

Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

June/July 2017

Thoughts from the Manse



As I write this the gig weekend has just passed and, for those of us who haven't experienced one before, what an amazing event that is!

There is, of course, all the bustle and busyness, roads that are normally quiet become impassable; gigs are everywhere; excitement is in the air and the population balloons. Behind all that there are hours of planning; weeks of hard work; months of thinking and organisation and then a weekend of hard work for a few so that many can enjoy being part of the whole event.

Then, suddenly, everything is back to normal; no gigs; no crowds; no bustle – just a sense of something well done; a sense of community; of everyone working together; of sharing; of success.

So why do we do it? Why work so hard for so short a time? Why do the rowers put themselves through so many months, years of effort, of depriving themselves, of hard work and then, when the race is over for this year, start all over again?

As someone who has only ever won one race – an egg and spoon race while at primary school – I am amazed at the dedication required from those who take part in any kind of sporting competition. Then I think of the years I've spent in studying, in exams; in preparation to become a teacher, then a minister; and I see in the human spirit the need to give ourselves to achieve the best we can in whatever we commit ourselves to. Not just doing a job, but doing it well, doing it to the best we can – and then better! Sadly, this can lead to obsession and narrowing our lives to a very limited experience BUT at its best it opens us to being part of the whole experience of what is best in humanity and in human achievement, of both giving to and receiving from others, of being part of a community.

In his letter to the people in Corinth Paul writes that anyone competing in a race trains and disciplines themselves so that they

can win a prize which lasts for just a little while [1 Corinthians ch. 9; vs. 24-27] and the Christian needs to learn from that because we are asked to train and discipline ourselves to win a prize which lasts forever.

Our training, our discipline, is to copy the life of our leader – Jesus – to follow His example of humble, self-giving love, of acceptance of others – of open hearted hospitality and service.

I am so grateful to all those who have worked tirelessly over the last weeks to care for the fabric of the Chapel; to raise money for the work on it and to clean after that work was completed. We are all grateful to those residents and visitors, who have generously donated to the rewiring scheme. You have shown the power of working together to achieve the best. Thank you.

However, we all have to remember why we are doing this, what our Chapel is here for. It does, of course, provide a place for us to share in worship and for learning more of our faith. It is also a place from which we can offer care and service to our community and to those who visit here. All of which [we] do 'for the sake of the gospel, so that [we] may share in its blessings'.
[1 Corinthians ch. 9; v. 23]

With my prayers and love

Jane

Thank you letter

Dear St Mary's,

I was one of the island visitors for the Good Friday service at St Mary's and the ecumenical Walk of Witness; I'm writing to thank the church for a lovely welcome and for the shared meal at the chaplaincy afterwards. It was an unforgettable and deeply prayerful end to a wonderful holiday around the islands; I will be making a donation to the RNLI as a thank-you.

Yours appreciatively,
Gillian Venton

News from St. Martin's

Following an early spring and some unseasonably warm weather for Easter, we have more recently returned to unsettled conditions; somewhat reflected in the mood of many of our congregation; with concerns over 'brexit', local council elections, national elections and the ever worrying thoughts of 'what next'? for the future of Methodism in the Islands

We have been blessed with Rev Jane's stewardship at a time of her retirement, and would dearly love her to stay. Perhaps this should not be something discussed in public, and we appreciate how difficult a decision this must be for Jane and John. We wish them God's guidance and our love in their future preparations.

We have recently enjoyed visits from Rev Peter Stephens, and very much a surprise, from Wendy and Tony Pudner. Wendy gave Rodney a break from playing the organ, and it was a joy to hear Tony able to partake in the service now he is so much better.

When Steve Wild was able to join us just before Easter, it was fascinating to hear about his busy year, when he was chairman of the Methodist conference

We face challenging times, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our faithful members, Christine Savill for her many years of dedicated service as our local Councillor, some of this time, indeed, as Chairperson of the Isles of Scilly Council. She has seen many changes and worked hard to ensure that we continue to enjoy the freedom to live well in this very special place.

Val Thomas

~~~~~

On St Mary's the offerings in March totalled £982 and in April were £1557. Both figures include standing orders.

~~~~~

Letter from Cambridge

Greetings of love to you all. This is often how Paul began his letters and I see no reason not to begin mine in the same way. I too long for you all to be strengthened in your faith as I have in the last few months been strengthened in mine through unexpected adversity.

Years ago we had a beautiful large pair of brass scales originally used for weighing precious coin; in our move to Scilly these had to be disposed of but recently I have thought about them as an illustration of how I have had to balance fear with faith. It would be an untruth to say that I had no fear when given the diagnosis of cancer but against that fear of the unknown was my faith and trust in a loving God made known to mankind though his life on earth. A living faith is what has brought me through this time knowing that ultimately I am able to rest the whole of my life into the care of God. I firmly believe in the healing ministry of the church but I also believe that God through those he has created also brings healing. I am so thankful for the care I have received from everyone, on Scilly and here at Addenbrookes. I thank you all for your prayers, gifts, and kindness during this time of change in my life, it is certainly an enormous difference living in a city after the peaceful life on the Islands. The church here in the city has so many resources both monetary and manpower that I can already see that my ministry is going to be more in the community and surprisingly through social media than actually in the church community. I think I might only be leading services twice in a quarter!

City living has enabled me to sing Messiah in a scratch choir of 90, visit the Botanic Garden, go to the theatre and listen to some excellent lectures during Lent regarding holiness. My home is a gift of joy with a garden filled with wildlife, with many birds and squirrels which constantly require yet another photograph.

I began this letter by a reference to Paul, I close it by referring to another writer of letters in the New Testament, James who in the first part of his writing refers to the trials that his readers are experiencing. He encourages them to persevere because through enduring them they become a blessing. Sadly many people will not see that because they do not know how

much God loves them. I pray that through my life I will continue to encourage those within the church to live life in all its fullness and those without the church building will see me living it and so want to discover how it is that I am able to be filled with faith and not fear at such a time.

I send you all my love and thank you for yours. Thanks be to God who has given us the victory.

Mary

What will you do with your old £1 coins?

You have until 15th October to dispose of your 'old' £1 coins. What will you do with them? Many charities are hoping that as you find the old coins, you will donate them to the charities. Even the Royal Mint is telling charities to increase their presence on the streets this summer with collection buckets, where people are likely to have their purses out. It is thought that there are millions of old £1 coins out there, lurking in jam jars and piggy banks and pockets and drawers...

Take a nap – and be happy

If you want to be happy and smarter, grab a 30-minute nap during the day. Recent research has found that a nap of that length is ideal for boosting your performance and your personal feeling of happiness.

'No-nappers' can struggle through the day, and 'long' nappers risk some health problems, but a nap of up to 30 minutes in length seems to be the perfect 'down-time' your body needs to get up and running again.

As one scientist put it: 'Naps of under 30 minutes make you more focused, productive and creative... and you can also become happier just by taking a short nap.' The study was carried out at the University of Hertfordshire.

Pentecost



On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of Firstfruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so they waited – on Him, and for Him. They were not disappointed: for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow him.

~~~~~

To be filled with the Spirit is to have the Spirit fulfilling in us all that God intended him to do when he placed him there. - *Lewis S. Chafer*

Before Christ sent the Church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the Church. The same order must be observed today. *John Stott*

## **Important Notice – but when do we tell you?**

*'Then the Curate shall declare unto the people what Holy-days, or Fasting-days, are in the week following to be observed. And then also (if occasion be) shall notice be given of the Communion; and Briefs, Citations, and Excommunications read. And nothing shall be proclaimed or published in the Church during the time of Divine Service, but by the Minister...'*

'Are there any notices?' the minister asks after welcoming everyone to the service, and sometimes someone shyly explains that the Tuesday meeting is now on Wednesday of this week, and the Wednesday meeting is now on Monday and...oh well.. it is all on the notice sheet. Then another person jumps up to say there is a mistake on the notice sheet!

Ever wonder when this all started? The above quotation is taken from the notes to the prayer book service written in the Seventeenth Century. It is interesting that even then there were notices to give out.

In those days, Notices could only be announcements of holy days, days of fasting or celebration or what was approved by the bishop or monarch. A 'brief' was a letter to a community on a point of discipline and a citation was news of a court case probably a church court case. Notices were for important church or state business only. These were the days before newspapers, so church notices would be the main source of news.

So when is the best time to have them today? If you have them at the beginning of the service, it can be a bit of a let-down, welcoming people to your service of praise and thanksgiving - but don't forget the fish and chip supper next Saturday is at 6 pm not 8 pm, in the village hall not the church hall, and also, the flower arranging has been re-arranged, and Mrs Boggins' leg is much better.

Or you can have them at the end, just as some folk are shooting off to see if the roast has burnt (only to find they forgot to put oven on), and everyone is dying for a cup of tea.

Perhaps notices work best in the middle of the service – like a commercial break. It avoids spoiling the welcome, and yet gets them in while people are still interested. Perhaps you can prepare a notice about it?



## **Fathers' Day – time to celebrate male role models**

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, is there a 'spare' father somewhere in your church or your circle of friends whose children cannot be with him, and who would welcome some special treat on the day?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Father's Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: in America, for example, more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Father's Day than on any other day of the year!

~~~~~

You all know of our proposed refurbishment of the chapel on St Mary's. Here are two articles that seem to indicate that we are thinking along the right lines.

Carpets make churches more child friendly

Here is an issue that probably affects many churches. A church has been allowed to carpet over valuable Minton tiles in its efforts to provide a space for children to sit and play during the services. The Victorian Society had tried to oppose the move, but the Chancellor of Blackburn Diocese decreed that encouraging children to come to church was more important than Minton tiles being on display. What do you think?

No theological reason for pews

Are you a pew lover? Or a modern comfy chair lover? It seems that this is a tension found in churches throughout the country. Conservationists want to keep the hard and unyielding wooden pews, while many vicars and lay people, desperate to encourage new people, want to introduce a comfortable place for them to sit. Now the Chancellor for the Diocese of Rochester has ruled in favour of comfy chairs, saying that there is 'no theological basis' for the retention of pews and that the 'need and desirability' of the comfortable chairs outweighed any benefit of not having them.

Jerusalem

*'And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the Holy Lamb of God
In England's pleasant pastures seen?'*

Jerusalem is a short poem by William Blake based on the legend that Jesus visited England with Joseph of Arimathea in the time before His ministry began. It is best known as the anthem 'Jerusalem' with music by written by Sir Hubert Parry in 1916. Other well-known compositions by him are the coronation anthem 'I was glad' and the hymn tune 'Repton' which sets the words 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'.

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry was born in 1848 in Bournemouth and was an English composer, teacher and historian of music.

After studying at Oxford, Parry became an underwriter at Lloyds of London from 1870 to 1877. He did not enjoy the work but felt obliged to persevere with it to satisfy not only his father but also his prospective parents-in-law, who all believed he should have a conventional profession even though he was as unsuccessful in insurance as he was successful in music.

In 1895 he became the Head of the Royal College of Music, remaining in that post until his death. For the first eight years of the 20th century he was also a professor of music at Oxford University.

In the autumn of 1918 Parry contracted Spanish 'flu during the global pandemic and died at Knightscroft, Rustington, West Sussex aged 70 years.

'Jerusalem' was immediately popular and was adopted as their anthem by the suffragettes. Later the Women's Institute adopted it as their anthem.

It has been used as the unofficial National Anthem of England at events where the four nations of the United Kingdom are competing individually and is often sung at football matches and, of course, at the Last Night of the Proms.

Based on an article in the magazine of Trinity Methodist Church, Royton

In this month of Trinity Sunday, here is an old Celtic prayer

The Path of Righ

My walk this day with God,
My walk this day with Christ,
My walk this day with Spirit,
The Threefold all-kindly:
Ho! ho! ho! The Threefold all-kindly.

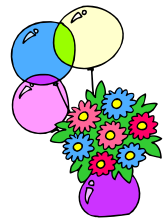
My shielding this day from ill,
My shielding this night from harm,
Ho! ho! Both my soul and my body,
Be by Father, by Son, by Holy Spirit:
By Father, by Son, by Holy Spirit.

Be the Father shielding me,
Be the Son shielding me,
Be the Spirit shielding me,
As Three and as One:
Ho! ho! ho! As Three and as One.

From Carmina Gadelica

Birthdays in June and July

We send our love and very best wishes to those who have birthdays in June - Rose Didlick, Ann Elgawad, Sam Grossett, Kenneth Jackson Cocking, June Lethbridge, Phillip Lethbridge, Steve Manning, Janis Nightingale, Tony Nightingale, Iona Perkins, Jacky Perkins, Tianna Rose, Christopher Savill, Hallie Shave, Tricia Thomas and Gillian Trenear.



And to those whose birthdays are in July - Barbara Anderson, Shannon Aston, Adele Bird, Kenzie Ferguson, Benjamin Jenkins, Pam Manning, Rachel Mary, Christine Savill, Margaret Snowball, Pam Thomas, Val Thomas and Isobel Trenear.

We hope you have a very special day.

Pastoral Search Report

The following is our confidential report on the present candidates for the role of our next minister. It does not make for happy reading.

Adam: Good man, but problems with his wife. Also, one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy walking nude in the woods.

Noah: Former pastorate of 120 years, with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

Abraham: Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.

Joseph: A big thinker, but probably a braggart; believes in dream-interpreting, and has a prison record.

Moses: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier position over a murder charge.

David: The most promising leader of all, until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbour's wife.

Solomon: Great preacher, but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression - collapses under pressure.

Elisha: Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.

Hosea: A tender and loving pastor, but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

Deborah: Female.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of foreign river.

Isaiah: On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.

Jonah: Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

Amos: Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in better in a poor congregation.

John: Says he is a Baptist, but doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Peter: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper - even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, and a loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

Timothy: Too young.

Jesus: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities there.

~~~~~

## **More than £340,000 raised for East Africa Famine Appeal**

The call to donate to the urgent appeal to help avert famine in countries on the verge of disaster has been met with a generous wave of giving from Methodist Churches and individuals across the world.

All We Can Chief Executive, Maurice Adams said, 'The response so far to the East Africa Famine Appeal has been remarkable and humbling. The need is vast, and the resources required to tackle this ongoing emergency continues to be immense'.

A grim picture of human misery is mirrored across much of East Africa, where conflict, economic crises, drought and poor governance has resulted in the worst humanitarian catastrophe since the formation of the United Nations.

## Celebrating our 999 service

The 999 emergency service was introduced 80 years ago this month – on 30th June 1937, in the London area only.

It was the first service of its kind in the world, and a notice in the Evening News suggested that the public should use it only if 'the man in the flat next to yours is murdering his wife, or you have seen a heavily masked cat burglar peering round the stack pipe of the local bank building'.

For less urgent matters, such as a lorry coming to rest in their garden, people were advised to 'just call up the local police'.

The first call resulted in the arrest of a would-be burglar, but not all were so serious. Of 1336 calls made in the first week, 91 were prank calls.

One of the more unexpected results of the 999 service was its effect on telephone switch-rooms, where a 'raucous buzzer' sounded when someone dialled 999. It was reported that 'a few of the girls found the situation too much and had to be carried out'.

Despite that, 999 was a big success, but it wasn't until after World War Two that it reached most other parts of the UK. It became available to the entire country only when all the telephone exchanges were automated in 1976.

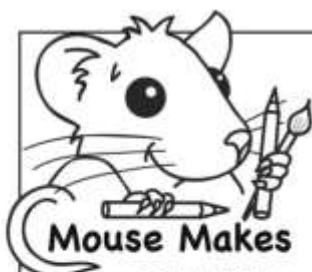
The idea for an emergency number came after operators couldn't be reached to alert the fire brigade to a fire that killed five women in London's Wimpole Street in 1935. The number 999 was chosen because it was easy to dial, even in the dark, on old-style phones. The US waited until 1968 to introduce its own emergency number, 911.

More than half of genuine 999 calls ask for police assistance. The next most requested is the ambulance service, followed by the fire brigade and, finally, the coastguard.

Some churches have used the idea of an emergency service for people in need of various kinds of help – though in those cases the number 999 is replaced by a series of Scriptural references.

~~~~~

Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind.



"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS** Christ and the *love* of **GOD** and the *fellowship* of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:13



Can you find all the names of the Trinity in this 3 in 1 word search?

GOD - THE FATHER

C R E A T O R
J O N E L H O L Y
E A I L M G N O A
H S A V I O U R H
O J M A G D I D W
V U O N H I G H E
A D F A T H E R H
H G I M Y K I N G
E T E R N A L



GOD - THE SON

M E S S I A H
S J M O S T T A L
C E M N V W R B A
H S A V I O U R M
R U N O N R T E B
I S U B E D H A W
S H E P H E R D A
T A L I G H T A Y
L O R D O O R



LORD • GOD
JEHOVAH • I AM
YAHWEH •
HOLY • ONE 
SAVIOUR • KING
 ETERNAL
ALMIGHTY
CREATOR • JUDGE
FATHER • ON HIGH

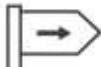


JESUS • CHRIST
SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL
 SHEPHERD
LAMB
WAY • SON 
DOOR • LIGHT
BREAD • WORD
MESSIAH • VINE



GOD - THE SPIRIT

HOLY • SPIRIT • COMFORTER • TEACHER • GUIDE
HELPER • TRUTH • POWER • WISDOM • BREATH • ETERNAL



Hiding in one of the puzzles is the word 'TRINITY', can you find it?

July Services

The preaching plan for July was not ready when this edition was put together. Please look at Church noticeboards or pick up a preaching plan when it is ready to find information about services.

Action for Children Sunday

We will be celebrating Action for Children Sunday on July 2nd to coincide with the visit to us of Jamie Lee who is Action for Children's SW Regional Representative.

Editorial Team

Anne Gur e.anne.gurr@gmail.com
Barbara James bjjethen@btinternet.com
Val Parker martinandval.parker@gmail.com

This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Please send your contributions to the editor by 15th of the month.

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.

~~~~~

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.

## SERVICES FOR JUNE

### St Mary's

|      |         |                                                           |
|------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 4th  | 9.15am  | Kim Watson and Rev Jane Willcock<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
|      | 11.00am | Rev Jane Willcock                                         |
|      | 6.00pm  | Len Michell                                               |
| 11th | 10.30am | Gordon Bird and Mervyn Bird                               |
|      | 6.00pm  | Rev Jane Willcock<br><i>Holy Communion</i>                |
| 18th | 9.15am  | Andrew Chapple and John Willcock                          |
|      | 11.00am | Rev Jane Willcock<br><i>Holy Communion</i>                |
|      | 6.00pm  | Rev Jane Willcock                                         |
| 25th | 11.00am | Rev Jane Willcock<br><b>Circuit Service</b>               |
|      | 6.00pm  | Rev Jane Willcock                                         |

### St Martin's

|      |         |                                            |
|------|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| 4th  | 6.00pm  | Rev Jane Willcock                          |
| 11th | 11.00am | Rev Jane Willcock<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 18th | 11.00am | Len Michell                                |
| 25th | 11.00am | <b>Circuit Service on St Mary's</b>        |

### Park House

|     |        |             |
|-----|--------|-------------|
| 4th | 4.00pm | Len Michell |
|-----|--------|-------------|