

Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

March



2010

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Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs (422406)

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Barbara Hasler Len Michell
Neil Didlick Gordon Bird
Christopher Savill

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Mr Mervyn Bird (423117)
Mrs Beryl Read (422977)
Mr Len Michell (422409)

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill (423563)

Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs Rose Didlick

Church Stewards St. Mary's

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

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

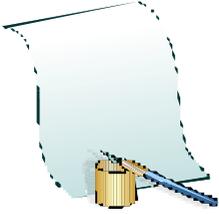
Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams (422605)
Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read
Property Secretary Mrs Mary Ratcliffe (423030)
Organist Mr Len Michell (422409)

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins
Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry
Organist Mr Rodney Ashford (423109)

Connexional Link Person Mrs Beryl Read (422977)

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)



Some Thoughts from the St. Mary's Manse

It is sometimes said that the month of March 'Comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb!' The weather as I sit at my desk today at the beginning of February is certainly more like a lion than a lamb, the wind is blowing and the rain is pouring down.

Last week Mary and I were invited over to Bryher to meet the good folk there. We left at eight in the morning, we were told that a force eight wind was blowing, the sea was rough, and when we reached Bryher we were warned to be careful not to be blown over the quay. However we were warmly welcomed, we were introduced to a lot of people, and were greatly encouraged by the opportunity to offer our Methodist love and support to the people of Bryher. We left laden with gifts including some fine fudge, and a book produced by a local artist.

During the month of March the Friday Fellowship meetings continue at the Manse, please do look at the details of these meetings found on another page of this magazine. These are wonderful meetings which end at 9pm with drinks and sandwiches, I would encourage each of you to come and explore more about the blessings which are ours by trusting in the things of God. It is my hope and prayer that these meetings together with the Monday afternoon prayer meetings will strengthen and build up our church so that we may move on in mission. I am encouraged by the hope that is expressed in these meetings, and look forward in the days to come to expressing this hope expressed in our worship and the day to day life of our church.

During Lent our friends from the Parish Church will be joining us for the Friday Fellowship meetings and Father Guy Scott has been asked to speak at the meetings on the 12th and 26th. On Maundy Thursday we have been invited to the Parish Church for a special act of worship led by Father Guy.

Please be sure to come to the special events planned for Good Friday (2nd April). At 10.30 we will meet at the Methodist Chapel when I will lead a special act of worship. At about 11am we will

walk through the town with a cross, stopping briefly at planned points, for readings and hymns. At 12 noon we will be on the top of Buzza Hill where the cross will be erected and stand until Easter Sunday morning. At 12.30 a fine meal of soup and sandwiches will be served at the Manse by kind invitation of myself and Mary.

We trust that despite March coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb the weather will be fine on Good Friday.....but come rain or sunshine, on our journey through life, we have a solid rock upon which to stand, and that rock is The Lord Jesus Christ! He will always meet our deepest needs. He brings hope to this world today, and we His church are each called to proclaim His blessings today!

We live in exciting times, for The Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand, what a joy it is to be included in the work of God and to be a sign of the New Life which is God's gift to us in Jesus,

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these fine islands for a while. Every blessing to you all!

Charlie Gibbs

-oo00O00oo-

Somewhere on the isles of Scilly is a rare bust of John Wesley. On which island will it be found? Who will be the one who finds it? We hope this mystery will be solved during the summer. Where are the clues to be found? Watch this space to find out more.

-oo00O00oo-

Food for thought

There are three kinds of people in life: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who don't know what's happening.
James Smoke

Important Notice

Please be sure not to miss the following

Weekly prayer meetings at the Manse every Monday at 2.15pm followed by tea and refreshments at 3pm.

Friday Fellowship every Friday at 7.30pm followed by drinks and sandwiches at 9pm.

GOOD FRIDAY (2nd April). Worship in Chapel at 10.30am followed by walk of witness and the placing of the Cross on Buzza Hill. Soup and sandwiches will be served at the Manse at 12.30. (Further details on Page 4)

TOGETHER, IN THE STRENGTH OF GOD, AND IN THE POWER OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE OUT OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACTS OF HUMAN KINDNESS!

HIS CHURCH WILL ALWAYS BE A SIGN OF GOD'S GRACE WHEN WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD !!!!!!!

-oo00O00oo-

Lent Lunches

These begin on Ash Wednesday, 17th Feb. For the first three weeks they will be served in the Parish Church Hall, the following three weeks in the Methodist Hall.

All proceeds from these simple lunches will go to the work of Christian Aid.

The menu is soup followed by bread and cheese. Each year about a thousand pounds is raised during Lent from those who commit themselves to having this simple Lunch once a week. If you haven't been before please come this year and support those who prepare the lunch - and Christian Aid of course!

Good Friday on St Mary's 2nd April ITYOOL 2010

10.30 Service with hymns, readings and prayers in chapel led by Revd C. Gibbs.

At approx 11 am the people will leave the chapel and will follow the Cross to the Parade Park. (People will take it in turns carrying the Cross.)

At the park William Thomas will say a few words about the hymn 'When I survey the wondrous cross' which will be sung. The Revd Gibbs will read Luke 23:44-49.

The people with the Cross will walk across Porthcressa and gather at the foot of Buzza Hill (the Icings). Mr Len Michell will say a few words about the hymn 'There is a green hill far away' which will be sung. Revd Gibbs will read Colossians 1:15-20.

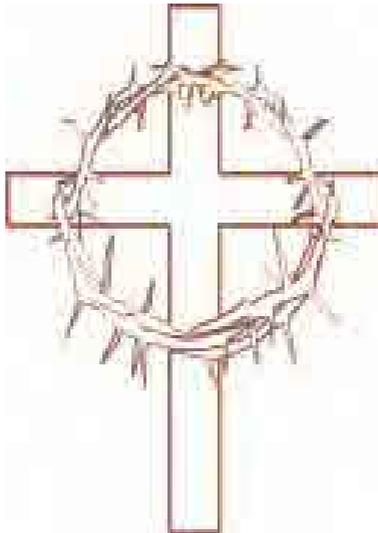
Halfway up Buzza Hill Revd Gibbs will read Philippians 2: 1-11.

William Thomas will say a prayer.

At the top of Buzza Hill William Thomas will secure the wooden cross in place and Father Guy Scott will lead a brief act of worship with a prayer of blessing.

The above hymns will be printed on a sheet. Those with musical skills please speak with Len Michell.

At approx. 12.15 the people will walk to the Manse where soup and sandwiches will be served at 12.30.



News from St Martin's

Like other communities in Scilly, St. Martins has not been slow or lax in responding to the needs of the people of Haiti. There have been a few fund raising events in response to the devastation caused by the earthquake, with money for at least one Shelterbox being raised. We must continue to pray for the victims of this natural disaster and all those seeking to support and alleviate the suffering.

Following our Chapel fund raising over the past couple or so years, it is now good to see some of the planned improvements finished or nearing completion. A shallow ramp for wheelchair access, white markings on the gallery stairs and an outside light, together with new steps between the Chapel and the Sunday School, should make the building that bit safer. Our thanks to those who have undertaken the work.

Steve Daly recently returned home after a knee replacement, but she and Colin remain in our thoughts; he fell a week after her return and will be at Treiske for at least six weeks. Although Steve tried to cope on her on with the support of good neighbours, she has had to go back into St. Mary's Hospital.

Finally, the members at St. Martins send their good wishes to Fiona as she recovers from recent major surgery. I'm sure Fiona, Gordon and their family have been in many people's thoughts and prayers during the anxious weeks since New Year.

Heather

Birthday Greetings



Our best wishes go to Steve Burrows, Lilly Didlick, Claire Jenkins, Alistair McNicol, Len Michell, Simon Morris, Val Parker, Margaret Smith, Heather Terry who celebrate their birthdays in March.

If we have missed anyone out we send you our greetings - perhaps you will be kind enough to let us know so that next year you will be remembered.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself, which begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last services of this special day are held back in the Pacific, on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for 36 hours.



The symbol of the Women's World Day of Prayer was designed in 1982 for the service prepared by women of Ireland, both north and south, and was then adopted as the International Logo.

The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Thanks

I am afraid that I missed last month's deadline but with apologies to those concerned, I would still like to give some special thanks in this month's magazine; so, on behalf of the rest of the congregation, I would like to express our gratitude for all the hard work put in by Sue, Jacky, Kath and Gillian for the big clean up in the hall after the restoration work and for putting the chapel back to rights when the decorations were taken down. I know they worked like beavers, so we wish to acknowledge the fact and thank them for their time and energy.

June

Jean Wiltshire Remembered

When Jean first came to the islands in about 1970, with her friend Margaret John to live in Sunwood, the bungalow at the foot of the road to the airport, she was a draftsman running her own business, working for GEC. She continued to do this for some time until the long hours, and trips to London, became too much for her.

Jean and Margaret were locally known as 'The Goat Ladies'. They had a small herd of milking goats and it was Jean who went about the islands on her scooter delivering milk to their customers. She could also be seen collecting fodder from wherever it was available, or taking the goats across the road to browse on the hillside. Gardening was another of Jean's interests, and something which at times she found frustrating when trying to rid the garden of wild alliums. She was never afraid of hard work and did much of the repair and maintenance work on the bungalow.

Jean had a long-standing dream of having a sheltered-housing complex built on the plot of land below Sunwood. It is largely thanks to Jean's dedication to this project that Hanover Court became a reality, opening in May, 1989. In the following 24 years she was able to provide round-the-clock care for the residents as the estate manager.

Jean attended chapel whenever she could and thought deeply about her faith, a faith which sustained her during the difficult times of her life, and also gave her much joy. For a few years she was 'on note' on the Isles of Scilly Circuit preaching plan.

Jean was a sensitive and independent woman who was kind and caring to her friends. She had a varied taste in music, a great sense of humour, and an infectious laugh. Shortly before Christmas last year she suffered a heart attack and was flown to Treliske, later having a triple-heart bypass on Christmas Eve at Derriford Hospital. Unfortunately, following her return to Treliske, her condition deteriorated and she died on 27th January 2010, aged 74 years. Her funeral at Penmount Crematorium reflected her life – a quiet yet sincere commitment into God's keeping. She will be greatly missed by her friends, both on St. Mary's and on the mainland.

Sylvia Michell

Lent, a given time to repent

Repent sounds an old fashioned word - hardly used nowadays, but it has not lost its strength through lack of use. It means to turn, to change one's mind because of regret or conviction that something said, done or thought was wrong. It is to see things in a clearer, unvarnished light, see one's mistakes, feel a responsibility for them and desire to make amends and improve.

For that change to happen one must be exposed to someone or something better than oneself - so seeing the error and starting the process. Ideally, one ought to allow one's actions to be assessed and measured against the straight edge of God's word. But our reaction might instead be startled self defence, launching us into elaborate attempts to justify ourselves and explain our actions as products of our 'environment', 'understandable' lapses, 'reasonable' mistakes, 'common errors', regrettable but 'unremarkable' faults - given that the world is 'as it is'. Going further, we may attack others, saying 'it's their fault!' When found out, there's nothing like passing the blame! (ask Adam and Eve). Or, instead of going down the Pride Path or Blame Parade, others wanting self-esteem rather than repentance try Ostrich Avenue.

Here, by not reading God's word, not associating with His people, not worshipping regularly, nor reading Christian biographies past or present nor any Christian literature, people insulate themselves completely and so are never likely to reach repentance. They are the 'nobody's perfect' brigade. They live in a cocoon of their own, believing themselves excused, exonerated, unaccountable, and so are shocked not only by the thought of Judgement but that anyone should ever mention it!

But is repentance an enemy - such that we avoid it at all costs? Is God our friend or foe? Are His commandments good or bad? We mourn over many things. Why not mourn over our sins? Is it so terrible to admit we were wrong? Aren't there some things that need changing and forgiving?

At the moment we sorrowfully admit our wrongdoing, God begins to put us right. But not before. Repentance must come first.

The Prodigal Son reached an end of himself and, when all was spent and lost, retraced his forlorn steps, back to Father, resolved to be a penitent servant not an honoured son. Humiliated, humbled, knowing he'd been an uncaring fool (which he had). The wastrel trudged back but Father seeing him, rushed out, not with stick or cudgel, but with a robe which he put round his shoulders, and a ring which he placed on his finger and sandals which he put upon his feet and ordered a feast! He explains that a son who was lost (decidedly, determinedly, intentionally, deservedly and seemingly irrevocably) was now 'found'.

Try repentance. It's not pleasant. Not the beginning at any rate.....our pride hates it. It has a bitter taste. But it turns sweet because of the way God responds to it.

Chris Myhill, by kind permission

Carbon Fast for Lent

On Ash Wednesday I heard a news item on the local news that the diocese of Exeter were suggesting that people reduce their carbon footprint for Lent rather than give up the usual things like chocolates. This struck me as a good idea as it would be a way of doing one's bit towards reducing global warming.

There are many simple ways we can reduce the amount of carbon we produce – for example:

Turn off lights in rooms that are not in use

Lower the temperature on room and hot water cylinder thermostats by one degree (we probably won't notice any difference but we will be using less electricity)

Don't leave appliances like computers, TVs, audio equipment on standby

Buy produce that is local or at least British to reduce the miles it has to travel to reach us.

We live in a beautiful world that God has given us, so surely, as God's children, we should be doing our best to look after it!

Anne

St Patrick

Patrick was born in the 5th century in the northwest of England. As a young man he was captured by pirates and was taken to Ireland to serve as a slave. While there, in his despair, he turned to prayer and found that God was there for him. He spent a lot of time praying and his faith deepened.

After six years he heard a voice telling him to go home so he managed to escape and eventually returned to England where he received some training for the priesthood.

In AD435 the pope sent Patrick back to Ireland where he established his see at Armagh and set up a school and went on several missionary journeys.

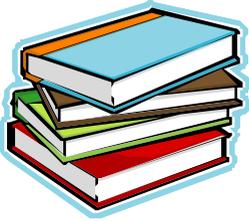
Patrick's writings are the earliest known from the British church. They have a very simple message and a deep pastoral care. The national emblem of Ireland is the shamrock. Patrick used the three parts of the leaf to explain how the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit could exist as separate parts of the same being. He also incorporated some of the pagan symbols of the Irish into Christianity to make the faith more acceptable to the people. For example he took the shape of the sun which was worshipped by the Irish and incorporated it into the Christian cross to give what we now call a Celtic cross. He wanted to abolish paganism and idolatry and was ready to suffer imprisonment or death for the sake of the church. He died on March 17th in about AD461.



Patrick is the Patron Saint of the Irish and his Saint's Day is celebrated with much enthusiasm on March 17th wherever Irish people have settled.

Anne

St Mary's Methodist Church Library



While the Methodist Church Hall roof was being renewed recently our chapel library was housed in large crates in one corner. Now the books are at last back on their usual shelves and are housed under the normal headings. However, not all is quite the same as before! A great many extra volumes have been added to the stock while in the crates and they need recording.

Rather than discourage their loan meanwhile, it has been decided that if you see a title of any interest, please take it with you, with no need to sign for it. In due course return the book at your leisure or pass it on to a friend with your recommendation if you have found it of value. Building on that, we should also be glad to have your contributions to 'In Touch', with reviews of any books you have found especially interesting. In both these ways you will be encouraging a greater use of this Methodist facility. Furthermore we hope our visitors will be persuaded to use the library for their holiday reading!

Gwen Clarkson - Librarian

A Prayer

As I go walking through the world,
Lord, walk along with me,
And through the beauty of the world,
Lord, help me look and see.
As I go listening through the world,
Lord, let me hear Your voice,
And with the wind, the birds, the sea
Lord, help me to rejoice.
As I go slower through the world,
Lord, give me quiet peace,
And show me, always, in my life,
Your love will never cease.

Iris Hesselden (The Friendship Book)- reproduced in Royton Methodist Church magazine

The Tree of Faith

On the television there is a popular programme where individuals trace their ancestry. This has led me to think about our faith ancestry. Who introduced us to Jesus, and who introduced them to Jesus? I know that it was my mother who led me to Jesus followed by many other faithful friends. My mother's faith was given to her and this linkage continued back to the time of the disciples and to Paul the great traveller and from them to Jesus himself.

More importantly the question today is are we the people of faith and are we leading others to Jesus. Not just by what we say, or what we do but by our constant prayer.

'To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see'. Join me by saying Yes!

Mary Ratcliffe

This Life

This life is not a state of being righteous, but rather, of growth in righteousness;

not a state of being healthy, but a period of healing;

not a state of being, but becoming; not a state of rest, but of exercise and activity.

We are not yet what we shall be, but we grow towards it;

The process is not yet finished, but is still going on;

This life is not the end, it is the way to a better.

All does not yet shine with glory; nevertheless all is being purified.

Martin Luther. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Methodist Church 'may go out of existence'

The Methodist Church is prepared to go 'out of existence' as part of a covenant with the Church of England if this helps spread the Christian message, its leader indicated yesterday.

The Rev David Gamble, president of the Methodist Conference, said the church would be prepared to change and even end its separate status for the sake of the 'Kingdom'.

"We are prepared to go out of existence not because we are declining or failing in mission, but for the sake of mission," he told the Church of England's national assembly. "In other words, we are prepared to be changed and even cease having a separate existence as a Church if that will serve the needs of the Kingdom."

His remarks, made in a presentation to the General Synod, come nearly seven years after the Church of England and the Methodist Church healed a 200-year old rift with a national covenant between the two churches. The covenant included commitments to co-operate, a set of agreed affirmations of belief and a commitment to work towards the 'organic unity' of the two churches.

Mr Gamble, speaking yesterday, told the General Synod of the Church of England that the effect of the covenant around the country was 'patchy'. He said: "In some places there are very close working relationships and exciting new initiatives. In others you could spend quite a long time trying to find any signs of the covenant in practice."

A spokeswoman for the Methodist Church of Great Britain insisted there was 'no suggestion' that it would be 'swallowed up' by the Church of England or lose its name.

She said: "The vision of the covenant is not to see an Anglican 'take over' of the Methodist Church but a greater unity between the two churches, a 'coming together'."

From The Western Morning News – 12 February 2010

0It doesn't hurt to have a little Biblical humour to start or end the day!

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

A. Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany ?

A.. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

PS... Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?

Yes, it's in the Bible. It says 'He-brews'

KEEP SMILING!!!! GOD LOVES YOU !

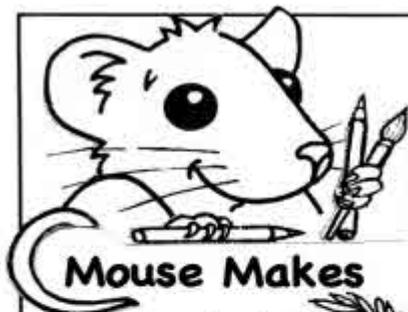
Contributed by email from M. Grossett

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The following lines under the heading 'What kind of member are you?' were written in a church magazine. They were written with their own congregation in mind, but don't you think there's a message in them for us all?

- ❖ Some are like watering cans, they pour out kindness, faith and peace.
- ❖ Some are like wheelbarrows, going no further than they are pushed.
- ❖ Some are like balloons, full of hot air and ready to blow up.
- ❖ Some are like trailers, they have to be pulled.
- ❖ But some are like a good watch – open face, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works.

With thanks to our friends at Royton Methodist Church



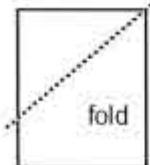
Mouse Makes

The Sunday before Easter is known as **Palm Sunday** - the day we remember Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

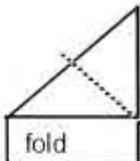
The people shouted '*Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*'.

Read Matthew 21:1-11

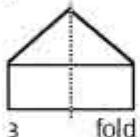
Fold-a-Cross



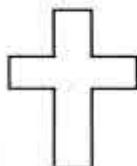
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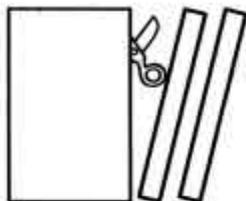
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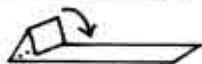
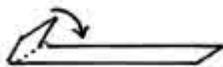
open out

Decorate with Easter colours and patterns

Palm Sunday Cross



1. From a sheet of paper cut 2 strips about 15mm wide.

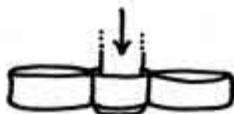


2. Take **one** strip. > Fold up about 17mm (a little wider than the paper strip) then fold over **twice** more

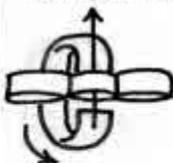


3. Fold the other end around and behind. Then push down and fold flat. This makes the

< **cross-beam**



4. Put a blob of glue on one end of the > other strip of paper then **push** through the middle folds in the cross-beam



5. **Bend** the other end around and **behind** the cross-beam and **back** through the middle folds. Gently pull all the way through then flatten.

6. **Bend** the end again through the centre folds and **pull** through until you have a loop the same size as the loops on the cross-beam then flatten to make a cross.



Make a card for Mothering Sunday by decorating a paper folded cross with cut out flowers



Diary Dates

3 rd March	Christian Aid Lent Lunch, 12.00-1.30, Parish Church Hall
5 th March	World Day of Prayer, 2.00 pm, Catholic Church Friday Fellowship, 7.30, The Manse
10 th March	Christian Aid Lent Lunch, 12.00-1.30, Methodist Church Hall
12 th March	Lent Fellowship, 7.30, The Manse
17 th March	Christian Aid Lent Lunch, 12.00-1.30, Methodist Church Hall
19 th March	Lent Fellowship, 7.30, The Manse
24 th March	Christian Aid Lent Lunch, 12.00-1.30, Methodist Church Hall
26 th March	Lent Fellowship, 7.30, The Manse

Editorial Team

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Val Parker	martinandval.parker@virgin.net

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

Visit our Circuit website www.scillymethodists.co.uk

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

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact Charlie Gibbs (422406) and then please phone 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
Keith & Sam Grossett	422503
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360
Claire Jenkins	423546
Neil & Rose Didlick	422838
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon & Fiona Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854
Barbara Hasler	422208
Margaret Crane	422596
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pamela Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404
William & Tricia Thomas	423144
Peter Laverock	423692
Beryl Read	422977
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.

MARCH SERVICES

St Mary's

7th	9.15 am	<i>Leader:</i> Mervyn Bird
	11.00 am	<i>Preacher:</i> Gordon Bird
	6.30 pm	Len Michell Revd Charlie Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i>
14th	11.00 am	Mothering Sunday
	6.30 pm	United Service at the Parish Church Mr Trevor Adams
21st	9.15 am	<i>Leader:</i> Beryl Read
	11.00 am	<i>Preacher:</i> Neil Didlick
	6.30 pm	Mr Trevor Adams Revd Charlie Gibbs and Revd Edwin Softley
28th	10.30 am	Palm Sunday
	6.30 pm	<i>Leader:</i> Beryl Read <i>Preacher:</i> Revd Charlie Gibbs Mr Trevor Adams

St Martin's

7th	11.00 am	Revd Charlie Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i>
14th	11.00 am	Christopher Savill
21st	11.00 am	Revd Charlie Gibbs and Revd Edwin Softley
28th	3.00 pm	Palm Sunday Revd Charlie Gibbs

Park House

7th	4.00 pm	Barbara Hasler
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