



**Methodist Church Circuit**

**IN TOUCH**

**November/December 2016**

## **Some thoughts from the Manse**

When I last wrote for In Touch, John and I had just arrived and had been celebrating Harvest Festival on St. Mary's and St. Martin's. Well, on Wednesday of this week, I took my final harvest of the year at your school for Key Stages 1 and 2. Now the evenings are much darker; the clocks will soon go back and we are well and truly into autumn. The children are ready for their half-term break and when they return the next big event they look forward to is Christmas. Another year gone!

However, before that happens for those of us in the Church there are two festivals – that of 'All Souls' and that of 'Remembrance Sunday'; both at the beginning of November, and both reminding us of people who have gone before us who have had an often profound effect on our lives, and in the case of Armistice, on the life of the nation.

While 'All Souls' is now over shadowed by the very secular and Americanised events round 'Halloween', it is really an opportunity to remember and give thanks for the lives of those we love, but who are no longer with us. A chance to be still and acknowledge how much of what we are is due to the love and care of others and to recommit ourselves to love and care for those who are with us now.

For me and many thousands more it is a chance to thank God for those I have loved and still love and to place them all into His care and to remember that the distance between heaven and earth is very small and it is only, as a six year old once told me that "I don't have the right kind of eyes to see heaven" that makes it seem distant. But one day I shall see it and be in it.

Remembrance Day, as it says, is a day when we remember those killed and injured through warfare, particularly the world wars, but also in ongoing wars. People who have often acted with great courage and sacrificial love for their nation and its people.

It is this word "remember" which keeps going through my mind and also its opposite because to dismember means to tear apart, to cause pain and suffering and often death. To remember is to put together again, to heal and to restore. In the face of grief and loss we so often feel dismembered, torn apart and hopeless. Sometimes thinking back to other times is too much for us and we choose to try and forget.

However, to 'Re member' is a chance to rebuild, to choose to turn away from destruction and work for peace, for the sake of the whole world.

As a Christian minister, I often lead a service where we 'remember' the cruel, apparently senseless death of a young man who said every time you meet together, every time you eat and drink "Remember me, remember what I have done for you". In this remembering I believe He asks us to be ready to serve others, as He did. To love others as God does, and by doing that, to rebuild peoples' lives; to work for peace and harmony and by doing that to bring the reality of heaven closer to earth.

With my prayers

Jane



## **News from St Martin's**

We have warmly welcomed Jane and John into our small community and are delighted and privileged to have Jane to support and minister to us.

As I write, our service has been cancelled today as the very high tides and weather have meant the boat couldn't make it. Our own island local preacher Chris is away on holiday, so we wish them a happy and restful time on the mainland. It is a time for holidays and Daph has just returned from hers with Barbara and the Thomases looking forward to theirs.

One of the highlights of the month has been the celebration of Derek Perkins' 90th birthday on 15th October, with a lunch in The Hotel, attended by many members of his family, including wife, brother, sister, children, grand children and great grandchildren - two who had travelled from Australia. Also, Gladys and Derek's best man - and our organist, Rodney, was able to join them. Always a loving family man, we raised a toast to all those members who were not able to join us. A memorable day was enjoyed by us all, including a lovely tea later at Julia's. We wish him many more happy and healthy years.

Derek came to St Martin's with his family in the 1940's when his father became the island coastguard, and then ran the Post Office and Stores. He married Gladys Christopher an island gal in The Chapel in 1947.

Derek has been a faithful member of our Chapel for all the subsequent years, serving as church steward and treasurer. His contributions to island life have been enormous -

helping build the roads, mending and maintaining the quays,  
becoming chief coastguard, and much more. Not forgetting  
that Derek was the first coxswain of our newly built gig  
Dolphin for many decades - winning all the trophies available!  
Derek is still farming, and maybe the following little poem by  
great granddaughter Adela sums up his remarkable life ....

When he's not having dinner at Karma,  
Great Grandad is a farmer.  
He has a tractor, painted red,  
That he hops on, straight out of bed.  
Where is Granddad, here and hence?  
He's up them ladders cutting fence!  
Then home to Gladys, his loving wife-  
He's lived with her nearly all his life.  
Great grandad you really are a hero  
Well done for reaching nine and zero.

**Val Thomas**

## **Saturday Seekers**

Saturday Seekers

19<sup>th</sup> November  
Methodist Church Hall  
St Mary's

1:30-3:30

## **Facebook**

Look at our Facebook page and share with all your Friends.

I've been amazed at the growth of viewings of our Facebook Isles of Scilly page. Dear Vicki Smith passed it over to me as she began her university course on the mainland.

I have had much more time to update it because she had her hands very full and mine, now I've finished the Faith and Worship course are relatively empty!

So I urge all of you who have a computer/ tablet/Smartphone to look up our very own page , ' like' it, and share the posts with your friends or the whole world.

God's Kingdom has no boundaries and even though we are a tiny part we can be used to bring Good news to others.

Every summer we welcome visitors to the chapel and they have a sweet regard for us all and enjoy hearing our news.

This afternoon 16<sup>th</sup> October, we have a planning meeting with our District Secretary and we shall be planning not just our immediate needs but the needs of the church in and for the future.

Increasing the interest in our Chapel will be of supreme importance when we ask for help.

We need to pray and we also need to act.

**Mary Ratcliffe**

Property Secretary

## **NCH Action for Children**

As I write this thank you letter in the middle of October, I have to report the incredible raising of £80.00 for the Methodist Children's Charity – just with the donations given me by friends who have taken the blackberries I have been picking. There are still more to come although the bigger ones are now over.

So, bless you all and thank you so much – it has to be well worth the filthy and broken finger nails as a result of the picking.

Gwen Clarkson

NCH Representative

## **Died in the Services**

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

## **Knitting Club**

Every week the knitting club meet in the Manse from 10:00 until 11:30. This small group has been very successful. Many of the hats which Mary Leathers has for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have been knitted by this group.

They are also knitting twiddle muffs for people with dementia. These are muffs which are decorated with items that can be fiddled with.

All knitters are welcome to come along.

### **As for those signs outside Churches:**

Church car park sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!



## **Operation Christmas Child Samaritans Purse**

*'A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.'*

Once again, the school and Mary Leathers are organising the shoe box appeal. Last year a record number of boxes were sent. This year the new development is that flat pack shoe boxes are provided so no-one can claim they couldn't get hold of a shoe box! All you need to do is to decide the age and gender of a child you would like to fill a box for. Add a 'wow' item such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump. Then fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. See our Gift Suggestions below for more ideas.

If you make your shipping donation online at Follow Your Box you can discover the destination of your shoebox gift by adding the barcode we send you to your shoebox. Simply donate £3 for each shoebox you pack to cover transportation costs. Or you can enclose cash or cheque (to Samaritan's Purse) and place it in an envelope inside your shoebox on top of the contents.

Pray for the child who will receive your gift.

Each shoebox gift delivered by Operation Christmas Child is a tangible expression of God's amazing love. But a shoebox

gift is just the beginning. Many children who receive a shoebox will be invited by our church partners to learn more about Jesus through The Greatest Journey programme.

This programme consists of 12 fun-packed interactive lessons, taught by locally trained teachers in their communities, that the children can enjoy taking part in with their friends. Each lesson includes a Bible story and fun activities for the children to do together as a class – it might include a game, a drama, a song, artwork or some puzzles. Each week the children also learn a memory verse and see if they can remember it when they come back to the next lesson. These lessons might take place at after school clubs or at the weekend. Sometimes they might meet in a Church or in a school, or in some countries they might meet outside under a nice big tree. But wherever they meet they always have lots of fun learning more about Jesus.

## **Gift Suggestions**

**Toys:** Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

**School Supplies:** Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

**Hygiene Items:** Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

**Other Items:** Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year).

**Do not include:** Used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

### **Friendship lowers pain**

Never underestimate the power of friendship – now it seems that friendships can even help keep pain at bay. A recent study has found that an active social life can actually lead to you having a higher tolerance for physical pain.

The study, which appeared in the journal Scientific Reports, investigated the effect of endorphins. As one medical expert explained: "Endorphins are part of our pain and pleasure circuitry. They're our bodies' natural painkillers, and also give us feelings of pleasure... One theory suggests that social interactions trigger positive emotions when endorphin binds to opioid centres in the brain. This gives us that 'feel good' factor that we get from seeing our friends

## How joining a choir can keep cancer at bay

This sounds unlikely, but it seems that singing in a choir can help many cancer patients stay in remission.

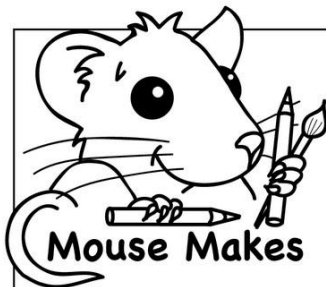
The collaborative research carried out by Tenovus Cancer Care and the Royal College of Music has discovered that choral singing can help to increase levels of your immune proteins, reduce your stress and improve your mood – all factors which help prevent cancer from returning.

Dr Ian Lewis, director of Tenovus, explains: “We’ve long heard anecdotal evidence that singing in a choir makes people feel good, but this is the first time it’s been demonstrated that the immune system can be affected by singing. It’s really exciting and could enhance the way we support people with cancer in the future.” The study was published in *ecancermedicalscience*.

*The choral society is preparing for Christmas so if you want to keep healthy and join in the fun, why not go along on Monday nights 7:45 at the Manse?*

**Birthday Greetings for November** go to Daniel Bird, Jonathan Bird, Veronica Deane, Helen Crisp, Jean Goody, Julia Ottery, Aurelia Schwartz, Monica Taylor.

We also wish a Happy Birthday to those with **December Birthdays** Louis Asten, Keith Grossett, Pauline Jackson Cocking, Gladys Perkins, Merryn Smith and Josh Smith.

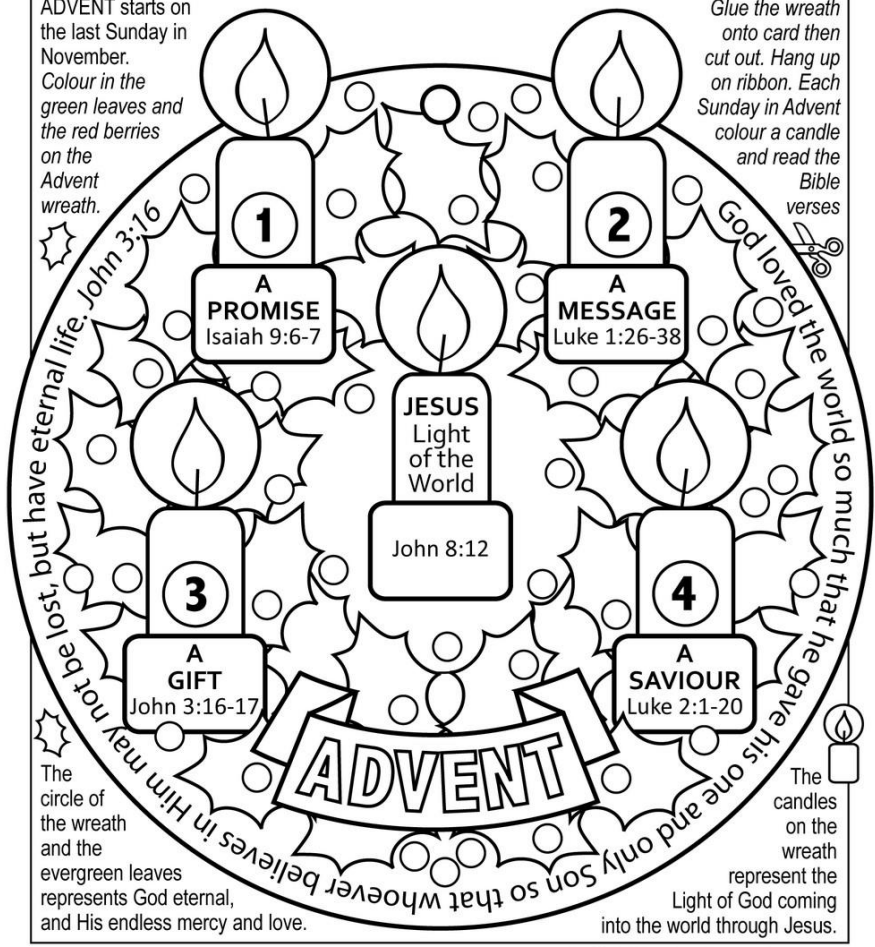


Jesus is coming, ADVENT is here!  
Advent is the time we celebrate the arrival of Jesus, who is God's Son and our Saviour. In Advent we remember  
**God's promise** to the world,  
**God's message** to Mary,  
**God's gift** to us and  
**God's promise** come true in Jesus.



ADVENT starts on the last Sunday in November. Colour in the green leaves and the red berries on the Advent wreath.

Glue the wreath onto card then cut out. Hang up on ribbon. Each Sunday in Advent colour a candle and read the Bible verses



The circle of the wreath and the evergreen leaves represents God eternal, and His endless mercy and love.

The candles on the wreath represent the Light of God coming into the world through Jesus.

## **News from St Mary's**

As many of you will be aware, we have said some goodbyes recently with more to come. We wish Bev and Ian Hodgeson every blessing as they return to their home. They are probably well settled now.

Mary Ratcliffe will also be leaving soon. She has decided to return to the Cambridge area where she will be nearer to her family. Mary is one of our local preachers, is currently Secretary of the Property Committee and one of our editors for the In Touch. She will be very much missed as she has worked tirelessly in God's service for our Church.

This leaves the In Touch magazine with one editor short. If anyone is interested please contact Anne or Val. It isn't too onerous a job and with three people on the team it means that producing the magazine only falls to each person three times in the year. In these days of Emails, many of the articles are simply a case of pasting in. All you need is to have an active E mail address and be able to use a computer.

It has been lovely to see Claire able to join us again following her operation over the summer.

The next two months will see Remembrance and then the build up to Christmas and Christmas itself. There are some united services to watch out for.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November, the Remembrance Service is at our Church with Revd. Perran Gay preaching. As usual this will start at 10:45.

There are a number of united services as we approach Christmas. The Advent service is on 27<sup>th</sup> November at 6p.m. in the Parish Church. Our Candle lit Carol service is on 18<sup>th</sup> December where Bishop Christopher will be preaching. On 24<sup>th</sup> December, there is Holy Communion at the Parish Church at 23:30.

An early note for your diaries is also the Covenant Service which will be on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

It is good to share worship as Christians with all of our faith.

**Val Parker**

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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



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system



## DECEMBER SERVICES

### **St. Mary's**

4 <sup>th</sup>	09:15 11:00	Mary Ratcliffe / Beryl Read Revd. Jane Willcock
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Mary Ratcliffe / Sonia Crompton
18 <sup>th</sup>	09:15 11:00 17.30	Gordon Bird / Vicki Smith Revd. Jane Willcock Walking Nativity and Carol Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	10:30	Christmas Day Family Service

### **St. Martin's**

4 <sup>th</sup>	15:00	Revd. Jane Willcock
11 <sup>th</sup>	11:00	Revd. Jane Willcock
18 <sup>th</sup>	15:00	Carol Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	11:00	Christmas Day Service?

### **Park House**

4 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Len Michell
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## NOVEMBER SERVICES

### St Mary's

6th	9.15 am 11.00 am	Beryl Read and Len Michell Barbara Hasler
13th	10.45 am	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> Rev Jane Willcock and Canon Perran Gay
20th	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Kim Watson and Rev Jane Willcock Rev Jane Willcock <i>Holy Communion</i>
27th	9.15 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	<b>Advent Sunday</b> Mervyn Bird and Rev Jane Willcock Len Michell United Service at Parish Church

### St Martin's

6th	11.00 am	Mary Ratcliffe
13th	3.00 pm	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> At Anglican Church
20th	3.00 pm	Rev Jane Willcock <i>Holy Communion</i>
27th	11.00 am	<b>Advent Sunday</b> Christopher Savill

### Park House

6th	4.00 pm	Mary Ratcliffe
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