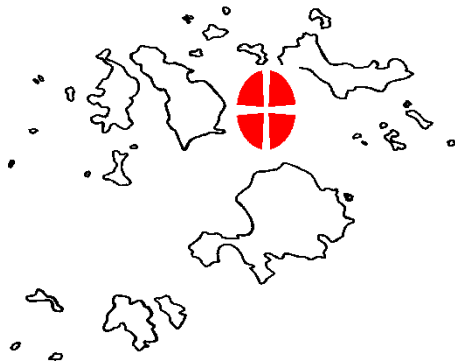


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

Methodist Church Circuit

May 2016

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Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

Local Preachers

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Gordon Bird Mary Ratcliffe

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 Heather Terry

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 Mrs Barbara Jones

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Hall Booking Secretary Mary Ratcliffe 423030

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

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977



Some thoughts from the St. Mary's Manse

May is certainly a great month to visit the beautiful Isles of Scilly, and if any of our friends from the mainland are reading this letter and thinking of coming to Scilly be sure to visit our chapels on St Martin's and St Mary's. We guarantee that you will receive a warm welcome, and that you will certainly be able to rejoice in the Good News of the Gospel which we celebrate on the first day of every week. Yes Sunday is still special, and it is the day that as followers of our risen Lord Jesus we meet together to rejoice in our precious Christian Faith. Keeping Sunday special is certainly part of our discipleship and our witness in the communities in which we live, and although as the years go by the pressures on keeping Sunday special seem greater it is still certainly a special day for all who know Jesus as Lord.

I have noticed that over the years more and more calendars are published with Sunday at the end of the week instead of being the first day of the week, have you noticed this? Maybe this is just another reminder of the slow but steady secularisation in the way we do things in Britain. What a pity this is, and how sad it is that the joy of celebrating God's victory over sin and death is no longer on the Sunday agenda for so many in our nation today.

Our calendars remind us that May is one of the seven months that have thirty one days, but did you know that in any given year no month ever begins or ends on the same day of the week that May does? Check this out, and let me know if I am right about this.

May of course is extra special because for us it is a month that is in the season of Spring. In the Southern Hemisphere May is in their Autumn, which of course means that the celebrations of Easter and Pentecost in this part of the world are set in the season of Autumn. This must be very different, and I would very much like to know if you have experienced this. Maybe I should ask some of our members on St Martin's about this because earlier in the year several of them were in Australia and New Zealand. Yes, the world certainly seems a smaller place than it once was, but we rejoice that where ever we may be we can still meet to celebrate our precious Christian Faith on the first day of the week.

For Methodists the world over the month of May is special for a particular reason, and that is because of what happened to John Wesley on the 24th of May in 1738. In his journal for that day he writes. 'In that afternoon I was asked to go to St Paul's Cathedral. The anthem was sung "Out of the deep I have called unto Thee O Lord, hear my voice..." In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface of the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter to nine, while he was describing the change in which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.'

Some who are reading this letter will know just what John Wesley meant when he wrote 'I felt my heart strangely warmed'. It certainly is an experience that changes our lives, and we rejoice that there are those in our island

churches who will willingly give testimony as to how true this can be.

This year Pentecost Sunday is also in the month of May. This year on Sunday the 15th we will be celebrating Pentecost in the morning both on St Martin's and on St Mary's, and in the evening we will be celebrating God's gifts to us in a special Pentecost songs of praise at 8pm on St Mary's. The story of the very first Pentecost Sunday is recorded for us by Luke in his 'Book of Acts'. This is a truly amazing account of all that happened in Jerusalem all those years ago, and today we look back on this as the day that the church was born. Yet in so many ways it is hard for us to really grasp just what happened on that Day of Pentecost some two thousand years ago when, according to Luke, a hundred or so faithful Jews meet in a house in Jerusalem fifty days after their Passover celebrations and are overwhelmed by The Spirit of God among them. And we may well ask the question, 'What does this vivid story of tongues of fire mean for us as followers of Jesus today?'

In so many ways it is difficult for us to fully take in just what happened on that first Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate it as the birth of the church and we say that from this point in history that the full extent of God's love and God's grace is made clear to His people by receiving His Holy Spirit. Yet alongside this vivid story of Pentecost we know that the Bible from beginning to end records for us how our Sovereign God speaks to His people in times of need. The Bible tells us of how God is always faithful to His promises, and Jesus Himself certainly made this clear to His followers. Today we believe that by receiving the Holy Spirit we can know the power of God's promises today.

In the Old Testament book of Joshua we have the wonderful story of how a young man, in a time of great difficulty, is spoken to by God and equipped to face all that lay ahead of him knowing that God's promises would always come true. The writer puts it like this, 'The Lord spoke to Joshua and said, "As I was with Moses, so I shall be with you. I will never leave you and I will never forsake you!" '

These words from the book of Joshua remind us of other similar stories that we read of in God's Word. Suddenly ordinary people become convinced of the God's presence, and because of this they go on to achieve and do things which before they just thought would not have been possible. Joshua a young man whose family had been slaves in Egypt is found by God, and it is this experience and all happens from this point in his life that assures him that the promise of God's presence is real.

And so it is that we begin to gain some insight as to how the Holy Spirit may work in our lives today. He the Holy Spirit is the one who reminds us of the Sovereignty of God; He is the one reminds us that the promises of God are true, and it is He the Holy Spirit who helps us to grasp how precious the gift of faith is on our journey through life, even in the bleakest moments of our lives.

But maybe one of the most helpful passages about knowing the presence of God and the power of His Holy Spirit is to be found in the recording of the events on the last evening Jesus spent with His friends before His arrest and crucifixion as found in the Gospel of John.

John tells us this moving story set in a background of sadness and uncertainty, and as we read his words we can feel the bewilderment and despair of His disciples. Just a

few days before Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem in the midst of the Passover celebrations, and each of the Gospels record how He had been greeted by cries of Hosanna by those in the crowded streets. But now the atmosphere had changed, and now there were rumours of those who were plotting His downfall. And as they meet together for this last meal we can feel the bewilderment and despair that surrounds them. These followers of Jesus certainly needed to find hope for the days ahead, and this hope is met as Jesus speaks of how their greatest needs will be met by God and the promise of His Holy Spirit.

On that last evening that Jesus ate with His friends He knows their anxieties. He takes upon Himself the role of a servant and washes their feet, He speaks solemnly about how one of them will betray Him, and of how another of them will later deny knowing Him, and He tells them that in a little while He will no longer be with them. But it is then at this low point in the evening that Jesus brings them hope. He reminds His followers that God always is faithful to His promises, He says to them "*Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled*", He tells them that they will never be left alone, and He speaks clearly about the promised coming of God's Kingdom. And He tells them that all of this will be possible because they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All that Jesus promised that evening was fulfilled fifty days later on that first Pentecost Sunday. Indeed, according to John, on that last evening together Jesus said to His disciples,

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He the Spirit of Truth comes He will guide you into all truth!"

May we never doubt the promises of God. May we continue to meet for worship on the First Day Of The Week. May we earnestly pray that we will each receive God's gift of His Holy Spirit, and may His 'Spirit Of Truth' lead each of us safely into the Kingdom of Heaven.

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these remote islands for a while longer.

Charles R Gibbs



News from St. Martins

We enjoyed our Easter services with congregations swelled by our first visitors, and it is also good to have Rodney back with us; we hope he continues to gain in strength.

We were pleased to have Philip and Mary to come and play the organ for us (at different services!) and we thank them for their generosity.

Congratulations go to two ladies: Mary Ratcliffe who is now a fully fledged local preacher, and Beryl Reid who has retired from her 'day job'. We look forward to seeing a bit more of them at our chapel in the future.

Val Thomas



Advanced notice of the arrangements for the circuit service 2016.

The Circuit Service is due to be held in St. Martins Chapel at 11.00am on Sunday June 26th. It is anticipated that those crossing from St. Mary's will use a tripper boat which leaves at 10.15am. The tide table suggests that Higher Town will be the chosen quay on the day, but you can never be sure! I will liaise with the boatmen much nearer the time about this and the return times. I'm sure transport can be organised for anyone requiring it. The Circuit will pay the boat fares for local children up to the age of sixteen.

Members of the Circuit Meeting feel it would be a good idea to repeat what happened when this annual service was last held on St. Martins in 2013. Following the act of worship, a lunch was enjoyed at "Adam's Fish and Chips." I have spoken with Fiona Morton and they would be happy to serve fish and chips as before, as long as I give them the numbers in advance. As they don't normally open on Sundays until July, we would need to have at least twenty wanting lunch to make a special opening worthwhile for the business.

Beryl has kindly agreed to compile a list of those from St. Mary's Chapel who would like to order a fish and chip lunch. I'm sure she would appreciate not having to contact too many people by telephone, so please look out for a list to sign or speak with her if you would like to order lunch. Some people may prefer to take a picnic and that of course is another option.

Numbers are much easier to gather on St. Martins, where I will be asking folk in due course.

Thank you,
Heather

**Report from our Minister
for the Annual General Meeting
May 22nd 2016**

We meet to mark the passing of another year in the life of our church as we faithfully wait and pray for the promised coming of God's Kingdom. Throughout the year we have faithfully met for worship, and have been able to maintain three acts of worship each Sunday, and also to lead worship in Park House on the first Sunday of each month.

In January 47 tickets of membership were distributed, and a further 38 tickets of fellowship were distributed to the wider fellowship of our church. We thank Beryl Read our pastoral secretary and our pastoral visitors for their distribution. Since our last meeting two of our members have passed from this life, Emma Roberts, and Sybil Gandy, and today we remember them and their families.

Our work with children and young people continues to be an important part of our mission. On the first Sunday of each month we have been putting into place various new forms of worship; these have included café style worship and craft making, which have been family friendly and well received by those who have attended. We thank Vicki Smith for leading us in these new ventures, and we pray that these new forms of meeting together will develop in the months to come.

The important work of our Saturday Seekers children's meeting has been well attended, and the dedicated team of workers led by Sonia Crompton and Gordon Bird continues to come up with fresh ideas which introduce the younger children of our island to the church, to sound Biblical teaching, and enables them to explore our precious Christian faith in a safe and well run setting. This

contribution to our island community is clearly well received by the children who attend and their parents who bring them along each month.

Our links with the Five Islands School continue to be very good. Our minister is invited to take assemblies on alternate weeks during term times, and our church and the school are delighted that this arrangement is in place for the coming year. The 'Open The Book' team is now an established part of the timetable for school assemblies, and we are delighted that members of our Methodist Church are fully involved with this important work.

The annual Holiday Club continues to run in August and again this provides a safe and secure setting for the younger children on our island to explore the life of our church and engage with our faith.

Together with the Open The Book, Saturday Seekers, the Holiday Club, and our input to school assemblies we do indeed have many opportunities to share our faith with the children of St. Mary's.

For the past year or so we have had in place our 'Monday is For Men' meeting at the manse. This has been very well attended. The format is simple with tea and bacon rolls being served, conversations take place, and hopefully this low key outreach will continue to develop in the months to come.

Another important part of our work is with older residents on our islands. The Wednesday 'At Home' continues to offer a warm welcome, and our minister is often invited to lead events at the 'Memory Café'. In addition to this there is the

ongoing work of visiting those who are elderly and housebound. Park House continues to invite us on the first Sunday of each month to lead worship. Another new venture aimed at the elderly is the 'Knitting Group' which meets on a Friday morning at the manse. It is also true that several members of our church are themselves now elderly. Our care for these elderly members must surely be one of greatest priorities.

During the summer months we have been pleased to welcome visitors to our Sunday worship and to our weeknight slide shows. Visitors often speak very encouragingly about our worship, and a large number of our monthly In Touch magazines are sent to our mainland friends. It is also good for us to have fellowship with these visitors who worship with us, and it is good to hear of their experience of church life on the mainland.

Our mission to visitors plays an important part in the life of our church. The visitors also help us by their financial contributions, both in our Sunday Offering, and in the fees charged for the slide shows and for the accommodation we offer over gig weekend.

During the winter months both our 9.15am and 11am worship has been in the hall, and many have commented on how worshipping together in this smaller and more intimate space has created a good atmosphere for worship.

It was about two years ago that we decided to look into the feasibility of modernising the interior of our chapel. A group is still looking into this, and it is clear that to do this to the standard we require will be very costly. Our hope is that once we know all that is needed we can try to put finances in place to go

ahead. Despite the present setbacks we still do see this as part of a longer term plan in the life of our church. We are thankful to those who have taken on this task, and at the moment we are looking into how we may apply for grants to help towards the expected cost of doing this work. It is our hope that in the coming year we shall have a clearer picture of when we may proceed.

Annual Church Meeting

On

Sunday 22nd May

Meeting starts at 12:15

Election of Church Stewards and Council Reps
Our Minister's Report

Bring and Share lunch at 1pm

Everyone welcome

All in the month of May

100 years ago:- on 11th May 1916 that Albert Einstein's theory of General Relativity was published in the physics journal Annalen der Physik. It describes how space-time is affected by energy, gravity, matter and momentum.

90 years ago:- on 3rd May (to 13th) 1926 that the General Strike occurred in the UK. About 1.7 million workers went on strike in support of miners who faced pay cuts and worsening conditions. The strike was unsuccessful.

80 years ago:- on 7th May 1936 that British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever solo flight from Gravesend, England to Cape Town, South Africa.

65 years ago:- on 3rd May 1951 that the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall were opened.
- on 25th May 1951 that British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring.

50 years ago:- on 6th May 1966 that the Moors Murderers, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, were sentenced to life imprisonment in the UK. Their five victims were aged 10 to 17.

30 years ago:- on 9th May 1986 that Tenzing Norgay Sherpa (Tenzing), Tibetan/Nepalese mountaineer, died. He and Sir Edmund Hillary were the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest in June 1953.

20 years ago:- on 21st May 1996 that BSE (mad cow disease) led to the British Government adopting a policy of non-cooperation with the European Union, when it refused to ease a ban on British beef.

15 years ago:- on 6th May 2001 that Pope John Paul II became the first pontiff in history to enter a mosque when he visited the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus during a visit to Syria. He prayed there and gave an address promoting peace between Muslims and Christians.



Birthday Greetings for May

Harriet Pender, Michael Jenkins, Ian Hodgesson, Mervyn Bird, Chris Hensleigh, Nick Jenkins, and Andy Brooks

God's blessings to you all.

Sunday Trading hours

Sunday trading hours are unlikely to be increased for at least another four years, following the recent failed attempt in Parliament to increase them. (The Government was defeated by 27 rebel Tory MPs voting alongside the SNP and Labour.) So, eager would-be shoppers will have to wait until after the 2020 election before the Government revisits plans.

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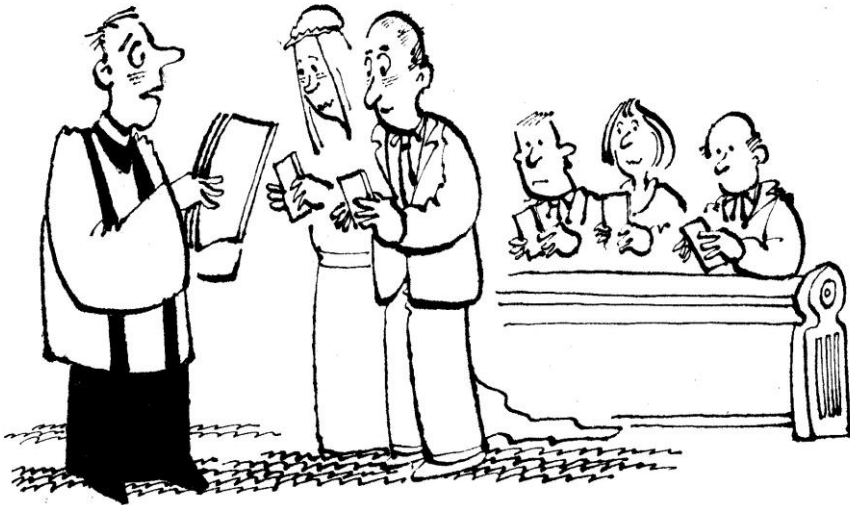
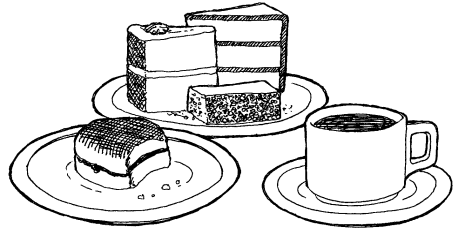
Any contributions will be gratefully received.

The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe.

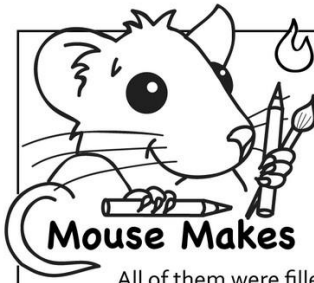
Gig Weekend

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 Sue Williams know.



...er, if I could just tear you away from your mobile phones for a moment...



It was the festival of **Pentecost**, 50 days since **Passover** and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate.

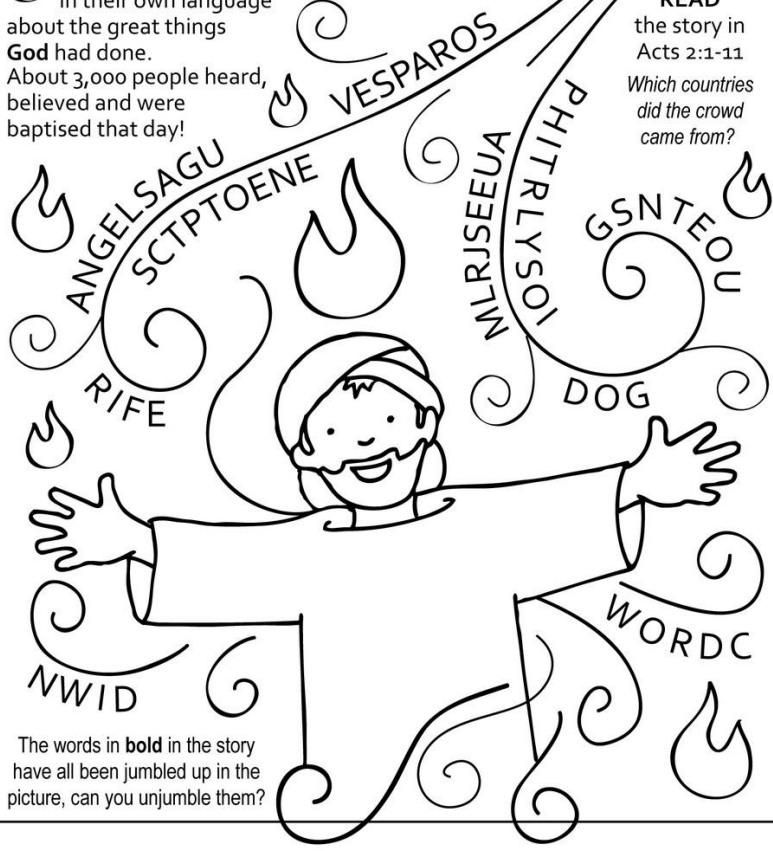
The Apostles and other believers were all together in one place when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like **tongues** of fire which spread out and touched each person.

All of them were filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to talk in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

A **crowd** gathered outside, they were all excited because each of them heard the believers speaking in their own language about the great things **God** had done.

About 3,000 people heard, believed and were baptised that day!

READ
the story in
Acts 2:1-11
Which countries
did the crowd
come from?



The words in **bold** in the story have all been jumbled up in the picture, can you unjumble them?

EU referendum- which way should Christians vote

There is no 'correct Christian view' on how to vote in the EU referendum. So says the Archbishop of Canterbury. He also says that people are entitled to fear the impact that "enormous" numbers of migrants will have on our jobs, housing and the NHS. Speaking in a recent interview with The House magazine, Justin Welby said it was "outrageous" to condemn people who raise concerns as "racist". Instead, their "genuine fears" needed to be addressed.

"Fear is a valid emotion at a time of such colossal crisis. This is one of the greatest movements of people in human history. Just enormous. And to be anxious about that is very reasonable."

His comments are taken by many as the most significant concerns raised by the Church of England in the present migrant crisis. The archbishop went on to repeat his call for Britain to take more than 20,000 refugees.

Article from the Parish Pump

The following real life answers to various exams explain why teachers need long holidays...

What is a nitrate?

Cheaper than a day rate.

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears. Four seals.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact Charlie Gibbs 422406 and then 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

Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

Claire Jenkins 423546

Margaret Snowball 422896

Gordon Bird 422550

Sonia Crompton 422854

Barbara Hasler 422208

Len & Sylvia Michell 422409

Pam Thomas 423115

June Lethbridge 422404

Beryl Read 422977

Gwen Clarkson 423106

'Rejoice in the Lord always I will say it again, Rejoice!...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God' Paul's letter to the Philippians Chapter 4

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.

Please join in this special ministry you can contact me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.

May Services

St. Mary's

- 1st 09:15 All Age Worship Team
11:00 Barbara Hasler
Park House 16:00 Beryl Read
20:00 Mary Ratcliffe
- 8th 09:15 Mervyn Bird/ Barbara Hasler
11:00 Mary Ratcliffe
20:00 Gordon Bird
- 15th 10:30 Mary Ratcliffe / Vicki Smith
20:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs Songs of Praise
- 22nd 09:15 Gordon Bird / Sonia Crompton
11:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs Communion
20:00 Len Michell
- 29th 09:15 Beryl Read / Revd. Charles Gibbs Communion
11:00 Len Michell
20:00 Revd Charles Gibbs

St. Martin's

- 1st 11:00 Len Michell
- 8th 11:00 Chris Savill
- 15th 11:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs Communion
- 22nd 18:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
- 29th 11:00 Barbara Hasler