



# In Touch

# Methodist Church Circuit June/July 2018

# **Chairman of the District**

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

#### **Superintendent Minister:**

Revd. Jane Willcock B.Ed. 422406

#### **Local Preachers:**

Mr. Len Michell 422409 Mr. Gordon Bird 422550 Mr. C. Savill 423563

#### **Circuit Stewards:**

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

Circuit Treasurer: Mr. Christopher Savill 423563

#### **Gift Aid Secretary:** Mrs. Stephanie Bird 423117 **Circuit Meeting Secretary:** Mrs. Heather Terry 422329 **Church Stewards:**

St. Mary's: Mrs. Claire Jenkins Mrs. June Lethbridge Mr. Philip Lethbridge Mrs. Leigh Kendrick Mrs. Sue Williams St. Martin's: Mrs. Barbara Jones

#### St. Mary's:

Treasurer: Mrs. Sue Williams 422605 Church Council Secretary: Mrs. Beryl Read 422977 Hall Booking Secretary: Mrs. Anne Gurr 422224 Organist: Mr. Len Michell 422409 Deputy Organist: Mr. Philip Lethbridge 422404 St. Martin's: Church Council Secretary: Mrs. Jackie Perkins 422814 Church Treasurer: Mr. Alan Terry 422329

Connexional Link Person: Mrs. Beryl Read 422977

Dear Friends,

What a valuable time of reflection for Sheila and me. Our seven years living among you were very much a part of our growth in Christian faith and understanding of ministry. Being invited back this year is a blessing indeed. Thank you very much. We moved on



from here to Kent twenty four years ago. Coming back to fill a few gaps while Jane and John pause to discover afresh their peaceful, joy in the Lord and His leading for their lives, is super. We are so warmed by their wonderful welcome to us and their offering the freedom of their home. Our daughter Marianne with her husband Craig, plus our grandchildren George and Amos, have been able to be here with us for a time too.

Our home in Shetland for the last fourteen years has been a wonderful place to be too. The weather is at times different to here, but the delight of Christian fellowship and worship together sustains and encourages our faith. We are so grateful for the time and kindness you have offered to us. We have been touched through catching up with some news, sharing happy memories and the privilege of hearing how some of you have coped, and are living with, some sadness and disappointment. Thank you for sharing with us. Joining in worship with you is uplifting and restoring. Each one of us is attempting to live to the glory of God and hoping for graceful courage to join in with His kingdom activity. I am writing this after the World Pilot Gig racing weekend showed much evidence of 'pulling together'! As Christians we have a perfect Cox in Jesus. We just need to continue to pay heed to His guidance, encouragement and challenge.

Just under two years ago we retired from full time ministry. We took a year without leading worship to seek the right things to be engaged with and are now offering some dates to the Preaching Plan in Shetland and joining in various activities. One considerable challenge, shared by many at the point of retirement, was down-sizing from a large Victorian five bedroom manse to our two bedroom house. Deciding to pass some things on, and re-home some treasures, was at times simple and at other times really hard. We have reduced our books by many boxes but still need to thin out more if we are to maintain space for other aspects of living! Being here for a few weeks has added some books too! Our Christian journey can entail letting go of treasured ideas and hopes to make room in our hearts for the call and resourcing God is offering us for the future as we join in with His kingdom development.

We have been thankful for the opportunity to be here, and pray that as the weeks unfold through this summer, the changes to be embraced will yield Godly, joyful strength for you all.

God bless you, Jeremy

#### **Forthcoming Circuit Service**

At a recent Circuit Meeting it was decided to hold this year's Circuit Service on Sunday June 24th, when the tides are right for those travelling from St. Martin's. The act of worship will take place in St. Agnes Church, starting at 11.00 am. It is good that our Anglican friends on St. Agnes are likely to join us.

St. Mary's Boating Association tripper boats will be used for those of us living on St. Mary's, leaving at 10.15 am. There is usually a 2.15 pm or 2.30 pm return, plus at least one later boat. Fares for local children of school age or below will be paid for by the Circuit.

Unless you wish to eat in a St. Agnes cafe/tea room/pub please take a packed lunch. In the past we have enjoyed our picnics on the beach at Periglis, close to the church.

Let's trust that the weather will be kind to us and several are able to make it to St. Agnes.

Heather

#### News from St Martin's

Now that Spring has finally 'sprung', we have welcomed our visitors back to the Island, and to our chapel. Three regular Christopher-family members and their spouses joined us in April/May and it was so good to have Wendy Hawkins to play the organ whilst she was here.

Whilst Jane has had a well-earned rest (but I suspect been equally busy on the mainland) we have also welcomed back Rev Jeremy Dare and Sheila. It was lovely to hear of their life in Shetland and to renew old friendships. We hope it doesn't take so long for them to return!

We must also thank our two trusty local preachers, Len and Gordon, who have faithfully served us in times of ill health and often inclement weather. Not forgetting Chris Savill, who we hope is enjoying his Canadian holiday with Christine. Heather and Alan are also away - visiting family including new grandson Connor.

We have also had the opportunity to meet our potential new minister, Michael from Yorkshire, and his wife, Ann. We hope he will feel a calling to look after a few souls isolated out in the Atlantic. He seems to have the required sense of humour to fulfil such a role!

It has also been a sad month with the passing of Chris Hensleigh one of our treasured members and much loved Mum of Jackie Perkins and Will. A Thanksgiving service, in celebration of her life was held in Chapel on Sunday 13th May; a fitting date, as it would have been Chris's 80th birthday. Rev Jane led the service adding her own magic to a packed chapel of friends and family; her analogy of the bug friends at the bottom of the pond particularly captivated the children. One small bug (nymph) climbed up a large stem, became a beautiful dragonfly and wanted the other (ugly, slow bug) to follow and appreciate the wonderful world he could see. His friend couldn't hear him, but he knew he would join him one day. .. I only wish I could add Jane's accompanying bug grunts! This after a reading of Paul telling his followers that each one of us is who we are made to be and everyone is important.

Mandy Goddard read a very fitting piece called 'The Ship' and daughter Jackie read 'Death is Nothing' which reminded us to

laugh as we have always laughed and all is well. Son Will then shared with us what a remarkable lady Chris was.

Chris and husband Bruce came to St Martin's in 1984 after distinguished careers on the mainland. Chris in nursing, which culminated in her being matron in a care home, and Bruce had been a police inspector.

Sadly their dream life in Scilly was shattered when Bruce died only two years later. Chris very nearly left us, but was persuaded to stay by the support of the island community. She was also blessed with two children who lived nearby and who always looked out for her.

She then threw herself into island life - she was the island social services representative, she baked for many occasions (including our son's wedding cakes!) and learnt every art and craft imaginable. Chris's leather and wooden gifts were iconic. Her great loves were her family and then her garden and all the Chapel decorations and even a flower festival are fitting memories of her faith and gardening skills. She never stopped, until her illness caught up with her, which she accepted with dignity.

Chris we will all miss you, but remember a life well lived and commend you to peace in the arms of our Lord.

Val Thomas

#### A prayer for the lonely and lost

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for loving us. So many people feel lonely and isolated and unloved today. In a culture that values I above all things, help us to look beyond our i-phones and i-pads and selfies. Help us to see with your eyes, to love with your heart, to reach out to the lost and lonely and marginalised with your compassion. Help us to reflect your Kingdom values and, by the way we live, enable your love to be experienced by all who so need you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

# Praying for Syria

In response to the recent events in Syria the President and Vice-President of the Conference, the Revd Loraine N. Mellor and Jill Baker, have offered this prayer.

Compassionate God,

who cares for every created being, having even numbered the hairs on our heads,

we pray now for each person in Syria.

In these dark days, may decisions be made that honour the sanctity of life created by you;

may wise and far-sighted counsel prevail that seeks the well-being of all humanity.

Prince of Peace,

we open our hearts to you and confess our willingness to seek easy responses that require others to pay a hard price; we open our reason to you and pledge our commitment to hear your words of compassion and peace.

Lover of Concord,

*let your love shine through those who bring aid and solace in the land of Syria, those who choose between violence and peace, those who influence opinions in words and tweets.* 

*Creator God, hear our cry and help us work together to seek peace and pursue it. Amen.* 

It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation in which you mix, but it is the frequency and earnestness with which you meditate on these things, till the truth in them becomes your own and part of your being, that ensures your growth. *F. W. Robertson* 

'It is good to know that however small a faithful band of witnesses there is in any place God can and will bless that ministry.

Leaving the islands and becoming part of a well-resourced church contented with all that it has, I find that it still has gaps in its ministry. Setting up a prayer chain has taken many months because, like many secular organisations, there are many to be consulted.

There are also those so concerned about the new data protection laws that they are forgetting the need to pray for each other, and to recognise that when you are in any kind of need, the ability to pray yourself is difficult but to know that others are praying is a precious gift.

It is with great joy that I read, earlier this year, on the Bible Society web page that they have a travelling exhibition of Sue Symons' wonderful embroidery illustrating Creation.

Sue and her husband Christopher spent several winters on St Mary's and it was during this time that she was working on this project. Having completed it she made a very generous gift by giving the completed work to the Society.

Passing this information on, with the book, to the local group, a positive response happened quickly with Emmanuel URC in the city welcoming the exhibition in September to coincide with Harvest Thanksgiving.

I had hoped that we at Wesley Methodist Church would be hosting the exhibition but I am delighted that it will be in the city and Wesley folk will be encouraged to promote and help with stewarding.

So we at Wesley need your prayers to use our many resources wisely as I pray for you all to use your smaller but no less valuable resources of love to honour the name of Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love and service. May blessing be yours.

Mary

I too knew Sue while she was engaged with this work. I could only marvel at Sue's vision and the skill with which she realized that vision. I have a copy of the book that was produced from this work and will be happy to show it to anyone who is interested. Sue also created a series of diptychs called 'One Man's Journey to Heaven' (the story of the life of Christ) which now belong to Bath Abbey. I also have the book of this. Anne

#### **Good News**

I wonder how many of our readers remember the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to Prince William and Kate at the baptism of Prince George, when he said 'Tell him about Jesus, tell him who He is'. The young couple now have Princess Charlotte and new baby, Prince Louis.

Surely the Archbishops words apply to us all, as readers of In Touch. Tell our children, tell our friends. 'Tell them about Jesus, tell them who He is.'

What a wonderful thing it is to know Jesus as Lord and Personal Saviour. I count it a privilege to have been told about Jesus by my parents as a small child. A knowledge of Him has meant so much to me throughout all phases of my life. He has never, and will never let me down.

'He is the same, yesterday and today and for ever.' (Hebrews 13 v.8)

#### Praise His Name!

Kenneth Jackson Cocking

We must lay it down as an elemental principle of religion that no large growth in holiness was ever gained by one who did not take time to be often alone with God. *Austin Phelps* 

I have been asked to write about another of my favourite hymns, and this time I have decided to write about a great hymn of Joachim Neander.

The hymn is ALL MY HOPE ON GOD IS FOUNDED: MHB70, H&P 63. Originally written in German, it was translated into English by Robert Seymour Bridges. When sung to the beautiful chorale, *Meine Hoffnung*, composed by Joachim Neander, it is one of the most powerful and moving hymns you will ever sing.

Verse 1. All my hope on God is founded; He doth still my trust renew. Me, through change and chance He guideth, Only good and only true. God unknown, He alone Calls my heart to be His own.

This verse gives us great hope if we put our trust in God.

I personally think that Bridges' original translation of verse 2, as in MHB 70 is much simpler to follow than the H&P translation.

Pride of man and earthly glory, Sword and crown betray his trust: What with care and toil he buildeth, Tower and temple fall to dust. But God's power, Hour by hour, Is my temple and my tower.

The next two verses remind us of God's great goodness towards us and His bounteous gifts to us, along with the love and joy that are ours if we trust Him.

But it is the last verse that holds a wonderful promise for us:-

Still from man to God eternal Sacrifice of praise be done. High above all praises praising For the gift of Christ His Son. Christ doth call One and all: Ye who follow shall not fall.

What a wonderful promise, Ye who follow SHALL NOT FALL!

Philip Lethbridge

#### If God does not exist

An outspoken atheist went on a tour of a local monastery during his vacation. At the end of the tour, he remarked sarcastically to the monk who had been his guide, 'Imagine, if God doesn't exist - and I believe He doesn't - you will have wasted your whole life here in this place.' The monk replied: 'If I am wrong, I shall have wasted only 60 to 80 years. But if you are wrong, you will waste eternity.'

A wise man will desire no more than he may get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully and leave contentedly. *Anon* 

Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back. Anon

Happy moments, praise God.Difficult moments, seek God.Quietmoments, worship God.Painful moments, trust God.Everymoment, thank God.Anon

# In Praise of Knitting

Knitting can be astonishingly good for you. This gentle hobby has been found to lower blood pressure, reduce depression, keep your mind alert, slow the onset of dementia, distracts from chronic pain (such as arthritis), boost wellbeing, and reduce loneliness.

A major study by the organisation Knit for Peace has found that knitting lowers the heart rate by an average of 11 beats per minute and induces 'an enhanced state of calm.' The repetitive movement also boosts calming serotonin, which lifts your mood and dulls any pain. Knitting also boosts the reward centres of the brain, because it allows people to feel that they can still make a contribution to society.

In Britain, where the NHS spends more than £2 billion each year on blood pressure treatments, around £300 million on antidepressants, and about £26 billion on dementia, and unknown billions on various chronic pain treatments, perhaps more people should take up knitting. As one expert says: 'Research has shown that there is a growing crisis in primary care. As a skilled and creative occupation, knitting has therapeutic potential. There is an enormous amount of research showing that knitting has physical and mental health benefits'.

If, after reading this, you feel you might benefit from having a go at knitting, there is a knitting group that meets in the Manse on Friday mornings (10 - 11.30am). We would be delighted to see you and can provide help and wool and needles. Anne

#### Blessing

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and asked her to say the blessing. 'I don't know what to say,' the girl replied. 'Just say what you hear Mummy say,' the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

# Can you find 30 books of the Bible hidden in this passage?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends.

One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his Johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised.

Truthfully from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs. During a recent fundraising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phil-Lemonade booth set a new sales record.

The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 50 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel appear without their numbers.

Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

Answers on page 14.

# Birthdays in June and July

We send our love and best wishes to the following people who have birthdays in these two months

#### June

Rose Didlick, Kenneth Jackson Cocking, June Lethbridge, Philip Lethbridge, Steve Manning,



Janis Nightingale, Tony Nightingale, Iona Perkins, Jacky Perkins, Tianna Rose, Christopher Savill, Tricia Thomas, Gillian Trenear.

# July

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

# Children's birthdays



**June** Sophie Jenkins, Hallie Shave.

July

Kenzie Ferguson, Archie Sandford.

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, `and why is it necessary to be quiet in church?'

One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

# People nowadays'

'Everyone seems to be against *something*', someone said to me the other day, and I had to agree. 'What I can't stand is . . .' can be followed by almost anything, from babies screaming in the coffee shop to people who will say 'Take care!', junk mail, careless parkers or even someone's accent or hair style on television.

Identifying ourselves by what we are *against* is an ancient but ultimately soul-destroying attitude. Older people like me have our own version of it: 'People nowadays . . .' followed by our particular dislike about modern ways. 'People' are us, actually, and I dare say our little foibles equally irritate some younger citizens.

The answer, someone suggested to me, is to replace 'What I can't stand is. . .' with 'What cheers me up is . . .' I worked out my own list, including children laughing, a dog's devotion, 'Hiya David' from a neighbour, a favourite hymn in church, and the supermarket check-out person who has just beeped their five hundredth item of the day but still smiles and says hello as though she means it. Come to think of it, I quite like the dismissal, 'Take care!' I need to. *Canon David Winter* 

# Children's attempts to describe married relationships

Christians can have only one wife. This is called monotony.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

Holy acrimony is another name for marriage.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day...but a ball of fire by night.

# Answers to: Can you find 30 books of the Bible hidden in this passage?

This is **a mos**t re**mark**able puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolu**lu**, **ke**eping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends.

One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **John**boat. Another friend studied it while playing his ban**jo**. **El**aine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving that s**he brews** a cup of tea to help her nerv**es**. **Ther**e will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a f**act S**ome people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, **es**pecially since the books are not necessarily capitalised.

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Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are nor**mal. A chi**pper attitude will help you com**pete r**eally well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass **exodus**, there really are 30 books of the Bible lur**king s**omewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

We trust not because `a god' exists, but because THIS God exists. *C. S. Lewis* 



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### Services for July

The preaching plan for July has not yet been produced. Please watch church notice boards and weekly notices for details of July's services.

## **Editorial Team**

Anne Gurre.anne.gurr@gmail.comBarbara Jamesbjjethen@gmail.comVal Parkermartinandval.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 <u>www.scillymethodists.co.uk</u> 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.

#### $\sim$

Some material in this magazine was obtained from <u>www.parishpump.co.uk</u>. We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

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Whenever you read the Gospel, Christ himself is speaking to you. And while you read you are praying and talking to him. *St Tikhon of Zadonsk* 

# **PRAYER CHAIN**

Please contact Revd. Jane Willcock (422406) who will pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Meryn & Stephanie Bird	<b>423117</b>
Sue Williams	422605
<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
Pamela 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 Revd. Jane Willcock on 422406.

We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.

# SERVICES FOR JUNE

<u>St Marys</u> _3rd	10.30am	Rev Jane Willcock Holy Communion
	8.15pm	Epilogue at Old Town Rev Jane Willcock
10th	9.15am	St Agnes Cannon Perran Gay & Rev Jane Willcock
	11.00am	Rev Jane Willcock
17th	9.15am	Len Michell
	11.00am	Gordon Bird
24th	11.00am	<b>Circuit Service on St Agnes</b> Rev Jane Willcock
<u>St Martin's</u> _3rd	11.00am	Christopher Savill
10th	3.00pm	Rev Jane Willcock
17th	11.00am	Rev Jane Willcock
24th	11.00am	<b>Circuit Service on St Agnes</b> Rev Jane Willcock
Park House		

_3rd	4.00pm	Rev Jane Willcock
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