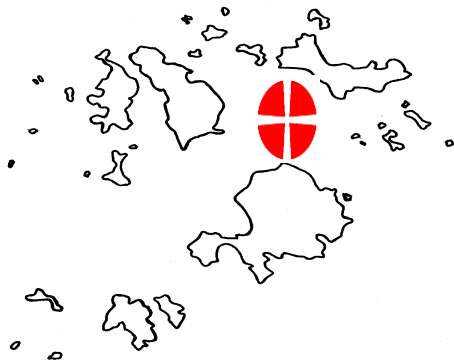


**Isles of Scilly**



**In Touch**

**Methodist Church**

**October November 2012**



## Some thoughts from St Mary's Manse

It is hard to believe that October is here, and that summer is all but over. At the end of this month we look forward to Keith Dickinson again visiting our islands. Keith is the Superintendent at the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen in Newlyn, and we look forward to hearing news of this important work in caring for fishermen and their families in times of trouble. Keith will be speaking on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at our fellowship evening on St Mary's, and he will be leading worship on both St Martin's and St Mary's on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>.

This month the Scillonian will be making its last trips between the mainland and our islands before its break for the winter months, and in many ways this marks the end of the season of visitors, which is so important to us all on these islands. The comparison between winter and summer here on Scilly is great. Often here on St Mary's during the summer months it is hard to walk down the main street because of the crowds, particularly when there happens to be a cruise liner visiting, but in the winter I sometimes walk down from the manse to the Post Office and hardly see a soul.

This contrast between being in a crowd and being with just a few reminds me of the picture that John brings before us in the sixth chapter of his Gospel. At the start of chapter 6 John tells us of Jesus being with a great multitude of people in the story of how Jesus feeds over 5000 men with fish and bread. This story is of course very well known, indeed it is recorded by each of the four Gospel writers. However the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of John ends with a very different picture, instead of a great crowd Jesus is left with just his close disciples, and John writes *... from this time forth on many of his followers turned their back and no longer followed him*'.

The contrast between the start and finish of chapter six of St John's Gospel is truly remarkable, and that which contrasts maybe is a great challenge to us all as we seek to be the disciples of Jesus on these remote islands , especially over the winter months when there are very few visitors to swell our numbers at our Sunday worship, both at St Mary's and on St Martin's.

John tells us how after the feeding of the 5000 Jesus and his disciples, in the evening, cross the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, the home town of Simon and Andrew. The following day the vast crowd who had witnessed Jesus feeding the multitude go in search of Jesus in the hope of witnessing another miraculous sign. When they hear that Jesus and His disciples have crossed the sea to Capernaum, they get in boats and follow, but according to John that which follows next is far from what they expected.

When they get to Capernaum they find Jesus, but instead of witnessing another miracle they are puzzled by the things that Jesus says. Jesus starts by telling them that they may have witnessed and enjoyed the feeding of so many, but that in itself is not what being a follower of Him is all about. Jesus then goes further and says to them that the only reason for them crossing the lake was because 'they ate the loaves and had their fill!' The crowd stand in amazement, and it is then that, according to John, Jesus says to them, ' *Do not put your effort into food that spoils, but instead into that which lasts unto Life Eternal!*' It is then that someone in the crowd protests and asks the question ....'What must we do then?....What is the work that God requires of us?'

This of course is the question that I expect we from time to time may have thought. What should we be doing as the followers of Jesus here on these tiny islands 30 miles off the coast of Cornwall? What is the important work of our Church, and what should we the church in this place be doing today, what does God require?

And according to John. Jesus is quick to answer this question, and He says to those before him in Capernaum....*'The work of God is to believe!...To believe in the one whom God has sent!'*

This then is surely the message that we are called to share with all who live on and visit these islands. Stop and think!... For there is more to life than food to eat, and the material things that we strive for....Do not work for that which spoils, but instead that which endures to life Eternal! The Isles of Scilly is a great place to live, and a place that is very special to the thousands who visit us each year, and maybe that of this that this message found in the sixth Chapter of John's Gospel is so important to us all.

Those who live on the Isles of Scilly will know that to live in a location such as this requires a certain amount of determination. Indeed, especially in the winter months, you at times need to be quite stoic in coping with the winds, the seas, the isolation and the difficulties that sometimes surround transport and getting from place to place. This is very much part of island life, especially for those who live on off islands.

Here on these beautiful islands we are surrounded by those who have found hope, not in the things of God, but instead in the things of this world. There are many here who work hard to make a living, and are prepared to go the extra mile because they know this is a good place to live. But maybe, in the midst of all this we are in danger of losing something special.... Something that will never spoil or fade away! So often in our striving for material security the 'Things of God' get squeezed out, they become marginalized, and we all know that so often the things of church and chapel, and the things of God, seem very low down on the list of priorities of those around us.

And yet, the voice of God still is there for all who will stop and receive. Jesus still says *'I am the bread of Life, and they who come to me will never hunger, and they who believe in me will never thirst!'* Those who are the church on these remote islands are still the custodians of this life changing message of hope, and each of us are called to give testimony to how the faith in God, sharing in that which makes us human, can still bring life Eternal today.

The sixth Chapter of John's Gospel ends with a picture that is not unlike our church here on Scilly in the depths of winter. Jesus is alone with just His few loyal disciples, and even they seem to be struggling to cope in facing the future. The crowds have left, they have crossed the sea to their homes on the other side, and the reality of taking up the cross and following Jesus is clear for all to see. John records how when the crowds have gone Peter turns to Jesus and says to him....*'Lord, to whom shall we go? For you alone have the words that bring Eternal Life, and we believe, and we know that you are truly the Holy One of God!'*

In summer and in winter Scilly is a good place to be. Our children are brought up in a place of great beauty, and in an environment that allows them a freedom that is now all but unknown in many other parts of Britain.

Those who serve this remote community in our health service, our few winter shops, our boatmen who brave the winter seas, in our fine school, through the work of our Isles of Scilly Council and for all those others who are here to show care in the community when the crowds have gone we give thanks. We also give thanks that even in this age of change and doubt our church is here to remind the good people of these islands that some things do endure forever, and that this can be seen and celebrated when we build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus and His Life giving Gospel

I bring this thought for an October to an end by reminding you of what Paul said in a letter to his friend Timothy, a young evangelist living close to the sea in modern day Turkey. Paul writes...*'Our gain is to know God, and to know contentment ...For we brought nothing into this world, and surely we will take nothing out except our contentment in knowing the Lord!'*

May we truly celebrate the blessings of our Sovereign Lord in each and every season of our lives, for He who once fed the five thousand now lives among us in the power of His Holy Spirit that we may eat of the Bread of Heaven and know the promise of Life Eternal today. I remain by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these remote yet beautiful islands for a while longer.

*Charles Gibbs*

### **Bible Sunday – 28th October**

The theme for this year's Bible Sunday is 'Count on It'. It is taken from Isaiah 55.1-11, which encourages us to rely on God in times of trouble. Here are some verses which encourage us to 'count on God'....

'O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you' (Psalm 84:12); 'You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you' (Isaiah 26:3); 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding'. (Proverbs 3:5)

Do you have a verse that has helped you in times of trouble or trial? Would you be willing to share your story, in just a few words, with our readers? If so, please contact Mary, Anne or Val...



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

Forgive me if the following appears as an economic report! The last few weeks have seen our main fund raising events take place on St. Martin's.

Our twice postponed Island Fete day finally took place on Sunday August 26th, when we were blessed with some fine weather at last (until mid afternoon, that is!). The day was well supported and the white elephant stall made £205 which was donated to Chapel funds. There was some concern over choosing a Sunday, but at least most working folk had the opportunity to join in all the fun.

Further to Rev Charlie's thoughts in last month's In Touch it should also be noted that the ever popular Display of Island Photographs has made £484 - 50 this year.

Our Harvest Festival Service was held on Sunday 2nd September when our small chapel was almost full. I am sure the singing could be heard on the other islands! It was good to welcome our friends from St. Mary's.

Although many crops have only produced a small yield this year, we received plenty of fruit and veg to decorate the Chapel, which looked beautiful.

On the following day Rev Charlie again held a short service, followed by the auction of the harvest fayre, which had been added to by donations of fish, crab and lobsters.

A pasty supper was enjoyed by all and a further £457 was added to chapel funds.

Well done to each member of our tiny congregation who ensure that such activities continue to thrive.

Thanks to Chris Saville who took the service on the following Sunday and continued the theme of Harvest. Of particular interest to many of us was the rarely sung Hymn 351 by Brian Wren. Worth a read I think!

On St Martin's we have been supporting a young man called Feruzi Shabani of Tanzania through Action Aid. It is encouraging to read of his progress in Class One at his primary school.

Val Thomas

### **What Now?**

What now, for the torch has gone  
And no more tales of winning gold?  
We'll do what we've done all along –  
And moan about the rain and cold!



*By Nigel Beeton*

### **Returning evangelists**

At the end of November we welcome the return of John Hogarth and Chris Clark. John is engaged in Mission at Wesley Cottage and Chris is a young evangelist from Saltash. On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November they will be leading worship on St Martin's and St Mary's. They will also lead the Friday fellowship and study evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Do come along as they encourage us to be faithful disciples of Jesus.



## Spring Synod Report.

I was blessed by being given the opportunity to represent our Circuit at Synod. From the opening prayers, through the morning session on new patterns of Discipleship, blessings fell in abundance. It was unfortunate that we had to leave before the Reports from Conference were delivered. The opening worship was based on Fair Trade and the most striking thought that stayed in my mind is that behind every product on the supermarket shelves there is a family needing help. Just a minute's extra thought which will encourage us to spend a little extra to help the children of God throughout the world.



Michelle, a Deacon in Falmouth, spoke of the radical changes needed for the church to move into the 21st Century. Fresh expressions of faith for the people of today challenge us all, whether in leadership or as members of the congregation. Falmouth have put in place a leadership scheme of which she is the enabler, but members are all equal. Many things inhibit change! Change = Moving on! The disciples of Jesus were challenged to carry the gospel to the world and we are called to do the same. We do not need to throw the baby out with the bathwater, traditional worship has its place, but so do fresh expressions of faith. We need to listen to what other people think, we need to speak the language of society today and we should all be thrilled when the Holy Spirit brings vision into our midst - and encourage it.

Falmouth now attracts 50-60 under 30s to their Cafe style Church which is held monthly. Other members hold Soup evenings in their homes. Michelle reminded us that we need to let go and learn to be a servant community again. It is a great challenge to grow the Kingdom but with God's help nothing is impossible

As a memorial of their visit we were given some lovely cards Sam from the Launceston Circuit spoke about the setting up of a Skate Park in an industrial unit. It is open every day of the week and serving the needs of the youth in Launceston. It has its own youth Pastor who holds a Bible Study night on Tuesdays. 60-110 people attend this ranging in age from 5-62 years. This work was prayed into being, and has seen more than 35 young people commit their lives to Christ. The Park was set up with the help and encouragement of fifteen community organisations. They now have a vision to build a multi-purpose building which will have areas of comfort for older visitors.

I know that God has great things in store for our Islands. I pray that we will have eyes to see opportunities and ears and hearts open to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

We have long prayed for these islands to be blessed again as they were when the first Christians came to our shore: Lord may it be so.

Amen.

Mary Ratcliffe



## **Remembrance Service**

*11<sup>th</sup> November*

*St Mary's Chapel am*

*St Martin's Parish Church pm*

*Rev Charlie Gibbs*

*Canon Paul Millar*

## Harvest Festivals

Further to Gwen's story of Rev. Robert Stephen Hawker introducing Harvest Festivals at Morwenstow in North Cornwall - may I add a few more comments. The Old Church is in a beautiful wooded valley and has a well cared for Church yard littered with the graves of sailors who lost their lives on this rugged Cornish Coast. One being marked with a figurehead from the Caledonian.

Close by the church is the old vicarage where Parson Hawker lived. The four high chimneys were enhanced by him when he used his building skills so that they represented three of the local parishes where he preached - Stratton, Whitstone and North Tamerton, the fourth being like his mother's tomb.

Just over the River Tamar in Devon is the parish Bridgerule and the church of St Bridget. This had been my father's home village so every Harvest Festival we attended the service taken by Father Frank Hawker-Kingdom - grandson of Rev Stephen Hawker. He was elderly but conducted a wonderful service to an overflowing congregation. He was vicar at this church for 62 years and died at the age of 90 in 1958.

I remember that all the way up the hill was lined with tractors and trailers decorated with their Autumn Hay Harvest.



As a family we also attended the Christmas Eve service when the elderly vicar carried the 'Baby Jesus' in his hands during the processional hymn and gently laid him in the crib. These are wonderful childhood memories of Harvest.

Judi Williams



"It's either an appeal to youth culture  
or we can't afford to service the boiler  
for the Winter season"

### **Happy Birthday to you**

**October Birthday Greetings** go to Rodney Ashford, Kathy Banfield, Myra Christopher, Sonia Crompton, Ann Farr, Joy Morris, Derek Perkins, Maria Tomlinson, Judy Williams, Melanie Woodcock, Megan Woodcock

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

## **Letter from Peter and Joan Bolt**

We want to say a sincere 'thank you' to our many friends on Scilly who have been remembering us in their prayers since our son, Andy had a fall in June and damaged his spinal column leaving him paralysed.

He has been in hospital in Exeter ever since. In the second week he caught a hospital "bug" and nearly died; intensive surgery from midnight to three in the afternoon and then in Intensive Care. The doctors have been surprised by the speed of his recovery since, but we believe it is through the circle of prayer that has surrounded him. Charlie, Steve Wild and Peter Stephens have been of great support, as have friends in Truro where we lived in the 1970s.

On September 24th, it is hoped Andy will go to the Spinal Injuries Unit in Exeter for three months after which we hope he will be able to go home. He is already walking quite well and his right hand is improving too. His one wish is that he will be well enough to come back to Scilly again next year!

Hopefully we will see you all again, but first we have to survive the winter. Joan is already past 90 and Peter is not far behind, so it is difficult to plan ahead. But we have been coming to Scilly since 1967 and we are so grateful for the love and hospitality of many friends over the years. So please keep on praying!  
Every blessing

Peter and Joan.

### **Quote**

God does not witness to the world by taking his people out of suffering, but rather by demonstrating his grace through them in the midst of pain. - C Samuel Storms

## **Joint Harvest Supper 21<sup>st</sup> September**

As in previous years we were privileged to join with our Anglican friends in the Church Hall for the Joint Harvest Supper. They supplied the most superb food of all varieties for our taste and enjoyment. Canon Peter Walker led the proceedings with humour and in thankfulness. He provided each table with a sheet of quiz questions which most of us found far from easy! Later in the evening he split us into two groups to sing alternative verses of the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful'. We all joined in the usual chorus, but the verses listed the various troubles faced by those like me who try to keep a garden under control!

It was sad that we did not manage to consume all the huge supply of lovely grub. We Methodists were not in evidence in great force. Moreover there were very few visitors among us, chiefly because the T.I.C. had not listed it as an evening event.

There was another sad aspect to the evening. We were bidding farewell to Peter Laverock who was moving up to Kew next day. Peter is going back to his roots in the Baptist Church and will be managing properties for them, none of which are likely to have views to challenge those seen while living here in the Telegraph Tower. Two days later Canon Peter Walker and his wife Lynn were leaving the Anglicans here and the Churches will be without a resident priest for a few weeks.

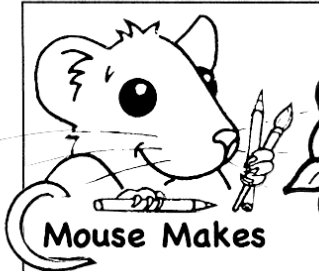
A downside..... and yet it was a most enjoyable evening to which so many contributed and, hopefully, a good sum of money was raised in donations to the charity Water Aid.

Many thanks to those who contributed in any way.

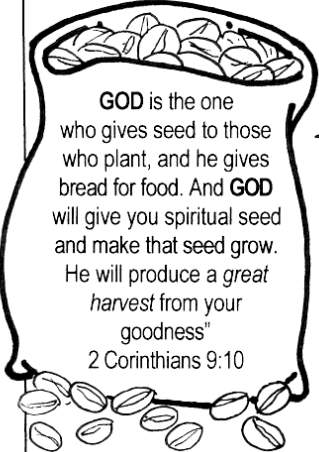
Gwen Clarkson

### **Quote**

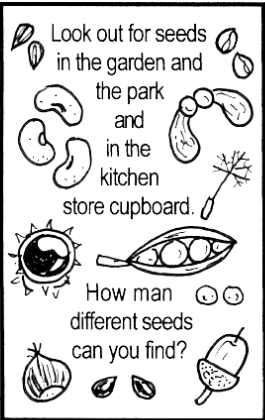
Keep the faith...but not from others! - Anon



### Mouse Makes

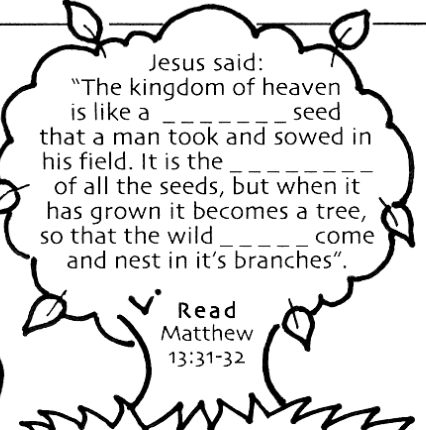


**GOD** is the one who gives seed to those who plant, and he gives bread for food. And **GOD** will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will produce a *great harvest* from your goodness"  
 2 Corinthians 9:10



Look out for seeds in the garden and the park and in the kitchen store cupboard.

How many different seeds can you find?

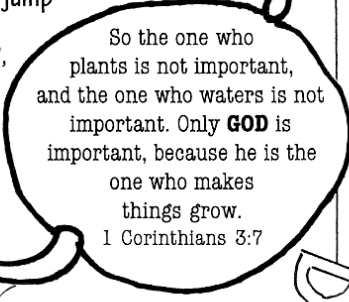


Jesus said:  
 "The kingdom of heaven is like a \_\_\_\_\_ seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild \_\_\_\_\_ come and nest in it's branches".

Read Matthew 13:31-32

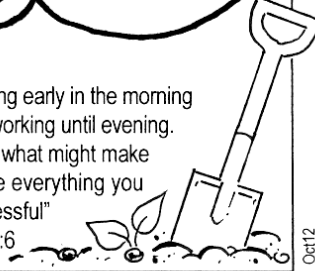
"You do not need more faith. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. if you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree "Go jump

into the lake", and it would do it"  
 Luke 17:6



So the one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only **GOD** is important, because he is the one who makes things grow.  
 1 Corinthians 3:7

"So begin planting early in the morning and don't stop working until evening. You don't know what might make you rich. Maybe everything you do will be successful"  
 Ecclesiastes 11:6



Oct12

## Diary Dates

### October and November

#### Fellowship Friday 7:30 at the Manse

5<sup>th</sup> October: Judgement upon a luke warm people

12<sup>th</sup> October: Barbara Hasler

19<sup>th</sup> October: Len Michell

26<sup>th</sup> October: Keith Dickinson

2<sup>nd</sup> November: Rituals and the grace of God, Rev Gibbs

9<sup>th</sup> November: Discipleship today: a call to holiness, Rev Gibbs

16<sup>th</sup> November: Len Michell

23<sup>rd</sup> November: John Hogarth and Chris Clark

30<sup>th</sup> November: Nothing will stop the coming of the Kingdom of God Rev Gibbs

#### Regular events

**Monday**

**Prayer meeting**

**Wednesdays 2.00pm At Home at The Manse**

#### **Bones**

It has been said that the membership of any organisation is made up of  
four sets of bones

There are the wishbones who spend all their time wishing someone else  
would do the work

Along with them are the jawbones who do all the talking about the  
work and very little else

Another group is the knucklebones who knock everything that anybody  
else tries to do

But most valuable of all are the backbones who get under the load and  
actually do the work

To which set do you belong?

From Pip and Jay Magazine

Contributed by Gwen Clarkson- Please see her article



## **NOVEMBER NOTICES**

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

4 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 am	Children's Church
	11:00 am	Rev. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
11 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 am	Mary Ratcliffe / Mervyn Bird In hall
	10:30 am	Rev Charlie Gibbs      United
	6:00 pm	Barbara Hasler
18 <sup>th</sup>	9 :15 am	David Pender/ Neil Didlick
	11:00 am	Barbara Hasler
	6:00pm	Rev. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 am	Chris Clark/ Neil Didlick
	11:00 am	John Hogarth
	6:00pm	John Hogarth/ Chris Clark

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

4 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
11 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs Remembrance Service at Parish Church
18 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	John Hogarth/ Chris Clark

### **Park House**

4 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Gordon Bird
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## OCTOBER NOTICES

### St. Mary's

7 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 am	Children's Church
	11:00 am	Rev. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 am	L.Wright/ Mervyn Bird
	11:00 am	Len Michell
	6:00 pm	Mary Ratcliffe
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	Mary Ratcliffe/ Neil Didlick
	6:00pm	Gordon Bird
28 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 am	Beryl Read/ Rev Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
	11:00 am	Keith Dickinson: Harvest of the Sea
	6:00pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion

### St. Martin's

7 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs
14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Neil Didlick
21 <sup>st</sup>	11:00am	Len Michell
28 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Keith Dickinson Harvest of the Sea

### Park House

3<sup>rd</sup> 4pm Mary Ratcliffe

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*Any contributions will be gratefully received by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe*