



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

October/November 2020

Chairman of the District: Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Superintendent Minister:

Revd. Michael Pullan B.Ed., B.D. 422406

Local Preachers:

Mr Len Michell-(*not taking services this quarter*) 422409

Mr Christopher Savill 423563

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: Mrs Heather Terry 422329

Church Stewards:

St. Mary's	Mrs Claire Jenkins	Mrs Jean Duncan
	Mr Philip Lethbridge	Mrs Leigh Kendrick
	Mrs Sue Williams	

St. Martin's Mrs Barbara Jones

St. Mary's

Treasurer: Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary: Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Hall Booking Secretary: Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

Organist: Mr Len Michell 422409

Deputy Organist: Mr Philip Lethbridge 422404

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary: Mrs Jackie Perkins 422814

Church Treasurer: Mr Alan Terry 422329

Connexional Link Person: Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Barbara James 422674

Thoughts from The Manse.....

Dear Friends,

Do you remember "Ben Hur" and its reconstruction of the Roman Chariot races? Driving one was very hazardous - the most dangerous part of the race was cornering.

To capsize a chariot meant almost certain death - the crucial part of the race was when the chariots reached the turning-points marked by columns at each end of the 'spine wall' which ran down the middle of the oval. - Each of the seven laps completed was marked by a marble sphere and stone dolphins.

The Christian Life is likened to a race (all winners though!) in Hebrews 12v1 "Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus".

2000 years later when someone is ill and starts to get better we say they have turned the corner.

There are turning-points in life when crucial decisions are made:

- * The choice of someone to share life with
- * Places to study and courses to follow
- * Goals in life re - jobs/work
- * Places to live and many more

In Jesus' life there were turning points:

- * The testing in the wilderness prior to beginning His public ministry
- * His baptism and the beginning of that ministry
- * His death, not an ending, a turning point highlighted by His Resurrection and a turning point in history BC/AD

In our lives looking back we see events/experiences that turned out to have been turning points, but we may not have noticed it at the time.

Despite the difficult time since lockdown, hopefully there have been good turning points in life for us all

- * Deeper appreciation of the family and their love and support
- * More awareness of supportive neighbours and friends and an opportunity to help people more
- * More time to reflect, pray and study God's word and
- * Deepen our faith in God

For the Church as a whole COVID may be a turning-point in terms of its worship, its outreach and its community service.

For everyone, each day may contain a possible turning-point that could affect our whole life - a good reason to commit each day to God in prayer and give thanks at days' end.

For, as John Wesley said:

"The best of all is God is with us",
a theme that may be to the fore next time!

Wishing you happy days, good journeying and positive turning-points.

Michael

Poem For The World

I have a poem for all the world

For people everywhere
With words of hope and happiness
For everyone to share

I have a dream for all mankind

A dream of peace and joy
With love that grows abundantly
Which nothing can destroy

I have a song for every man

A song the angels sing
Uplifting heart and mind and soul
As joyful as the spring

I have a prayer for all the world

For every faith to share
With dreams of peace and songs of hope
For people everywher

News from St Martin's

We have been refreshed by the recent re-opening of our Chapel on Sundays to our members.

It has, of course been necessary to respect social distancing, and the wearing of face masks, but this has allowed us to worship together again - and fortunately not too much of a problem with a small congregation.

Not being able to sing along to the taped hymns has been a little frustrating, but some manage a muted hum!

We have enjoyed services led by both Michael and Chris, and even held our annual Harvest Festival - with a difference!

We decided it was not practical to decorate Chapel as we usually do. However, Christine arranged some lovely flowers, and remembered the glass of water and the bread. We all brought some produce and shared it afterwards, giving donations to chapel funds.

In these challenging times it is not possible to hold a coffee morning and have a sale of produce, but it is good to give thanks to God for all his gifts to us.

We hope harvests around the world are successful and all people can be fed, as well as we are.

Perhaps it is now prudent to recognise how much waste there is on this precious planet, and be more thrifty. It is time we buy more from our own locality, in season, and we do not contribute to the degradation of land such as forests, in other countries.

We give thanks that we remain safe and healthy, and hope this continues to be the case.

Val Thomas

Good news

I am writing these thoughts after my morning swim at Porthcressa. It is September, the air is still, the water is soft and clear as crystal. To add to the joy of being in the water, further out in the bay there is a seal lazily raising his head. Oh, I forgot, there are also twelve yachts out there – all facing into the south west.

Now, will you come with me to Carreg Dhu Garden in the centre of St. Mary's, in the countryside. The garden was first started by Richard and June Lethbridge in 1986 and is supported by donations and volunteers (there is always work to be done and volunteers always needed).

The setting is in an old quarry. What a haven of peace and beauty it is – I am sitting here now. It is a Cathedral, the columns reaching into the sky are tall pines, fir trees, leucadendron, silver tree, branching oaks overhanging my seat. Acorns spread like treasure at my feet. The choir is the bird song. Now a robin perches on the arm of a nearby seat. Blackbirds and thrushes abound!

The sky above the canopy is pale blue; puffs of white cloud drift across their ceiling. I am surrounded by peace. Some words I wrote whilst sitting here on another occasion come to mind:-

*For the rustle of the leaves, for the waving of the trees,
We give you thanks, O lord.*

*For the apple and the vine, for delicious home-made wine,
We give you thanks, O Lord.*

*May our lives reflect your care; our loving God is everywhere.
In the bread and in the wine – fellowship with God divine.*

At this present time we are denied meeting together in person and remembering the Lord in the breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup – but we can still remember Him in our hearts and know for certain that in our joys and in our sorrows He remains with us. He has promised "I am with you always." *Matthew 28:v20*. This is, indeed, comfort!

Pauline Jackson Cocking

According to COVID guidelines, the Chapel on St Mary's opened again for Church Services on 13th September after 6 months of lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic. Social distancing masks were worn and hand sanitiser was available.

Rev Michael Pullan had a big smile on his face as he welcomed us all - locals and visitors alike. Although no singing was allowed, but as the hymns were being played we all found ourselves humming along to the lyrics.

On 20th we celebrated our Harvest Festival. Although the Chapel was not decorated and no island produce was displayed, a beautiful basket of flowers was arranged by Barbara James and displayed on the porch table, and flowers were placed outside the entrance to the Chapel.

It was a wonderful celebration for all who attended. The chorus from the hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' reminds us that *All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above. Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, For all his love.* Although we were unable to bring gifts this Harvest Festival, we give thanks to God for all the gifts He has given us.

Jean

To: Members
From: The Treasurer

During this difficult summer I have been grateful to Michael for taking over the paying in. This has to be done at the Post Office; cheques and cash separately.

I have also been grateful for those who arrange their offerings by standing orders, and I would ask that anyone with a bank account does the same. It is easy to set up and makes life a lot easier for me. (Contact me for the bank details).

For a while now, we have been considering stopping the use of the Church Envelopes, they cost us £62 each year. We have to buy 50 and are wasting a lot.

Does anyone have a strong opinion about this decision?

Sue Williams



"But did they plough the fields
and scatter at a safe distance?"

Live Alone

I LIVE alone, dear Lord,
stay by my side.

In all my daily needs
Be Thou my guide.

Grant me good health,
for that indeed, I pray.
To carry on my work
From day to day.

Keep pure my mind,
my thoughts, my every deed.
Let me be kind, unselfish
in my neighbour's need.

Spare me from fire, from flood,
and malicious tongues.
From thieves, from fear,
and evil ones.

If sickness or an accident befall,
then humbly, Lord, I pray,
hear, Thou my call.
And when I'm feeling low,
or in despair,
lift up my heart
and help me in my prayer.

I live alone, dear Lord,
yet have no fear.
Because I feel your presence
Ever near.

AMEN

World Day of Prayer

I have recently learnt that the World Day of Prayer for 2021 has not been cancelled at this stage. So a very advanced date for next year's diary is Friday March 5th. I will provide more information nearer the time, when the impact of a possible second wave of Covid 19 is clearer.

Heather

A Grain of Sand at a Time

This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done? Then think of your life as an hourglass. There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hourglass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure. Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.

I knelt to pray but not for long, I had too much to do
I had to hurry and get to work for bills would be due
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer, and jumped up off my knees
My christian duty was done, my soul could rest at ease

All day long I had no time to spread a word of cheer
No time to speak of Christ to friends, they'd laugh at me I'd fear
No time no time, too much to do, that was my constant cry
No time to give to souls in need, but at last the time,
the time to die.

I went before the Lord, I stood with downcast eyes.
For in His Hands God held a book - it was the Book of Life
God looked into His book and said 'Your name I cannot find
I once was going to write it down....but never found the time

Man is broken. He lives by mending.
The grace of God is glue.

Eugene O'Neill

He must become greater - I must become less

John 3v30

Remember Who Holds You

Frightening thing, this pride. Doesn't it sneak up on us? We begin spiritual journeys as small people. The act of conversion is a humbling one. We confess sins, beg for mercy, bend our knees. We come to God humbly. No swagger, no boasts. And God works. He works the miracle of salvation. He immerses us in mercy. He stitches together our shredded souls. He deposits his Spirit in our hearts and implants heavenly gifts. Our big God blesses our small faith.

Gradually our big God changes us. People notice the difference. They applaud. They admire us. And kudos become ladder rungs, and we begin to elevate ourselves.

We forget. We forget who brought us here. Take time to remember. "Look at what you were when God called you" (1 Corinthians 1:26). Remember who held you in the beginning. And remember who holds you today.

Max Lucado

**FAIRTRADE Profits for the Year ending 31st
August were £300.**

Many thanks for your support!

Table in the Wesley Room has a small selection of
fairly-traded products. *Purchases welcomed*

Watch out for Fair-trade Catalogues, sample Advent
Calenders and packets of Christmas Cards for sale

Orders from Catalogues also taken

Donations from Profits made to:

Fund for Home Mission	£95	Fund for World Mission	£95
Fairtrade Exchange	£50	All We Can	£50
Orphanage and school £10			

TOTAL £300

God in the Arts



The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this month he considers 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael. It hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

**He gave us eyes to see them:
'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael**

The weeks and months of lockdown have been difficult and testing times for many of us, but they have also provided the opportunity to look afresh at the world of nature. With less traffic on the roads, less air pollution, and less noise pollution, the sky has somehow seemed bluer and the bird song more joyful and confident. It is appropriate that we focus this month on one such bird noted for its liquid, tinkling song - the goldfinch. In this month we also celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 September, and so the painting is 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael.

Raphael was only 37 years old when he died in 1520, but his work is marked by maturity and great beauty. No more so than in this painting which shows Mary with a young Jesus and John the Baptist. You could easily miss the tiny bird which is carefully held by John and gently stroked by Jesus, who has one foot resting on His mother's. It is an intimate, tender scene which was painted in 1505 as a wedding gift for Lorenzo Nasi. It was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1548, painstakingly restored in the early part of this century, and now hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

As we look, we rejoice in the grace and simplicity of the scene. We look again and ask ourselves 'Why a goldfinch?' The bird has a red spot on its head, and legend tells that the goldfinch flew down to the cross of Calvary to take a thorn from the crown of thorns. As it pulled the thorn in its beak, its head was splashed with a drop of blood. And so this painting of gentleness and innocence opens out into a wider canvas of redemptive love. Our thoughts move from infancy to the cross. Mary, sat on a rock, is reading 'The Throne of Wisdom', and the artist is inviting us to ponder where true wisdom is found. Here, as we look at the wonder of nature and new life with a mother and children, but also as we look ahead to the 'wisest love' of Jesus who is our Redeemer.

What's in your hand?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, '*What is in your hand?*' (Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

John Ortberg, in his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a *thought for the day* into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, '*I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.*' A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!

What has God given you that will help and encourage others?

Listen to the words of God

"I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" Isaiah 49 v15-16.

He really is our one safe place

Times Paces

Rev Canon Henry Twells (1823-1900) was an Anglican clergyman, hymn writer and poet. His best known hymn was "At Even, Ere the Sun was Set". He also wrote the well-known poem "Time's Paces that depicts the apparent speeding up of time as we get older.

The poem was popularised by Guy Pentreath (1902-1985) in an amended version. He saw the poem attached to a clock case in the North Transept of Chester Cathedral where it is to be seen today.

Twells' original version

When a a child I laughed and
wept, *time crept*
When as a youth I waxed
more bold, *time strolled*
When I became a full grown man
time ran
When older still I daily grew
time flew
Soon I shall find, in passing on
time gone
O Christ! wilt Thou have saved
me by then? *Amen*

Pentreath's amended version

When I was a babe and wept
time crept.
When I was a boy and laughed
time walked
Then when the years saw me
a man, *time ran*
But as I older grew,
time flew
Soon, as I journey on, i'll find
time gone
May Christ have saved my
soul, by then. *Amen*

Some day we will have to give an account of the way we spent the time God has allowed to us. *Romans 14:12* - So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

St Mary's church offerings for 13th and 20th September (Harvest Festival) amounted to	£523.40
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Donations for 'All we Can' (Methodist Relief and Development Fund) amounted to	£100.00
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The Choice You Will Never Forget

On judgement day it will be all about Jesus and what you did with the man who died in your place to pay for all the sins of your life. He did not stay dead. Three days after he died he walked out of his grave under his own power. So he is alive and you will see him at the end of your journey.

The only thing that will matter at that moment will be what you did with Jesus. God won't care what you did with christianity, but he will base your whole eternity on what you did with Jesus.

If your trust is in anything other than Jesus you are hanging on to a life preserver that simply will not save you. Only the man who paid your spiritual death penalty can do that. Only the man who has eternal life can give you eternal life, and that can only be the man who conquered death himself.

"What will I do with Jesus": Relinquish your control of your life and put your life in the hands of the man who died for you, because the bible says 'God has given us eternal life and this life is in his son'. If you have got Jesus you have got heaven. Without Jesus there is no chance of heaven.

"What will you do with Jesus?".

Neutral you cannot be

For someday your soul will be asking

"What will He do for me"

**Jesus took the blame for all our sins so that we could become
right with God**

You have a God who hears you

The power of His love behind you

The Holy Spirit within you

And all of Heaven ahead of you

If you have the Shepherd

You have grace for every sin

Direction for every turn

A candle for every corner

And an anchor for every storm

You have everything you need

Mac Lucado

Time for a Smile

Sick of preaching

Our new vicar had just been prescribed bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He tried to explain this to the congregation on Sunday: "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses. You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you all, it makes me feel sick."

New style of prayer

Our minister is still getting used to live streaming our church services. Last Sunday he invited us to join him digitally in prayer by saying firmly: "Let's bow our eyes and close our heads."

New version of Apostles' Creed

When our church began live streaming its services, our minister was at first a bit nervous. Still, he kept his cool, and you would never have known he was struggling until he reached the Apostles' Creed. Then he firmly announced that Jesus was..."confused by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary..."

Crazy?

Our minister wanted the title of his next sermon to be posted ahead of time on the church website. He rang our church warden and said that the title was to be: 'Are Ministers Crazy?'

Not hearing this as a question, the church warden dutifully posted: 'Our Minister's Crazy.'

Pancakes

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, five, and Ryan, three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the chance for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Quick as a wink, Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A Modern Version of Psalm 23

The Lord is my pace setter - I shall not rush.
He makes me to stop for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness which restores my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind.
And His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day I
will not fret.
For His presence is here.
His timelessness, His all importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity.
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours.
For I shall walk in the Pace of my Lord.
And dwell in His house for ever.

Written by the Japanese writer - Tokio Megashie

Action for Children

Due to Covid 19, I have not been selling books at the roadside this summer. I felt uneasy about the risk of transmission through browsing, and this decision was confirmed for me by staff at our local Health Centre. Therefore our fund raising for Action for Children has been somewhat reduced, as has been the case for so many charities, because of the pandemic. In view of this, please could I ask those of you with AfC collection boxes to be a little more generous. Perhaps you would consider giving some of the money you saved during lockdown, on haircuts for example!! I will ask for the boxes later in the autumn.

If you don't have a collecting box I am still open to donations, and have some spare boxes should anyone be interested in having one.

Thank you, *Heather*

Don't be a COVID hero

Don't be a COVID hero if you're struggling deep inside
Everyone's affected, there's nowhere we can hide
It's got us gripped this COVID thing, anxiety's on the rise
But talk it out, don't act it out, and we'll bring it down to size

There's people that's graftin' in Workforce, keeping us all to task
Of making sure there's someone there, if you come to ask
"Is there someone I can talk to?, someone who is kind
Someone understanding, coz I've something on my mind

So if you've something to say, please don't keep it in
You can speak up quietly, and even make a din
Or if you see your mate is struggling, give them what you've got
Reach out with a listening ear, it just might hit the spot

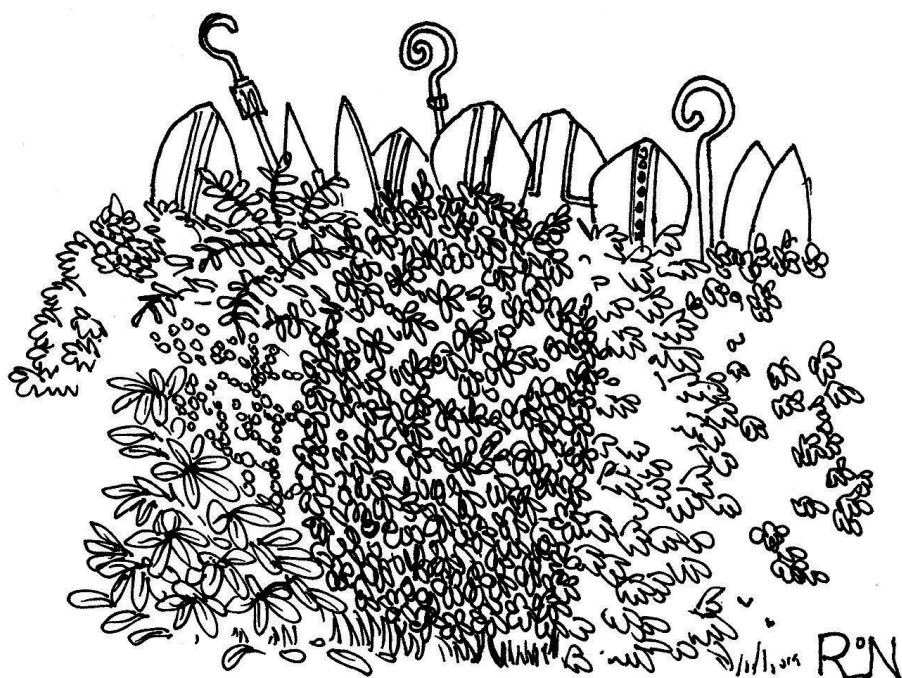
Chat to a chaplain, and get it off your chest
Even if you're stuck for words, sharing's always best
When you're under pressure, and things seemed out of hand
They might not have all the answers but at least they'll understand

And psychologists share the work to nature your wellbeing
Whatever's in your head they'll have a way of seeing
That helps you spill out all the words like grain and chaff together
And hold what is worth keeping and help you face whatever

Doctor to a doctor for some might be the way
A Peer who can empathise with what you need to say
The Speak Up Guardians were all set up to help
But they can't do a thing unless you give a yelp

This COVID thing won't beat us, someday we'll all get through
And then look back in thanks on all the people who
Walked the path beside us with love's reciprocating touch
And it will be a joy to ay "Thank you, very much"!

Revd Mark Stobart, Methodist Minister and Hospital Chaplain



The bishops had formed a
'support bubble' all on their own.

Editorial Team

Jean Duncan	davidandjeanduncan72@gmail.com
Anne Gurr	e.anne.gurr@gmail.com
Barbara James	bjjethen@gmail.com

This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Please send your contributions to the editor by the 15th of the month.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website www.scillymethodists.co.uk and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed.

Some material in this magazine has come from www.parishpump.co.uk. We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

Birthdays



October:

Kathy Banfield, Sonia Crompton, Anne Farr, Joy Morris, Derek Perkins, Maria Tomlinson, Judi Williams, Revd Jane Wilcock

November:

Daniel Bird, Jonathan Bird, Veronica Deane, David Duncan, Helen Crisp, Jean Goody, Julia Ottery,

Children's Birthdays

October: Evie Jenkins, Megan Woodcock

November: Martha Mills, Alfie Plowman, Herbie Sandford

Happy birthday and God's blessings to everyone

**The following services may be subject to change
re COVID**

NOVEMBER SERVICES

St. Mary's

1st	1030	Revd Michael Pullan
8th	1045	United Remembrance Service Revd Canon Perran Gay/ Revd Michael Pullan
15th	1030	Revd Michael Pullan
22nd	1030	Revd Michael Pullan
29th	1030	Revd Michael Pullan - <i>Holy Communion</i>

St. Martin's

1st	1500	Revd Michael Pullan
8th	1500	United Remembrance Service Revd Canon Perran Gay/ Revd Michael Pullan
15th	1100	Mrs Beryl Read
22nd	1100	Mr Christopher Savill
29th	1500	Revd Michael Pullan - <i>Holy Communion</i>

PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Rev Michael Pullan (422406) who will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird	423117
Sue Williams	422605

Claire Jenkins	423546
Margaret Snowball	422896
Sonia Crompton	422854

Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pam 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 Rev. Michael Pullan on 422406.

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

**The following services may be subject to change
re: COVID**

OCTOBER SERVICES

St. Mary's

4th	1030	Mrs Margaret Brock
11th	1030	Mrs Beryl Read
18th	1030	Local arrangement
25th	1030	Revd Michael Pullan - <i>Holy Communion</i>

St. Martin's

4th	1100	Revd Michael Pullan
11th	1100	Mr Christopher Savill
18th	1100	Local arrangement
25th	1500	Revd Michael Pullan - <i>Holy Communion</i>

Park House

4th	1600	Revd Michael Pullan
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