



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

October/November 2023

Chair of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District:

Revd. Loraine Mellor

Superintendent Minister:

Revd. Carole Holmes

Local Preacher:

Mr. Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards:

Mrs. Christine Savill

Mr. Mervyn Bird

Mrs. Beryl Read

Circuit Treasurer: Mr. Christopher Savill

Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs. Stephanie Bird

Circuit Meeting Secretary: Mrs. Heather Terry

Church Stewards:

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

St. Martin's: Mrs. Barbara Jones

St. Mary's:

Church Treasurer:	Mrs. Sue Williams
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Church Council Secretary:	Mrs. Beryl Read
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Hall Booking Secretary:	Mrs. Anne Gurr
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Musicians:	Mr. Philip Lethbridge
	Mr. Mervyn Bird

St. Martin's:

Church Council Secretary:	Mrs. Jackie Perkins
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Church Treasurer:	Mr. Alan Terry
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Connexional Link Person:	Mrs. Beryl Read
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Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs. Barbara James
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FROM THE MANSE

Welcome to the October-November edition of the In Touch magazine.

As I write towards the end of September, another summer season is coming to an end here on Scilly and the promise of the half term holiday is in sight. For many people working within the tourism and hospitality industries here, the late autumn brings the welcome opportunity for rest.

In contrast, in the cycle of the Methodist year, the autumn is a busy time, with decisions made in the summer at Methodist Conference being fed down through District Synods in September, reaching local church meetings in October. This year there are significant matters for us to deal with. Policy changes in relation to District boundaries are progressing, leading to a merging next year of the two most South-Westerly Districts. This, as you can imagine, involves a great deal of discussion and debate. Locally, there are critical decisions to be made too. Among the serious admin and governance matters, the recent Synod included a more light-hearted (or perhaps not!) presentation about the importance of retaining the Cornish way of #jamfirst. On Scilly, there are views on this issue too

To those on the islands and those elsewhere who support and take an interest in the Methodist Church here, we ask your continuing prayers as we share and respond to this process of necessary change. As always, I'd welcome contact if this is something you'd like to know more about.

I don't watch a lot of TV. The TV that I do watch is usually carefully chosen. Occasionally though I come across something unintentionally and find myself drawn in. This happened recently with a programme called "Amazing Hotels: Life beyond the Lobby." Now in its fifth season, new presenter Rob Rinder has joined chef Monica Galetti to experience and work in some of the world's more luxurious and

spectacular locations. The episode I tuned into last week was set in South Africa, in the Phinda Game Reserve. In a bid to offer

that “little bit extra” in a highly competitive hospitality industry, one of Phinda’s unique selling points is in being a location without gates or fences. Animals from the reserve are free to wander – bush babies, baboons and other monkeys, for example, share the breakfast balcony. As explained, “this is *their* place that we have come into” A commitment to conservation is the priority. A variety of wild animals are supported on an area of land bought and maintained by a consortium of indigenous people.

With lions, rhinoceros, cheetah, venomous snakes and scorpions among the most dangerous animals, maintaining safety of staff and guests, is, obviously, paramount. Local rangers are always on duty, charged with keeping watch, being alert to the presence of danger.

One part of the programme that particularly grasped my attention was a short interview piece with one of the local guides. At an evening meal, served in a remote location far from the security of any buildings, the ranger described the most important part of his role as remaining constantly alert, “listening.” So attuned was he to the sounds of danger, that he was able to distinguish even the rustle of dead leaves over and above the sounds of meal preparation, party music and the excited chatter of guests.

Reflecting on this, I remembered a wisdom story I heard some years ago. It tells of two individuals, alert to different priorities. I’ll hunt it out for this, or the next edition. It’s a story that invites us to reflect on what priorities we are, and should be, most alert to.

I wonder what it is that we’re most attuned to?

I wonder how well-attuned we are to recognise and hear God’s voice?

Charles Wesley's hymns, arguably among the founding documents of the Methodist tradition, closely follow biblical text. It was said of the early Methodists, that Scripture was learned through singing. As Janet Morley sets out in a devotional podcast from 2015, Charles Wesley's hymns come

"from a mind and heart fully immersed in Scripture, combining profound thought with a passionate longing for holiness"

(Holiness and Education, Volume 1, 2015, issue 1
Weblink included below)

John Wesley, recognising the gift of his younger brother's lyrics, referred to Charles' writings having "an eye to God in every word." What a great prayer in all our writing and speaking!

From my earliest days as a local preacher in training, the significance of Charles Wesley's hymns was impressed upon me. For much of my circuit ministry, I'd ensure that every act of worship I led had at least a quote, at best a hymn. I'm sad that many of these theological gems are no longer known or sung congregationally, but they do remain available as prayers and as aids to personal devotion. If you're interested, the Methodist Prayer App (methodistprayer.org) includes one of Charles Wesley's hymns (often a lesser known one!) in each morning and evening liturgy. An easier way, of course, is simply to grab a hymn book

As a prayer at the end of this piece I'll include the text of the first two verses of a hymn that has stood the test of time. It was first published in the Wesleyan hymn book of 1780 and has been included in every successive edition of authorised Methodist hymn books. It's an immense hymn with a daring claim and tremendous climax in the fifth verse (look it up!). It begins though with a call that we might still ourselves, that we may be attuned to the presence and revelation of God's love.

During October and November especially, when Church and Circuit Trustees will be meeting to consider how the work of God through the Methodist Church on Scilly can continue into the future, perhaps we might make this prayer our own. May we hear, recognise, listen and attend to the things of God.

With love and in peace,
Carole x

Open, Lord, my inward ear,
And bid my heart rejoice:
Bid my quiet spirit hear
Thy comfortable voice;
Never in the whirlwind found,
Or where earthquakes rock the place,
Still and silent is the sound,
The whisper of thy grace.

From the world of sin, and noise,
And hurry I withdraw;
For the small and inward voice
I wait with humble awe;
Silent am I now and still,
Dare not in thy presence move;
To my waiting soul reveal
The secret of thy love

Reference:

<https://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/creative-and-devotional-material/>

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

On Sunday 10th 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. Elizabeth Burke, Chaplain to the Isles. Sue Hodgson read the lesson and Fiona Maybrey led the prayers.

A large congregation, including many visitors, enjoyed the traditional and modern harvest hymns. The singing was heard outside in the street prompting some passers-by to come and join in!

Following the service a 'Bring and Share' lunch was held in the hall with over 50 sitting down to a delicious meal.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many visitors as well as locals; to meet new friends and to share something of their faith journey.

Many thanks to all who helped in any way to make this such a joyous occasion.

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On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August islanders from all walks of life gathered together at the Old Town Inn to celebrate the life of 'Willy' Williams who died at the end of July.

A very kind Scillonian gentleman who enriched the lives of everyone he came into contact with. He will be sadly missed, not least by the many visitors who appreciated the wooden seats which he made and placed around the island.

We continue to hold Sue and her family in our prayers.

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

We have been blessed with our regular worship leaders in August when the Revd. Tony Pudner took two of our services, ably assisted by wife, Wendy, on the organ and Kath, a friend of their daughter Mary, who shared her teaching experiences with us. Particularly challenging during Covid times.

They were followed by Chris Roles, who reminded us of the Christian values needed to care for refugees desperate to find safety and sanctuary.

We hear our friend the Revd. Jane Willcock has retired with a party at her home – I'm sure she will always be kept busy, but hope she can really relax and find time for herself. We wish her lots of love and leisure xx

I omitted to report that, back in June, Jane led a very special blessing for Max Terry; son of Ros and Grandson of Heather and Alan.

How quickly the summer changes into autumn, and we held our Harvest Festival celebrations on the first Sunday in September. Revd. Carole joined us along with a splendid congregation of visitors who helped disperse the harvest gifts of fruit, veg and preserves, afterwards. It's always good when the donators don't have to take it all back home again! £205 was raised for Chapel funds. The Chapel looked splendid and Carole shared her admiration of 'all God's Good Gifts around us' – certainly mostly local produce.

Our Photo exhibition has also raised some £260 this year.

Revd. Jo Mulliner joined us on 10<sup>th</sup> September and kept us focused with her wit and energy.

Many of us are now looking forward to our annual holidays after a busy summer. Stars and fairy lights will be in shop windows before we know it!!



Show me how to stand for justice:  
how to work for what is right,  
How to challenge false assumptions,  
how to walk within the light.  
May I learn to share more freely  
in a world so full of greed,  
showing your immense compassion  
by the life I choose to lead.

Teach me how to treasure mercy,  
whether given or received –  
for my need has not diminished  
since the day I first believed:  
let me seek no satisfaction  
boasting of what I have done,  
but rejoice that I am pardoned  
and accepted in your Son.

Gladly I embrace a lifestyle  
modelled on your living word,  
in humility submitting  
to the truth which I have heard.  
Make me conscious of your presence  
every day in all I do:  
by your Spirit's gracious prompting  
may I learn to walk with you.

*Martin Leckebusch  
Singing the Faith 713*

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A large congregation attended the united Harvest Eucharist at the Parish Church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Revd. Eileen Martin led the service and the preacher was Revd. Carole Holmes.

Following the service, refreshments were served in the Garden Pavilion.

## **Waking up to Persecution**

**One in eight of the world's Christians face oppression for their faith, writes Rebecca Coatsworth of advocacy '*Open Doors*'**

Where do you keep your Bible? Is it out in the open, lying on a table? Or do you have 24/7 access to it on your phone?

Scripture is so valuable and in the UK and Ireland we're blessed that it's so widely available to us. But in places like North Korea, owning a Bible comes with great risk. In North Korea, being caught with a Bible can mean losing your life.

When Kim Sang-Hwa (not her real name) was 12 years old, she accidentally stumbled across her parents' Bible, which was hidden in a cupboard. She started to read it, but when she realised what she'd found, she threw the book across the room. She knew that finding a Bible in her home would mean death – and, until now, she had no idea that her parents were Christians.

North Korea is number one on *Open Doors'* World Watch List, which ranks the countries where following Jesus costs the most. North Korea's leaders are worshipped like gods, and anyone who acknowledges a higher authority is considered an enemy of the state. If your faith is discovered, you will be thrown into a concentration camp, from where you are unlikely to ever be released.

Sang-Hwa knew the risks that came with the Christian faith – and yet she decided to place her life in Jesus' hands. Although she no longer lives in North Korea, she knows the

courage of the Christians who remain in the country. "Where I live now, I can choose to go to church or not to go," she says. "In North Korea that's very different. You give up your life if you follow Jesus. You have to be ready to die for your faith every day."

Around the world, over 340 million Christians face extreme persecution for their faith, that's one in eight Christians globally. Every day, they are choosing to put their life in Jesus' hands for the sake of being a Christ-light for their families, communities and nations. And, as their family in Christ, we have the privilege of standing alongside them in prayer and support. *Open Doors* works in over 60 countries where Christians are facing death, torture, imprisonment and discrimination because they dare to follow Jesus, providing emergency food and aid, spiritual care, smuggled Bibles and Christian books, training and legal advice.

This support is vital to Christians like Sang-Hwa. She says "it's really significant. The love of God flows through believers to others. Thanks to your support, the secret believers experience that God loves them and provides in everything they need."

*Rebecca Coatsworth writing in **Magnet** magazine*

Find out how you can strengthen the persecuted church in prayer, practical support and advocacy at:

[www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org).

## **Two Visits to the Isles of Scilly**

I first visited the Isles of Scilly in May 2017 when I was travelling around the Connexion as President of Methodist Women in Britain. It was a privilege to stay at the Manse with Revd. Jane and John Willcock and to share in worship on St. Mary's, St. Martin's and St. Agnes. I remember that Sunday as one of frenetic activity as we hurried meals, jumped on and off boats and were transported to and from each Church. I still describe that as one of the busiest Sundays of my life!

This year, in 2023, I came back again, this time to join a friend, Hazel, who has been a frequent visitor to the Islands over many years. It was very special to worship on Sunday morning with the congregation of Islanders and visitors at the Methodist Church on St. Mary's and to renew friendships and experience the warm hospitality of fellow Christians. We spent a lovely morning with Barbara James, exchanging stories of our respective experiences as Church and as individuals, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic. Hazel and I both attend the small Methodist Chapel in Halberton in Devon, and as we had coffee with Barbara we swapped stories of the challenges and the new opportunities which we each face in our different settings.

It is exciting to know that our two Methodist Districts, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and Plymouth and Exeter, are working closely together. Please know that we pray for you here, as we each seek to discover the way forward as disciples of Christ in our communities.

*Anne Browse  
Halberton Methodist Church  
Tiverton & Wellington Circuit*

## **'Compassion'**

Just a short update for those who would like to know.....

As of last year I took on the 'Compassion' sponsorship of Diana, a now 14 year old child from Tanzania. Many thanks to those of you who have donated to help me keep up this important task; we have now been sponsoring Diana for ten years!

'Compassion' is an organisation that helps children and their families in many different parts of the world. All the sponsoring person has to do is correspond with the child that they have been assigned. Apart from the regular donations there are also other opportunities to make gifts to the child or family or both at Christmas and birthday times.

Along with her normal school days Diana attends the local 'Compassion' project where she learns bible stories and songs but also practical skills like conflict resolution, self care, how to develop a healthy self image and setting realistic goals for the future. She also has time to play, socialise and eat with her friends.

The project ensures that Diana and the other children are given at least one protein rich meal a week as lots of them are missing protein from their diet.

'Compassion' partners with local churches to help run these projects for the children and their families. On project days the families of the children are also looked after and given practical help.

Your continued prayers for Diana and her family and others like them would really be appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

*Leigh Kendrick*

## **The Iona Creed**

We believe that God is present  
in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God  
Who sits down in our midst  
To share our humanity.

We affirm a faith  
that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability  
and onto the streets.

We commit ourselves on the line,  
to bear responsibility, to take risks,  
live powerfully  
and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit  
for God's new community of hope.

Amen

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.

**And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace:  
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice;  
justice and joy!**

For all who share life, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for all who share life, a system that's fair ....

For those we neglect, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for those we neglect, the right to belong.

For all who have breath, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,  
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace.

For you and for me, a place at the table,  
though wounded and sore, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for you and for me, a new way to live.

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simple to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free ....

*Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Company  
CCLI Licence Number 36712 St. Mary's Methodist Church*

One thing a fruit grower needs is patience. You'd need to be a few pips short of a pomegranate to rush out just after planting and pluck the blossom. You can be a bit like that with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We want God's benefits but we want them now – if not yesterday.

Have you ever got impatient with God? Maybe He hasn't answered your prayer yet?

Abraham learnt that you sometimes need to wait patiently for God to act. God began by renaming Abraham 'the father of many' at a time when he didn't have children. Imagine being known as 'Big Daddy' when you are 75 years old and it appears that you and your wife can't have children.

Many years passed, and when it became obvious that Sarah would not have millions of descendants their patience ran out. Abraham, with Sarah's permission, had an affair with a servant girl to get the son he wanted. But this hasty action (as you might have guessed) brought trouble and tension to the family.

It was not until Abraham was 100 years old that God miraculously gave him and Sarah a son – Isaac.

If only Abraham had waited patiently for God he could have saved himself and the world a lot of trouble.

Ishmael's descendants became known as Arabs, Isaac's descendants became known as Jews. And Abraham's descendants are still fighting among themselves today.

Some of the biggest mistakes in life are made when we rush headlong into decisions without waiting for God to show us the right moves to make. We become more like Jesus by waiting patiently for God to do things in God's way and in God's time.

*Live, Love, Dream*  
*cwr.org*



# **Wandering Thoughts**

**By Revd. Tony Pudner**

They've come back to the valley once more – no not the old neighbours, but perhaps they are – a high pitched squeak on a clear morning with white puffy clouds – and before long my eye picks out their hovering, gliding form. It's the buzzards and they'll be nesting in the trees and eventually endeavouring to feed and rear their young and we'll be able to watch for the first attempts to spread their wings, shake off their downy feathers and make their first flights. What was it the prophet said, "They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not faint." If that were the whole story how lovely it would be but there's so much more that must be said.

That stately flight will be hounded by crowds of crows whose manoeuvrability seems better than theirs and eventually as if resigned to defeat they'll glide away and leave their attackers far behind. Alas, while they're away some thieving magpie will come seeking eggs for breakfast. But hopefully some will hatch and then we'll glimpse another sight. Here comes the parent bird returning to the nest and what's that dangling from its claw? It's Easter bunny caught unawares and about to provide lunch for the growing chicks. Who was it said about nature being blooded tooth and claw!

But hang on, we're part of nature. There are those others who hover around us almost continually and unlike the buzzards they often fly by night. Noisy machines that sometimes perform amazing rescues – remember the Fastnet Race disaster – but they are really designed as war machines. We seem to be part of such a contradictory world so is there any escape?

Who was it the prophet said would mount up with wings like eagles? The verse begins, "They that trust in the Lord." (Read Isaiah 40, verses 27-41 if you want to see what he was on about in his contradictory world.) With all our puzzles I dare to believe that "the Eternal God is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms."

## **My Trip to the Isles of Scilly – August 2023**

Well, where shall I start?

My last visit to St. Mary's was 24 years ago to attend the wedding of my cousin, Kevin. However, prior to this, from the age of 16 – 20 (34-30 years and, yes, I turned 50 this year) I would visit for a week in the summer to stay with my cousins on St. Mary's.

So, after Rosemary suggested numerous times that I take a trip with her to see her Mum, Barbara, I finally agreed. Looking back now I believe she knew how much I needed the break having had a really tough year with losing a work colleague suddenly in his 30's, losing my father-in-law, losing my job and moving to a new one – you probably get the picture of how I was feeling. Even with my faith as a Christian I had struggled to 'keep my head above water' this year.

So Rosemary and I left Penzance on the 'Scillonian' at 6.20am on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August with a weather warning issued and all day trippers cancelled. All I can say is – it was rough with the waves crashing over the boat before we had even left land. The good news being I wasn't sick, however, it wasn't the same for most other passengers on the boat (including the person I was travelling with!).

During the boat trip I had the pleasure of meeting the Methodist Minister, Revd. Carole for the first time; she had battened down outside on the deck with her eyes fixed straight ahead of her! The first line of the hymn "Will your anchor hold in the storms of life" was a good sum up of the boat trip and my life that day. During this three hour trip to the Isles of Scilly I managed to get roped into the worship team for the Sunday morning with Mervyn and Rosemary.

Sunday morning service which started at 9:30am was in the Church hall and led by Revd. Carole, it was such a joy to see additional chairs being taken out as more people arrived.

Worship was a real blessing as the acoustics for singing in the hall were great. We introduced the St. Mary's congregation to a new song by Phillippa Hanna called 'You're Still God.' There were many visitors in the congregation including a couple of families with younger children and one of these children really blessed me as she worshipped singing and dancing – she had no inhibitions. The question I asked myself was how often do I get lost in worship as she did and not worry about anyone around me?

Revd. Carole preached on Matthew 14 – Jesus commanding Peter to walk on water which he did but as he began to doubt he began to sink. She left us with the question - what doubts stop us from following God?

God gave me the ability to rest during the week, forgetting work and what was going on at home. I was blessed with amazing hospitality and weather with the exception of Storm 'Betty' on the Friday but even watching the boats being bashed about in Old Town Bay blessed me.

It was a pleasure to bump into Revd. Carole one morning when I was out with Rosemary for coffee so she joined us. It struck me that it is so important for us as Christians to be visible in our local communities and known to those who don't attend Church, which it was obvious she was when she offered to help out as the owners of the café had an emergency and a member of staff had to leave.

On the Monday I went to lunch at Juliet's Garden with three others where we sat in the sunshine enjoying the beautiful view, catching up on life with no pressure. It was then a dash to Longstone for afternoon tea and cake where we increased to seven. God really placed on my heart that afternoon – how often do we take time to stop and rest with others to talk, eat and give encouragement.

I had the pleasure of visiting St. Martin's and St. Agnes. It was such a blessing to have our own private boat taxi courtesy of relatives. Being out on the rib 'bouncing' over the waves and enjoying the sea air was amazing and the words of Noel & Tricia

Richards' song 'To be in Your Presence,' specifically the following verse, summed it up for me:-

To rest in your presence  
Not rushing away  
To cherish each moment  
Here I would stay

Yes, I was happy to stay on the Islands and due to another severe weather warning for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August we took the decision to spend an extra night – not that I was disappointed. So I attended the Methodist Church again at 9:30 on the Sunday morning, this time led by Revd. Tony Pudner, a visiting preacher from the mainland. We left St. Mary's on the 4:30 sailing in beautiful sunshine with a flat crossing home and numerous pods of dolphins on our trip back.

God's creation is amazing, how often do we stop to enjoy it. My final thought – What of God am I reflecting in my life?

*Maria Collins*  
*Helston Central Methodist Church*

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As Charity Trustees, the Circuit Meeting and Church Councils seek prayerfully to act responsibly and with all due care in utilising the resources over which we have stewardship.

In common with other charities, groups and individuals, we are increasingly aware that rising costs are having a major impact in all areas of life and work. Old buildings especially bring particular challenges of costly maintenance.

If you feel able to contribute financially to support the work of The Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit, St. Mary's Methodist Church or St. Martin's Methodist Church, please contact the Minister for details of the various ways to do this.

The Manse, Church Street, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly. TR21 0JT  
or telephone 01720 422406.

## Exercise for People over 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room each side.

With a 5lb potato bag in each hand, raise your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10lb potato bags. Then try 50lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight out for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

He waved and said, "Hi, how you doing? Haven't seen you for a long time."

I certainly had never seen him before.

"I'm fine, how are you?" I merely replied.

He told me some inconsequential stuff. Then, in response to some gentle questioning, he told me a heart-breaking story. We discussed it for a while, then he left, a lot less stressed.

If I had said, "We've never met," no doubt he would have apologised and walked on – but he wouldn't have been able to unburden himself like he did.

Reaching out to one another, especially in difficult times, is a deep part of our human nature. Even if we can't help practically when someone does that, we can still help emotionally, by allowing the other person to share what might be too much for one person to carry – whether we know each other or not.

*The Friendship Book – A Thought For Each Day*

## Time To Give Thanks

One of the many, many lovely things about the Isles of Scilly is the fact that the churches are open and anyone is welcome to come and sit for a while. Over many years I have appreciated that. I was on the island when my mother died and then when my mother-in-law passed away. It was perfect to sit in the Methodist Chapel quietly and remember.

More recently, in 2019, I found myself there, when my husband had a cardiac arrest down on the quay and was flown to Treliske hospital. The expertise of those who treated him and then came to give me the news, so very gently, brought me into the Chapel to give thanks.

My husband didn't want me to return to the mainland in case he could rejoin me later. The care and support I received from Shirley, the policewoman, was warm and continuous, checking up on me daily.

On the Sunday, Barbara, from the Chapel, had been alerted by Revd. Jane Willcock to look out for me too! She took me for lunch at Carn Vean and again kept in touch. It was a time of warmth and fellowship while I waited to see how things would be.

Colin, my husband, died a few weeks later, but in the weeks between all the family was able to gather and spend precious time together. Without the prompt response on the quay that would not have been possible and, without the loving care I received my days on the island would have been bleak.

So, this year I managed, finally, to meet Barbara again and to thank her especially for the support I had received. I had a friend with me this year and Barbara took us on a

tour of St. Mary's which was wonderful, let alone refreshment at Juliet's Garden with the fabulous view!

The islands are special for many of us and it is always a pleasure to be able to worship at the Methodist Chapel amongst islanders and visitors and feel wanted and welcome. I really look forward to it as a special time of blessing.

*Hazel Parsons  
Halberton Methodist Church  
Tiverton & Wellington Circuit*

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'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'  
you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs, and will not let  
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew,  
how small the debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, reconciled by God to all,  
our lives will spread your peace.

*Singing The Faith 423  
Rosamond Eleanor Herklots (1905-1987)*

## **Regenerate**

Regenerate is a charity based in south-west London, working with young people on housing estates. Our vision is to create opportunities for young people to thrive. We run two youth centres on the estates, and mentoring programmes; organised volunteering trips to Romania and Kenya; train up young leaders; and run a social enterprise.

I grew up in Surrey and moved to south-west London when I was 17, and I've lived on the Alton estate in Roehampton since I was 21.

I went on a trip to Romania when I was 16 and that had a profound impact on me; seeing that poverty and wanting to make a difference with my life. But I don't know if anything will change.

When I first came up to London, I saw something of the poverty that I'd seen in Romania, which had really moved me in my teens. You don't have to go all that far to find poverty.

I set up Regenerate with my mum, Mo Smith, with the help of a group of friends on the estate who wanted to make a difference and demonstrate something of God's love where there were needs and poverty in our community. Now, I work for Regenerate full time. My mum still runs Regenerate Rise, focusing specifically on elderly people.

We began in a Methodist church hall on the Alton estate with a lunch club for the elderly in January 2000, and then we started some after-school clubs for young people.

As more young people got involved, we shaped our projects and programmes around the changing needs. So, when there was a lot of anti-social behaviour, we started running clubs and loads of trips off the estate. It was all about creating opportunities and building positive relationships – getting alongside people where they are.



We then started taking groups of young people to volunteer with a project in Kenya. They had such life-changing impacts, that we built on that and have since taken hundreds of young people from the estates to volunteer and build relationships with people from other communities around the world.

All the way through our journey, we've been supported by people on the estate. Our first donation was a cheque from the local convent. Different churches are supporting us massively through prayer, finance and volunteers.

I'd still like to do more to develop the employment opportunities for every young person in our area who wants to turn their life around.

*Andy Smith – Co-founder of Regenerate  
An Interview with Church Times Sept 2020*

*For more information on this project go to:- [regenerate.co.uk](http://regenerate.co.uk)*

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## **Travelling Lightly**

The whole of chapter nine in the book of Luke is about journeys of different sorts. Our lives too, include many small daily journeys as part of our greater journey of life. We are pilgrims.

It is clear from what Jesus says, both here and elsewhere, that he regards the ability to travel lightly as very important. Neither physical nor emotional baggage should slow down the disciple/pilgrim. But so often it does.

Whether too many shoes in the backpack or too much unforgiveness in relationships or too much nostalgia in church, we are often weighed down by things which would be better cast aside. Travel light, keep it simple, set your face as a pilgrim.

*Jill Baker  
Vice President of the  
Methodist Conference 2017-18*

Here's the wisdom story  
Listening for what?

A countryman came to the city to meet a friend. As they were walking through the bustling streets, the countryman said to his city friend, "Do you hear that?"

"Hear what?" the city man asked

"There is a cricket in that bush!" he said pointing to the bush at the nearby street corner.

"How can you hear the sound of a tiny cricket among all the noises of the city? There can't possibly be a cricket in that bush!"

Sure enough, the two of them walked over and the countryman found a lone cricket sitting on a branch of the bush.

"I don't understand," the city man said, "it amazes me that you can hear the sound of that tiny cricket in this huge city!"

"I am a country man, my ears know this sound and I can hear it among other noises that are not familiar to me."

As he said that, a couple of coins dropped behind the two friends. At the sound of the coins dropping, the city man turned around.

The countryman said, "It amazes me that among all these noises in the city you can hear the sound of money."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Father, I place into your hands  
The things that I can't do.  
Father, I place into your hands  
The times that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands  
The way that I should go,  
For I know I always can trust you.

## **My Wife The Gardener**

She dug the plot on Monday  
the soil was rich and fine.  
She forgot to thaw out dinner  
so we went out to dine.

She planted the roses on Tuesday  
she says they are a must,  
They really were quite lovely  
But she forgot to dust.....

On Wednesday, it was daisies  
They opened with the sun,  
All whites and pinks and yellows  
but laundry wasn't done!

The poppies came on Thursday  
a bright and cheery red  
I guess she was engrossed  
she never made the bed.....

It was dahlias on Friday  
in colours she adores,  
It never bothered her at all  
the crumbs upon the floors.

I hired a maid on Saturday  
My week is now complete,  
My wife can garden all she wants  
The house will still be neat!

It's nearly lunch time Sunday  
And I can't find the maid,  
Oh, No! I don't believe it!  
She's out there with a spade!

*Anon*

## **Songs of Glory .....**

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Thro' eternal ages let His praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my  
Saviour:  
Standing, standing ..... I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see  
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fail,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Saviour as my All in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.

This joyous hymn that rings with vitality and sings the praises of God was written in 1886. The martial rhythm reflects life on the campus of the military academy where the composer-author was a student and later taught. Russell Kelso Carter was an extraordinary person, gifted in many areas. He was in the first graduating class of Pennsylvania Military Academy at Chester. During his student days he was the best pitcher on the baseball team and the finest gymnast.

He joined the faculty of the academy and taught there for two decades except for a three-year period that he spent in California raising sheep. A prolific writer, he published works in the disciplines of mathematics, science and religion; he also wrote several novels, one of which became a best seller.

Russell Carter and Albert B. Simpson compiled a hymnal, *Hymns of the Christian Life*, in 1891 for the churches of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. To this collection Carter contributed fifty-two hymns. (A 1978 revision of this hymnal includes seven tunes and five texts by Carter.) In 1887 Carter resigned his teaching position at the academy and became a Methodist minister. He was a highly respected leader in the Holiness movement of that denomination.

At that time camp meetings were extremely popular among the Methodists, especially in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Carter attended often and maintained a warm friendship with many who were writing songs that reflected the evangelical fervour of the camp meeting services. After a number of years in the ministry, he studied medicine and spent his last years as a practicing physician in his hometown, Baltimore. He died in 1928 at the age of seventy-nine.



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

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### **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](mailto:iosmethodist.mag@gmail.com)

Please support our Editors by contributing reflections, stories, news etc. (by 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk)

*The material in this magazine is from a variety of sources. The opinions and beliefs expressed in individual articles do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of The Methodist Church, the local editorial team or the Minister.*

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The Managing Trustees' Privacy Notice is published on the notice boards in the chapel buildings on St. Mary's and St. Martin's and is available to view online at:-

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

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### **Prayer Requests**

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

## **Provisional Plan of Services**

(Please see local notice boards for confirmation of arrangements)

### **St. Mary's Methodist Church Services**

#### **October**

|                  |         |                                     |
|------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes – Holy Communion |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes                  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes                  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes                  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes                  |

#### **November**

|                  |         |                                       |
|------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes – Holy Communion   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Remembrance – Details to be confirmed |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes                    |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Revd Carole Holmes                    |

### **St. Martin's Methodist Church Services**

#### **October**

|                  |     |                                     |                 |
|------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 3pm | Revd Carole Holmes – Holy Communion | 8 <sup>th</sup> |
|                  | 3pm | Short service and Church Council    |                 |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 3pm | Revd Carole Holmes                  |                 |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 3pm | Revd Carole Holmes                  |                 |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | 3pm | Revd Carole Holmes                  |                 |

#### **November**

##### **Friday**

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Time and details to be confirmed      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Remembrance – Details to be confirmed |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Time and details to be confirmed      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Time and details to be confirmed      |