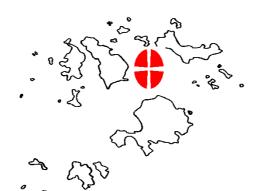
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n Touch

Methodist Church Circuit

June 2016

Chairman of the District

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell Gordon Bird Mary Ratcliffe 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 Mrs Heather Terry

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge
Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read
Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Leigh Kendrick

St. Martin's Mrs Barbara Jones

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605
Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977
Hall Booking Secretary Mary Ratcliffe 423030
Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117
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

Some thoughts for the month of June from the St Mary's Manse.....

June is certainly a fine month to visit our beautiful islands. The longest day of the year will be on the 20th when we can expect twelve hours and fifteen minutes of sunlight, and I am quite sure that all those who come back year after year to visit our islands will agree with me when I say that the Isles of Scilly is a great place to be in the month of June.

June is the month that we usually have a special service when the two chapels that make up our tiny circuit come together to celebrate the work and mission of the Methodist Church on these beautiful islands. This year our service will be on St Martin's on the 26th. If you are a resident on Scilly, or will be on holiday here on this date, put it in your diary now and come along in the morning to St Martin's, and join us after the service for lunch together.

This June we are delighted to have Rev Colin Short with us for two Sundays (the 12th and the 19th). Colin is coming over to lead us in celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the 'Bible Christian' movement which started in Cornwall in1815. This is particularly relevant to us on Scilly as both of our chapels were originally part of the Bible Christian Connexion, and hence part of our heritage.

The Bible Christian Connexion owes its origins to a Cornishman by the name of William Bryant who left his Wesleyan traditions to go out among the people as an evangelist. The Cornwall Methodist District have planned a year long series of events to mark this as it became such an important branch of our heritage in Cornwall and the islands. Colin's visit is all part of the events planned over this important year.

Our District Chairman Steve Wild has also been speaking about the Bible Christian movement during his year as President of Conference, and has been reminding the Methodist people up and down the nation of how important evangelism is in the life of our church.

Colin will be leading our worship on St Mary's on the 12th and on St Martin's on the 19th. These services will be in what has sometimes been called 'the broad evangelical tradition', which

was very much the way of the Bible Christian movement. We will be singing some of those wonderful Bible Christian hymns to their preferred tunes, and at both of these services Colin will be using an order of worship for Holy Communion adapted from the Bible Christian orders. Colin will also be speaking about this important part of our history at a fellowship evening on Friday 17th on St Mary's. This all sounds very exciting and we give thanks that Colin is able to be with us at this time. As Methodists we can learn a great deal about 'being church' from our history. We find that evangelism is a crucial part of our heritage, and although we acknowledge that the challenges before us in the world today are different to those of earlier generations we still see proclaiming and sharing the good news of The Gospel as the crucial part of our mission in the communities in which we live.

John who is the author of the fourth Gospel is sometimes described as 'The Evangelist', and those of us who love his Gospel so much certainly are inspired to share our precious Christian Faith by his challenging account of the saving grace of our Sovereign God. The age in which we live is certainly very different to the age of William Bryant in 19th century Cornwall, but the words of scripture that inspired him to go out and give testimony are the same words that inspire and equip each of us to be evangelists today. For decade after decade, with just a few exceptions, most of us have witnessed nothing other than a slow but steady decline in most areas of church life. This dilemma I know is very real among those who I meet within the life of our church. My observations and the conclusions that I have reached are of course very much coloured by my many years of being a Methodist minister.

The statistics and the facts back up my observations. That which is so precious to me and to those who I have served alongside over the years is no longer seen in the same way by the vast majority of those in our nation today.

Work with children in so many places that once knew this as an important part of their church mission now rarely see a child in worship. Certainly in the great majority of Methodist churches that I have served in over the years this is the situation they now face. Those halcyon days of the Sunday-school Anniversaries and the vibrant youth rallies for the time being seem to be a thing of a

past generation. Yet in the midst of this very real change where the church is still in the community there is hope, the numbers may be far smaller than they once were but the hope expressed in the pages of John's Gospel is still witnessed in those who find hope in our Lord and His promises today. John's words certainly ring true when we read He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave them the right to become children of God."

Throughout my life and ministry I have met with many whose lives have been changed and transformed by receiving this message of hope. People from all walks of life and from widely differing backgrounds all can find hope and comfort in this Jesus, who is so vividly and perfectly laid before us by John. This is surely the Gospel for all, for from the greatest to the lowest the message is clear, 'Jesus has come that we may have life and life in abundance!'

We look forward to Colin coming to Scilly to remind us of how committed those Bible Christians were in proclaiming God's promises in the communities in which they lived, and we give thanks that God's promises are just as true today in this age of change and doubt. We pray for safe journeys for those who visit our islands and for islanders when they visit the mainland.

We continue to thank our Sovereign Lord for all that is past, and we continue to trust Him for all that is to come!

I remain, by His grace, the Methodist minister on these remote yet beautiful islands for a while longer. Charles R Gibbs

Gig Weekend.



Thanks to all who contributed to raising funds for the Chapel during Gig Weekend. Generous giving of cakes and time was

greatly appreciated. Truro Gig Club arranged for an Irish Ladies Crew to use our hall. They appreciated our hospitality and we appreciated the opportunity to let our hall for the weekend. They have already asked if they can book it for 2017.

News from St Martin's

I am once again writing the notes from St. Martins, as Val and Graham Thomas are spending time in South Wales with their new granddaughter. As a church we send our congratulations to Merryn and Chris on the safe arrival of Bryher; a bonny baby who kept Mum and Dad and their family and friends on tender hooks for a couple of weeks, before deciding it was time to join them! We trust Bryher will enjoy a happy and healthy life, which includes regular visits to St. Martins where several of her close and extended family live.

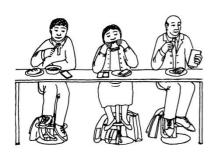
Uncle Rodney is now well enough to play again and it is good to see him sitting back on the organ stool. His rest from duties was extended by two weeks, as one of Gladys's cousins played for us whilst on holiday. Wendy usually gives Uncle Rodney a break when she is here, and I know he appreciates her willingness which was even more welcome this year. We give thanks that prayers have been answered in respect of his recovery and return to strength.

On April 21st we finally held our annual Church Meeting, which had been delayed for various reasons but mainly because of member's holidays. Christopher as Property Secretary outlined the intended improvements to the building and his efforts to engage people to undertake the work. Alan our Treasurer reported on a healthy financial situation, but said there would be a moderate drop in reserves once the re-decoration and health and safety issues were addressed. It was noted that the exhibition of photographs continued to generate a welcome steady income. Those who attended the recent Safeguarding training reported about it, and it was agreed for Barbara Jones to be the St. Martins Chapel Safeguarding Officer. In light of the training, an updated Safeguarding Policy was approved by all members, and it will soon be displayed on the recently purchased notice board for inside Chapel. Again we would like to express out thanks to those who lead our worship; the time and skill you devote to preparation is appreciated. A special thank you to Barbara and Len, who are determined in their witness despite not always feeling well. Heather Terry.

Circuit Service Reminder, June 26th St. Martin's

The Circuit Service is arranged to be on St Martin's at 11.00 a.m. on June 26th. It is anticipated that those crossing from St. Mary's will use the tripper boat which leaves at 10.15 a.m. the tide table suggests that Higher Town will be the chosen quay on that day, but you can never be sure! Heather will liase with the boatmen about this and the return times. She is sure transport can be arranged for anyone requiring it. The Circuit will pay the boat fares for local children up to the age of sixteen.

The above is a condensed version of Heather's article last month for those of us who need reminding! Editor's note.



CIRCUIT SERVICE ON ST.MARTINS SUNDAY JUNE 26TH 2016

As I wrote at some length about arrangements for the Circuit Service in the May edition of In Touch, this entry is just a reminder to folk on St. Mary's about letting Beryl

know if, after worship, they would like a fish and chip lunch at Adam's and Fiona's restaurant. Thanks Heather.

A Chorister's Confession

Almighty and most merciful conductor, we have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep. We have followed too much the intonations and tempo of our own hearts. We have offended against thy dynamic markings. We have left unsung those notes we ought to have sung and there is no support in us. But thou, O conductor have mercy upon us miserable singers succour the chorally challenged. Restore thou them that need extra note bashing, spare thou them that are without pencil. Pardon our mistakes and have faith that hereafter we will follow thy direction and sing together in perfect harmony. If only it were true!



On Friday mornings from 10.00 a.m. knitters and crocheters gather together in the Manse to spend time together making hats, scarves or twiddlemuffs for those we do not know, either shoebox children or elderly people in care We are pleased to host this community activitity and new friendships have already been made. Thanks

Teddy Knitters and Action for Children.

homes.

be to God.

Gwen Clarkson writes expressing "thanks to all our lovely Teddy knitters, they keep me well supplied and no two bears are ever quite the same! Where do they go? Well, they have different destinations now from times past. We have decided that any child who is baptised in the churches here will be given a Teddy. we have another outlet in Camborne where a clergyman gives Teddies to the children of poor families which he helps. A box of Teddies will be sent to Uganda in early 2017.

Sadly we had to postpone our usual Spring Grand Booksale and Coffee Morning in aid of our Methodist Children's charity. Our Grand Booksale and Coffee Morning will now be on Saturday June 18th from 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Offers of help on the day will be needed, with the books laid out according to their subjects, including books for children. We will, as usual, be grateful for cakes & biscuits for the morning.

This will be the last money raising event for the charity under the leadership of our Minister Revd. Charlie Gibbs. We thank him and his dear wife Mary, for the great support they have given to this charity during his ministry here in the Isles.

Spring Synod 2016

This year I was able to be at Synod for the whole day and apart from the mundane, but necessary, business reports it was an opportunity to hear about the work of Methodism in the Cornwall District. On page 10 you will like me be able to read the District Evangelist's report which brings humour to our need to share the Gospel.

I found the talks given by those who minister as Chaplains to School, Hospital and Agriculture most interesting.

The Chaplain to the School spoke of her ministry to staff and children and being given the opportunity to work alongside the School's own Pastoral team. She is 'on call' for them all. Besides Assembly work she attends School events, which gives her the opportunity to be alongside people. She also spoke of the stress in schools amongst teachers and students. She has created a prayer space and students and children have made a prayer space in the form of a tree on a wall on which post it notes can be fixed.

The Chaplain to the Hospital spoke of the changes to chaplaincy within the N.H.S. noting that the structure had changed. He spoke about being a Chaplain at Treliske and the importance of being alongside those who were facing major changes in their life. It is a vital and legitimate ministry and does give opportunities for mission in reminding patients that God cares for everyone.

The Chaplain to farmers spoke of the loneliness often experienced by them and the difficulties, particularly of the dairy farmers, at this time. Many farms are being sold and the morale of those in agriculture is very low. The Chaplain attends markets as well as visiting farmers and those employed in Agriculture.

It was also good to hear Steve Wild speak of his experiences of many kinds of Fresh Expressions throughout the Connexion and the life and work of many of our brothers and sisters throughout the country.

Spontaneous enthusiasm – Our President the Revd. Steve Wild, explains what fires him up.

One of the Rochdale stories that I grew up with was how a lad was converted in his bedroom reading John's Gospel. He felt such a wave of enthusiasm that he ran out of the house and up the road to tell his friend- in his excitement in his socks, without putting his shoes on!

The fishermen in the boat spot Jesus on the shore- Peter is so excited he jumps out of the boat and swims to encounter Jesus on the beach. What radical, spontaneous enthusiasm.

I am an enthusiast for Christ, and have a great passion for the gospel message and what it can achieve. I feel that it is the love of Jesus that fires me up.

As a youngster I visited the Taize community in France. The experience astonished me: here was Christianity on a large canvas and like nothing I have ever encountered. It excited me. In those days I was a bit puzzled by the chants and worship. It was Holy Week: on Good Friday a procession with the cross meant deep sadness, but on Easter Day the love of God broke into my heart and this has been the touchstone of my life ever since.

Passion and love

I felt the Spirit giving me an energy and passion that has never left me. I did truly feel a love for every single person on the planet; a true sense of the Father's heart – both a joyful and a painful thing, I've discovered. This has been confirmed to me as Charles Wesley writes, " And let me live to preach the word, and let me to thy glory live.... Thy love let it my heart o'er power, and all my simple soul devour".

I am as convinced now as I was then, that it is Christ's love that energises us and I ask for more of that love all the time.

Our enthusiasm!

There were many words used to describe the followers of John Wesley, some have stuck- like Methodist - but some only appear in the history books.

'Enthusiasm' is such a word. There may be no historical evidence to support the widely held view that John Wesley said "catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come from miles around to watch you burn" yet the spiritual truth it describes is undeniably part of the Methodist D.N.A.

John Wesley's journal provides many examples of enthusiasm. Wesley regarded enthusiasm as an aspect of faith evident in Scripture and normal for all ages. In our Methodist Deed of Union we claim those doctrines "based upon divine revelation recorded in the Holy Scriptures", and the continued witness to the experience of salvation. The question for us is "Do we have it both personally and corporately?

We need enthusiasm as we witness today to those gifts of God's Spirit. And the life of God's Spirit urges us to continually further, fuller, deeper and more glorious truths.

Gifts are given to the Church that we may be equipped and enabled as followers of Jesus. Far from a revelation for scriptural times alone, we witness God's power today – and pray it would be more. In our experience of enthusiasm, it is the gift of a divine presence which encourage, excites and convince.

We thank God for those who have the gifts of healing, of inspired utterance, of discernment and of deliverance. This is the reality of our faith. To Methodists in every time and in every place, enthusiasm continues to be wonderful. David Leese. Adapted from an article printed in Connexion and used with permission.www.methodistchurch.org.uk

Evangelism Trainer. Report from Revd. Doreen Sparey-Delacassa

When I was a D.E.E. full time 'Twas easy to compose this rhyme I knew not just what I was doing What was planned and what was brewing But what the Circuits did as well but now alas they do not tell. Steve Wild 'evangels' night and day Across Connexion, on his way. His Facebook page records it all As Acts records Peter and Paul. But the rest of us - are we affoat Or are we scared to rock the boat So sit unmoving, every one, Tied up by 'What we've always done.' I know we all are growing older let's pray that age will make us bolder To speak for Christ and act for Him. To let His light burn bright, not dim To live the scriptures openly To be the best that we can be Filled with His Spirit's living power Proclaim His Gospel hour by hour In all we say, in all we do Till we are many, not a few. The young, the middle aged, the old All need salvation's message told. How can they live without God's love With eyes turned down and not above (And yes I know God's everywhere Not just above, not just 'up there' Just now I haven't got the time To figure out another rhyme) Forget the faults of this report Just share the Gospel as we ought!

What is life without music or laughter?

Preparing Church Notices can have its pitfalls!

Organist required: to work with small but trying priest and congregation.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers to meet at 7pm in the church hall. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

There will be a shared supper at church this Sunday – with prayer and medication to follow.

The students will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

A certain bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought: "Now we have him stumped." However, after a few well chosen words, the bishop smiled and said: "I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed!"

Encore!

A singer had given a recital at a prison and so pleased was she with the applause that she gushed: `Thank you very much for your appreciation. I so hope that I will see you all back here again next year."

The Way I See It: Our SERVANT QUEEN

The whole country will this month be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. She has splendidly fulfilled the promise made on the day when her father, King George VI, died and she came to the throne at the age of 27. On that day she dedicated 'the rest of my life, whether it be long or short' to the service of the nation and the Commonwealth. She has certainly proved that she meant what she said. Hers is already the longest reign of any British monarch.

Those years have seen huge changes in the world: the end of apartheid in South Africa, the transition of scores of countries to independence within the Commonwealth, the advent of space exploration and men on the moon, the arrival of the computer and the internet, social media, Twitter and so on. Through it all she has remained a calm, reassuring figure, head of state to 12 different prime ministers and leader of a resilient and growing Commonwealth of Nations.

The Queen has quietly moved with the times. Her rather tortured 'royal' accent of the forties and fifties has broadened into a quietly spoken Received English. Uneasy about it at first, she has made herself an effective performer on television. And through it all she has openly acknowledged that her own Christian faith is the bedrock of all that she is and has done. In recent years she has been more willing to talk about that faith, notably in her Christmas messages.

To mark her 90th birthday, the Bible Society has published an attractive illustrated book The Servant Queen, setting out largely in her own words the essential heart of that faith. The Queen herself has written a Foreword. The aim of the publishers is that the book should be widely distributed, so that people up and down her kingdom can share her evident enjoyment of a committed Christian faith. It's subtitle is 'And the King she serves'. As advertisers say, 'every home should have one'.

The Servant Queen is available from the Bible Society in packs of ten for £10, or singly. Go to:

https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/landing/servantqueen/

The story behind the HYMN: Lord, for the years

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way, sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided: Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Rev Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

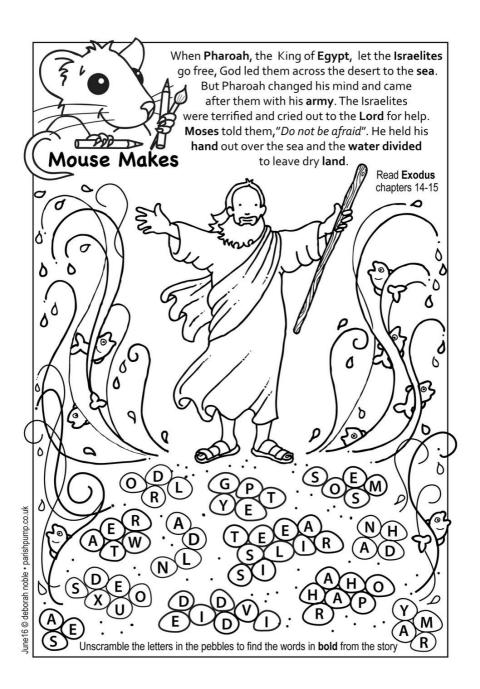
Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's Finlandia, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, or his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

In 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 90th birthday this month. She does indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living, Christ and his kingdom one united aim, Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving, Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.





A Letter from the District World Church Secretary

The World Methodist Council asked in 2013 that every Methodist should gift 50p a year for five years to support their Global Mission Programme. In short Cornwall did not respond our Chairman has asked, as this is the 5th year of that period, that Cornish Methodists be asked to give £2.50 each as a one off donation towards this work.

After consultation with Fiona Budd, the District Finance Officer, it has been decided that these gifts should be given to local Church Treasurers who will then forward them to her.

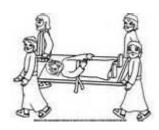
These should then be collected and sent by 30th June, so that Fiona can receive them by the beginning of July. She will then forward them to W.M.C.

I do appreciate this is one more thing for Church Treasurers to do- but cannot think of a better way of doing it. Fortunately for us, it is a one off event but with every Districts' support will help in the mission of the Methodist World Council.

With thanks

Jenny Collins.

Sue Williams, our Church Treasurer has asked if you will please let her have your donation of £2.50 by the 24th June so that she can send it in good time.



Val and Sonia

We read in the Gospels that it was the faith of those who carried the paralysed man to Jesus and so, in faith, may we all pray for complete healing for Val and Sonia who have recently been

laid aside with broken bones.

We also hold others who have on-going health problems in our prayers as well as all who are unwell in body, mind or spirit.



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

Kenneth Jackson Cocking; June Lethbridge; Philip Lethbridge; Jacky Perkins; Tianna Rose; Christopher Savill; Gillian Trenear.

Birthdays are times for remembering past times but we are called to live in the present. Giving thanks for all that is past and with hope that is all to come. May the Lord pour rich blessings on us all.

Thanks to <u>www.parishpump.co.uk</u>. for the use of their material.

Editorial team

Anne Gurr <u>e.anne.gurr@gmail.com</u>

Val Parker <u>martinandval.parker@gmail.com</u>

Mary Ratcliffe <u>maryratcliffe@live.com</u>

Please note that Val Parker's telephone number 422 201

We do publish the magazine on line at $\underline{\mathsf{www.scillymethodists.co.uk}}$.

It is good to receive feedback about the articles in the magazine and we do appeal for contributions. Please could you let us have then by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Thank You.

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.

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird	423117
Sue Williams	422605
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360
Claire Jenkins	423546
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854
Barbara Hasler	422208
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pam Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404
Beryl Read	422977
Gwen Clarkson	423106

'Rejoice in the Lord always I will say it again, Rejoice!...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God' *Paul's letter to the Philippians Chapter 4*

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.

Please join in this special ministry you can contact me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.

June Services

St. Mary's

June 5th

9.15 a.m. All Age Worship Team

11.00 a.m. Rev. Charlie Gibbs

4.00 p.m. Park House Barbara Hasler

8.00 p.m. Rev. Charlie Gibbs Songs of Praise

June 12th

9.15 a.m Len Michell & Kim Watson -Worship Leader

11.00 a.m. Rev. Colin Short Holy Communion

8.00 p.m. Rev Charlie Gibbs

June 19th

10.30 a.m. Mary Ratcliffe with Worship Leader Beryl Read

8.00 p.m. Rev Charlie Gibbs

June 26th

1015 a.m.. Boat for Circuit Service

11.00 a.m. Circuit Service St. Martin's

8.00pm Rev. Charlie Gibbs Songs of Praise

St. Martin's

June 5th

11.00 a.m. Mary Ratcliffe Family Service

June 12th

11.00 a.m. Rev Charlie Gibbs

June 19th

11.00 a.m. Rev. Colin Short Holy Communion

June 26th

11.00 a.m. Circuit Service