



**Methodist Church Circuit**

**IN TOUCH**

**NOVEMBER**

**2009**

**Chairman of the District**

Revd. Steven Wild

**Minister**

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

**Local Preachers**

Barbara Hasler    Len Michell  
Neil Didlick        Gordon Bird  
Christopher Savill

**Circuit Stewards**

Mrs Christine Savill 423563  
Mr Mervyn Bird 423117  
Mr Neil Didlick 422838

**Circuit Treasurer** Mr Christopher Savill 423563

**Circuit Meeting Secretary** Mrs Rose Didlick

**Church Stewards St. Mary's**

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

**St. Martins** Mr Derek Perkins

**St. Mary's**

**Treasurer** Mrs. Sue Williams  
**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Beryl Read  
**Property Secretary** Mrs Mary Ratcliffe  
**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 (01720 422977)

**Gift Aid Secretary** Mrs Stephanie Bird. (423117)

## **Some thoughts from St Mary's Manse**

November is surely the most poignant of months with the first of the month being 'All Saints Day', when we are reminded of those good folk who have gone before us, and especially those who have shown to us something of what it may mean to live a 'sacrificial life'.



Just a week later, on the second Sunday of the month, again we are challenged by the concept of 'sacrifice' as we meet together at the Parish Church for 'Remembrance Sunday'.

And the month ends with the last Sunday (the 29<sup>th</sup>) marking the start of 'Advent' when I expect we will again be reminded that the promise of God's Kingdom has a great deal to say about 'sacrifice'.

It has been a great encouragement to have had so many come along to the recent Friday evening fellowships when during September and October we looked at some of those great themes of our Christian faith which included 'How do we forgive; How do we show love; Are our prayers answered; and 'Do we fear death?'. These thought provoking evenings I know have been a great blessing to us all.

These Friday fellowship meetings start up again on the 27<sup>th</sup> November when the subject will be 'Who was Nicodemus' and on the 4<sup>th</sup> December our theme will be 'Who were Mary and Martha of Bethany?' These are important but friendly meetings which end at 9pm with refreshments, a place to get to know each other, and to share the thoughts which are ours on the journey of life. Details of the fellowship evenings for January and February you will find elsewhere in this edition of 'In Touch'.

May the month of November be a month of rich blessings to us all, may those who live on these beautiful islands have time to stop and think, and may we be reminded of how by living the 'sacrificial life' we can be channels of bringing:::

*God's love so that the promised 'light' of Advent will be real and relevant to us all.*

*What a joy, and what a blessing it is for me to be the Methodist minister on these islands,  
I remain, by the grace of God, your friend and minister for a while.*  
*Charlie Gibbs*



### **St Martins News**

Following on from our weekend of Harvest services in September, the folk on St.Martins have enjoyed other special times recently.

On Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>. Gladys and Derek Perkins son John married Rona Ward.

Relations and friends travelled from near and far to share the celebrations, which continued over the weekend, as their young daughter Iona (the choice of name reflecting Rona's Scottish roots ) was baptized the next day. The family enjoyed a wonderful couple of days and felt truly blessed. They would like to thank Rev. Charles Gibbs for his part in the proceedings and for helping to make the wedding and baptism such memorable happy occasions.

Another cause for celebration has been the birth of Adela, a granddaughter for Val and Graham Thomas and another great grand daughter for Gladys and Derek. Two weeks after John and Rona's wedding, James Thomas returned to St.Martin's with his wife Eloise and their new baby. James and Eloise live in Australia but are here on holiday for a while.

Len and Sylvia Michell joined us for morning worship on October 11<sup>th</sup>, to mark the 40<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of Len first taking a service at St.Martins Chapel. Rev. Gibbs conducted the service but Len addressed us. Firstly we

learnt about his Cornish upbringing and his journey to faith. Later Len spoke about his call to preaching here in the Islands, giving us some statistics about how many times he had led worship at different venues in Scilly. Surprisingly, Len has conducted worship more times on St.Martins than at St.Marys Chapel. It would seem he feels an affinity with us, because the small chapel and congregation remind him of where he attended in his younger days. Woven through Len's memories and reiterated by Charlie, was the message that, " We are chosen people belonging to God so we must give thanks and live our lives with that certain knowledge."

Poiperro Male Voice Choir rightly drew a good audience when they sang in the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed their talent and programme of songs, as they did the duets performed by William and Trish Thomas. I expect "Proper Job" and "White Rose" had particular appeal for those now living on St.Martins but with Cornish backgrounds. William interspersed the music with appreciated jokes and information about the work of the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen. A splendid total of £273 was collected for this charity. Thank you to the choir and all who organised and supported the effort in any way.

We pray for and send our loving sympathy to Barbara  
Clarke's family and friends Heather

### ***Twitter? Your great-grandparents did it first***



The current craze for writing short messages and sending them back and forth rapidly is perhaps not so new as you'd think. Nowadays you may use the microblogging website Twitter, but actually, your great-grandparents had another method of 'tweeting' more than 100 years ago - the Edwardian postcard!

rejoice

**Can you have too much of a good thing?.....Yet more fellowship evenings at the St. Mary's Manse.**

**FRIDAY EVENINGS 7.30pm.**

**Coming face to face with those who speak of faith.**

27<sup>th</sup> November 'Who was Nicodemus?'

4<sup>th</sup> December 'Who were Mary and Martha of Bethany?'

15<sup>th</sup> January 'Who was Moses?'

22<sup>nd</sup> January 'Who was Daniel?'

29<sup>th</sup> January 'Who was the Samaritan woman at the well?'

5<sup>th</sup> February 'Who was Salome the daughter of Herodias?'

*These meetings start at 7.30pm and end with refreshments about 9.00pm. Come to them all, or just the ones that are of interest to you. Bring a friend...or meet new friends at these informal fellowship meetings.*

**You are with me** 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.' Psalm 23:4

'I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy, for you have considered my trouble. You have known my soul in adversities.' Psalm 31:7

Christians may not see eye to eye, but they should walk arm in arm. – anon



***Things You Need To Know About The  
Methodist Church On The Isles Of  
Scilly***

1. We will make you welcome.
2. We will be family friendly.
3. We will make sure you can hear clearly.
4. We will be practical and relevant.
5. We will help you explore and answer your deepest questions.
6. We will offer you time to stop and think in a busy life.
7. We will help you to make sense of The Bible and who Jesus is.
8. We will make sure that our worship is both helpful and challenging.
9. We will help you discover for yourself God's love and acceptance.
10. We will offer you the chance to make a new start in life.

We are proud to be part of the world-wide Methodist Church. We welcome people from all walks of life and all Christian traditions. If you have no church background you will find a welcome in our church.



*Come and share in 45 minutes  
of prayer!*

Every Monday at 2.15pm at the Manse. Tea and Biscuits will be served at 3pm

***Come and pray for the needs of this world.  
Come and pray for these Islands upon which we live.  
Come and pray for the sick, and for the lonely.  
Come and pray for your family and for your friends.  
Come and pray for yourself.***

Prayers may be offered by anyone and at any time.  
It will be fine just to sit in silence during the prayers.

Come and meet friends, and find support and care upon your journey through life!

For more details or Prayer requests  
Ring Revd. Charlie Gibbs Tel. 422406  
Jesus said "Come onto me all you that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" Matthew (11:28)

### ***A Prayer for Courage***

*God make me brave-  
Let me strengthen after pain  
As a tree strengthens after the rain  
Shining and lovely again  
As the blown grass lifts, let me rise  
From sorrow with quiet eyes,  
Knowing thy way is wise.*

*God make me brave- Life brings  
Such blinding things!  
Help me to keep my sight, help me to see a light-  
That out of dark- comes light.*

*Anon*



## ***Foliage and flower preparation for arrangements.***

Many years ago I was given some instructions on how to prepare flowers for arrangements. I remember how valuable these instructions were and now I realise that a few tips may encourage any would be flower arrangers to join the flower rota

All flowers and foliage benefit from standing in water for a few hours before use.

### ***Woody Stems***

Woody stems need to be cut at an angle, and then split about a centimetre, remove any foliage which would be under the water line and place in warm water, this treatment also works for semi-woody stems include chrysanthemums, carnations and lilies. *(Although by removing all foliage from the flower stems and using separate foliage the flowers will last longer)*

### ***Hollow Stems***

Plants with hollow stems need a different preparation as if they are not treated air locks in the stem may happen when the stems are cut.

Cut stems at an angle; remove lower leaves before turning the stems upside down and filling with cool water. Plug the stem with cotton wool then place in water.

A good basic tip for arranging the flowers is to imagine they all come from a central root.

You and many others will find joy from seeing God's beautiful created flowers in a vase instead of in a garden.

Mary Ratcliffe

*Ed. Additional material in this magazine, Cartoon, Children's page, quotes all from Parish Pump*

## **CHURCHES' STEADFAST MESSAGE: GOD LOVES ALL, RACISM IS A 'SIN'**

Disappointment and concern have been expressed by Churches following gains made by the British National Party (BNP) in the summer European Parliament Elections.

In the elections held on 4 June, the BNP won two seats in the European Parliament and three seats in local councils around the U.K.

Rachel Lampard, Public Issues Policy Advisor for the Methodist Church, said, "The limited success of the BNP does not change our steadfast message: God loves all. Racism is a sin. The campaigning

Work of the churches and other grass roots organisations has helped to highlight the need for people to vote positively, especially at a time when public confidence in politics has been shaken.

*ed. First published in the Thetford Methodist Church magazine.*

### **ACAT** Action by Christians Against Torture

Several Christians on St Mary's belong to this organisation which campaigns against the use of torture against prisoners throughout the world. We sign letters of appeal to governments and send Christmas cards to prisoners throughout the world irregardless of their faith and pray for victims of torture and wrongful imprisonment, many being imprisoned because they have spoken against the abuse of power of governments.

"Earlier this year ACAT (UK) celebrated 25 years of campaigning and prayer. It was formed in 1984 because it was felt important that the churches and individual Christians should be involved in what was a battle for basic human rights, especially the right enshrined in the U.N Universal Declaration of Human Rights not to be tortured. In so many countries of the world, tyranny, torture, 'disappearance', and conflict were the order of the day. Over the years our members saw the Communist world collapse, the worst of the dictatorships disappear in Central

and South America, in Africa and the Far East, the fall of apartheid in South Africa. It seemed as that torture was about to become one of the horrors of the past to be placed in the dustbin of history. We hoped that ACAT would work itself out of a job.

Then came 9/11 which changed everything. The US president announced a war on terrorism. This gave the USA and a number of countries, including the UK carte blanche to bring in often draconian anti terrorism laws under the pretext of protecting its citizens. It seemed as if governments were forgetting that every act of torture is a crime under international law. So our work goes on.

Torture has not gone away, although the arguments in its favour are more sophisticated now. Archbishop Romero's words ring as true now as they did in 1980 for the Christians of El Salvador. We as faithful Christians, as the Church of Christ, have been calling to fight this battle. We will be given strength to continue campaigning and praying, knowing that through Christ we can achieve great things. Let us go forward in His Name"

*Ed. Condensed from the ACAT newsletter.*

When we remember that our dear Lord was subjected to abuse and torture I feel I can do no other than support this work.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong."  
Let the poor say "I am rich."  
Because of what the Lord has done  
for us  
Give thanks.

Mary Ratcliffe

*Anyone interested in joining ACAT please contact Mary  
Leathers 423236*



"But, apart from the pews, the sermon, the hymns, the coffee and, 'all that praying', you'd come again?"

#### ***Polperro Male Voice Choir***

Over the weekend of October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> the Polperro Male voice Choir came to Scilly. On Saturday evening they gave us a superb concert in the Methodist Church, to a full house.

It had all been arranged by William and Tricia Thomas. He acted as M.C. introducing each song with his usual witticisms! He and Tricia gave the choir a rest in each half of the concert by singing one of their duets. One appreciated briefly hearing her mezzo voice as a contrast to twenty men singing in the rest of the programme. It was indeed a splendid evening's entertainment. Donations were requested for The Fishermen's Mission which the choir supports. The audience gladly contributed £750 to the fund. We hope and trust they will want to come again!

Gwen Clarkson

### **Trust in God**

*My God you have created me to do you some definite service,  
You have given some definite work to me which you have not given  
to any other.*

*I have my place in your plan; I may never know what it is in this life,  
but I will be told it in the next.*

*Therefore I will trust you in all things.*

*If I am sick, my sickness may serve you.*

*You do nothing in vain; you know what you are doing.*

*You may take away my friends; you may put me among strangers;*

*You may make me feel forgotten; you may make my spirits sink;*

*You may hide my future from me;*

*STILL- You know what you are doing , and I trust you.*

*Cardinal Newman*

He formed the stars, those heavenly flames, He counts their  
numbers, call their names; His wisdom's vast, and knows  
no bound, A deep where all our thoughts are drowned.

*Isaac Watts*

### **10 reasons why I never wash.**

1. *My mother made me wash as a child.*
2. *The soap makers only want my money.*
3. *There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never  
decide which one was right.*
4. *I used to wash, but it got boring so I quit.*
5. *I do wash on special days like Easter and Christmas.*
6. *I work hard all week and am too tired to take a bath on the  
weekend.*
7. *People who wash are hypocrites. They think they are cleaner  
than other people.*
8. *I get along without washing.*
9. *Hardly any friends I have, wash.*
10. *I'm still young. When I get older and dirtier I may wash.*

*What would society be like if people felt like that about going  
to church?!*



### **Action For Children**

After changing its name last year from the National Children's Home the charity, is launching a major appeal for support. Already it has been shown on the television showing the special focus on the problem of childhood neglect. Thousands of children across the United Kingdom are affected and can lack care, food security and love and such neglect is now by far the greatest reason for applying for a Child Protection Plan. Action for Children emphasises that the organisation is there for them as long as it takes.

Set up by Methodists one hundred and forty years ago we still continue to support them and one of the ways is via the Home Collecting boxes. Several members of our fellowship keep one and fill them with small change which can mount up quite amazingly.

It has been my great pleasure recently to open a heavy box kept by dear Fiona Bird. The contents amounted to £48.20p made up of entirely 20p pieces! Very many thanks to Fiona for her continuing support. How about following her example? There is a box ready for you and if several are interested it would be a bonus to have to order some more!

Gwen Clarkson, Representative.

### **Scrabble**

Would anyone like to join us for a game of Scrabble?

A few of us meet occasionally in the afternoons for a friendly get together and cup of tea. It doesn't matter if you haven't played for a while or are a bit rusty. It's fun to be together just trying and if you are interested we would welcome you.

Dorothy Beedell

### ***Some thoughts from Down Under***

As many of you know, Mike and I recently had a holiday in Australia. Our purpose for going every two years is to see our family in Brisbane and keep up with our granddaughters' progress. Each time we go we try to see a new part of Australia and this time it was the Red Centre and Alice Springs.

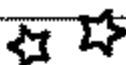
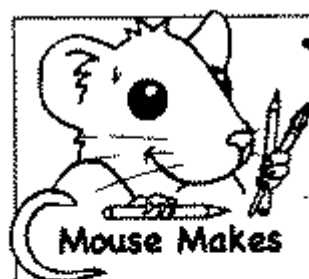
Alice is a small town seemingly in the middle of nowhere. It stands on the river Todd which, for most of the year, is completely dry. The town is laid out in a grid pattern with parks and tree-lined streets. At first glance it seems a very pleasant untroubled place but when you have been there for a little while you notice the Aboriginal people sitting around in groups in the parks or on the streets or just walking aimlessly along. They are a people whose traditional way of life has been destroyed by the early white settlers without anything to which they can relate being put in its place.

Recently attitudes have changed and the Australians are trying to make amends. Many tribal lands have been given back to the Aboriginal people and they are being encouraged to manage their own affairs in their traditional ways.

While in the area we took a trip to Uluru or Ayers Rock. This is a fantastic place rich in Aboriginal folk lore. The land around it has been given back to the Aborigines and they are managing it. They have an excellent visitor centre which explains their local legends and culture and gives them an outlet for their art and craft work. Visitors are expected to be sensitive to the sacred places in the area and to be respectful of them by not climbing the rock and by not walking on or photographing them. Our (white) guides were very emphatic that we should do nothing to offend the Aboriginal people.

It made me think about having respect for other peoples. The original white settlers in Australia had no respect for an ancient people with a well developed culture and so they created the 'displaced' people that we saw in Alice Springs. Whoever we meet in the world, however different their culture and ideals are from ours, should be given our respect. If we show that we value their way of life then they may come to value ours and many of the troubles in the world would be solved!

Anne

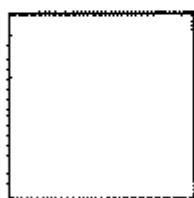


### SHINE LIKE STARS

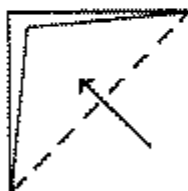
Just like the stars that shine in the dark and light the way for us to see, so God sent Jesus 'the light of God' to light the way and show us the path to God.

The Bible tells us to 'shine like stars' too so we can show our friends the way to Jesus and the path to God.

See: *Matthew 5:16 and Phillipians 2:14-15*



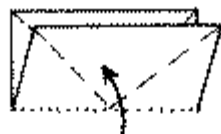
1. Cut 8 squares of paper (8cm x 8cm is a good size)



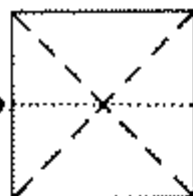
2. Take one of the squares and fold in half diagonally



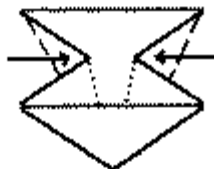
3. Open out then fold in half diagonally the other way



4. TURN OVER then fold in half



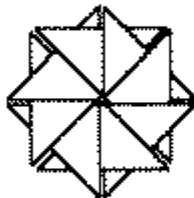
5. Open out then push the sides together....



.....to form a triangle.  
6. Go back to step 2 and make all 8 triangles



7. Slot and glue each triangle in turn to make a star.



Make lots of stars to hang up for Christmas

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

On a clear night look up at the stars. The red stars are the coolest then orange, yellow, yellow-white and the hottest stars shine blue-white.



## ***So What's Going On?***

It is such a long time since the application form for altering the Chapel and the Hall went to the Buildings Dept. in Manchester and to our local Council that even I have difficulty remembering just what we are going to do! The builders are on site and already the concrete has been removed at the side and front of the Chapel to provide wheelchair access. It has taken a great deal of effort to make this possible. There has been the usual problem with issues such as conserving the integrity of the site which has to be balanced with legislation regarding access for wheelchairs and others for whom steps are a problem, including mums and dads with pushchairs and prams.

Inside the Chapel some pews will be removed so that the occupiers of such 'vehicles' can sit within the main body of the chapel.

The Schoolroom/ hall/annex has long been in need of major repair. Damp penetrating from the wall adjoining Springfield Court has for too long been an eyesore. The wall against Back Lane is also in a poor state of repair, not just with penetrating damp but with a major crack as well (what does the Bible say about building on sand!) and the roof on the east side needs renewing with a scantle roof. This a traditional roof used on Scilly and other coastal locations. Along with these essential repairs the hall will have a new look and will be more welcoming for all its users. The builders are working enthusiastically and so I think we should be able to use the hall again in early December as planned.

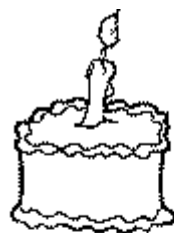
This work is being funded through a generous bequest from Joyce Pym's estate. Joyce, who welcomed many as a door steward was a faithful member of the congregation, she died in 1993.

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it".*

*Psalms 127*

## **Still**

We childproof our homes, but they are still getting in.



## **Happy Birthday**

Happy Birthday wishes to Daniel and Jonathan Bird; Veronica Deane; Helen Crisp; Jean Goody; Julia Ottery; Gladys Perkins; Josh Smith and Merryn Smith and Baby Aurelia Schwarz.

## **Diary Dates November**

Each Monday 1.45 p.m. Prayer Group

Each Wednesday. At Home 2.00pm at the Manse

Each Friday 7.30 p.m. Friday Fellowship at the Manse

## **Forward Dates for your Diary**

December 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert

December 20<sup>th</sup> Walking nativity followed by Candlelight Carol service

December 21<sup>st</sup> Carol singing around St. Mary's

December 24<sup>th</sup> 11.00 pm Midnight Communion

December 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am

## **Cleaning Rota.**

If there is anyone on the cleaning rota who would like a change of job, now is the time to contact me. Also, if there is anyone who is not on the rota BUT would like to help out, would they also contact me, Sue Williams 422605.

## **Flower Rota.**

We need another person to organise the Flower Rota for next year. Our thanks go to Sue Williams for doing this service for several years. Our thanks also go to all who have arranged the flowers week by week and we also thank Kathy for making sure that the planters at the entrance to the Chapel provide a colourful welcome to the building.

If anyone feels that they can do this job, please let the minister know.

**Visit of the Polperro Fishermen's Choir** On behalf of the Fishermen's Mission I would like to express my thanks to all those who supported the concerts and gave so generously. Especial thanks must go to the choir who so graciously gave of their time and talents to entertain us with some wonderful choral singing. We hope that they and their supporters will take back happy memories of their visit. Many of them have indicated their desire to return on an individual basis next year and the choir are planning for a return visit in 2012 DV –so book your seats in advance !

William Thomas



## PRAYER CHAIN

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

**Mervyn & Stephanie Bird** 423117  
Sue Williams 422605  
Keith & Sam Grossett 422503  
Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

**Claire Jenkins** 423546  
Neil & Rose Didlick 422838  
Margaret Snowball 422896  
Gordon & Fiona Bird 422550  
Sonia Crompton 422854

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

**William & Tricia Thomas** 423144  
Peter Laverock 423692  
Beryl Read 422977  
Gwen Clarkson 423106

*For the prayer chain to be effective it is essential that requests are forwarded to the person in the column under your name, if that person is not available please ring the next person on the list. Thank you.*

### **Editorial Team**

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