



METHODIST CIRCUIT

IN TOUCH

October/November 2022

From the Manse

I'm guessing that many people who know Scilly have places they'd name as their favourite spots in the islands, perhaps particular beaches, venues or viewpoints. A year into my appointment here, I continue to be wowed by the beauty and the diversity of the landscape and realise I'm already gathering quite a list of my own favourite places.

With so much more of Scilly yet to discover and explore, I was glad of the opportunity during the summer to join the pilgrimage to St. Helen's. The day brought all kinds of adventures! It was good to be in the company of friends from the churches and local community and also to discover links and connections with some who were visiting Scilly on holiday.

The short service among the remains of the ancient hermitage included the story of how Christianity came to Scilly. There was an invitation in the quietness to think and pray about our own role and that of the church today in carrying, sharing and making real the story of God's love. It seemed to me incredibly poignant and powerful to have the visual reminder that the Gospel message outlives those things we might think of as fixed and permanent.

Another moment of spiritual reflection during that day's trip came at the top of the hill. What a view, seeing Scilly and far beyond in every direction, stretched out below. Little wonder that mountains, hills and high places feature often in the Scriptures, symbolic of divine presence and of a perspective far bigger and broader than that by which we are usually bound.

This edition of 'In Touch' takes us through autumn and my prayers are with all for whom this season is one of change, of endings and new beginnings. Locally, our support and prayers are with our Anglican friends during the short period of transition between Chaplains. Our prayers and love continue with Perran and Rainy as they begin the new adventure of retirement. We pray too for the newly appointed Chaplain, Elizabeth and her husband Mick. On behalf of the Circuit, I extend a warm welcome and look forward to working together in shared worship and witness.

Revd. Carole

Based on Psalm 121, this prayer was posted on the online Christian Aid resources:

*For those who have watched over me,
for those that have protected me,
for those that have shielded me,
thanks be to the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.*

*For the roof that shades me from the sun,
for the walls that shield me from the storm,
for the bed that warms me in the night,
thanks be to the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.*

*To the one who keeps me from evil,
to the one who preserves my life,
to the one who watches my coming and going,
thanks be to the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.*

(<http://www.christian.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/church-seasons.aspx>)

News from St. Martin's

Although, understandably, we have been worried about the impact the drought was having on our landscape and essential services, our visitors certainly enjoyed the subtropical weather.

Many joined us at Chapel and we were again privileged to have two such regular visitors to St. Martin's lead our services. Revd. Tony Pudner (who was our Methodist Minister here in the islands) led two services, with wife, Wendy, playing the 'organ' – a welcome change from our taped music! However, we must thank Chris Savill for providing the music accompaniments every Sunday.

Tony was followed by Chris Roles, whose wife, Penny, is the niece of Gwen Clarkson, of St. Mary's, who sadly passed away whilst they were here on holiday. Chris is the Managing Director of Help the Aged International, a charitable subsidiary of Age UK, and he gave us an insight into his work, including all the help and support they have been able to give to the elderly, displaced and vulnerable in Ukraine.

Further sadness came to our small island community when the partner of Mandy Goddard – Ian 'Mitch' Mitchell, passed away. He was a well known, much loved and respected local fisherman and Mandy, with her Mum, Edna, often join us in the winter months when there is no Church service. We send our thoughts and prayers to Mandy and the family.

On a happier note, on Sunday 4th September we celebrated Harvest Festival with Revd. Carole leading our service – just a year after her first service on the island. We decorated the Chapel with fruit, vegetables and flowers, most of which were grown locally so the singing of the

traditional harvest hymns took on a special significance. Although the gifts brought were of a modest scale, the donations made for their 'purchase' after the service raised some £200 which will be sent to the Penzance food bank.

It is always good to welcome children to our services and the young Walders, who had helped with collecting the blackberry decorations, were very much included by Carole.

We have just had a "Songs of Praise" Sunday worship. The hymns were chosen by members of the congregation, some of whom also contributed to the service. Of particular significance were the words of HM Queen Elizabeth II read by Chris. We were able to reflect on the selfless service of duty and loyalty shown by a truly remarkable Monarch. In her many Christmas messages she so often shared her hope for world peace and importance of respecting and caring for one another. Many of us have had the privilege of meeting her and Jackie reminded us of her warmth and interest in others and, indeed, her sense of humour. However, it is surely her faith in God and leadership of the Churches of England that have guided her through her long life of service. May she rest in peace.

Val Thomas

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Whenever one person stands up and says "Wait a minute, this is wrong," it helps other people to do the same.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

On Sunday 11th September the Methodist congregation at St. Mary's was joined by the Anglicans to celebrate harvest in the Chapel. Revd. Carole led the service and the preacher was Revd. Canon Perran Gay.

A joint harvest supper was held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 14th September when a large number of locals and visitors shared a delicious meal together with friendship and fellowship..

There was an opportunity to offer thanks to Perran and Rainy for all their work in Scilly over the past seven years and to wish them well in retirement. David Poynter, Church Warden, spoke on behalf of the Anglicans and Philip Lethbridge, Senior Steward, offered best wishes on behalf of the Methodist community.

We look forward to seeing Perran and Rainy again in the future.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The new Chaplain of the Isles, Revd. Elizabeth Burke, will be arriving in Scilly from Holsworthy with her husband, Mick, next month. We look forward to welcoming them both to the islands and wish them every blessing for their ministry here.

The induction service for Revd. Elizabeth will be held on Wednesday 9th November in the Parish Church at 7 p.m.
and will be conducted by
the Rt. Revd. Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro.

The Annual Pilgrimage to the Island of St. Helen's

A group of approximately 50 (locals and visitors) travelled to St. Lide's Island, commonly called St. Helen's, for the annual Pilgrimage on 8th August. For many, it was their first visit to the island and first experience of transferring from pleasure boat to dinghy due to the low tide.

St. Elidius came to this place at an unknown date early in the Christian era. He probably lived in the round hut on the west side of the site. The oratory, the earliest religious building, is a small rectangular structure on the northern boundary. A larger church was built (the central structure) in about the 13th Century to accommodate both the community under the rule of Tavistock Abbey that then flourished on the island and the increasing number of pilgrims coming to venerate the saint's remains. Pilgrims were encouraged to visit the shrine on St. Lide's Day, at Christmas or on Midsummer's Day – the feast of John the Baptist. The Viking, Olaf Trygvasson, later King of Norway, is said to have been converted to Christianity here at the end of the 10th Century.

A short service was held in the Pilgrim Church led by Revd. Canon Perran Gay, Chaplain to the Isles, and Revd. Carole Holmes, Superintendent Methodist Minister.

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We send best wishes to members of our congregations who have been unwell recently and wish them all a speedy recovery

On Sunday 18th September 2022
A United Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving
for the life of
Queen Elizabeth II
was held in St. Mary's Parish Church

The service was led by Canon Perran Gay
Chaplain to the Isles

The first reading, Psalm 121, was read by
Councillor Robert Francis
Chairman of the Council of the Isles of Scilly

The Deputy Land Steward of the Duchy of Cornwall
Natalie Geen
Read the second lesson from
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The Revd. Carole Holmes
Superintendent Methodist Minister
Read from St. John's Gospel 14: 1-6
and also led the prayers

Songs of Glory

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul are you weary and troubled
No light in the darkness you see
There's light for a look at the Saviour
And life more abundant and free.

Chorus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there
O'er us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conquerors we are

Chorus

His word shall not fail you, He promised
Believe Him and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying
His perfect salvation to tell.

Chorus

by Helen H. Lemmel

Helen Howorth Lemmel received a Christian tract from a friend in 1918. A sentence in the tract caught her attention: "Turn your eyes upon Him, look full into His face and you will find that the things of earth will acquire a strange new dimness." So strong was the impression of these lines that both words and melody took shape in her mind, first the chorus and later the stanzas. The song was printed in a pamphlet in London that year, and in 1922 was included in a small collection, *Glad Songs*, which featured sixty-seven songs by Lemmel. This publication introduced the song at the Bible conference at Keswick, England, where it experienced almost instant success.

Born in Wardle, England, Lemmel was the daughter of a Wesleyan Methodist minister. While she was still a small child her family came to America, settling briefly in Mississippi and then moving to Wisconsin. Sometime after the turn of the century she made her home in Seattle, but travelled extensively in many states. She conducted religious services for children and wrote stories and songs for them. Lemmel was a gifted singer with a beautiful soprano voice. She studied voice in Germany for four years. When she was a young woman, she organized a women's vocal quartet that travelled the Chautauqua Circuit. She also briefly taught voice at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and at the Bible Institute in Los Angeles. During her years in Seattle she was an active member of the Ballard Baptist Church.

Across more than six decades, Helen Lemmel composed more than four hundred hymns, writing even in her later years in spite of becoming blind after she was ninety. "Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus," her best-known hymn, is found in most evangelical hymn collections. She died in Seattle, on November 1st 1961, a few days before her ninety-eighth birthday.

ALL WE CAN

Methodist Relief and Development

ALL WE CAN is an international development and emergency relief organisation. Focusing on those in greatest need, it is inspired by Christian principles, with its roots in the British Methodist Church.

ALL WE CAN helps find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisations in some of the world's poorest communities to end the suffering by inequality and injustice.

Any donations that you make will be put to work improving the lives of some of the world's poorest people, not only helping them to provide for their families basic needs but helping them to fulfil their God-given potential.

~ ~ ~

Come as you are – Junior's story

"Culturally, if you have many girl children you are looked down upon because boys are seen as better."

Some things in life that are simple for us, are a struggle for others. Accessing free education is one of them.

In Zimbabwe, as in other parts of the world, many families prioritise educating their sons above their daughters. Junior grew up in a poor community in the Midlands province of Zimbabwe. She is one of five daughters and she has one brother.

She says, "my dad had sisters who didn't have the opportunity to go to school and they were living miserable

lives, They were victims of gender-based violence and they were very poor. I think from that my dad could see the value of girls going to school.”

Junior was given the opportunity to go to school and then she pursued further education where she studied issues around gender in development. She explains, “I thought if I do well at school, I will be able to stop the difficulties like those women in my family were facing.”

For the last ten years, Junior has worked for a local Zimbabwean organisation, which ALL WE CAN are supporting, helping to bring change to the lives of vulnerable women and families.

“I am really inspired by the changes I have seen in people’s lives. Like working with people with no source of income but after a few months, after a year, their lives change. And the way that our activities empower women gives them a social status within the society and that really inspires me.”

To learn more about the work of ALL WE CAN or make a donation, visit:-

Allwecan.org.uk/simple

***All We Can,
25 Marylebone Street,
London. NW1 5JR***

020 7467 5132

Touching the Untouchables

From Nick Fawcett's book 'Daily Prayer 2'

Read

A leper approached Jesus and, kneeling before him, entreated him to help. 'If you so decide,' he said, 'you can make me clean.' Overwhelmed with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him saying, 'I do indeed choose. Be clean!' Straightaway the leprosy left the man and he became clean.

Mark 1:40-42

Ponder

Shock, disgust, anger, disbelief – those were just some of the reactions provoked by Jesus reaching out to touch lepers during the course of his ministry. But such feelings are by no means confined to a certain place and time. Had we followed Jesus' example in England centuries later, our actions too would have caused an outrage as lepers were still routinely ostracised as unclean. Why was that? We know now that most forms of leprosy are not contagious but people didn't then, and this response was one of fear, ignorance and prejudice.

Today the attitudes that lepers once faced are as rampant as ever, only they are directed now against various groups in society such as gays, immigrants, asylum seekers, Gypsies, Jews, Muslims and so forth. Many people deem it prudent to keep their distance and have nothing to do with such people. Such alienation serves only to reinforce the barriers that divide us and create yet more tension in an already fractured world. It's not easy to see past the barricades we unconsciously erect, but it's vital if there is to be any hope of resolving conflict and promoting harmony. Pray for courage to follow Christ in reaching out to the untouchables of today; to see beyond the label to the person underneath.

Ask yourself

Who are regarded as untouchables today? What prejudices still lurk in your life? Are you able to look beyond appearances and stereotypes?

Pray

Lord Jesus Christ, throughout your ministry you reached out to those who were seen as beyond the pale; the diseased, the unworthy, the outcasts, the despised. Even when it involved risk to yourself or rejection by others, you put love first, always showing compassion and acceptance. Forgive me for the way I keep my distance from people, afraid of somehow becoming contaminated or put in danger. Forgive my lack of love, my inability to care, my innate prejudice and mistrust. Help me, as you did, to see beneath the surface to the individuals, with all their hurts and needs, and, like you once more, help me lovingly to respond. Amen.

Remember

As a saying of the wise has it: a prejudice judgement is not good. For God shows no partiality towards anyone.

Proverbs 24:23; Romans 2:11

Close

Teach me, Lord, that when I turn my back on those in need, I turn it on you, and that when I respond to even the least of one of these I am responding to you in turn. Amen.

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Cornish Chapel Stories

The Demon Drink

For nineteenth-century Cornwall, particularly in the mining and clay-pit districts, Methodist attitudes to the consumption of alcohol varied greatly. There was certainly excessive drinking; there were homes with no alcohol of any kind; in Chapel, at communion, the wine had to be non-alcoholic; and from time to time there were Teetotal or Temperance societies and guilds, either purely local or branches of national movements.

Curious traditions lingered. For example, members of a Camborne rugger or cricket team (most, notionally Methodist) would not want to be seen drinking to excess, or, for some, even drinking at all in the home town, but if there was an away game played at, say, St. Just in Penwith they could flock into the Commercial Hotel there and drink it dry. For Methodists, guidance from the pulpit was, perhaps, vague rather than decisive.

Scene: the Assembly Rooms, Camborne, about 1890. Introduced by a Camborne Wesley stalwart, a Teetotal propaganda rally was taking place. Using an epidiascope and some horrifying diagrams in colour that showed what alcohol does to the liver, the speaker dwelt vividly on the Perils of Drink with much medical terminology and a thrilling, deep voiced harangue. The audience was impressed by the free entertainment.

At the end, two old miners who had been sitting at the back, came out onto the street. They stood there to hold a post-mortem discussion.

Fred: "Awful, Awful!"

Bill: "Ess, awful, some awful that, dednt know drink could do that to a man, did you?"

Fred: "Bleeve I shall take the pledge now, after all."

Bill: "Bleeve I shall too."

There was a pause for reflection.

Fred: "Tell ee what, though – less go long the Plough an ave a glass beer and talk un over a bit."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We'll Do it Our Way

Camborne Circuit, post-War period. Troon had two large Chapels, neither of them full, and patently could not go on supporting both of them indefinitely. Hubert Luke was at the time Superintendent of the Camborne Circuit and was asked to conduct a meeting at Troon, the aim being to consider an amalgamation.

He began; "I have a vision! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we kept St. John's and turned Chapel Square into a youth centre?" Silence greeted this. A trustee of Chapel Square then rose and said firmly, "We've had a vision too, Mr. Luke – we're going to re-decorate."

**When conscious of our failure truly to love
~ being honest in prayer ~**

'They'll know we are Christians by our love.'
That's what we sang,
And that, clearly, is what many believed.
But is it true, Lord?
I don't think so.
Surely we're fooling ourselves,
For if we were to ask the average person to describe Christians
in one word,
I suspect 'love' would be one of the last they'd come up with.
'Hypocritical,' more likely; 'holier-than-thou,' 'bigoted.'
Perhaps, if we're lucky, from those more sympathetic;
'well-intended,' 'sincere' if somewhat delusional.
But love as our defining characteristic?
It's a wonderful thought,
But surely mere wishful thinking.
For the truth is this:
Across the centuries people have condemned in the name of
Christ,
Tortured in the name of Christ,
Killed in the name of Christ,
Gone to war in the name of Christ.

And though we've thankfully moved on a little,
There are plenty, still happy to judge others, to write off those
they consider unsound,
Even to consign their nearest and dearest to the supposed fires
of hell.

Do we really love one another, let alone those beyond?
Do we care more deeply, more meaningfully, than anyone else?
Is there anything about us that truly bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things?

I want to say yes, but I can't.

for, with most of us at least, it simply isn't true.

No point, though, bemoaning what is or isn't.

I can't change others,

but I can change myself and that alone is what should concern
me.

Help me, Lord, not just to talk about love,

but to show it,

share it,

live it,

embody it.

Amen.

From 'Praying without Pretence' by Nick Fawcett

On Reflection – From the Manse Window

By David McLaughtan writing in
People's Friend

Amy had every reason not to. Her coffee shop runs on a small margin. Its success isn't guaranteed from one year to the next.

But she was also a mum. She knew finances were overstretched at holiday times. So she decided to open her shop early during the school holidays and provide free breakfasts to the children who would normally have relied on the schools' Breakfast Club programmes.

No sooner had she suggested it than the taxi drivers who frequented the shop decided they would chip in to help cover some costs. Staff volunteered their time. A local fruit and veg shop said they would donate fresh produce. People left extra large tips, asking that they go towards feeding the children. Everyone thought it was a wonderful idea and they were happy to help shoulder the burden.

In the end it was a big success. A lot of children were fed and a lot of parents were appreciative. It was a team effort. Except, it would never have happened if Amy hadn't stepped forward; if she hadn't defied the voices of sense, and rationality, and, yes, fear. Because she stepped forward, others had the opportunity to step up. Each of those good souls was glad, but would never have done it on their own.

The same applies to so many different walks of life – and we make excuses. We say, "Well, she has a coffee shop" or "He's not as busy as me." But we don't know what those first ones who stepped forward are dealing with. All we can say is that they did. There is love and kindness out there. There are people willing to go the extra mile.

This is Amy's second outing into that sort of trust. Last December, she hosted a meal for local people who had no-one to share Christmas dinner with. It was a big success. Do these things leave you out of pocket?" "No," she said. "So, with people donating, do you end up in profit?" "I'd be in profit even if I lost money," she said. "Let's just say that people don't let you down when you are trying to help."

There's a lot of goodwill in the community for the one who will love first. The Christian and Jewish traditions say we love because God loved first. Loving first, when there is no guarantee of a response or a return, isn't easy. But if we only did it when it was safe, it wouldn't be love. Whether it be a community project, or a relationship issue, the ones who make the difference will be the ones who overcome their doubts and take that first step.

In ways you won't anticipate, in ways that will amaze. If you take that first step in love, then love will run to meet you. And it won't let you down.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We are sad to report the recent passing of

Mrs. Gwen Clarkson

Gwen was a treasured member of our St. Mary's congregation and a life-long supporter of 'Action For Children.' In 2018 Gwen was presented with a 'Life Time Award' to mark over 50 years of fund raising for this very worthy charity.

We give thanks for Gwen's faithful service and witness over many years and hold her loved ones in our prayers.'

Knowing God in Your Family

Why do parents think they can't share Jesus with their children?

"I'm not qualified!"

No one is qualified! As parents we get to partner WITH God to let our children know about Him.

"I don't want to pressure my children!"

Setting an example and little lifestyle changes will help your children to know Jesus without any pressure!

"I'm too busy!"

Faith is a part of everyday life, take time for God and for your family.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Flower Rota

Thank you to all those who provide flowers for the Chapel throughout the year; your generosity and service is very much appreciated and never goes unnoticed.

Giving

On St. Mary's the offering during July amounted to £1,302.50 and in August £1,223.40. These amounts include Standing orders.

Hear the call of the kingdom.
lift your eyes to the King;
let His song rise within you
as a fragrant offering
of how God, rich in mercy,
came in Christ to redeem
all who trust in His unfailing grace.

Hear the call of the kingdom
to be children of light
with the mercy of heaven,
the humility of Christ;
walking justly before Him,
loving all that is right
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

Chorus

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow; bringing hope to the world,
filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name.*

Hear the call of the kingdom
to reach out to the lost,
with the Father's compassion
in the wonder of the cross,
bringing peace and forgiveness
and a hope yet to come;
let the nations put their trust in Him.

Chorus

*Singing the Faith 407
Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend*

Our Calling
the vision of the of
the Methodist Church today

Our Calling, in the Methodist Church in Britain, is to:

increase

awareness

of **God's**

presence

and to celebrate

God's love

be a good

neighbour

to people in

need and to

challenge injustice

help people to

grow and

learn as

Christians

through mutual

support and care

make **more**

followers

of **Jesus**

Christ

To serve the present age, my calling to fulfil;
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will.

Charles Wesley

Were you too busy this morning to quietly stop and pray?
Did you hurry and drink your coffee
then frantically rush away,
consoling yourself by saying – God will always be there
waiting to hear my petitions,
ready to answer prayer?
Strength is gained in the morning to
endure the trials of the day
when we visit with God in person
in a quiet and unhurried way.
For only through prayer that's unhurried
can the needs of the day be met,
and only through prayers said at evening
can we sleep without fears or regret.
For all of our errors and failures
that we made in the course of the day
are freely forgiven at night time
when we kneel down and earnestly pray.
So seek the Lord in the morning
and never forget Him at night,
for prayer is an unfailing blessing
that makes every burden seem light.

From 'A Collection of Blessings' By Helen Steiner Rice

A Sunday school teacher asked the children in her class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into Heaven?"

"No!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church top to bottom, mowed the lawn and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into Heaven?" Again, the answer was "No!"

"Well, she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

"A lad at the back shouted, "You gotta be dead Miss!"



We wish God's blessing on all who are celebrating their birthday in October and November.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Editorial Team

Jean Duncan, Anne Gurr and Barbara James are the Editorial Team of In Touch. Articles for inclusion in this circuit magazine can be given or sent to them personally or emailed to iosmethodist.mag@gmail.com

Please support our Editors by contributing reflections, stories, news etc. (by 15th of the month, please). We welcome articles from our mainland readers as well as from Scilly.

'In Touch' can also be read online at www.scillymethodists.co.uk

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<https://www.tmcp.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice>

Prayer Requests

As always, please do feel able to ask Revd. Carole if you would appreciate pastoral contact or the prayers of the Church.



St. Mary's Methodist Church Services

Sunday 2 Oct	9.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	Communion
Sunday 9 Oct	9.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	United at Chapel
Sunday 16 Oct	9.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sunday 23 Oct	9.30am	Revd Carole Holmes/Mrs. Beryl Read	
Sunday 30 Oct	11am	United at Parish Church Preacher: Revd Carole Holmes	
Sunday 6 Nov	Time tbc	Revd Carole Holmes	Communion
Sunday 13 Nov	Remembrance – Venue and Time to be confirmed Revd Elizabeth Burke/Revd Carole Holmes		
Sunday 20 Nov	Time tbc	Revd Carole Holmes	

St. Martin's Methodist Church Services

Sunday 2 Oct	3pm	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sunday 9 Oct	10am	Revd Hilary Ison United at Anglican Church	
Sunday 16 Oct	3pm	Revd Carole Holmes Holy Communion	
Sunday 23 Oct	11am	Revd Carole Holmes	
<u>Friday</u> 28 Oct	3pm	Revd Carole Holmes	
<u>Friday</u> 4 Nov	3pm	Revd Carole Holmes	Communion
<u>Friday</u> 11 Nov	Remembrance – Venue and Time to be confirmed Revd Elizabeth Burke/Revd Carole Holmes		
<u>Friday</u> 18 Nov	3pm	Mr. Christopher Savill	

All dates and arrangements provisional

***Provisional Date for Circuit Meeting
Thursday 17th November at 10.15am***