

Methodist Church Circuit



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Minister Revd. Charles R. Gibbs

Local Preachers Barbara Hasler Len Michell Neil Didlick Gordon Bird Christopher Savill

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Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

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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

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)

Some Thoughts from the Manse



The month of November is here, the nights are longer, the summer visitors have gone leaving the streets of Hugh Town empty, the cafes have closed for the winter and in church and chapel we adjust to having smaller congregations over the winter months.

We hope for a mild winter as our remaining flower growers harvest their winter crop, but no doubt there will be days of high

winds and driving rain just to remind us that we live on a group of tiny islands surrounded by what at times can be raging seas.

Recently those from the Met Office have been asked to think again about their long-term weather predictions. Last year they predicted a 'mild winter' and it turned out to be one of the coldest on record, with those on the mainland experiencing long periods of below-zero temperatures leading to chaos in many places. Their prediction for a 'barbecue summer' was maybe a little off the mark too, leaving some asking 'Is it possible to predict the weather so far into the future?'

Throughout history there have always been those who have claimed to predict the future and there have always been plenty of people who have wanted to hear what they have to say! In ancient times there were prophets and astrologers who claimed to know what the future would hold and even today there are 'fortune tellers' and the daily 'horoscopes' in the newspapers to satisfy the needs of those who want to know what the future may hold.

For us in the church, this hopefully all means very little. The church traditionally teaches that we have no need to be too concerned about the future because all is in the hands of a loving and caring God who has promised to meet the needs of those who trust in Him.

Jesus was often asked about the future but He refused to be drawn on this matter. In the days of Jesus many ordinary people were looking forward to what they believed would be a time when The Kingdom of Heaven would come, but when asked about this Jesus said that no-one knew when this would be, only God who knows all. Instead Jesus taught us that we must seek to be prepared by trusting in God and caring for one another. It all sounds very simple! But if we really did trust in God, maybe we too would be less concerned about what tomorrow may hold. Jesus spoke clearly about God's provision in this life, and even beyond, and even when betrayed and let down by His followers, He never doubted the almighty plan of God.

The Gospel reminds us that in Jesus God has shared in all that makes us human. He knows our doubts and He knows our fears. The Cross of Jesus reminds us that God's love is complete and for all, and because of this we can be sure that in the end all will be well, all will be well indeed!

I do not know what the future may hold, and I certainly do not know what the weather will be like this winter, but I do know that even in the storms of life God has promised to be with us. I often end our worship with the words 'So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him. Be rooted in Him and be built up in Him, and let us be strengthened in the faith we have been taught. And let us at all times and in all circumstances be overflowing with thanksgiving!'

May our trust in an almighty and all powerful God be seen in our love and care for others.

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist Minister on these fine islands.

Every blessing to you all *Charlie Gibbs*

Nicholas John James (Johnny)

We would like to express our sincere thanks for all the messages of sympathy and support received from so many friends and acquaintances on the recent death of Johnny. Your care and concern for all the family has been very much appreciated.

The Cremation service at Truro conducted by Rev. Brian Mavers and the Thanksgiving Service on St. Mary's led by Rev. Charlie Gibbs were both fitting tributes to a life well spent.

Thanks also to the ladies of the Chapel who provided and served the refreshments after the Thanksgiving Service.

Barbara, Barry, Rosemary and Kevin.

News from St. Martin's

Since the Harvest celebrations in early September our weekly services have gone ahead as planned, with no weather interruptions. It has been good to have Dick and Sheila Trafford with us again for several weeks, after his health scare when they were last spending time at their holiday home on the island.

There was a pleasing congregation when Steve Canning, from the Newlyn base of the National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, led worship on October 3rd. His information about the work of the mission was of interest to all, as was his message about having Jesus as a pilot through our daily lives. As a Chapel, we were happy to donate the offertory from this special service to the work of a charity that resonates with an island community, with its share of people who work on the sea. Our thanks to William for arranging Steve's visit and to those who decorated the Chapel in an appropriate 'fishy' way with pots, nets etc.

Before the November In Touch is circulated William and Tricia will have left the Islands. Everyone on St.Martin's wishes them well as they return 'home' to St.Ives. We thank them both for supporting the Methodist Church in Scilly in varied ways, not all musical! We recall William leading worship, duets at shared services and most recently The Rock.

Daph is still on the mainland looking after her sister Josie, so our thoughts and prayers remain with them. We also send our sympathy to Barbara James and her family in their recent bereavement.

Heather



We send our sympathy from St Mary's Church to Barbara James and her family on the death of Johnny. Our love and prayers are with them at this sad time.

O Gallant Youth

Last year Nigel Beeton went to three military funerals between November and February; the first was the son of a colleague of his at work, and the second two were at his church, St Mary's, which has a chapel dedicated to the Royal Anglian Regiment. He recalls: 'It is heartrending attending funerals of young men less than half my age; how could I not write some verses to express how I felt?' We share this poem with you now....

Through long dark years our young have fought and died, In Freedom's name our country's foes defied; Now in Remembrance they are glorified, O Gallant Youth, we owe so much to you.

Though they were young, when came their country's call, Ready they were to stand up strong and tall. They did not flinch when asked to give their all, O Gallant Youth, we give our thanks for you.

Rows of graves, with headstones white Tributes to our gallant men, From Sun's rise till it sets from sight We'll always remember them.

Though they know well how high the price before -Legions of men and women lost in war -Our young today are standing firm and sure! O Gallant Youth, we are so proud of you!

Desert sands, through wind or flame Far flung seas, or skies of blue Where you go in Freedom's name We'll always think of you.

Go, in our name, to duty or to fight, Go, with our hopes into the darkest night; The hand of God will lead into the light. O Gallant Youth, we send our prayers with you!

Follow your fellow men from ages past Stand side by side with them, sincere, steadfast; Fight for the right until you come at last Home, Gallant Youth, to those that wait for you.





Commonwealth War Graves Commission

While I was in France recently I was able to fulfill a long-held wish to visit my grandfather's grave. He died in November 1914 in a military hospital in Orleans and is buried there. Before I went I visited the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission's website to check on the cemetery details. I was a bit concerned to find a message saying that they were doing some horticultural work to tidy the plot up and remove perennial weeds and couch grass. I contacted them to make sure that I would still be able to visit and got a very speedy reply with a photo (together with all the emails that they had sent and received while checking this for me) to say that the site was still able to be visited.

The Commonwealth war graves in Orleans consist of only 97 burials from two world wars and are just a small area in a huge municipal cemetery. Although the area looked rather bare because the grass and flowering shrubs had been removed it was very tidy with not a weed in sight. The replanting will be done this autumn.

So, this November when we are remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom, let us also think of the organization which ensures that their final resting places are maintained as a lovely memorial to them. For more information visit <u>www.cwgc.org</u>

Anne

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.



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Editorial Team

Anne Gurrmanda.gurr@btinternet.comMaryRatcliffemaryratcliffe@live.comVal Parkermartinandval.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 <u>www.scillymethodists.co.uk</u>

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

Thanks to all those who gave us their opinions about the way forward for In Touch. We have decided, for next year, to combine the February and March editions. If you decide that you would prefer to read In Touch from our website please let us know so we can save the cost of a paper copy for you.

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Cathedral bell rings 492 times for lost species

This year was declared the UN 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Peterborough Cathedral rang its tolling bell 492 times this autumn on the same day that the crucial UN Biodiversity talks were held in New York - one toll for each animal and plant species that England has already lost. Other churches across the country also rang in support.

The UN General Assembly were discussing - for the first time ever - the crisis affecting the world's biodiversity. Research published earlier this year by Natural England showed that 492 species have been lost in England, underlining the importance of how plants, animals and life are all linked and the loss of one species through human actions can affect many others.

Speak, Lord!

In the silence of the stars, In the quiet of the hills, In the heaving of the sea, Speak, Lord!

In the stillness of this room,

In the calming of my mind,

In the longing of my heart, Speak, Lord!

In the voice of a friend,

- In the chatter of a child,
- In the words of a stranger, Speak, Lord!

In the opening of a book, In the looking at a film, In the listening to music, Speak, Lord!

For your servant listens.

David Adam Tides and Seasons

I found this in a church in Caen, Normandy and thought it would be good to share it with you. Anne

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#### **November Birthdays**

This month we send birthday greetings to Daniel Bird, Jonathan Bird, Veronica Deane, Helen Crisp, Jean Goody, Julia Ottery, Aurelia Schwart and Monica Taylor. We hope you all have a lovely day.



#### We have a Gospel to proclaim

This hymn inspires me to think about how we can proclaim the Good News to our generation here in the islands and beyond. It is a vital mission, not because we want bums on seats but because we want to help, in the Lord's name and the Spirit's power, all those who are burdened by their known and hidden sin to find life in all its fullness.

The Gospel is designed to bring comfort to the comfortless and challenge to those who are comfortable and to those who have lost the zeal that they once had for the ways of the Kingdom.

We want to tell our neighbours that there is more to life than they presently see.

Christ initiated the Kingdom of God on earth, and it will continue to grow until Christ comes again to judge it. It is a Kingdom where righteousness in every part of life is seen, everyone is respected and valued as a child of God. When God's hand is seen at work in our community then, and only then, will there be a willing return to worship.

When John wondered if Jesus was the Messiah he was in prison and so he sent his disciples to ask Jesus 'Tell us,' they asked Jesus, 'are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?' Jesus answered 'Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing; the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!' Matthew 11

Are we helping people to see the right way to live by our example? Do they hear words of beauty and encouragement from our lips? Do we see our neighbour's need and respond to it? Do we offer them the opportunity to find healing?

We have the work manual (the Bible) and the encouragement of many to challenge all that is wrong in our present day thinking. Politicians give us false hope, they thrive on the external trappings of life whereas the Gospel tells another story. Not the acquisition of wealth in this life but treasure in knowing the ways of righteousness. Not pie in the sky when you die but pie here and now when we know we are living with the blessedness of God resting on our shoulders. As disciples we have a charge to proclaim the Gospel and lead our neighbours to an understanding that the ways of this world will never bring life in all its fullness, however hard it tries, but that life with Jesus at the centre will indeed bring life in all its fullness and more than that, bring harmony to any society.

Mary Ratcliffe

# Action for Children

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It is good to report on some excellent fundraising for this charity over the past month. Normally we expect a rest until

Christmas. Dear Fiona Bird has again filled her collecting box with 20p pieces. It weighed very heavily as is usual and produced  $\pounds40.80$  in line with Fiona's regular annual contributions. It always amazes me how

saving small coins can produce such worthwhile amounts. On behalf of the charity my thanks go to Fiona and all other friends who have home boxes.

The total amount I shall have sent to Action for Children will be  $\pounds$ 55.80. It will include income from



some of the religious cards donated to us a long time ago by dear friends Roger and Margaret Smith when they closed their Christian bookshop, Seeds of Faith. We remember them both with great affection. They contributed so much to the community here, not least by their lovely indoor and outdoor recitals with trumpet and flute as Wayside Music and with old instruments. We send In Touch to Margaret every month and this brings greetings from her friends in Scilly.

Cards remaining in stock include several to send to friends who are moving house. With William and Tricia Thomas going back to their old home in St Ives, sadly for us, we decided to send them one of these cards from our fellowship. The wording is 'Welcome to your new home', but at least the religious text is appropriate, taken from Exodus 33: 14, 'My presence shall go with you'.

Please ask to see the remaining stock of a variety of cards if at all interested.

Gwen Clarkson Action for Children Representative

#### The Rock and His Creation – A new look on Christian Calling

This summer the chapel put on its fantastic rendition of 'The Rock', a metaphor which Christians around the world understand to represent our reliance on God for spiritual fulfilment, stability and happiness. However, a Christian group set up in Liverpool in 1983 have brought extra meaning to the phrase. 'A Rocha' (the Portuguese for The Rock) are so named, because they recognise our reliance on God's provision through the earth, as well as spiritually. They also recognise that this provision through creation is threatened by our actions, as we hear all too often these days, with species becoming extinct, forests being felled and water supplies drying out or being poisoned, etc. A Rocha believe that helping to protect God's creation through conservation and ecology is something that we are called to do as Christians. Just as one might go on a mission to provide for the spiritually thirsty, so we are serving the Kingdom of Heaven by securing a clean safe water supply for the literally thirsty.

This reliance on creation is often much more pronounced in the developing world; although we would be terribly sad if Scilly's crystal waters were polluted and the summer pollock and mackerel disappeared, we would be unlikely to die as a result. This is not the case in many developing countries where food, water, fuel, shelters and numerous other commodities are sourced directly from the surrounding environment. Hence protecting species and habitats also achieves the provision for people's needs, and ultimately, their happiness. Realising this A Rocha commit to 5 promises -

*Christianity:* the recognition that God created and sustains the world and the human race.

*Conservation:* through data collection, sustainable management and education

*Community:* the realisation that relationships and love sustain people

*Cross Cultural:* being open minded to new ideas from various people and places and being willing to transfer one's own ideas for mutual benefit.

*Cooperation:* working jointly with other organisations in conservation, humanitarian work and otherwise.

The philosophy of A Rocha has been remarkably successful, with branches now existing in twenty countries from Papua New Guinea to Lebanon and including England, all working to bring glory to God through protecting creation.

I have decided to use my skills and time to volunteer for A Rocha Kenya starting in January next year. The project out there is based on the coast near Malindi and near the Arabuko-Sokoke national park, an

area of unique tropical dry forest, mangrove and coral reefs. Unfortunately the incredible natural environment is under threat from overpopulation and poverty on the one hand, and ironically, unsustainable development from the growing luxury holiday industry on the other. A Rocha Kenya work to collect data, monitor the environment, provide opportunity for sustainable tourism and educate and collaborate with local people in order to achieve the best for the environment and its people.



Many people think I am mad when I say I work for free, and sometimes over the summer I have agreed with them, after finishing all day working for the Wildlife Trust here and then having to go out to the Hotel in order to earn enough money to eat. However, I do this work because I honestly believe that God wants us to protect His creation.

If this short article has raised any questions and/or strikes a chord with your own beliefs let me know and we can discuss them. You can also look at A Rocha's website (www.arocha.org) where there is loads of information on their ethos, history and current work. In addition if you, like me, believe that this is good work, you can help by supporting me for the five months I am due to go. I need to raise around £3000, which goes entirely on flights, food and accommodation, with no money going to the organisation, only my time and help. I have raised £2000 through scrimping and saving my own money, but am going to need support for the remainder of the sum. I hope the church can help. Thank you in advance

Ben Cowburn

There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed. Mohandas K. Gandhi

# **Informed Prayer**

Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others,

Open my ears that I may hear their cries,

Open my heart so that they need not be without succour.

Let me be not afraid to defend the weak because of the danger of being strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

#### Action by Christians against torture (A.C.A.T. U.K.)

Action by Christians against torture is a registered charity which campaigns for an end to torture, as its name implies. It also campaigns for individuals and groups of people murdered by death squads or who have 'Disappeared'. It seeks to educate the churches and individual Christians in the evil of torture and the death penalty. It works through prayer and campaigning. Members are encouraged to sign letters prepared by our coordinator on behalf of victims to government officials and ambassadors. Such letters are highly effective even if no replies are received by the senders.

Jesus was himself a victim of torture. He identifies with all those who suffer similarly today. He calls Christians to join others in prayer action. A.C.A.T. has an active branch in the Islands. The coordinator is Mary Leathers 423236.

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#### Where are you inspired by creation?

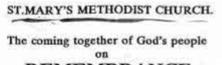
It might be a little patch of earth you work on; a quiet spot where you spend time in thought; a view that stops you in your tracks. This autumn the Diocese of Oxford ran 'Inspired by Creation', a competition to find out how people encounter God through creation. People were invited to send in original photographs, poems or prayers that capture the place that inspires them.

Many people have a favourite piece of holy ground, somewhere where the veil between heaven and earth seems very thin, whether or not they are fully paid up Christians. The competition was run through earthingfaith.org, a website set up by the Diocese of Oxford to encourage people to connect their spirituality with the earth. It is supported by the Church of England's 'Shrinking the Footprint' environmental campaign.

David Shreeve, the Church of England's national environment adviser, said: "So often taken for granted, there are many special places where we can find inspiration and by entering this competition you can say 'thank you' which is part of the Shrinking the Footprint ethos, reminding us just how inspiring our world is and how we need to conserve it."

Is there somewhere on Scilly where you feel closest to God? Why not let us know about it!





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10.30am

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning We Will Remember Them!

The good people of The Isles Of Scilly meet to give thanks for those who gave their all that we may live on these fine islands in peace and security.

> We give thanks for the work of the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.

Preacher: THE REV CHARLIE GIBBS. At this act of worship all are welcome to receive the bread and the wine of Holy Communion.

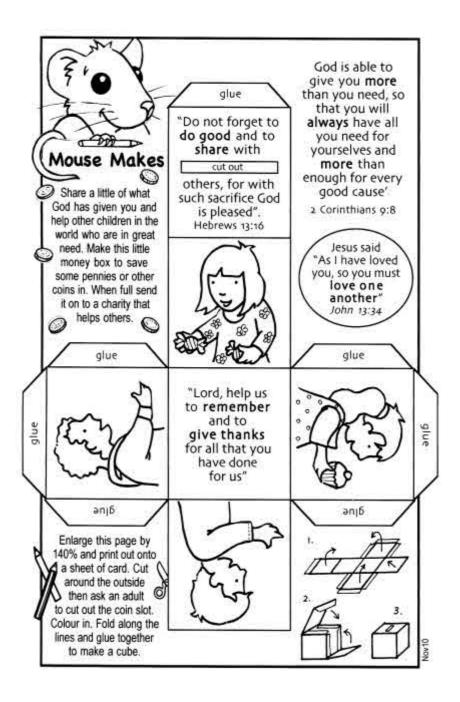
COME AND EXCHANGE DESPAIR FOR HOPE AND DEATH FOR NEW LIFE!

ALL ARE MADE WELCOME AT ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT 7pm AT THE CLOSE OF WORSHIP.

During the winter months regular evening worship will be bosted by the Methodist Church. SEE CHURCH NOTICEBOARDS FOR DETAILS

SUNDAY IS SPECIAL IT IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK ON THIS DAY WE TOGETHER THANK GOD!



# ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH. STUDY & FRIENDSHIP ON FRIDAY EVENINGS

These evenings are held at the manse on Friday evenings at 7.30pm. They end with refreshments at about 9pm.

15th October The Rev Dr Stephen Dawes. Biblical Scholar and Methodist Mininster

22nd October Rev Steve Wild MA Chairman of Cornwall Methodist District

29th October The work of The Holy Spirit Led by Mrs Barbara Hasler

5th November Discipleship in the Methodist tradition. Led by Rev Charlie Gibbs

12th November Evangelism in the Methodist tradition. Led by Rev Charlie Gibbs

19th November The need of all to be saved in the Methodist tradition. Rev C Gibbs.

26th November How all can be saved in the Methodist tradition. Rev C Gibbs.

3rd December How all can know salvation and be re-newed in the Methodist tradition Led by Rev C Gibbs.

There will then a break for the Christmas period.

#### 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 | <b>423117</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Sue Williams            | 422605        |
| Keith & Sam Grossett    | 422503        |
| Merryn & Vicki Smith    | 423360        |
| Claire Jenkins          | <b>423546</b> |
| 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          | 422199        |
| 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.

# NOVEMBER SERVICES

# St Mary's

| 7th         | 9.15 am<br>11.00 am<br>6.00 pm | Len Mchell and Beryl Read<br>Rev Charlie Gibbs<br><i>Holy Communion</i><br>Barbara Hasler                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14th        | 10.30 am<br>6.00 pm            | SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE<br>Rev Charlie Gibbs<br>Len Mchell                                                        |
| 21st        | 9.15 am<br>11.00 am<br>6.00 pm | Rev Charlie Gibbs and Neil Didlick<br>Holy Communion<br>Rev Charlie Gibbs<br>Rev Charlie Gibbs<br>Holy Communion |
| 28th        | 9.15 am<br>11.00 am<br>6.00 pm | Neil Didlick and Mervyn Bird<br>Barbara Hasler<br>Len Mchell                                                     |
| St Martin's |                                |                                                                                                                  |
| 7th         | 3.00 pm                        | Rev Charlie Gibbs<br>Holy Communion                                                                              |
| 14th        | 3.00 pm                        | Rev Charlie Gibbs                                                                                                |
| 21st        | 3.00 pm                        | Mary Ratcliffe                                                                                                   |
| 28th        | 11.00 am                       | Rev Charlie Gibbs<br>Holy Communion                                                                              |
| Park House  |                                |                                                                                                                  |
| 7th         | 4.00 pm                        | Gordon Bird                                                                                                      |