

Methodist Church Circuit

NTOUCH

June/July 2020

| Chair | man | of th | e D | istrict |
|-------|-------|-------|------|---------|
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Thoughts from the Manse

Do you remember Lock-Tite glue and its ability to stick things together very well? It could be rightly argued that Covid-19 has generally brought people closer together (despite social distancing) and brought out many selfless acts/deeds of kindness amongst neighbours and towards 'strangers'.



I think it was in the 1990's that a politician stressed the need to go back to basics. Taking the 3 'R's and a fourth 'R' (nothing to do with disease spreading!!) as a framework we might reflect:

Religion – humanity's search for God – for some the last 2/3 months have caused some people to pray, think about life and its meaning and purpose and search for answers.

Revelation – (not especially the last book of the Bible) – a reminder that Christianity is not technically a religion but a revelation. God revealing Himself to humanity supremely in the life and teaching of Jesus, His Son.

Resurrection – a reminder that Jesus' death was part of God's plan and he raised Jesus to life again, never to die again. Jesus lives today. It's relevant for all of us and we can have a

Relationship with Him, if we love and trust Him. (He loves us all.) This relationship is at the heart of faith and should impact on every part of our life and influence our relationship with family, neighbours, friends, the wider community and people all over the world. It reminds us of the need to work for justice, peace, equality of opportunity, basic living standards for all etc. It also should influence our relationship with the planet – taking care of the sea (less pollution) and the creatures in it, looking after the land and all the wildlife.

Some have argued that a breakdown in all these relationships is at the heart of plagues/pestilence etc throughout history – humanity causing these natural disasters (not earthquakes/eruptions).

In getting back to basics we might use letters that have become important in recent months – NHS.

There is a constant need for New Horizons to be Seen

New Hope to be Secured

And to enable this we **N**eed the **H**e

Need the Holy Spirit and our Heavenly Saviour.

In the words of St David, 'be joyful and keep your faith. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about".

With greetings, prayers and good wishes

Michael 1

News from St Martin's

I am pleased to report that we all seem to be coping reasonably well with the unforeseen challenge of this dreadful virus Covid-19.

Life has certainly changed for many of us. With no visitors most island businesses have had to close, which can mean an uncertain future for some.

The Island's food and drink outlets have all provided take away options, so those of us not so keen on cooking can survive! Those who do enjoy life in the kitchen have been producing some veritable treats. Our Island Post Office and Stores have been brilliant, providing for our every need. We all adhere to social distancing and over 70's are served before 10.00am. Furthermore our transport providers have kept our food arriving in adequate quantities. Various forms of social media have been providing a choice of worship.

It is at times like this when we also have more time for each other and can re-evaluate who we are and what our real purpose on this precious planet should be.

Many folk have said they have actually enjoyed this forced isolation (if they are in a privileged position to be able so to do). We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place and the weather during lock down has been lovely. We have had time to tidy up the island, paint the island's memorial seats and generally appreciate our environment - even the birds seem to be singing louder!

We can only hope that post Corona Virus, we can remain more in touch with our humanity and, to quote David Attenborough, 'waste less'.

On a very sad note we have to report the sudden passing of Martin Rush, who's Mum Josie is a regular visitor to Chapel when she stays with sister Daphne, and also visits brothers Terry and Derek.

Josie was married in our chapel (I was a bridesmaid!) and Derek and Daph. still worship here. Our thoughts and prayers are sent to the family. We now look forward to welcoming our visitors and Rev Michael's return, so they can also share our precious spaces, and we hope you are all staying safe and keeping well.

| Val Thomas | |
|------------|--|
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Greetings to friends on St Martin's and St Mary's from Rev Stephen and Mrs Heather Radford who would have been on the Islands from May 2nd – 23rd but for the virus.

We are saddened to learn of the recent death of Mrs Joan Bolt, widow of the late Revd. Peter Bolt. Together they visited these islands and our Chapel for well over 50 years and were great friends to many.

Good News.....

In the midst of Coronavirus, turmoil and worry, what assurance we can receive when we simply ask God for His help. These comforting words of a hymn came into my mind when I did just that:-

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent word, What more can He say than to you He has said, You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

<u>Fear not, He is with thee</u>, O be not dismayed, For He is thy God and will still give thee aid; He'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand, Upheld by His righteous, omnipresent hand.

When through the deep waters He calls thee to go, The rivers of grief shall not thee o'er flow; For He will be with you in trouble to bless, And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, His grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply; The flame shall not hurt thee, His only design Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
He will not, He cannot, desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
He never will leave, He will never forsake.
Amen, and amen.
Words written by Richard Keen

Pauline Jackson Cocking

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Quote

We trained very hard but it seemed that every time we formed up into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing: and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress whilst producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization.

Caius Petronius of the 1st Roman Legion AD 65

A Favourite Hymn

In these difficult times, I thought I should write about a hymn of John Greenleaf Whittier that Barbara James reminded me of earlier this week It was a favourite of the late Bertie Ashford, who was my Grandfather's successor as senior organist and choirmaster.

It is no. 513 in the 1933 Methodist Hymnbook.

The first verse reads:-

Who Fathoms the eternal thought? Who talks of scheme and plan? The Lord is God! He needeth not The poor device of man.

And I agree with Barbara that verse 4 particularly gives comfort at this time.

It reads:-

I know not what the future hath Of marvel or surprise, Assured alone that life and death His mercy underlies.

I also think the last two verses are very important. They read:-

7. And, so, beside the silent sea I wait the muffled oar, No harm from Him can come to me On ocean or on shore.

8. I know not where His islands drift Their fronded palms in air; I only know <u>I cannot drift</u> <u>Beyond His love and care!</u>

Whittier could not have known what we were going to face, but I hope his words will give you the same sort of comfort they have given Bertie and me.

Philip Lethbridge

We are very grateful to Barbara and Jean for their weekly phone calls and emails with thoughtful and inspiring prayers and messages.

If you would like to have more spiritual support check out our circuit website www.sillymethodists.co.uk where you can find a weekly message from our Minister and a link to a daily reflection from Steve Wild, our District Chairman.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

We may ask what blessings can we be thankful about, what with this coronavirus that has come into our lives.

We can be thankful that for whatever reason we have come together as a community, and as a nation, with compassion for one another

That is a blessing

We have come together wishing and wanting the best for each other **That is a blessing**

We have come together with love for each other and a willingness to help and support each other

That is a blessing

The best blessing of all comes from the hymn

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise him all creatures here below, Praise him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Praise God the father who is the source, Praise God the son who is the course, Praise God the spirit who is the flow, Praise God, our portion here below.

So let us give praise to our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit for all of our blessings, and let us continue to love and support each other.

Amen

Thanks to Jean Duncan for sending this.

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake." – *Victor Hugo*

'Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – *Joshua 1:9*

A letter from John Webb

Last September, I paid a wonderful visit to St Martin's.

It was a long delayed promise to revisit the lives of my Great Grandfather John Jenkins and his brother Benjamin of Tresco.

The connection to St Martin's and the Methodist Chapel was from an inclusion in the 1887 will of Benjamin Jenkins, where he stated:

I give the sum of One Hundred pounds in Trust to Mr Francis Banfield of St Mary's, Isles of Scilly for the use and benefit of the Wesleyan Christian Association in connection with the islands of Scilly alone.

I give the sum of One Hundred pounds to Mr William Gibson of St Martin's, Isles of Scilly, in Trust for the use and benefit of the Bible Christian Association in connection with the Isles of Scilly alone.

Benjamin's wife was Honour (nee Odger) and I was pleased to see among your collection of photographs, one of Honour Jenkins tending the flowers. Maybe.



With best wishes, John Webb. Now of Toronto Canada.

Children's Birthdays

June
Sophie Jenkins, Hallie Shave.
July
Kenzie Ferguson, Archie Sandford.



William Gibson

Following from his visit to St Martin's, John did some research on William Gibson and this is what he found.

The William Gibson mentioned in the will of Benjamin Jenkins was the nephew of another William Gibson who in his youth was a smuggler and was a 'bold, daring young man'. He, with others, had crossed to France more than once in a small open boat (a distance of 150 miles) rowing there and back and running great risks to bring home a cargo of brandy. In 1820 when William was engaged in his smuggling activities, St Mary's was visited by a young Bible Christian woman, Ann Werry. It is well known that she preached to the Scillonians outside what is now the Bishop and Wolf and was so eloquent and persuasive that many were converted, including William Gibson who gave up his smuggling activities and went on to become a leading light in the Bible Christian community on St Martin's.

He became a farmer, fisherman and pilot and was instrumental in having the first chapel built on St Martin's. This was on the site of the present chapel and was next door to William's home at Rock House. At the time it was said that he was building a house for his nets and sails. He preached regularly in the Chapel.

He died in 1877.

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches where all mortals dwell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

Coronavirus Letter To Humanity

The earth whispered but you did not hear. The earth spoke but you did not listen. The earth screamed but you turned her off.



And so I was born...

I was not born to punish you.. I was born to awaken you..

The earth cried out for help...

Massive flooding. But you didn't listen. Burning fires. But you didn't listen. Strong hurricanes. But you didn't listen. Terrifying tornadoes. But you didn't listen.

You still don't listen to the earth when ocean animals are dying due to pollutants in the waters. Glaciers melting at an alarming rate. Severe drought.

You didn't listen to how much negativity the earth is receiving.

Non-stop wars. Non-stop greed.

You just kept going on with your life..

No matter how much hate there was..

No matter how many killings daily..

It was more important to get that latest iPhone than worry about what the earth was trying to tell you..

But now I am here.

And I've made the world stop on its tracks. I've made YOU finally listen. I've made you take refuge. I've made you stop thinking about materialistic things...

Now you are like the earth... You are only worried about YOUR survival.

How does that feel?

I give you fever.. as the fires burn on earth.

I give you respiratory issues.. as pollution fills the earth's air.

I give you weakness as the earth weakens every day.

I took away your comforts...

Your outings.

The things you would use to forget about the planet and its pain.

And I made the world stop...

And now...

China has better air quality.. Skies are clear blue because factories are not spewing pollution into the earth's air.

The water in Venice is clean and dolphins are being seen. Because the gondola boats that pollute the water are not being used.

YOU are having to take time to reflect on what is important in your life.

Again I am not here to punish you.. I am here to awaken you...

When all this is over and I am gone... Please remember these moments...

Listen to the earth.
Listen to your soul.
Stop polluting the earth.
Stop fighting among each other.
Stop caring about materialistic things.
And start loving your neighbours.
Start caring about the earth and all its creatures.
Start believing in a Creator.

Because next time I may come back even stronger....

Signed, Coronavirus

Written by: Vivienne R Reich

This was sent to us by Val Parker.

The Rainbow

With so many rainbows brightening our windows at the moment, I thought this would be appropriate.

Six-year old Emily loved the sight of rainbows. Her favourite Bible story was about Noah's ark and the rainbow that came after the flood.

When her father got a new job several miles away, fond farewells were said as friends and neighbours waved the family off to their new home. Emily threw herself onto the back seat of the car and sobbed as if her heart would break. Leaving everything behind her was incredibly painful.

Then just when she thought her crying would never end, she glanced out of the window and saw a huge rainbow. And what did that mean to the six-year old? It meant that God was looking after her. He knew how she felt and everything was going to be fine. Slowly she dried her eyes and started to look around her. When she arrived at her new home she was pleasantly surprised. The cottage was small but pretty and the garden was enormous.

Emily is in her forties now but every time she sees a rainbow she thinks back to that day, and has never forgotten its ability to mend a small girl's broken heart.

What Senior Citizens are Worth

Do you know that old folks are worth a fortune?

We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs! I have become older since I saw you last. Frankly I have become a frivolous old woman!! I am seeing six gentlemen every day!

As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it's breakfast time with Mr Kellog, followed closely by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley or my old friend I only know as PG. Then comes along someone I don't like at all, Arthur Ritis, he knows he's not welcome but insists on being there and stays all day. Even then he doesn't always stay in one place so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I am glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker. What a hectic life! Oh yes, I am now flirting with Al Zeimer!

The vicar called to see me the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did all the time. For no matter where I am, the bedroom, kitchen, sitting room or garden, I ask myself 'What am I here after?'

Well I close for now and hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind! And watch out for that crafty one Gerry Atric.

Beatitudes of the Aged

Blessed are those who understand My faltering steps and palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know my ears today Must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know My eyes are dim and wits are slow.

Blessed are they who look away When coffee was spilt on the table today.

Blessed are they with the cheery smile Who stop to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say 'You've told me that story twice today.'

Blessed are they who know that way To bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are they who make it known I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are those who ease the days On my journey home in loving ways.

Birthdays for June and July

We wish the following a very Happy Birthday and hope they manage to celebrate under these difficult conditions.

June

Rose Didlick, 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, Melanie Woodcock.



The Son of God

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter, and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance, and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education.

And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed round the countryside, unshaven, and living off bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to anyone who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football club known as the Disciples, not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man, rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition. The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact that he claimed to be the son of God.

They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost, they rather assumed that would be the last they'd heard of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain declared on several occasions, that he had never been a member of his team.

When he died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, he'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions on promoting his brand, or spin doctors to sharpen his image, and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming that he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So, how can one explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still the best-known celebrity on earth?

Could it just be that He was the Son of God? *Jeffery Archer*

"I think one of the big effects (of the present crisis) is there's a renewal of the sense that we all belong to Christ... I've been deeply moved by the services I've participated in; they've reached out in a way that surprised me and that is, I think, a sign of the work of the Spirit... We're finding this all over the country. There are so many clergy streaming from really basic facilities, finding huge numbers of people online with them, and making a huge impact." – Archbishop Justin Welby

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Father's Day

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually 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, how about a Zoom meeting?

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 19th, 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.

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The Traidcraft 'shop' is open in the Wesley room from approximately 10am to 7pm daily.

Biscuits, chocolate, sweets, kitchen rolls, toilet rolls, gloves, jam, marmalade, drinking chocolate, etc. Also single, 'blank' Traidcraft cards.

All profits go to charity. Come and browse!

The Methodist Prayer Manual for 2020/2021 will hopefully be out in August to commence on 1st September. It's likely to be £3.95 ordinary or large print (no 5p's!). If you would like one, let Michael know please by the end of July.

Here are some excruciating one-liners...

What time of day was Adam created? Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race? Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic? Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing? He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam? No — just an apple.

Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible? He thought he saw a job.

Does God love everyone? Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
He just knew there was something fishy about it.

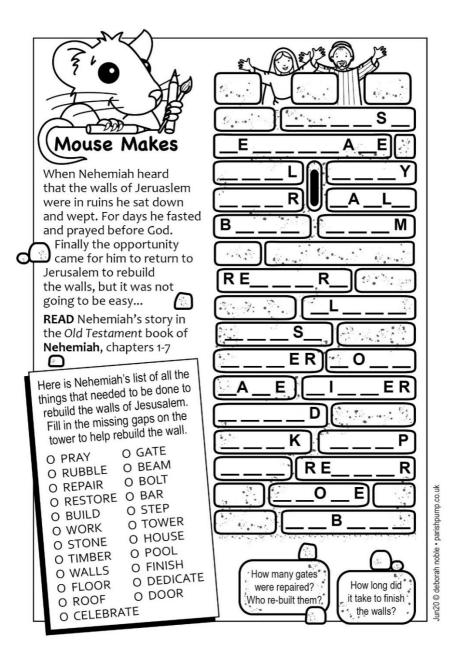
What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? Absolutely ruthless.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose. Mosquitoes come close, though.

What's so funny about forbidden fruits? They create many jams.

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'The Covid-19 pandemic will, in the long term, prove a mere chapter in human history. And then (when) the world comes back to life, Sir David Attenborough (and others) will keep fighting to save it." – *Joe Shute, journalist*



Editorial Team

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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.

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Some material in this magazine was obtained from <a href="https://www.parishpump.co.uk">www.parishpump.co.uk</a>. We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

# Dial-a-Prayer



FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a

prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

# **PRAYER CHAIN**

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

| Mervyn & Stephanie Bird                                       | 423117                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Sue Williams                                                  | 422605                                      |
| Claire Jenkins Margaret Snowball Gordon Bird Sonia Crompton   | <b>423546</b><br>422896<br>422550<br>422854 |
| <b>Len &amp; Sylvia Michell</b> Pamela Thomas June Lethbridge | <b>422409</b><br>423115<br>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. Michael Pullan on 422406.

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

# **SERVICES**

<u>JUNE</u> — There will not be any services in June according to Government guidelines.

<u>JULY</u> — The following services will be held if restrictions allow.

# ST MARY'S

| 5th  | 9.15am                      | Rev Michael Pullan<br>Holy Communion                |
|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|      | 11.00am                     | Rev Michael Pullan<br>Holy Communion                |
| 12th | 9.15am<br>11.00am           | Mrs Jill Ward<br>Mrs Margaret Brock                 |
| 19th | 9.15am<br>11.00am           | Beryl Read<br>Rev Michael Pullan                    |
| 26th | 9.15am<br>11.00am<br>8.00pm | David Ward<br>Beryl Read<br><b>Lifeboat Service</b> |

# ST MARTIN'S

| 5th  | 11.00am | Christopher Savill                   |
|------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 12th | 11.00am | Rev Michael Pullan<br>Holy Communion |
| 19th | 11.00am | Gordon Bird                          |
| 26th | 11.00am | Rev Michael Pullan                   |

# PARK HOUSE

5th 4.00pm Rev Michael Pullan