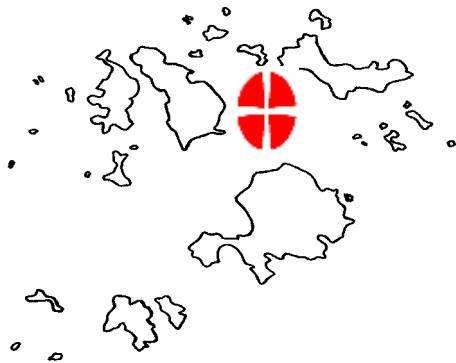


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER
2014**

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Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

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Mrs Beryl Read 422977

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Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977

Some Autumn Thoughts from St. Mary's Manse



Our In Touch magazine this time covers the months of October and November, and in many ways these months bring with them a change in atmosphere on the Islands.

At the beginning of November the sailings of our dear old Scillonian stop for the winter, by then most of the boating association tripper boats are safely stored on land for the winter, and apart from a few very enthusiastic bird watchers there are very few visitors on our beautiful islands.

This summer we have again been greatly blessed with visitors joining us for worship particularly on St Mary's but also on St Martin's where we look forward to regular visiting worshippers who seem to keep on returning to the Islands year after year. We know that many of our regular visitors also look forward to receiving this newsletter so I take this opportunity of sending you all our special greetings as we enjoy the joys of Autumn.

During the summer months on a Monday evening I have a slide show in our chapel called 'The Ups and Downs of Island Life'. Here in a humorous sort of way and with the help of images of life on the islands throughout the year I am able to share with visitors of how Mary and I have found it living on St Mary's for the past five years. Often I sum it up by simply saying "When it's good it's very good, but!" and as you may imagine it is this little word 'but' that intrigues the visitors. This year the numbers at both our slide shows have been very good, and we rejoice in being able to provide these light hearted evenings for our visitors and for the money they have raised over the year. The last Monday slide show will be on 13th October.

At the end of the month Mary and I will be going back home to Norfolk for a couple of weeks to catch up with friends and family, and no doubt telling them about what it has been like during the wonderful summer months on St Mary's.

October is then a turning point on the islands, the visitors have returned home, those involved in looking after them are looking forward to a well-earned rest, and our flower farmers are getting ready for their winter harvest.

I expect on our journey through life there will also be these turning points. For some they come with a move to a new home, for others it will be when we enter a new relationship with others, and for many it will be to do with health or facing old age. All of us from time to time face turning points in our lives. Some scholars have said that there is a turning point in the Gospel and that this when Jesus is up country at a place called Caesarea Philippi when he turns to his disciples and asks “*Who do you say that I am?*”

It is at this point that Jesus reveals the almighty plan of God to His followers, He speaks of what will lay ahead, He speaks of how He will be betrayed and arrested in Jerusalem, of how He will be put to death, and of how after three days He will rise again. His disciples are amazed and bewildered by what He says and Peter even attempts to argue with Jesus about just what He says will happen.

We of course know that the things that Jesus spoke of did happen just as He said, but Peter when told these things at Caesarea Philippi knew nothing of just what was to be their lot in the days to come. Peter, just like the other disciples, for the moment was caught up in all that was happening. He had witnessed for himself the feeding of the five thousand, he had seen the sick healed in the villages of Galilee and he had been there when the ordinary people of his day flocked to hear Jesus speak about the promised coming of God’s kingdom.

Peter just like many others was quite certain that Jesus would be welcomed into Jerusalem as a prophet who could bring hope to the people of Israel, and he could not bring himself to believe that when they entered the city that Jesus would face betrayal, rejection, and a cruel death

before many who had previously welcomed Him into their community.

From that point on it becomes clear that to follow the way of Jesus will never be easy. We begin to understand that the ways of His Kingdom are very different to the ways of the world, and we discover how important it is for us to grasp what this may mean in our own lives and the life of our church.

That same day Jesus went on to speak to the crowd which had gathered and He said to them” *If any of you would come after me, you too must deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow!*”

Jesus knew that if the Kingdom of God was to become a reality then it would require sacrifice, and He knew that sacrifice was at the very centre of God’s almighty plan. Yes it is most certainly the case that if we were to take the concept of sacrifice out of the Gospel we would have no Gospel to tell and no hope to offer to this world in which we all have to live.

And it is true for the future of the Methodist Church on these islands. We are each called to take up our cross and to follow the way of Jesus, and we are called to nothing more and nothing less than to live truly sacrificial lives in this community.

Looking back over my years in ministry I am convinced of one thing and that is: The only way for us to ‘Be Church’ is for us to live our lives in a truly sacrificial way. Indeed, I will go further and I will tell you that I firmly believe that unless this crucial message is grasped our church will know nothing of God’s almighty power to save and to bring hope to our world today. Yes, you and I, just like Peter are each called to take up our cross and to follow Jesus.

This will never be easy. There will be times in the days ahead when we will again be called to be with those who are in desperate need of hope, and we trust that in the

name of Jesus and in the power of His Holy Spirit we, His church on these islands, will be fit for purpose and truly a people who love, and will be true witnesses to the amazing power of God. In the life of our church we will always be called to be alongside those who are facing tragic circumstances, we will continue to mourn with those who mourn, to weep with those who weep, and to be there with those who are coming to terms with despair and failure, and all of this is because we as disciples of Jesus have been called to take up our cross and follow.

Because of this my prayer is that we will never be ashamed of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we will know the power of His empty cross to bring light in times of darkness, and that this power will continue to be seen in our sacrificial love for one another.

While on the subject of turning points in our lives we take note that this year we have been reminded of the start of the Great War in 1914. To mark this in a different sort of way we are having two evenings in November at our Friday Fellowship evenings on St Mary's looking at the lives of those who were listed as conscientious objectors .

My wife Mary has been looking in some detail of an account of a conscientious objector who recorded the dark years of the First World War in a journal. This includes descriptions of life in Dartmoor Prison and the accounts of family life during those war years in Britain. Be sure not to miss this graphic account of those who in this way took up their cross and followed in the face of much adverse public opinion.

In life there will always be great challenges to our faith, and that is still the case even here on these beautiful islands. So may we be prepared to do as the great Apostle Paul taught us and put on the full armour of God with the belt of truth buckled around our waists, with our breastplates of righteousness in place and with our feet ready to proclaim the Gospel of peace. Fight the good fight with the shield of

faith and claim for yourselves today the helmet of salvation, which is God's good gift for all who truly trust in Jesus.

Every blessing to you all. I remain by the grace of God the Methodist Minister on these remote islands for a while.

Charlie Gibbs



OPEN THE BOOK offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible in an interactive and enjoyable way during assembly times. Teams of Christians from local churches tell the stories in a 10-15 minute presentation. This can be incorporated into a wider school assembly, or stand alone.

Christians from local churches throughout Britain are being invited into schools to present Bible Stories in their assemblies. We are now part of that scheme and have already presented the first story, The Creation, after meeting together to learn of the scheme and hear glowing reports of its success.

We shall be using drama, mime, props, and costume to present Bible stories in ways that are lively, engaging, informative ... and great fun for everyone involved!

We ask everyone to pray for everything concerned with this new initiative to bring the Good News to our children. We appreciate and welcome Mrs Linda Todd's invitation to do this.

We shall be going into the School on Wednesday mornings on Oct. 1st; 15th; Nov.12th;26th.

St Martin's News

We have celebrated another fruitful harvest with a service on Sunday and a short one on Monday followed by the traditional sale of harvest goods. Rev. Charlie led the worship and complemented us on the well decked Chapel. Flowers, fruit and vegetables were there in profusion. Although the warm dry summer has been welcomed by many, not least our visitors, it has meant that for some crops the lack of rain has been a problem. The vineyard grapes are the best ever, however, and harvesting will continue into October.

We are reminded of how blessed we are to have such an abundance of food whilst others around the world are without. I am told that there is actually enough food to feed everyone, the problem is its uneven distribution. Food for thought.

It was good to welcome island friends and visitors to the harvest supper and auction, which raised some £400.

We were also joined by our visiting archaeologists, who have been making further finds at Old Quay. The recent 'Open Day' at this year's excavations threw an interesting light on the Neolithic era. One wonders what customs and beliefs were held 5000 years ago.

We were able to continue to enjoy the theme of harvest when Beryl Reid joined us on the following Sunday.

We welcome Barbara, Rodney and Derek back after successful surgeries, and wish Chris and Chris a happy Canadian adventure. Watching a robin on the garden gate reminds me of the coming winter. Where do they go in the summer?

We give thanks for the variety of life each season brings.

Val Thomas



Love So Amazing - 40 reflections on my favourite hymns

Pam Rhodes is the presenter of the world's number one religious television programme, 'Songs of Praise'. Here she brings together her meditations on 40 of her favourite hymns, reflecting on the story behind them and their meaning. Each meditation concludes with a brief prayer.

Pam writes, "Hymns are prayers in our pockets, a spiritual first aid kit that has its home amongst our memories. Hymns speak to us and for us, heart to heart, soul to soul, connecting us in fellow feeling to the writer, whoever they were and whenever they wrote."

The words of the great hymns aren't always cosy and comfortable. They nudge our conscience and scrape away at our complacency. They remind us of the true demands of the Christian life. They spur us on to react and respond. Most of all, they remind us of the Almighty God who created the heavens and earth in all their vastness and complexity, but who also created us to be unique and precious through His divine and amazing love.

By Pam Rhodes, Lion Hudson, £9,99

Guess Who? Noah's Ark – a Flip-the-Flap Book

Learn about the story of Noah's ark and guess who is hiding in this bright board book. The twelve flaps each conceal a different character making the book deal for toddlers who love a game of peek-a-boo! They will also love the bright collage artwork

By Christina Goodings and Angela Muss, Lion Children's, £5.99

Net: Scilly Youth Initiative (*sadly without graphics.ed.*)

www. netscilly.org.uk

Oct 2014 Update

Well, by the time you read this I should be about to make my last visit to the islands for the NET:Scilly youth initiative. I'll be very sad to cease my time with the young people, who I love very much indeed, but it's time for a new season, and a new opportunity for the churches on Scilly to continue what has been growing.

The last two and a half years have accomplished what they set out to - which was to re-establish a Christian youth group on the islands - and the initiative has also seen a variety of other elements that have grown too, which has been really great.

Here's a run down of what's been happening and what things will look like after October.

Youth Discipleship Group (Emily, Jono and Tianna) This is to continue after October- I'll come back to that in a moment!

TAG Connector In the school, giving anyone interested an opportunity to think and ask questions. This will finish in October.

Mundesley My monthly visits will also end in October.

Mentoring

This finished at the end of the last academic year, so a natural ending.

Adult Alpha

This ends in October with an away day and the final session, again a natural end.

So what's the plan for the Youth Discipleship Group?

In year 1 we did Youth Alpha during which Tianna became a Christian and each of the young people became inspired about their faith and more secure in it. In Year 2 we did CY-Christianity Explored which included a bit more bible study and praying together and it was great.

Looking to the future I'm pleased to say than Lynne will be continuing, and we're welcoming Gemma Chapman and Laura Pearson to the team. Both Gemma and Laura have been part of the adult alpha. Together, they will continue on with the new material we're beginning which is called Rooted in Fragrance. It's designed to help the young people, who are now in year 10 and maturing into lovely young women and men of God, work out and live out their faith in the environment they are in. It aims to inspire them to walk closer with God, become more confident in their faith, and shape their culture in positive ways, not simply reflect it. The group intends to continue meeting on a monthly basis, time and day to be decided based on the new academic timetables.

A massive thank you for your support, and a massive thank you in advance for your continued support of all that will continue after October. I'm excited to contemplate how God will shape the future for everyone I've had the pleasure of getting to know better over these last two and a half years.

Thanks for your continued prayer and encouragement.

Jen

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord.

We don't change God's message - His message changes us.

One thing all nations have in common is the ability to see each others' faults.

The human race seems to have improved everything except people.

Whatever we part with for God's sake shall be made up to us in kind or kindness. -
Matthew Henry

In giving until it hurts, some people are extremely sensitive to pain.

Affliction is God's shepherd dog to drive us back to the fold.

God's biggest problem with labourers in his vineyard is absenteeism.

God works in us and with us, not against us or without us. John Owen

The need of the world is to listen to God. Albert Einstein

A religion that does not begin with repentance is certain to end there – perhaps too late.

If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt him less.
C E Jefferson

The Bible has a great deal to say about suffering and most of it is encouraging. A W Tozer

The Value of Chance Encounters

A young man was sheltering for the night under one of the Thames bridges in London. He pulled his knees up under his chin, wrapped himself around with his blanket against the cold and watched the rain pouring off the sides of the bridge. He had been there before. But on this night he heard a voice in his head that said, accusingly, 'You should not be here'. 'I know,' he answered. And in the saying of it his resolve was kindled. Next morning he sought help to break free from his addiction, which led him to begin his recovery in an NHS residential detox programme in Kent.

That young man had been literally on the margins of society, but the moment he resolved to turn his life around he was coming in from the cold. Had it been God who spoke to him that night, drawing him back from the brink? Hopefully, after detoxing and some rehabilitation, he would be returning to the everyday world from which he had for so long been estranged. He would be vulnerable and unsure of himself. Who would encourage him? Hopefully, his family would gather him in. But supposing you had bumped into that young man and he shared his startling experience with you? Or supposing he turned up at your church one Sunday. How would you respond? Many of the people Jesus helped were chance encounters, like Bartimaeus, the blind man, whom Jesus met as he was leaving Jericho. (Mark 10:46-52) When Bartimaeus called out the disciples tried to shut him up. But Jesus was always alert to the needs of others, so he stopped and engaged this beggar at the roadside. Bartimaeus begged Jesus to help him, and we are told 'immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.' Because of a chance encounter Bartimaeus's life was transformed. Jesus knew the value of chance encounters, what can happen when lives touch accidentally.

Fleeting opportunities which come and soon are gone are very precious gifts of God.



The almighty God who created everything does not stand aloof and far off from us. He gave us his only son Jesus Christ who promised us the gift of his Holy Spirit to guide us throughout our lives. Through prayer our relationship develops between our Creator and others he has created. A new prayer list for members to pray for each other and their families is now available.

Birthdays in October

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday to you.

God Bless you and keep you
and watch over you



Rodney Ashford; Kathy Banfield; Sonia Crompton; Anne Farr; Joy Morris; Derek Perkins; Maria Tomlinson; Judi Williams; Megan Woodcock; Melanie Woodcock.

Laughter Lines.

A slogan to attract people into Church? !!!

"When did you last come to Church? Was it your Christening? Was it your wedding? Don't wait until your funeral before you come again!"

Parish magazine notices

Helpers are needed! Please sign up on the information sheet. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.



In recent weeks we have had two ways of contributing to our support of the Methodist Childrens charity. We feared our usual bookstall in the hall and in the Manse garden would not be so well patronised as in the past with many people looking at their laptops rather than reading books these days! However we are pleased to report that the stall has sold a good number of books and has raised a welcome amount so far this summer.

With an early fruit ripening, we have been able to sell boxes of blackberries, mostly picked around my garden at Bishop View. Friends have been very generous, often donating twice the asking price for them. Picking continues so we will publish the final total for this fund raiser in the next issue of In Touch. Very many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to our fundraising here on St Mary's for the much needed work of Action for Children .

Teddies for Home and Abroad

Usually the lovely teddies our knitters make are sent to Uganda for UCDF or to areas of tragedy in the world. We have lots of teddies waiting to go to Uganda at the end of the year. It has been suggested that we should put some of them on show around the chapel on windowsills so more people can appreciate this excellent outreach. A recent recipient has been a little lad who was christened in the chapel and we will pursue that idea too. Once again many thanks to all those who have contributed in any way to this collection.

Gwen Clarkson Representative Action for Children and Organiser of the Teddy Knitters.



Henry John Heinz. What sustained him?

In haste to prepare a snack lunch with no time to cook or do anything of a culinary nature, how many of us reach for a tin from the pantry shelf? Its no great deal, something we simply take for granted with little or no thought to the how, why and wherefore' of its origin. Often our choice is to

have Baked Beans and we all know that beans mean Heinz.

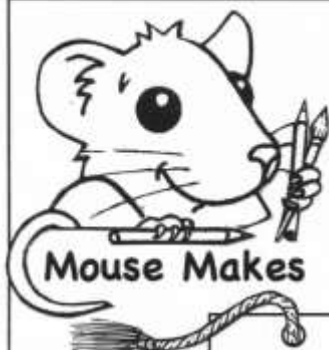
Henry John Heinz was born in 1844 he was twelve years of age when he helped his mother to deliver produce three times a week to grocery stores all over Pittsburg. He grew up to eventually to own his own company Today the company sells more than 1300 products all over the world.

So that's Henry John Heinz the business tycoon, but like so many people who have attained fame and fortune there was another side to his character. **Henry John Heinz loved Jesus.** He was deeply involved in the promotion of Sunday Schools in Pittsburg and around the world. His company was known for pioneering safe, clean preparation of food and for being well ahead of his time in employee relations. He provided free medical benefits, swimming and gymnasium facilities, and promoted women to positions of responsibility - unheard of in those days. He earned a reputation for improving living and working conditions for his staff.

Henry was a devout Methodist, when he visited England his "tourist stops" included the grave of [John Bunyan](#), [Isaac Watts](#), and [John Wesley](#). He visited a chapel that John Wesley founded, where he later wrote, "I felt I was upon holy ground."

In his will he wrote " I desire to set forth at the very beginning of my will, as the most important item in it, a confession of my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I also desire to bear witness to the fact that all through my life in where there were unusual joys and sorrows I have been wonderfully sustained by my faith in God through Jesus Christ. This legacy was left to me by my consecrated mother, a woman of strong faith and to it I attribute any success I have attained". What a testimony! Such evangelism! Such courage to tell the world! I wonder could we write such words? Would we? Will we?

Adapted from The Link and used with thanks to Ivy Congdon.



GOD'S WORD FOR US

"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for **teaching** the truth, **rebuking** error, **correcting** faults, and giving **instruction** for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed."
2 Timothy 3:16-17



READ
 Psalm
 119:105
 Proverbs
 30:5,6

ETGJUDEUTERONOMYEBJJDOEXODUS
 AHAMOSAZECHARIAHZEUOABZMICAH
 FELCHRONICLESHEPRUDNNGEACGOD
 JSAMUELLSLNAHUMHAGGAIMKLMARK
 ESTHERRPREVELATIONEHEMIAHDTP
 RAICCOLOSSIANSKLAISDLJECLTHH
 ELAMENTATIONSPHILEMONOLHUMOE
 MONEPHESIANSATAPROVERBSIKASB
 INSSONGOFSONGSSPJBHTOJFPETER
 AIDECORINTHIANSIOETIMOTHYTAE
 HABAKKUKZEPHANIAHDGTAHRUTHMW
 SNUGENESISISAIAHANNIOUNNUMBERS
 PSALMSELEVITICUSIADSSJOELWCS
 JAMESKINGSLORDJOSHUACTIONSJESUS

Can you find all these books of the Bible in the word search above?

- Genesis • Exodus • Leviticus • Numbers • Deuteronomy • Joshua • Judges • Ruth
 • Samuel • Kings • Chronicles • Ezra • Nehemiah • Esther • Job • Psalms •
 • Proverbs • Ecclesiastes • Song of Songs • Isaiah • Jeremiah • Lamentations •
 • Ezekiel • Daniel • Hosea • Joel • Amos • Obediah • Jonah •
 • Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Haggai • Zechariah •
 • Malachi • Matthew • Mark • Luke • John • Acts • Romans •
 • Corinthians • Galatians • Ephesians • Philippians •
 Colossians • Thessalonians • Timothy • Titus • Philemon
 • Hebrews • James • Peter • John • Jude • Revelation •





Birthdays in November

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you.

God Bless you and keep you
and watch over you.

Daniel Bird; Jonathan Bird; Veronica Deane;
Jean Goody; Julia Ottery; Aurelia Schwart; Monica Taylor

November Services St Mary's

- 2nd 10.30a.m. Len Michell & Kim Watson
9th 10.30a.m. Royal British Legion Remembrance
16th 9.15a.m. Len Michell & Beryl Read
11.00a.m. Barbara Hasler
6.00p.m. Rev C Gibbs Holy Communion
23rd 9.15a.m. Rev C Gibbs & Kim Watson
11.00a.m. Mary Ratcliffe
6.00p.m. Rev C Gibbs
30th 9.15a.m. Mary Ratcliffe & Beryl Read
11.00a.m. Rev C Gibbs Holy Communion
6.00p.m. **Parish Church Advent Service**

St. Martin's

- 2nd 11.00a.m. Barbara Hasler
9th 3.00p.m. Parish Church Remembrance
16th 11.00a.m. Rev C Gibbs
23rd 3/2.00p.m. Rev.C Gibbs
30th 3/2.00p.m. Rev. C Gibbs Holy Communion

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Thanks to www.parishpump.co.uk. for the use of their material.

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 **423117**
Sue Williams 422605
Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

Claire Jenkins **423546**
Margaret Snowball 422896
Gordon Bird 422550
Sonia Crompton 422854

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

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.

If anyone else would like to join in this special ministry please contact Mary Ratcliffe on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of His grace.

October Services

St. Mary's

Oct.5th

- 9.15 a.m. Worship Team
11.00 a.m. Rev C. Gibbs
4.00 p.m. Park House Beryl Read
8.00 p.m. Barbara Hasler

Oct 12thth

- 9.15 a.m. Gordon Bird & Beryl Read
11.00 a.m. Len Michell
8.00 p.m. Rev. C Gibbs Holy Communion

Oct.19th

- 9.15 a.m. Len Michell & Sonia Crompton
11.00 a.m. Rev. C Gibbs Holy Communion
8.00 p.m. Rev C. Gibbs

Oct.26th

- 9.15 a.m. Barbara Hasler & Vicki Smith
11.00 a.m. Mary Ratcliffe
8.00pm Gordon Bird

St. Martin's

Oct. 5th

- 11.00a.m. Mary Ratcliffe

Oct. 12th

- 11.00 a.m. Rev C. Gibbs Holy Communion

Oct. 19th

- 3.00 p.m. Rev C. Gibbs

Oct 26th

- 11.00 a.m. Len Michell