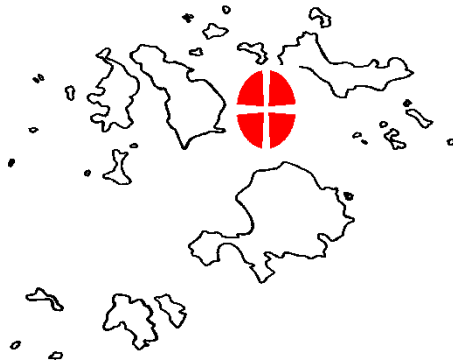


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

May 2015

Methodist Circuit Newsletter

Chairman of the District

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Meeting Secretary Heather Terry 422329

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read

Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Leigh Kendrick

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Property Secretary Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry 422329

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977

Some thoughts from the St. Mary's Manse

Some of you will remember how some months ago I wrote about how special the winter months are here on these beautiful yet remote islands, I even went on to say that in some ways this was my favourite time of year here on Scilly. Those who come year after year on holiday to this unique location of course will know very little about life here during the winter months, and I expect our mainland friends have many wonderful memories of sunny days on our unspoilt beaches and boating trips on calm seas to our tranquil off islands. This is certainly the Scilly that is loved by so many and we rejoice that again this summer we will be welcoming visitors to worship with us in our fine historic chapels on St Martin's and St Mary's.

The Month of May is certainly a month to see our islands in all their glory. I remember some years ago when leading our worship on St Martin's saying to the good people there. "I'm afraid you've got a big problem here!" To which they replied "What do you mean?" And I said. "The problem is that it is so beautiful here that you won't notice the difference when you get to heaven!"

Some have said that the view from Signal Rock outside our St Martin's chapel looking across to the Eastern Isles is one of the most beautiful views in the world, and it is certainly a wonderful place to be, and a very special place to worship on a Sunday with friends.

Steve Wild who is the chair of the Cornwall District of our Methodist Church loves our islands and he and his family in years gone by have had wonderful holidays on St Martin's. Steve will be leading worship on St Martin's on the morning of the 31st of May and on the evening of that Sunday on St Mary's. We look forward to Steve's visit especially as it will be his last visit to Scilly before, in July ,he takes up his

position as President of the Methodist Church. Steve is really an evangelist, and it was a delight to have been sitting alongside him at last year's Methodist Conference in Birmingham when he got an overwhelming vote to lead our church for the coming year starting when the conference meets in Southport this summer.

In this important year for Steve and his family it is crucial that we uphold him in our prayers. Steve has many gifts that I am sure will make his presidential year very special, his enthusiasm for others to meet with the risen Jesus is seen in every detail of his life and I am quite certain that the coming year will indeed be a wonderful year in the life of our very precious Methodist Church.

Also this month on the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of May we will be welcoming Gareth Bolton and his wife Malou. Gareth is an international evangelist who in the past year alone has been speaking in Sri Lanka, Chile, Malaysia, The Philippines, India, Switzerland, Wales, Spain, Denmark, Greenland, South Korea, Italy, Greece, Serbia, Scotland, and the USA. This is truly remarkable! But he has very gracefully agreed to be with us on Pentecost Weekend and he will be leading meetings on the Saturday and both acts of worship on the Sunday on St Mary's. Let us put these dates in our diaries now, let us pray for this very special weekend, and let us continue to rejoice in how The Lord is blessing the mission of our churches here on Scilly. (If you use a computer see: Gareth and Malou YouTube)

We are also delighted that this year on the 10th of May on St Mary's we are holding a special 'Easter Offering' service which will be led by Beryl Read and Mary Ratcliffe. This special act of worship links in with our special relationship with 'Methodist Women In Britain'. Do remember this day and be prepared for Mary to be asking you to take part in

what will be a wonderful act of worship.

And so it is that we faithfully meet week by week to worship and to pray for the promised coming of God's kingdom just as those first disciples of Jesus did all those years ago. When I am leading worship in our island chapels, especially when we meet together for Holy Communion I often think of that last evening that our Lord spent with his friends on the night of His arrest, and the day before His death upon the cross of Calvary.

Each of those disciples, just like us, had a story to tell. As children they had been brought up to trust in God, they had followed the religious traditions of their day, and some like their fathers had been fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. But like us their lives had been changed by meeting with Jesus. For three years they had travelled with Jesus among the ordinary people of their day, they had witnessed Jesus healing the sick, bringing hope to those in despair and speaking with authority about the Kingdom of Heaven. But on that last evening together they were clearly in great need of comfort and encouragement to face the uncertain days ahead.

We just like those first followers of Jesus know something of the things that Jesus did among the people of His day, we too have hopes, but we also have our fears. As we gather week by week for worship I expect that we just like those first disciples long to hear words of comfort and hope to sustain us in the times ahead, and a crucial part of us meeting together is for us each to hear the voice of God.

If we did not meet together we would no longer be able to truly call ourselves church! Indeed the Holy Spirit reminds us that solitary Christianity is not an option for followers of Jesus. For some with busy lives sacrifices are needed in order for us to gather together. For others, particularly the elderly and in-firmed this will require determination and

commitment, and in many ways it is this act of gathering together that is the very sign that we are truly committed to the things of God upon our journey through life. By gathering together we are reminded of that great hope and that great promise of God of us truly being one as 'The Body Of Christ'.

In worshipping together we bring with us all those things which make us human, our hopes, our joys and our celebrations. But we also bring with us our disappointments, our fears, and the mistakes we have made upon our journey, and it is in gathering together that we learn more about the grace and love of our forgiving God who always says to us "**let not your hearts be troubled!**"

As we meet for worship in our chapels on St Martin's and St Mary's we will always hear and celebrate the great promises of our gracious God. In gathering together we will be assured by the Holy Spirit that despite our mistakes and despite our shortcomings God is with us, we will hear clearly that great message of how in Jesus our sins are forgiven, and we rejoice that in our worship we catch that vital glimpse into the Kingdom of Heaven which surely brings us hope even in the great turmoils of life.

May we continue to be truly thankful for the Good News of the Gospel, and may we rejoice with all who join with us in worship over the summer months that the promises of our gracious God are indeed true.

May we continue to love one another! Every blessing to all our readers!

Charles R Gibb

By the grace of God your minister for a while longer.

News from St. Martins

Easter is a time of such mixed feelings.

We remember the suffering of Jesus on the cross – I often wonder if the old tradition of cockling on Good Friday is to enact such pain. Actually - I'm sure it's a pagan custom and coincides with the larger "spring" tides!

We also celebrate the joy of the resurrection, and what it meant for the followers of Jesus.

Here on St. Martin's we enjoy the coming of spring, with the opening up of businesses, the return of our visitors – both human and avian. To see the swallows, martins, sandwich terns, and so many other spring visitors is quite uplifting; there is a real "buzz" in the air.

We were sorry to hear of Rev. Charlie's shoulder injury, and wish him a speedy recovery. We thank him for making such a single handed effort to lead us in our worship and communion on Easter Sunday. It was also good to welcome Mary his "left" – hand.

We were also entertained by Sophie Poat on her clarinet, sharing the music that won her acclaim at the recent Cornwall music festival.

The Reverends Stephen and Myrtle Poxon took our service on April 12th. To 'connect' us to the wider world, apparently Steve Wild has declared that we need someone 'of note' to visit us at least once a year! We were blessed with two such people; now working in a very challenging area of Tottenham, N. London, having spent time in Jamaica, Cardiff and Preston. Both Stephen and Myrtle have been leading the Methodists, as Chair and vice chair of the Conference.

We had a very lively, inspiring hour, with singing that had a Caribbean flavour, and an energetic version of:

“Up from the grave he arose”.

Mrs Poxon used the story of the resurrection to outline the fear the disciples must have been feeling having watched Jesus die on the cross. How many people still have fear in their lives? The terrible massacre at a university in Kenya is just one example.

However, the return of Jesus removes that fear and emptiness and replaces it with the fullness of life and joy. As with Thomas, doubt is replaced by a faith and confidence in a new way.

We concluded our worship by singing No 18 from Mission Praise:

“Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
Because he lives all fear is gone”.....

Verse 2 is particularly poignant:

“How sweet to hold a new born baby ...”

Only the day before a new baby was safely delivered in Signal Row – by her Dad! We congratulate Hannah and Andrew Walder on their new arrival – Nessa Ida. She is a sister for Lowena, granddaughter for Julia and Steve, and a great granddaughter for Gladys and Derek (and a new niece for me!)

Val Thomas

What's happening in May?

Easter Offering

On Sunday 10th May at 10.30 the service will be the one being used throughout the Methodist Connexion this spring. It is based on the need for reconciliation and healing, of individuals, communities and nations. Jesus sent out his first disciples to "proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal" Luke 9:2. Wholeness is the Good News which the Church offers.

Envelopes for your gifts for the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain will be placed in the pews at the beginning of the month. Do consider this opportunity to be part of the healing of the nations. The service includes Bible passages, music, prayers and stories from around the world.

Mary

Leprosy Mission Sponsored Walk and Picnic

Thursday May 21st 10.00a.m.

Meet on Holgates Green.

We are hoping and praying that this walk and picnic will be a time of great fellowship and enable others to hear about the work of the Leprosy Mission from Martin Pitman who represents the Society in the South West.

The walk will finish on Holgates Green at 1.30.p.m. Time to go to an off island at 2.00 p.m. if you aren't walked out! Please join us and if you can encourage others to sponsor our walk so much the better.

Mary

What's happening in May? - Blaze, Spirit, Blaze!

Pentecost Weekend – 23-24 May 2015



Gareth Bolton, and his wife Malou, who travel widely supporting Christians in developing countries, will be with us to help lead a weekend of fun activities and encouraging teaching as we seek the Holy Spirit in our lives, our church and the community here on the islands. As this edition goes to press, possible activities include a men's breakfast on Saturday morning; a

ladies' Saturday afternoon tea, with Malou teaching dance to Christian songs; and an open invitation to a social event that evening. On the Sunday, we will worship together in the morning and learn more about the Holy Spirit, after which there will be opportunity for personal prayer. We will extend our fellowship over a bring-and-share lunch; and at 8 pm all will be invited to a special healing service.

By the time you are reading this Pentecost will be very close, and we hope that your hearts will be set on fire for this opportunity and you will be supporting us, as you are able, in the arrangements necessary to make it happen.

Beverley and Ian

May 24: Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles - but He knew they could not do the work themselves - they would need His help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues - to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

What is happening in May?

May 1: May Day – unbridled merriment

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practiced?"

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 -

Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span,

it flourishes like a flower

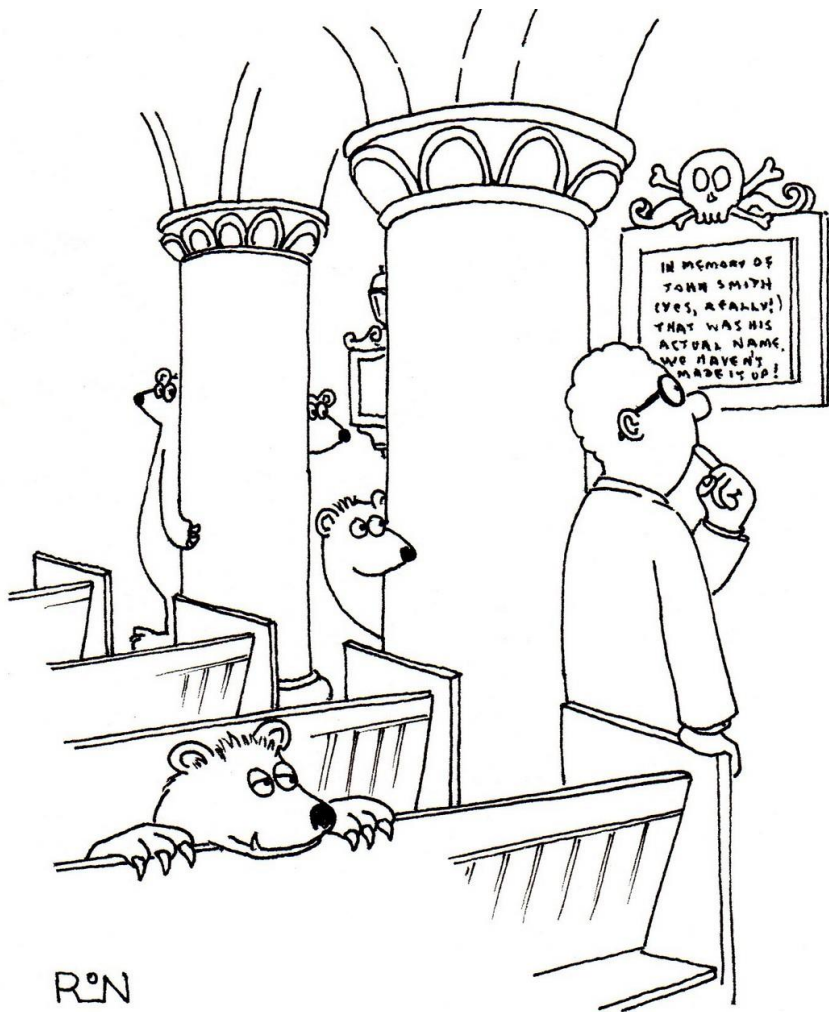
We are here today, and gone tomorrow

- we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

Editor's note: As we know, here on Scilly, the school's May Day is very much a local custom. This year it returns to the May Bank Holiday. I thought this article would be of interest given the lovely traditional May Day that is kept up by the school.

Article from The Parish Pump



R^oN

*Dennis spent a long time in church
looking for his forbears*



Birthday Greetings for May

Harriet Pender, Michael Jenkins, Ian Hodgeson, Mervyn Bird, Chris Hensleigh, Nick Jenkins, Andy Brooks and Emma Roberts
God's blessings to you all.

Election Time – on a lighter note

Political definitions contributed by David

Christianity...you have two cowsyou give one to your neighbour.

Communism.....you have two cows....the government takes them both and gives you a little milk.

Fascism...you have two cows....the Government takes them both.

Nazism...you have two cows...the Government takes both and shoots you.

Bureaucracy...you have two cows....the Government takes them both, loses one, milks the other and spills most of it.

Capitalism ...you have two cows...you sell one and buy a bull.

Editorial Team

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Any contributions will be gratefully received. *The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe.*

What is happening in May ?

Scilly, Slavery and Sunken Wrecks. "

For three Saturdays in May Nigel Pocock will be giving a presentation in our hall called "Scilly, Slavery and Sunken Wrecks ". Nigel and his wife Corinne are regular visitors to Scilly who come to our prayer meetings on Thursday evenings when we pray for revival in our community.

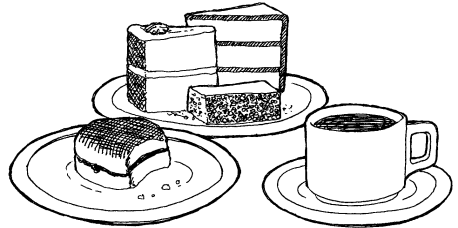
Please support them.

Mary

Gig Weekend

On the Saturday of Gig weekend, the Church runs a refreshment stall on the quay. This is a major fund raiser for us. Donations of homemade cakes and biscuits will be gratefully received and these can be dropped off at the Manse on Friday afternoon or evening.

If anyone is available to help please let Claire know.



Prayer for Election Time

Heavenly Father,

We need your wisdom at this Election time. There are so many issues, so many voices clamouring for attention, clamouring for votes, clamouring for power. Thank you that you give your people a different sort of power, the power of your Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. Help us Lord to receive your Spirit, to listen to him, so that we make good decisions on Election Day - and every day of our lives. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your Spirit,

In Jesus name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Mouse Makes

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at PENTECOST?
READ Acts 2:1-41

HOLY SPIRIT teaches us about God
 John 14:26

HOLY SPIRIT helps us to pray
 Romans 8:26-27

HOLY SPIRIT is with us and in us
 John 14:16-17

HOLY SPIRIT helps us to speak about God
 Acts 1:8

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT
 EPHESIANS 5:18

There was a sound like a blowing of a violent wind... and what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

How many believers were baptised that day?

Colour the flames, cut out and tie together to make a Pentecost mobile.

When Children and RE mix...

When children meet the Bible, the result can be unpredictable. as in these answers to a school chaplain's efforts to teach RE....

The main purpose of the prophets was to set up the lights for when Jesus came on the stage.

The Kingdom of God is no ordinary place like the bathroom at home.

Jesus said: If you want to divorce your wife leave a note for her on the table.

Jesus healed a man with a weathered hand.

Some of the seed from the sower was carried off by Satan.

The last verses of Mark's gospel were written later by a unanimous person.

Jesus first proclaimed the gospel to the Jews: He told them to make love to each other.

An altar is a stall for candles.

An example of Holy Orders are the Ten Commandments.

An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030 or Revd. Charles Gibbs 422406. I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird **423117**
Sue Williams 422605
Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

Claire Jenkins **423546**
Margaret Snowball 422896
Gordon Bird 422550
Sonia Crompton 422854

Barbara Hasler **422208**
Margaret Crane 422596
Len & Sylvia Michell 422409
Pamela Thomas 423115
June Lethbridge 422404

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.

If anyone else would like to join in this special ministry please contact Mary Ratcliffe on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of His grace.

May 1 Services

St. Mary's

- May 3rd** 09:15 All Age Worship Team
 11.00 Barbara Hasler
 16.00 Park House Beryl Read
 20.00 Mary Ratcliffe
- May 10th** 10:30 Len Michell/Beryl Read
 20.00 Gordon Bird
- May 17th** 09.15 Mervyn Bird/Barbara Hasler
 11.00 Rev Charlie Gibbs
 20.00 Rev Charlie Gibbs **Songs of Praise**
- May 24th** 10:30 Gareth Bolton
 20.00 Gareth Bolton
- May 31st** 09.15 Len Michell/Vikki Smith
 11.00 Rev Charlie Gibbs Communion
 20.00 Rev Steven Wild

St. Martin's

- May 3rd** 11:00 Chris Savill
- May 10th** 15:00 Beryl Read
- May 17th** 18:00 Rev Charlie Gibbs
- May 24th** 11:00 Rev Charlie Gibbs
- May 31st** 11:00 Rev Steven Wild Communion