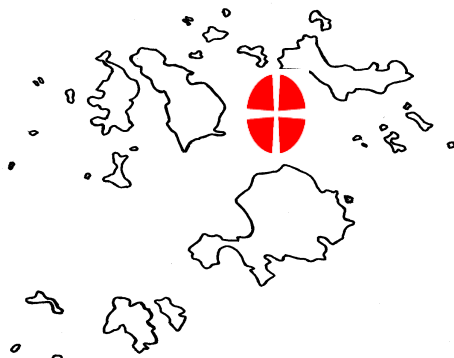


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

JUNE 2013

Some thoughts from the Manse



Those who are resident on these beautiful islands look forward to the 'Blooming Month of June!' Yes our sub-tropical gardens are there to welcome visitors, the days are long, the sunsets stunning, and we trust that the weather and the seas will be kind as people make long and sometimes difficult journeys to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this

unique location.

Our Methodist churches on St Mary's and St Martin's are an important part of this island community and our weekly worship is a place of welcome for all. As we know, for a number of years there has been a fine Exhibition of Photographs in our St Martin's Chapel which is added to each year and attracts many who learn much from these pictures of the special way of life on this tiny island. We are delighted that this year we are also able to offer this at our St Mary's chapel where June Lethbridge has gathered together a selection of photographs telling the story of island life on St Mary's over the past eighty years. We hope that this attracts as many visitors as our exhibition on St Martin's.

Over the summer months as a church we have invited special guests to share in our worship and give us a glimpse into the wider life of our world-wide Methodist Church. In May we welcomed two Nigerian Bishops, the Rt Revd Livinus Onuagha and the Rt Revd Sunday Eze who were able to share with us some good news from our church in Africa. With this they also brought us encouragement and challenge.

On the 9th of this month an old friend of these islands, Dudley Coates, will be preaching at our St Martin's chapel in worship led by our minister. Dudley as many of you will know has served our church as Vice-President of Conference, and we rejoice in the friendship we have with him and his family.

At the end of the month John Hogarth is returning to Scilly to lead a special study day on St Martin's on the 22nd and leading our Circuit Service, also on St Martin's on the 23rd. At this service we will be celebrating Circuit life and our two preachers in training Mary Ratcliffe and David Pender will be taking part. Be sure to come to St Martin's for this special Circuit Service and share together in a fish and chips lunch. This annual event reminds us

of how important it is to meet together as a church family and to enjoy God's gift of fellowship and friendship.

Last month Mary and I were away for two weeks to visit friends and family on the mainland. While there I was asked to preach at Clacton on Sea. It was well over fifty years ago that I last visited Clacton as a child when living in London. Clacton is certainly very different to my childhood memories of that seaside town and my visit to the church in the town centre reminded me of how fortunate the residents of Scilly are compared to many other parts of Britain, despite our isolation and difficulties surrounding transport to and from the islands.

The Methodist Church in Clacton is very involved with helping those in need. It is open every day providing shelter and activities for the homeless. It has a programme helping those in the grip of alcohol and drug abuse, and helps to provide food for those in poverty with a food bank that is struggling to keep up with demand, all very different to our day-to-day life on St Mary's. It was a humbling experience to hear their stories and to experience for myself their determination to make a difference in people's lives by sacrificially serving those in need.

It is good for us all to be aware of people living in places that are different to where we live, it certainly made me stop and think, and it reminded me of how in all the Gospels that Jesus travels from the relative comfort of Galilee across the sea to a place known as the 'Gerasenes'

In Luke's record of this journey we read the challenging story of Jesus and His disciples going to the place that most from their religious and pious community back home in Galilee would avoid at all costs, and of how, as they step into this place of darkness and despair, they meet with those who are viewed as despised outcasts by those living in the comfort of Galilee. As we read what Luke records, we are deeply moved as Jesus seeks to bring hope to those who have been rejected by others, and we are challenged as to what we may do as we seek to be His disciples today.

Luke tells the sad story of a poor man who was living at the very edge of this deprived community. This man was at the very bottom of the social ladder, and his life was one of chaos and darkness. The wretched man had fallen as far as any human being could fall. He had totally lost his self-respect, he had once

been held prisoner but had used his brute strength to break his chains and escape to an isolated graveyard which was now his home. He wore no clothes, he was now in a terrible state in every way, and his immense strength was now only used for his own injury and shame. Indeed the picture Luke brings before us must surely be one of the most pitiful pictures to be found anywhere in the pages of our Bibles.

The vivid images that Luke brings before us are certainly very different to life as we experience it here on the beautiful Isles of Scilly, but we know that today there are those in places away from here who have found themselves in that spiral of events which leads to a life of depravity and being cut off from those around them.

Yes, some people's lives are very different to ours. Today we know that there are those whose lives are destroyed by self-destructive habits, and we know that today families can be torn apart when a father or mother, or a son or daughter seems determined to plunge themselves into such a life, and we know that very often in these tragic situations we look on feeling helpless as others get caught up in these great turmoils of life.

Luke tells us that Jesus goes to this place of despair with His God-given authority to bring change, healing and renewal, and this is surely the great challenge for his followers today no matter where we may live and worship. Do we today believe in the God-given authority of Jesus? Do we still believe in His promised victory over the evils of dankness in this fallen world, and are we living this victory and proclaiming His victory in our community today?

During the summer months we rejoice that visitors come to join in our weekly worship, and we give thanks that many on the mainland receive this monthly newsletter. It is important for us to hear news of what is happening in your church, so please do tell us, or drop a line to either me or our editors so that we may share this news with others. In our worship week by week we give thanks to our Sovereign God for his provision in our daily lives, and for the victory won by Jesus that can give us hope even in the great turmoils of life. Even here in this close knit community are those who seem trapped by circumstances which they seem powerless to change, and our mission on these islands must always be to never look the other way, but to instead go into these places of

darkness and despair that we may be channels of Jesus's light and victory today,

May we know both His victory and His authority in our daily lives, and may we His church be prepared to take up our cross and to follow our Lord to where ever He may lead us upon our journey through life.

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

Charles Gibbs

Visit of Bishop Livinus Onuagha and Bishop Sunday Eze

What an inspiring and challenging weekend we experienced when these two Bishops came to our islands. They were captivated by its beauty. I was fortunate to spend a whole day with them on Agnes and though the day was physically tiring my spirit was lifted by being in the presence of these men of God. We thank Charlie for making it possible for so many of us to meet with them, they brought encouragement and challenge in equal measure. We do need to be challenged to pray and to rely on God's Holy Spirit to guide us through prayer, as to how we can reach our neighbours with the good news. We certainly cannot do it in our own strength. Pray hard my friends, pray for the Spirit to fill us each day and then we can all rejoice in what God can do in our community.

Mary

Thanks

As usual we served refreshments down on the quay on the Saturday of 'Gig Weekend'. After expenses we had a profit of £670, so a big thank you to all who contributed.

Sue Williams

News from St Martin's



In addition to having our small congregation boosted by regular holiday makers during April and early May, Maria (Tomlinson) joined us one Sunday afternoon. Maria is the latest to join a small group of St. Mary's members who occasionally like to cross the water to worship on St. Martins. It is good to see fresh faces and we hope they feel welcome. Another visitor on May 5th was the Rt Revd. Livinus Onuagha, a bishop within the Nigerian Methodist Church. It was a pleasure for Barbara (Hasler), Alan and me to witness his delight and joy when experiencing the beauty of Scilly, the motion of a jet boat and the spectacle of a World Pilot Gig Championship heat. Livinus's camera was well used throughout the morning, when he recorded general scenes, images of our Chapel and a group picture of the congregation.

During Barbara's service Bishop Livinus spoke of his ministry within the Christian communities of his own country. He highlighted the utmost importance which they place on bringing children and young people into the Church, and contrasted their expectations with those he has seen during his time in England. We were also reminded of the extreme poverty suffered by some Nigerian people, and of the continued need for more schools closer to the pupils' homes, thus avoiding lengthy daily walks to secure an education. It is a humbling experience to learn first hand of the trials endured by others across the world and a reminder to thank God for the blessings we so easily take for granted.

Charlie and Mary are now on holiday; we trust they will return to the Islands feeling refreshed after visiting friends and family in Norfolk. Finally a thank you to the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders who are covering all the services whilst Charlie is away.

Heather Terry

Some comments from our Minister on the St Mary's Annual Church Meeting on the 29th May 2013

It was a delight that so many came to the Annual Church Meeting on 29th May, and that those present were able to speak in such a positive way about the vision we have for being an important and caring part of the island community on St Mary's.

The day started with two acts of worship. At 9.15 Neil Didlick led our morning worship and Len Michell was the preacher. At this well attended act of worship there was certainly an atmosphere of God being present, and this was a reminder that our weekly worship is the very bedrock of our church life. At the 11.00 am worship I preached on the need to live Christ-like lives, and of how we need to grasp that, and when we seek to do that, we will know God's blessing on our mission and ministry to the whole community on St Mary's.

At noon we gathered in the hall where a splendid bring and share lunch had been prepared. Barbara Hasler said grace and the hall was full of noise and laughter as young and old shared in fellowship and fine food. At about 1pm the Annual Church Meeting started with the singing of 'This, this is the God we adore' which set the tone for what was to be a meeting where many spoke and shared their vision for the future of our church.

I was able to give a report on the past year listing some of the new ventures that had happened in the past year, and also to address the great challenges that are faced by us seeking to 'be church' in this present age and culture. After this address comments were made and questions asked.

Dorothy Beedell spoke of how there is a need for young and old to feel part of the same church family. Anne Gurr spoke on the need to communicate all that is happening in the life of the church, and in particular to make better use of our In Touch magazine.

Mary Ratcliffe, who that morning had preached on St Martin's spoke on how the Lay Witness weekend will be of help in bringing us into being a closer fellowship and strengthen our mission and care in the community.

Rose Didlick spoke of plans to increase the attendance at our Circuit Service on the 23rd June on St Martin's and plans to share together in a fish and chip luncheon after worship. Rose is to speak with our friends on St Martin's so that they will join us

for this and we will be looking into how we may find help with transport costs to help families to attend this circuit event. It is clear that we recognise and seek to increase the fellowship between our two churches despite being separated by sometimes raging seas. It was noted in this meeting that our 'Circuit Identity' is an important part of our mission to the wider Scillonian community.

Vicki Smith spoke of the church visit to Spring Harvest by 16 of our members and the encouragement this had been in seeking to connect with families. Those who had been to this event had come back with a great enthusiasm to share the Gospel, and they were assured of the support of our Church Council in seeking to put new ideas in place to try and share our message of new life in Jesus. Vicki and Merryn were thanked for their excellent work with the Children's Church on St Mary's

It was a great joy to the meeting that, when we came to elect those to serve on our Church Council, two new names were put forward. Leigh Kendrick and Anthea Roberts, both young mums, have offered to serve. This is good as this will enable us as a Church Council to take into account those with families in the life of the church. They will take their seat at our next Church Council meeting on the 4th September at 7 pm. Other members of the church have offered to look after children so that they may be present.

Mrs Sylvia Michell asked to stand down as a representative from this meeting to our Church Council, although she will still have a seat as being our Pastoral Secretary. Sylvia was thanked for her many years of being a representative from the meeting.

Our serving Church Stewards were re-elected and a new Church Steward was added to the team. This was Leigh Kendrick, and this was a great delight to all present. Philip Lethbridge our senior steward and the others will be doing all they can to support Leigh in this important post which she will hold from 1st September.

It had been agreed by the St Mary's Church Council to put in place a scheme of giving to those in need based upon the biblical concept of 'Tithing' This year we were able to take a tithe from our freewill offerings from September 2011 to August 2012, This amounted to just over £2400. Our treasurer Sue Williams had a list of several charities to which the money could be given. The list was read and comments invited from the meeting.

Neil Didlick then gave a presentation for a charity 'Compassion' working with young people overseas. This project was added to the list and the monies divided and allocated. The exact details of this will be found in the minutes taken by Beryl Read at the meeting, but it was a delight to be able to give these monies to those in need. The charities included The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, £380; Methodist Homes for the Aged, £380; U.C.D.F., £380; Water Aid, £380; Judy Purkiss Travel Fund, £380; and 'Compassion UK', £504 – this is to sponsor a child through the Charity for two years.

This act of giving in such a generous way certainly seemed to unite our church family, and in keeping with the hymn sung at the start of the meeting we truly could say 'We thank God for all that is past, and we trust him for all that's to come!'

We trust that this annual meeting was pleasing to God. We look forward to his continued blessing on our church and circuit, and we seek to uphold our vision of the true unity which is surely a very precious gift for us to grasp and use for the mission of our church.

The hope for our church and circuit is that we will seek to trust in God's provision, to live sacrificial lives with the hope of His Holy Spirit, and to work tirelessly in proclaiming Jesus as the Saviour of the world.

Charles R Gibbs 29th April 2013

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Rick was excited about the task -- but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

Petroc – the founder of Padstow

St Petroc's day is celebrated on the 4th of June. While the name is familiar to us I am sure that many don't know much about Petroc.

If you are going to Cornwall this summer in search of peace and quiet, Petroc is the saint for you. Especially if you find Padstow a bit too crowded for your liking! He would have sympathised.

This 6th century abbot is Cornwall's most famous saint. Petroc set sail from South Wales, landed at Haylemouth, and founded a monastery at Lanwethinoc – now called Padstow, after him (Petroc's Stow).

Padstow must have been popular even in those days, because about 30 years later Petroc, in search of some peace and quiet, moved on to build another monastery at Little Petherick (Nanceventon). Here he must have decided to try some 6th century equivalent of 'Fresh Expressions', because he engaged with his local community by building a mill and a chapel.

In time, Petroc began feeling crowded again. So he tramped off to the remote wilds of Bodmin Moor, where he lived as a hermit – until some 12 monks turned up to join him. Firmly, Petroc kept them all housed in a monastery on a hilltop, while he enjoyed his private space in a cell by the river.

But even here Petroc was not alone. One day a terrified stag came rushing through the woods, pursued by the hunt. Petroc flung open the door of his cell, and the panting animal took refuge. When the huntsmen arrived on the scene, they did not dare to argue with the famous holy man, and went their way. The stag's gratitude made him tame, and Petroc would come to be portrayed with a stag as his special emblem.

Petroc was buried in the monastery in Padstow but in about 1000 his shrine and relics, including his staff and bell, were moved to Bodmin. Here they have stayed ever since, except for a short, unplanned trip to Brittany in 1177, when they were stolen and carted off by a naughty Canon of the Church. Henry II intervened, and everything but a rib of Petroc was eventually returned.

Summer Solstice – longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. Sol + stice come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

A Cantic for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.
He is lovely and radiant and grand;
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

St Francis of Assisi

God in All

He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land.
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

St Patrick

Compassion

As you will have read elsewhere in this magazine the St Mary's Church Meeting decided to support the charity 'Compassion'. For those who are not familiar with the charity, here is a brief description of their work, taken from their website www.compassionuk.org

Compassion is an international Christian child development and child advocacy ministry. Partnering with local churches, we are committed to the spiritual, economic and physical development of children living in extreme poverty in 26 countries, enabling them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.

Compassion's work began in South Korea in 1952 when American evangelist Rev. Everett Swanson felt compelled to help 35 children orphaned by the Korean conflict.

Today we have a world-wide ministry where over one million children are now reaping the benefits of one man's clear God-given vision. Our founder was inspired by Matthew 15: 32 where Jesus says, 'I have compassion for these people - I do not want to send them away hungry'.

Action for Children



Yet again we are having a grand fund-raising day for our Methodist children's charity. On Saturday 8th June we shall be in the Methodist Hall from 10am until early afternoon. There will be a very large bookstall and coffee, tea and other refreshments on sale.

Last time, on Monday April 1st, we suffered no 'Old Fools Day' and raised the magnificent sum of £310 just from the sale of books, very cheaply and all in excellent condition. We still have a large stock of volumes we need to sell, so please come along and buy and share in good fellowship. It is sad that the charity's work with children is still as much needed as ever in this country.

Gwen Clarkson Action for Children Representative

Birthdays in June



This month we send our greetings to Rose Didlick, Ann Elgawad, Sam Grossett, Kenneth Jackson Cocking, June Lethbridge, Philip Lethbridge, Steve Manning, Janis Nightingale, Tony Nightingale, Iona Perkins, Jacky Perkins, Tianna Rose, Christopher Savill, Hallie Shave,

Tricia Thomas and Gillian Trenear.

*Happy Birthday to you
To Jesus be true
God bless you and keep you
Happy Birthday to you*

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This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website www.scillymethodists.co.uk and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed. If you would prefer to read In Touch in this way please let us know and we can save the cost of a paper copy.

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Some material in this magazine was obtained from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

## River and Sky

Move our hearts with the calm, smooth flow of your grace. Let the river of your love run through our souls. May my soul be carried by the current of your love, towards the wide, infinite ocean of heaven. Stretch out my heart with your strength, as you stretch out the sky above the earth. Smooth out any wrinkles of hatred or resentment. Enlarge my soul that it may know more fully your truth.

*A prayer of Gilbert of Hoyland, (died c.1170, Abbot of the Cistercian monastery of Swineshead in Lincolnshire)*

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### Crisis in Syria – help the MRDF to help them

More than three million people have been forced to flee their homes due to the ongoing conflict in Syria. Local infrastructure has been severely damaged, meaning food supplies are limited and many families lack access to water or basic medical care. A million people are estimated to have fled to neighbouring countries where they are finding supplies are stretched and refugee camps nearly filled to capacity.

Donations to MRDF's Syria Appeal will pay for essential supplies such as food, hygiene kits and warm clothes, as well as counselling for those who have experienced trauma, and remedial classes for children who are missing out on normal education. You can give £5 now by texting 'MRDF13 £5' to 70070 or visit [www.mrdf.org.uk](http://www.mrdf.org.uk)

He who is not liberal with what he has, does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more. – *W. S. Plumer*

## **Spring Harvest - Coming home - Share and tell**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May and the 10.30 all-age service was the time when everyone heard about the Spring Harvest gathering. Sixteen men, women and children travelled to Minehead to spend time with each other, worship and learn more of how they could live lives which show God's love in the wider community. It was obvious that all who went enjoyed themselves and this was shown in the service through pictures and video interviews. This included a joke from Jeremiah!

New songs were learnt at Minehead and we were able to join with the music group in singing them. Rebecca Smith made her debut with the group. Well done Becky! We had many visitors including Stephen and Heather Radford. Stephen

preached at our evening service on the subject of prayer, recalling Paul and Silas praying at midnight which resulted in the jailor and his family hearing the word.

When we pray, mighty things of God begin to happen, just as they did then. So let us pray!

**Songs of Praise and lunch.** May 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a great joy to come together on Pentecost Sunday to sing praises and later provide lunch and friendship to those who normally lunch in isolation. We celebrated life itself on this the birthday of the church, remembering Emma Roberts' recent 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and looking forward to Joe's 96<sup>th</sup> in a few weeks' time. Joe regularly comes to church and collects our offerings. Thanks to everyone involved who made this day a very special day indeed, cooking, carrying, serving and loving. May I thank everyone for taking over the arrangements for this at the last minute, Beryl Read in particular.

Mary

*My apologies to Mary for having to put this important description of our recent services so far back in the magazine but it came in just as I was about to do the printing and so I didn't have the time to completely rearrange all the articles.*

Anne

## **By the Sea**

I walked alone beside the sea,  
And as I walked there seemed to be  
An unseen friend walked by my side  
As I wondered at the changing tide.

He rules the sea, the sky, the land,  
The moon and stars hear his command,  
All else, but man, joins his melody  
Of love and faith and harmony.

His gentle voice spoke from the sea  
'Be not afraid, just follow me'.  
I noticed not the time or way  
As we walked and talked that day.

I lingered there until the sun  
Dipped in the sea, and day was done.  
My cares, my fears all slipped away  
Because I walked with him that day.

I hurried home, by duty called,  
All seemed right within its walls.  
My hopes renewed, tears washed away  
Because I talked with God that day.

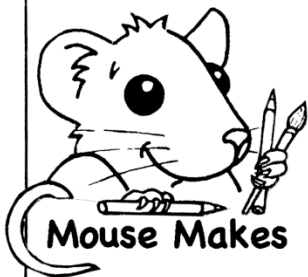
*With thanks to Royton Methodist Church magazine.*

## **Exam**

An ill-prepared student taking an exam in theology finally gave up by writing on his paper: 'Only God knows the answers to these questions. I'm off for the summer to enjoy His Creation'.

The professor marked the paper and added this note: 'God gets 100, you get 0. Watch out for sunburn'.






You may have read the bible story of Daniel in the lions den, but have you ever read the whole book of Daniel?

Take your time and read a little each day and find out about *the vegetables*, the statue, *the gold idol*, the furnace, *the tree*, the writing on the wall, *the lions*, the four animals, *the ram and the goat*, and the man.

Hidden in the lion's mouth are all these names and words, can you find them?

- DANIEL
- ASHPENAZ
- HANANIAH
- MISHAEL
- AZARIAH
- DREAM
- STATUE
- IDOL
- FURNACE
- TREE
- WRITING
- WALL
- DARIUS
- LIONS
- PRAYER
- GOD
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR



  
 Ashpenaz changed the names of Daniel and his friends. Look up *Daniel 1:7* to see what he changed them to.

## June Services

### St. Mary's

#### **June 2nd**

10.00am Children's Church  
11.00am Rev. C. Gibbs  
8.00pm Rev. Mollie Greenwood

#### **June 9th**

10.30 a.m Len Michell and Neil Didlick  
8.00p Rev. C. Gibbs

#### **June 16th**

9.15am Rev. C. Gibbs & Beryl Read  
11.00am Rev. C. Gibbs  
*Holy Communion*  
8.00pm Len Michell

#### **June 23rd**

**11.00am** **Circuit Service on St Martin's**  
8.00pm Rev. C. Gibbs *Holy Communion*

#### **June 30th**

9.15am David Pender & Mervyn Bird  
11.00am Rev. C. Gibbs  
8.00pm Rev. C. Gibbs *Songs of Praise*

### St. Martin's

#### **June 2nd**

11.00am Rev. Mollie Greenwood

#### **June 9th**

11.00 am Rev C Gibbs & Dudley Coates  
*Holy Communion*

#### **June 16th**

11.00 a.m Gordon Bird

#### **June 23rd**

**11.00 a.m** **Circuit Service**

#### **June 30th**

11.00 a.m Neil Didlick

### Park House

#### **June 2nd**

4pm Rev. C. Gibbs