

Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

October & November 2017

Chairman of the District

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Jane Willcock 422406

Local Preachers

Mr Len Michell,
Mr Gordon Bird, Mr Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 423563
Mr Mervyn Bird 423117
Mrs Beryl Read 422977
Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

Circuit Meeting Secretary

Heather Terry

Church Stewards St. Mary's

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

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Property Secretary

Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry

Connexional Link Person Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Some thoughts from the St. Mary's Manse

Dear Friends,

As long as planes fly or ships sail; as long as the Co-op's shelves are filled or we can order "on line" we can have food, in season or not. No longer dependent on farmers or sailors or climate - except, of course, we are. It's when we see the pictures of floods and 'natural' disasters affecting even the richest and most powerful nations we realise just how dependent we all are on one another and on the truth that, in spite of our intelligence, we are not stronger than wind or sea and we need to guard and care for the environment for all our sakes.

So what can I say when I'm too tired to face the challenges of a "New Year" ? Or too overwhelmed to face the needs of my own family - much less of the Universe? I can't find any words of my own so I will quote the words of an inspirational contemporary churchman, poet and artist, Gerald Kelly.....

This Grace

This grace we have been given is enough.

When the mountains set before us

won't move by faith

until by faith we start to climb,

it is enough.

When our cry for heaven's miracles

rings hollow,

like a doorbell howling through an empty house,
it is enough.

When from our waiting rooms of weakness
we say yes
to pressing on,
it is enough.

When we have reached the end of our energies
and face the end ourselves
but can't yet see the end of our task,
it is enough.

Enough
to know that you have loved us.

Enough
that we are called before all time.

Enough
that every fingerprint is valued.

Enough

that you remember every name.

So we will embrace this grace
and turn our hearts to face grace.
Loosening the locks
on our personal space,
we'll make each home a place of grace;
We'll drink from your wells
'til we're wasted on grace;
we'll speak out your words
'til our tongues taste of grace.
And we'll live to love your laws
until our lives are laced with grace.

Down dark and dingy alleys
we will chase grace.
We will hold as something precious every trace of grace.
We will celebrate and consecrate this grace,
because this grace we have been given
is enough.

Jane
X

News from St Martin's

It has been a bitter sweet summer for us on St. Martin's. Only last week we buried our oldest dearest member of our chapel, Rodney Ashford. He was born on the island in 1925 and lived here all his life, marrying Celia with whom he had two daughters, Alison and Margaret. He was a true uncle to Heather and Christine, (and by name to most of us.) We send them our love and sympathy.

The service was conducted by Rev. Jane who reminded us of Rodney's amazing, exemplary, generous life, which we are able to celebrate together.

70 years ago he became our relief organist, and then over 50 years ago he became our regular organist, playing at every Sunday service, and at all other events such as weddings and christening, ever since.

He also brought the joys of music to the wider community when he played the piano accordion at weekly Saturday dances at the village hall.

He has selflessly contributed to our local community beyond his musical contributions by serving as treasurer on the Reading Room committee and then as one of our Isles of Scilly councillors, fighting tirelessly for the rights of islanders. Essentially a quiet, family man, Rodney and Celia enjoyed walking and sailing together. For decades they invited people to enjoy their magnificent views from their garden, and in doing so raised thousands of pounds for the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

For many years our Bible Reading evenings were hosted at their house.

Rodney, we will miss you dreadfully (especially when we tussle with the "holy carioke machine" on Sunday's!) but we can celebrate a life well lived, and commend you to peace in the arms of our Lord.

Rodney was also best man at Derek and Gladys Perkins' wedding in 1947 and it was a pleasure to have him join in the family celebrations for their 70th wedding anniversary on 19th August. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Karma hotel where son John, daughters Valerie and Julia, grand children and great grandchildren were able to come together to give thanks for two amazing people who have reached such an incredible milestone - a 'platinum' anniversary apparently!

Friends Rev Tony and Wendy Pudner were able to join us, and also bridesmaid Daphne (nearly 90!). John, on behalf of his sisters, paid tribute to two very special parents.

Granddaughter Iona, and great granddaughter Milly read out their own poem in tribute.

Derek and Gladys were married in our little Chapel and have worshipped there all their married lives.

We wish them more years of health and happiness.

Tony Pudner and Chris Savill have generously given of their time, taking services through the August, so that Jane can have a well-earned break.

Finally, we have held our Harvest Festival service and broken with tradition this year by following with a coffee morning, where the produce was sold, making a good contribution to Chapel funds.

It was lovely to see so many join us; always such a special time for those of us who are involved with harvests. I write this as a gale blows through and we think of all those affected by the recent hurricane activity.

May our God go with them.

Val Thomas

Smile lines

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

Blessed are the flexible, for they don't mind it when the demands of family and work ties them in knots.

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray." From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

News from St Mary's



Autumn is now here and already we have held our annual Harvest service. This year, this was a shared service with our friends in the Parish Church and the following week we were invited to share in their service. On the Friday we hosted a Harvest Supper for both Churches with a sharing Supper – and there was certainly a lot to share! Many thanks go to all those who helped with these events which were well supported. We had some very tasty savoury dishes from the Methodists and amazing puddings from our Anglican friends.

We send belated congratulations to John and Carol who have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Kim and Dean are off on their trip home soon so we hope they have a wonderful time in New Zealand. Merryn and Josh will be leaving us to join Vikki, Emily and Becky. We will hold them in our prayers as they begin their new life on the mainland, and give thanks for all their contributions to the life of our Church and to the life of the Islands.

Barbara has continued her grave cleaning service. The display in Church shows what an amazing difference she has made to the graves, as well as raising money for the Church.

Valerie Parker

All Hallows or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signaled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween.

Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6th October 1536)

This month is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, and so a good time to pay tribute to William Tyndale, an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press. Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.



When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work. Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the

King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.



The Reformation

The light had dawned, now Luther saw
That all his works would count for nought,
Indulgencies could never sway God
Or make him fit for Heaven's court.

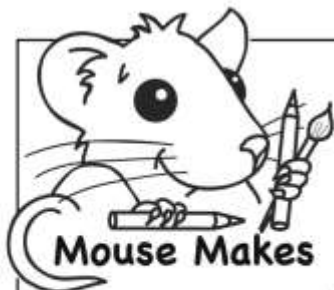
Such realisation changed his life,
And Martin now saw things anew,
It's only by grace he could be saved
And not by anything he could do.

It was the Son's redeeming death
That paid the price for sin in full,
Not by works that any should boast,
And not by any Papal bull.

Such is the wonder of salvation
When the Father from above,
Poured out His peace and grace upon us
And kissed our guilty world in love.

By **Megan Carter**

*Editor: 500 years ago this month, on the 31st October 1517,
Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Thesis on the Castle Church
door in Wittenberg.*



Mouse Makes

Ezekiel the prophet had a special dream from God. In his dream he stood in the middle of a **valley full** of a **great** many **bones**. God made him **walk** around them, then God said;

"**Son** of man, can these bones **live**?" Ezekiel replied;

"**Sovereign Lord**, you know." God told Ezekiel to **prophesy** over the bones, to tell **them**;

"**Dry** bones, **hear** the word of the Lord, I am about to put **breath** into **you** and you will live. I will put **tendons** on you and **muscles** over you and **cover** you with **skin**,

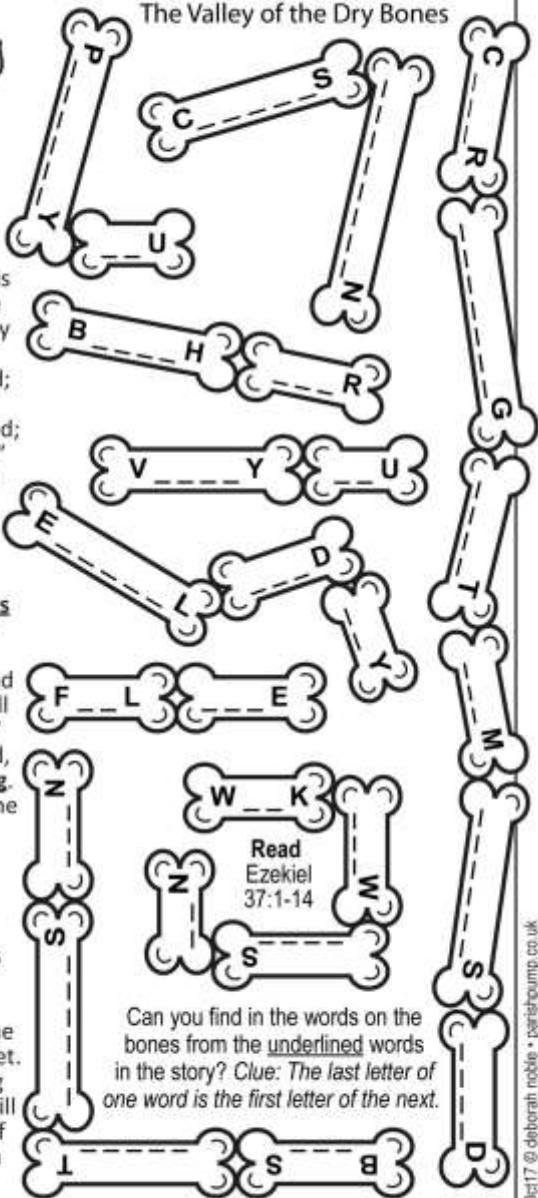
I will put breath in you and you will live. Then **you** will **know** that I am the Lord."

So Ezekiel did as God had said, he heard the **sound** of **rattling**. The bones came together bone to bone, then tendons and muscles and skin appeared on them. God told Ezekiel to say to the breath; "Come, breath, from the four **winds** and breathe on these corpses so that they may live."

Ezekiel spoke what God had told him and the **corpses** came alive and stood on their feet.

God explained the meaning of the dream and said; "I will put my **Spirit** in the people of Israel and they will know I am the Lord and they will live."

The Valley of the Dry Bones



Action for Children

As I write we look forward to the visit on Friday 22nd September of Jamie Lee who is in charge of our Methodist Children's Charity in the south west. We hope to give him good news of our fund raising which, sadly, is not as high as in recent years.

At present, and in the coming weeks, we are relying on our usual pick of blackberries for dear friends who give a contribution to the charity for their receipt. My sincere thanks to those who have already had fruit and with a full crop ready to be picked my hope is for a lot of interest in the coming weeks.

There is no way we can reach the grand sum earned last year but every donation, however small, is very valuable!

Gwen Clarkson

Action for Children representative for the Isles of Scilly.



Editorial Team

Anne Gurr e.anne.gurr@gmail.com
Val Parker martinandval.parker@gmail.com
Barbara James bjjethen@gmail.com

Any contributions will be gratefully received. The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe

Coffee Mornings

On Tuesdays throughout the summer there have been coffee mornings on St Mary's, held either outside the Church Hall if the weather has been fine or in the Manse. Cakes and cards have been sold and the mornings have been enjoyed by locals and holiday makers alike. John has also provided a skittles game for when the weather has been fine.

The mornings have been to raise money towards Church funds. So far more than £400.00 has been raised.

Thanks go to those who run them.



Birthday Greetings for October

Kathy Banfield, Sonia Crompton, Anne Farr, Jono Grossett, Pippa Grossett, Joy Morris, Derek Perkins, Maria Tomlinson, Judi Williams, Megan Woodcock, Melanie Woodcock.

November

Daniel Bird, Jonathan Bird, Veronica Deane, Helen Crisp, Jean Goody, Julia Ottery, Aurelia Schwartz, Monica Taylor.

God's blessings to you all.



"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-
attraction ratings guide, it's a Health
and Safety warning!"

PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Revd. Jane Willcock (422406) who will pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Meryn & Stephanie Bird **423117**
Sue Williams 422605

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

Barbara Hasler **422208**
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 Revd. Jane Willcock on 422406.

We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.

November Services

St. Mary's

| | | |
|------|-------|----------------------------------|
| 5th | 10:30 | Revd. Brian Mavers |
| 12th | 10:45 | Remembrance Parish Church |
| 19th | 09:15 | Gordon Bird |
| | 11:00 | Revd. Jane Willcock Sacrament |
| | 18:00 | Revd. Jane Willcock and Revd Gay |
| 26th | 9:15 | Revd. Jane Willcock Sacrament |
| | 11:00 | Revd. Jane Willcock |

St. Martin's

| | | |
|------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| 5th | 11:00 | Mary Mavers |
| 12 th | 15:00 | Revd. Jane Willcock and Revd Gay |
| 19th | 11:00 | Christopher Savill |
| 26th | 11:00 | Beryl Read |

Park House

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------|
| 7 th | 16:00 | Revd. Brian Mavers |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------|

October Notices

St. Mary's

| | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1st | 10:30 | Revd Margaret Brock |
| 8 th | 09:15 | Revd. Brian Mavers |
| | 11:00 | Revd. Brian Mavers Sacrament |
| 15 th | 09:15 | Worship Leaders |
| | 11:00 | Revd Brian Mavers |
| | 18.00 | Revd Brian Mavers Sacrament |
| 22 rd | 09.15 | Len Michell |
| | 11:00 | Mary Mavers |
| 29 th | 09.15 | Revd. Brian Mavers |
| | 11:00 | Len Michell |

St. Martin's

| | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1 st | 11:00 | Revd. Brian Mavers |
| 8 th | 11:00 | Mary Mavers |
| 15 th | 11:00 | Len Michell |
| 22 rd | 11:00 | Revd. Brian Mavers Sacrament |
| 29 th | 11:00 | Christopher Savill |

Park House

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| 1 st | 16:00 | Len Michell |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|