

True, the major problems of believers are a thing of the past, in that they have accepted eternal peace with God through Christ, their once-crucified and now living Saviour and Lord. But they will be sharing the vagaries of life on this fallen world with everyone else.

So why be a Christian? Answer: Because Christianity is true. Because Jesus is whom He claims to be! And I want to know the truth for the truth's sake. Which is why EVERYONE needs to sort out the question, "Who is that Man in the stern?" Rodney Bewes



SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

FOR THE

# ST MARY'S LIFEBOAT.

Be sure to come along to Holgates Green to give thanks for those who crew the St Mary's Lifeboat.

Sunday 26th July At 8pm. Led by Charlie Gibbs & Canon Paul Miller. (If wet in the Methodist Chapel) All proceeds will for the work of the St Mary's RNLI.

# Do you need a new pain-killer?

Do you ever take pain killers? If so, do you take one for your shoulder, and another one for you knee? Of course not – once the painkiller enters your bloodstream, it goes everywhere, soothing and damping down the pain, and hitting all the right spots.



God works a bit like that on the pain in our lives. He has a prescription for ALL the problem areas of our lives. Most of us carry emotional scars, or a burden, or some heartache, around with us. It may be the trauma of loss, it may be anxiety for our family. It may be uncertainty over our jobs, and our futures.

Whatever it is, God offers us a prescription to help the pain. The psalmist writes: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1) Jesus added: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11:28)

This kind of help is real and immediate and there for the asking. We don't have to put up with our dis-ease and struggle alone. God, our heavenly father, is only a prayer away. Not just twice a day, after meals, but whenever we need Him.



# News from St. Martin's from St. Mary's

We do not have a report from St. Martin's but I know that Heather Terry and Alan wish to thank everyone for their loving support and prayers in the past month.

It is good to thank those who hold us in their prayers when we ourselves are in need. Heather is extremely grateful to the Hospital and to those who visited her whilst she was housebound in Penzance.

I hear there was a party at the Tennis Courts on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> for Terry Perkins on his retirement from boating. We give thanks for his care when transporting us to and from St. Martin's for services and wish him and Jacqui every happiness in the future.

# **Circuit News**

Steven Wild was able to visit our tiny circuit at the end of May and this was a special visit to introduce Rev Carole Holmes, she will be keeping an eye on us and helping us during Steve's Presidency of the Methodist Church . We will uphold Steve and Laura and his family in our prayers during this time, as greater than ever demands will be made on him. It is a great honour to be chosen to lead our church and we know God will bless all that he continues to do in drawing others to know Jesus as their Saviour and friend. We also pray for Carol Holmes and Danny Reid as they take over the reins of the District for this year.

Charlie Gibbs, our Superindent Minister is being given three months sabbatical leave during August, September and October and whilst he is away we will be looked after by Rev. Jane Wilcock, Rev. Peter Stephens and Rev. Margaret Barnes. We pray that this will be a given time of rest (from us?) renewal and healing. May God bless both him and Mary.

 $\sim$  When you go to church you should actively seek something. You must not go like an empty basket, waiting passively to be filled. Roger William Riis



**NCH Action for Children** 146 years ago the Methodist Church here in Great Britain founded its own children's charity, then known as the National Childrens Homes. This is now known as Action for Children. Although our Circuit here in the Isles of

Scilly is among the smallest in the country we are yet almost the best supporter of the charity. We raise money by various ways, with book sales for example- our next one is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August in the Hall from 10.30 - 4.00 and with a copper collection in the Chapel vestibule and boxes are used by people in their homes. We also give the offerings at Christmas services.

Each year the Society designates a day for us to think about and give thanks for the work they do for children. This year we shall be holding their work, and the children they help, in our prayers during the morning service on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Through the giving of its supporters 300.000 vulnerable children, young people and their families.
- The charity has run 650 services helping children, young people and families.
- 2,000 volunteers help in this work
- 96 pence of every pound went to helping children and their families.

A prayer for July 12<sup>th</sup> Generous and compassionate God, we thank you for the work and ministry of all involved with Action for Children. We thank you for all who have worked and are working today with your precious children and their families, throughout this organisation We pray for those who set aside time to listen, to play and to care for the needs of little ones, putting your love into action in so many different ways. We also pray for those who set aside precious time to campaign for change in legislation which will enhance the lives of Children and families. For the work of Action for Children we give thanks. In Jesus' Name. Amen

**Love One Another** The Parish Pump starts a new series this month looking at the 'one anothers' in the New Testament. We begin with the challenge of loving one another, as John says, 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God' (1 John 4:7). Authentic Christian community in our churches will be shaped by how much we love each other. What does John say about this?

# Recognise that God first loved us:

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' (Chrissy, age 6). At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Although we are underserving, God demonstrated His love for us in the person of Jesus, by sending Him to die for us, 'This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins' (10). We can only show God's love to others if we have first-hand experience ourselves. It's the Holy Spirit who draws us into the loving embrace of the Father and Son, to enable us to experience the love between members of the Trinity.

# Recognise the call to love one another:

How can we show people what God's love looks like? It will be seen and experienced in the life of the Christian community within our churches. 'No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us' (12). Significantly John uses the same opening phrase in John1:18 when referring to Jesus. The implication of his words is that if you want to know what God is like you have to look to Jesus and the Church!

**As 'Church'**, we are called to demonstrate God's love in the way we behave together, by how we pray, support, encourage, forgive and welcome each other. How do we experience God's love in the groups and Sunday congregations that we belong to? Colin Urquhart has talked about a roundabout which most churches reach at some point, when they ask, 'Where do we go from here?' There are various roads off the roundabout, marked 'evangelism', 'healing', 'social involvement' etc. They try the roads but find they all lead back to the roundabout. Finally, they notice a little dirt track marked 'love one another'. So often God has to being us back to that track and tell as again, love one another! 13

# A Shepherd, waiting

(Mk6:34, Heb13:8)

Sheep without a shepherd – wandering this way and that, not knowing the way or whose voice to listen to; uncertain, uncared for, anxious, lost and in danger.

Here we are in our post-modern, sophisticated culture, still sheep without a shepherd. But Jesus has compassion today, yesterday and forever for those who run to Him.

He loves. He provides. He alone satisfies and makes sense of the wanderings. Nothing is wasted. There is a Shepherd, waiting...

By Daphne Kitching



<sup>&</sup>quot;Jesus said, 1 am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."" John 10:71





Birthdays in July Happy Birthday to you, May God Bless you today and every day.

Barbara Anderson, Shannon Aston, Adele Bird, Jo Fairburn, Kenzie Ferguson, Benjamin Jenkins, Pam Manning, Rachel Mary, Christine Savill, Margaret Snowball, Pam Thomas, Val Thomas, Isobel Trenear.



**Holiday Club** This will be held from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August until Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. It is wonderful opportunity for а enjoy fun children to and fellowship together and learn about Jesus the Light of the World. Primary School aged

children including visitors will be made most welcome. Sessions are from 9.30- 11.30



**Last laughter lines** I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

Australian entering hospital: "'Ullow, Steve."

"'Ullow, Jim. Come in to die?" "No, yesterday."

Thanks to <u>www.parishpump.co.uk</u>. for the use of their material. <u>www.scillymethodists.co.uk</u> for more info on our churches.

Editorial team Anne Gurr Val Parker Mary Ratcliffe <u>e.anne.gurr@gmail.com</u> <u>martinandval.parker@gmail.com</u> <u>maryratcliffe@live.com</u>

# PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact Charlie Gibbs 422406 and then me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030. I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

<b>Mervyn &amp; Stephanie Bird</b>	<b>423117</b>
Sue Williams	422605
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360
<b>Claire Jenkins</b>	<b>423546</b>
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854
<b>Barbara Hasler</b>	<b>422208</b>
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pam Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404
<b>Beryl Read</b>	<b>422977</b>
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.

*If anyone else would like to join in this special ministry please contact me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of his grace* 

# **July Services**

# St. Mary's

# July 5<sup>th</sup>

9.15 a.m. All Age Worship Team11.00 a.m. Rev David Easton Holy Communion4.00 p.m. Park House Barbara Hasler8.00 p.m. Len Michell

# July 12th

9.15 a.m.	Barbara Hasler & Mervyn Bird - Worship Leader
11.00 a.m.	Rev C Gibbs
8.00 p.m.	Rev Charlie Gibbs

#### July 19th

9.15 a.m	Gordon Bird & Kim Watson - Worship Leader
11.00 a.m.	Len Michell
8.00 p.m.	Rev. C Gibbs Songs of Praise

# July 26<sup>th</sup>

9.15 a.m.	Rev Charlie Gibbs & Sonia Crompton - Worship Leader
11.00 a.m.	Rev. C Gibbs
8.00pm	Lifeboat Service Rev. C Gibbs with Canon Paul Miller

# St. Martin's

July 5th	
6.00 p.m.	Rev. David Easton Holy Communion

#### July 12th

11.00 a.m. Christopher Savill

#### July 19th

11.00 a.m. Rev. Charlie Gibbs

#### July 26<sup>th</sup>

11.00 a.m. Barbara Hasler