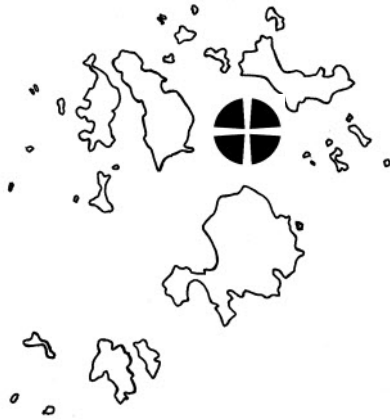


Isles of Scilly



# In Touch



**SEPTEMBER 2011**

## **Chairman of the District**

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

## **Minister**

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

## **Local Preachers**

Barbara Hasler Len Michell  
Neil Didlick Gordon Bird  
Christopher Savill

## **Circuit Stewards**

Mrs Christine Savill 422563  
Mr Mervyn Bird 423117  
Mrs Beryl Read 422977  
Mr Len Michell 422409

**Circuit Treasurer** Mr Christopher Savill 422563

**Circuit Meeting Secretary** Mrs Rose Didlick

## **Church Stewards St. Mary's**

Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge  
Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read  
Mrs Dorothy Beedell Mrs Sue Williams

**St. Martin's** Mr Derek Perkins

## **St. Mary's**

**Treasurer** Mrs Sue Williams 422605

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Beryl Read 422977

**Property Secretary** Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

**Organist** Mr Len Michell 422409

## **St. Martin's**

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Jackie Perkins

**Church Treasurer** Mr Alan Terry

**Organist** Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

**Connexional Link Person** Beryl Read 422977

**Gift Aid Secretary** Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117



### **Some thoughts from St Mary's**

The month of September looks like being a memorable month on the Isles of Scilly. Here on St. Mary's our new school will open, and we will see the results of all those years of planning and working together as this generation of Scillonian children mark what in so many ways is a new beginning. The teachers, the pupils, and all who are involved with education on these fine islands are

remembered in our prayers.

This new school is a wonderful provision for our islands and we are truly thankful, and this theme of 'being thankful' is a theme that is always there in our Sunday worship, and in our day to day lives as those who have received the good news of the Gospel.

Offering thanks to God for His provision is the response that flows from us when we find that having faith really does work, and that is why in every circumstance of life we are thankful to God, and trust Him to meet our deepest needs!

Thanksgiving is of course the main theme of our Harvest Thanksgivings this month. We do hope that friends from St. Mary's will come over to St. Martin's for our evening Harvest service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of this month, speak to me and I will arrange the boating. The Harvest Thanksgiving on St. Mary's is on the 18<sup>th</sup>, in the morning at 10.30 myself and Beryl Read will be leading the worship, and in the evening we will be holding a special Harvest Celebration Songs of Praise at 8pm. Harvest time is surely the sure reminder of the faithfulness of our Sovereign God to us all.

Sometimes, in the ups and downs of life, we can be far from thankful for that which surrounds us. I expect it must have been a little like this at the last meal that Jesus had with His disciples on the night of His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane.

The disciples are clearly bewildered by all that happened that evening as they met together in Jerusalem on the eve of the Passover celebrations.

The evening starts with Jesus taking a bowl of water and washing the disciples' feet. They were puzzled why He does this, for this was usually the job of a lowly servant.

Then He tells them that one of those present is about to betray Him and that the following day another of them will dis-own Him, not once but three times! This was certainly not the evening that they were expecting, and then to make matters even worse Jesus announces that in a while He will be with them no longer.

Clearly by now those friends of Jesus were bewildered and anxious about the future, and I expect they did not in any way feel like 'Giving Thanks!' They just, like us at sometimes difficult times in our lives, did not know how things were going to turn out, they like us were no doubt hanging on to their faith by their fingertips, but as we learn later the faith they did have was rewarded!

That evening Jesus sees their anxiety about the days ahead and offers them words of comfort, and He tells them that in this time of difficulty that they will find help, and that is something that many of us have found to be very true in those difficult times in life.

The part of the story that always challenges me, every time that I read it, is how Jesus having washed the feet of His disciples like a lowly servant then tells them to go and do likewise, and if you do this then you will be greatly blessed! It is as if He is saying to them if you really want to be blessed, be like me and do as I have done for you!

Maybe the only way we can really show our thankfulness to God is to follow the way of Jesus. To have His attitude to others, to treat others better than they deserve, and to go on loving even in the face of anxiety and in the face of difficulty.

About a year before Jesus had said to His disciples, " If any of you want to be like me you must deny yourselves, and you must take up your cross and follow " The events that followed that last evening meal together, must I expect, have reminded His friends of what He said earlier. The very next day Jesus died upon a cross just outside the city walls of Jerusalem, and being thankful must now have been a very difficult thing for those followers who I expect thought all was lost.

In the ups and downs of life we, the followers of Jesus, are always called to give thanks. Even in the difficult times we are called to serve and to make sacrifices for others. This will never be easy, but as some of us know, God does always keep His promises, and just as Jesus promised his disciples on that last evening together that they would not be alone, He says the same to us today.

The very hallmark of the Christian life is to offer thanks to God, even in the great difficulties of life, and this is only possible if we really trust in God. We do indeed have a sure and certain hope, for Jesus, who gave His life for us, has been raised from the dead.

Harvest time is a great time to give thanks to God. Let us celebrate His great faithfulness, let us show our trust in His provision, and let us show our faith in giving generously to others.

Soon the summer months will be over, the visitors will have returned home, and we will be here on these sometimes remote islands to be a sign of God's grace in this place. May we always be seen as people who are truly thankful to God, may we set out to serve this island community with the many gifts that we have, and may we feel close to God as we live that sacrificial life, which is the way of Jesus, and will always be the way of those who follow Him.

I remain, by the grace of God, your minister on these islands for a while. May His rich blessings continue to be seen in our love for one another. *Charlie Gibbs*

## **Proposed visit of Church Leaders to Scilly October Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.**

We are delighted that The Revd. Tim Thornton the Anglican Bishop of Truro, the Revd Steve Wild our Chairman, Revd Jez Brown , representing the Baptist Church and the Bishop of Plymouth are all coming to the islands in October. We welcome this visit which will demonstrate the unity we have in Christ.

We also pray that we will make every effort to support their ministry by prayer and commitment.

They will arrive on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** and Prayers at 11.30 am. will be held at the Parish Church. This will be followed by Coffee and an opportunity for us all to meet with them, before having lunch at 12.45pm with the Council of the Isles of Scilly At 3pm they will visit St. Martin's for visits.

At 8pm there will be an Any Questions in the Town Hall.

On **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>** the day will begin with Prayer at 7.30am in the Methodist Chapel followed by Breakfast.

At 10.00am visits will again take place, this time on Tresco and Bryher and at 4.pm there will be a visit to the Steamship Company.

At 8pm There will be a meeting with local church leaders

On **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** Prayers at 7.30am will be in the Roman Catholic Chapel again followed by breakfast before a special school assembly. 10am sees a visit to St Agnes and more visits. Lunch will be at Tolman Café followed by a visit to Mainland marketing near the Airport before they depart at 4pm.

We give thanks for these provisional arrangements and pray for our visitors.

“ I pray not only for them, but also for those who believe in me because of their message” John 17 v 20

## **Friday Fellowship - Discovering the Bible**

This September sees the beginning of a journey through Scripture and reading through the first few talks I can recommend Friday as a good evening out where we can all discover and grow from finding out about its relevance to the people for whom it was written and for us today. It is a course in discipleship by seeing for ourselves how God guided and corrected his people in the past and how he still can do so today.

Our country and its institutions were founded by Christians and though many are now run by the state they are often staffed by people of faith but no-one can fail to see that for many people God's mercy justice and mercy are still unknown or ignored

*God who formed worlds by the power of His Word  
Speaks through the Scriptures His truth to be heard;  
And if we read with the will to obey,  
He by His Spirit will show us His way.*

God's Word provides the nourishment that every Christian needs to grow, supplying strength from day to day by teaching what we need to know.

*Open your Bible prayerfully. Read it carefully, and obey it joyfully.*

*With God's Word as your map and His Spirit as your compass,  
you're sure to stay on course.*

And of course the evening concludes with ham sandwiches and cocoa!

We thank Mary and Charlie for keeping 'Open House' it is a special gift to us all.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>

11.00a.m Steve Canning

from the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen

8.00 p.m. Evening Worship

Led by Charlie Gibbs with guest speaker Steve Canning



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

10.30a.m. A Celebration of God's Harvest  
led by Beryl Read and the Revd. Charlie Gibbs

8.00p.m. A Special Harvest Songs of Praise  
With all our best loved Harvest Hymns.

Be sure not to miss this very special celebration

Refreshments are served after all these services.





## **News from St. Martin's** --In loving Memory of Celia Ashford

It is with sadness that we have seen the passing of Celia, a dear and devout wife, mother, and member of our small congregation for some 60 years.

Rev. Charlie Gibbs conducted Celia's funeral on August 5th when Rodney, Alison, Margaret, and her partner David were supported by Heather, Alan, Christine and Christopher.

Heather and Christine's Dad was a cousin of Uncle Rodney's and they all grew up together at Middletown. I know that Rodney and the girls have been grateful for all the help they have given these past difficult months.

Other family members were able to attend from St. Austell and St. Mary's along with some 15 folk from St. Mary's Chapel.

The 12 island bearers were led by Derek Perkins (Rodney was his best man). When the whole island comes together at such times it reminds us of how self sufficient we need to be in a small community.

The island's mourners in the Chapel overflowed into the Sunday school room and demonstrated how loved and respected Celia was. Rev. Charlie paid tribute to her long life of service and care. A teacher, Celia met Rodney whilst on holiday in the islands and after they were married settled at Middletown to help run the family flower farm.

Celia was a lady of many talents; she had a keen intellect, a wonderful singing voice and she loved her reading and sailing. Over the years she has run our Sunday School and filled in when needed at the Primary School. Latterly Celia and Rodney have hosted our regular Bible study evenings.

Rev Tony Pudner a long time friend, from his days in his first ministry in the islands, also shared his and Wendy's fond memories of Celia, including the hospitality provided when staying on St. Martin's to preach.

Warm thanks also go to Wendy who played the organ for us.  
(continued on Page 10)

## **Methodist Chairman of the District's visit.**

It was good to welcome Steven Wild for the weekend of August 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> he brought with him news from the mainland of initiatives taken by Methodists across Cornwall. Some of these could also be used here. One example is of a poster, displayed in shops, of someone's favourite Bible verse, this would be changed regularly, which allows people to see that we are a people who read and act upon the word of God. Perhaps this is something you would be happy to produce.

He also is encouraging members to visit pubs at Christmas to sing Carols and Christmas Songs and to take fabric angels with us to give out. Several people have expressed an interest in producing these and I hope soon to have a date for a get together, again if you are keen to share in this outreach for the Lord then please phone me, Mary, on 423030.

It was good to hear of the growth in some of the smaller chapels both in Cornwall and Derbyshire. After this he spoke about Bibles he had brought over from the mainland.

Our thanks to him for his encouragement and whole

- heartedness for the Lord's work.

## **Beach Labyrinth on Porthcressa**

Our thanks to Andrew Nicholson, and his helpers, for digging a Labyrinth on Porthcressa for visitors and locals to make a modern opportunity to reflect on their spiritual journey and for being present to welcome and converse with everyone.

*The following notes about Beach Labyrinth were compiled from the flyer which was available from the TIC.*

**Beach Labyrinth** is a new take on an ancient tradition. How far have you come to this point in your life to be here right here, now? Walking the Beach Labyrinth gives an opportunity to think about the journey of life. A chance to let go of any rubbish in your life; a chance to draw a line in

*the sand and move on, a chance to make a solid change for the better.*

*Hundreds of people of all ages, and all backgrounds have walked this in the last couple of years, many speaking of how helpful they found it – and giving some a great sense of relief, purpose (and most importantly fun!)*

Over a hundred people walked the Labyrinth on St Mary's and at the Sunday morning service following Andrew told us a very moving story of one visitor who remembered the horrific killing of fellow Christians in Iran. She like others collected a piece of rubbish and laid it at the foot of the cross, symbolising the horrific persecution of her friends, and leaving it in the Lord's hands.

**The Lord says this" Stand at the cross roads and ask for the ancient paths. Which way was the good way? Take it and you will find rest for yourselves" Jeremiah 6.16**

### **Songs of Praise**

This service has been welcomed by our visitors and as I write this we are preparing to sing on the Quay. On 14<sup>th</sup> August we had a more traditional Songs of Praise when members, mostly of the Seagull Cottage Wednesday Fellowship group chose the hymns and said why they had made that particular choice. Val Parker was away at a family wedding so she sent the following for Mary to read.

"The hymn I would choose would be **Make me a channel of your peace - 776** in Mum's Methodist hymn book. It reminds me so much of how Mum brought me up - that being a Christian is not simply about coming to Church and leading a clean life but about caring for others in all the forms that can take. It is about bringing harmony and peace into the lives of those around. It is about giving to all love, tolerance and understanding. It is about sharing joy, hope and friendship. If anyone at the end of my life would say I had done a fraction of the list in the hymn, I would feel I had done well!"

A life well lived - may Celia be at peace with her God - and may Rodney find strength and support from his family, chapel and all the friends around him

We have also welcomed Rev Steven Wild to our evening service on 7th August. An inspiration to all of us, he reminded us of God's forgiveness through the passage of Jesus and the woman who committed adultery.

We enjoyed favourable weather and large crowds at our annual St. Martin's fete where Gladys Perkins (with a little help from family and friends) still runs the White elephant stall and this year raised some £200 for Chapel funds. Very well done!

We continue to welcome visitors to our Chapel, many now are good friends. We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival on 4th September, and hope to see you there!

Valerie Thomas

### **Bible Exhibition**

Between the 1st and 7th August an exhibition of Bibles and related literature was held in the Wesley Room in the Manse to mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible.

Several treasured family Bibles were lent by members of the churches and the wider community. Some had been kept up to date with the births of family members and some had stopped short a few generations ago.

It was a most interesting and thought provoking exhibition, the result of the generosity of all who contributed items and the hard work put into the presentation by Mary Ratcliffe, to whom we extend our gratitude.

Money raised for the Bible Society from the refreshments and other donations amounted to £70.

*Full report in next months magazine. Mary*

### **Harvest Thanksgiving Suppers.**

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of September at 6pm A service followed by sale of produce on St Martin's.

St Mary's 19<sup>th</sup> September 7.30



## **Harvest Field**

All around, confusion,  
All around, helplessness,  
People lost in the bad news of every day.  
Longing for purpose,  
Searching for security and significance  
Here in the white field of our generation.

The harvest is still great,  
The workers are still few,  
But the Lord of the harvest  
Is the same  
Yesterday, today and forever,  
And this is his field.  
He planted, he will give growth  
If we will be his workforce  
And go out into the field - where he already is -  
To gather the harvest  
Of his kingdom compassion.

Lord of the harvest,  
In your grace, we pray,  
Send us.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## **Isles of Scilly Methodist's outreach**

This contribution to 'In Touch' will focus on three activities supported by members of the Methodist Church here in the Isles.

For me, Gwen Clarkson, this magazine has always been a valuable part of our contact with members of the community here and with many friends across the sea who love the Islands and us. Until recently we have regarded the magazine as a way of keeping you all informed about our doings. We have not felt the need to ask for any financial contribution, especially from those who receive their copies by post. Sadly now, the costs of production and the postage have risen so much that we were forced to ask for help. Several friends have realised that they can read the text on the Internet so fewer copies are needed each month. Furthermore, we have been given generous donations towards our costs, both in cash and by gifts of 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps. We are grateful for this assistance. In addition one or two members of our congregation have agreed to send the magazine to family and friends who have appreciated having it every month.

We have supported the Methodist Church Charity Action for Children, (formerly the National Childrens' Home). Thanks to recent fund-raising and especially with the contents of member's Home Collecting Boxes, we have been able to send another £32.

At the end of June I was able to send a parcel to Wales for the Charity U.C.D.F (Uganda Child Development Fund).

The dispatch was of another collection of Teddies, made by our knitters here in the chapel. Each one is in a colourful bag, made by dear Mary Barnes, though she is not a member of our congregation. The combination of bear and bag is unique, with the facial expressions and the different colours of the clothing. Do ask to see a sample if you are interested in helping with this activity. Knitting instructions, wools and stuffing for the teddies is all available.

The contingent of Teddies recently sent will be transported to Uganda, carried in the bags of friends of the charity going there. Again , many thanks to to you all who support this lovely work.

We may be a small community here in the islands, except for the height of Summer, but in the Methodist Church we have a lot to show for our Christian commitment to the outside world!

## **New Five Islands School**

We welcome the news that the School is complete and will provide many resources for the whole community and we pray that all who use it will be blessed. We regularly pray for Bryce, his staff and the children. At this time we understand that they will all be under extra pressure during the new term and we pray that they will soon be fully able to enjoy the new building and its facilities.

## **Family News**

The national view is that parents, bringing their children for Baptism has declined but not here on Scilly. This month we have joyfully welcomed Martha Mills and her cousins Jacob and Rohan Lewis. These were very special occasions for Amelia, and Richard, Adam and Emma and Jacky Pritchard. as they were also for the family of India Rio Lily Simmons

As a church we promise to help these children to grow in faith and pray that we may always be ready to help their families to do this.

Margaret Jones and Margaret Crane have both spent time in hospital and appreciate the care they receive from the staff here. We pray for them today 15<sup>th</sup> August and everyday.

We send our condolences to Rodney Ashford on the passing into eternal life of Celia. She was a very dear lady loved by many. She lived her faith. May Rodney and their daughters know God's peace and healing at this time.

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Revd. Edwin Softley a dear friend of Charlie and Mary, who visited Scilly last year. Those who met him were greatly encouraged by his love and faith.

## **Representative to Synod**

Twice a year, in May & September, our Church sends representatives to Truro to attend Synod on behalf of our Circuit. A vacancy has arisen for one of our members to attend, and this is an opportunity for someone to experience the wider Church. Synod is more than a business meeting, and would be a great source of encouragement to anyone wishing to meet and worship with other Christians from around the county.

All expenses will be paid. For further details please contact our Minister, Rev Charlie Gibbs.

## **Prayer groups**

We hardly need reminding of the importance of prayer in our life as followers of Christ. Just as He spent time alone with His Father so we need to follow His example if our Christian community is to flourish. After all it is God who hears and answers our prayers. These prayers are not just for those we know but for the world and situations beyond our horizon. Brother Lawrence's example of prayerfully committing everything he did, however mundane it was before God was a wonderful example for us all and we can do the same as him. having a daily walk with God.(Brother Lawrence was what we might now call a K.P Kitchen Porter in the monastery where he lived.)

Our Monday afternoon prayers follow passages of Scripture when we place before God our concerns for the world, our islands, and people in need in our community.

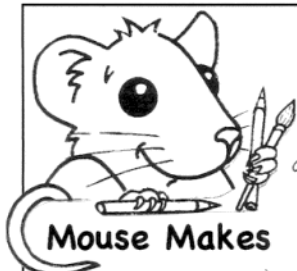
On Thursday evenings from 8-9pm Canon Peter Walker is directing a Meditation Group in the Roman Catholic Chapel.

This by definition is silent prayer but there is a special unity of purpose between all present.

George Herbert wrote these words which have stood the test of time.

**Prayer is the Key of the day and the Lock of the night.**





GOD SAID  
 "As the rain and snow come  
 down from heaven and do not return until  
 they have watered the earth- making it  
 blossom and sprout, and giving seed to be  
 sown and bread for food- so it is with the  
 word of my mouth: it will not return  
 fruitless, but will accomplish my purpose,  
 and achieve that for which I sent it"

Isaiah 55:10-11

**HARVEST  
 WORDSEARCH**

- HARVEST
- THANKSGIVING
- PRAISE (x2) • GOD
- BLESSED
- SEED • SOW
- PLOUGH • LAND
- SCATTER • GROW
- CROP • REAP • SOIL
- WATER • RAIN
- SUN • AUTUMN
- GATHER • BALE
- TRACTOR • BARN
- CART • HAYSTACK
- FOOD • MOUSE
- BREAD • LOAF
- GRAIN • CORN
- WHEAT • OATS
- FLOUR
- PIPS • GRAPES
- PEARS • PEACHES
- PLUMS • APPLE
- BERRIES • NUTS
- VINE • WINE
- BEANS • POTATOES
- CARROTS • PEAS
- ONIONS • PARSNIPS
- MUSHROOMS • RICE
- LETTUCE • SWEDE

How many mice  
 can you find on this page?

B	A	L	E	R	B	E	R	R	I	E	S
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U	A	P	L	O	A	F	A	O	A	N	
N	U	R	O	V	D	U	W	D	R	I	D
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
S	O	I	L	C	O	R	N	I	C	P	O
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M	U	S	H	R	O	O	M	S	M	N	K

11 Sep



## **Birthdays in September**

Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you.  
God Bless you and keep you  
and watch over you.

Patti Brooks, Angela Jenkins, Lois Morris, Mary Ratcliffe, Vicki Smith, Sue Williams. I think we may have some people not on our list. If you are one of them please tell Gwen. Our prayer and good wishes are also for you.

## **Harvest Festival**

Gifts of fruit flowers and vegetables for a traditional display will be gratefully received on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August and also at the 10.30 service on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Helpers please to decorate the Chapel on Saturday afternoon 17<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30pm**

## **Last but not least Thanks**

Thank you to those who keep the chapel and the hall clean, tidy and attractive. Thank you also to those who serve coffee and wash up and others who arrange the flowers. Many people are involved in this quiet ministry of care for our buildings and we pray God's blessing on their lives. Mary

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Some material in this magazine was obtained from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to us

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

In the first instance please contact Charlie Gibbs 422406 and then me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030. I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

**Mervyn & Stephanie Bird**                    **423117**  
Sue Williams                                    422605  
Merryn & Vicki Smith                        423360

**Claire Jenkins**                                **423546**  
Neil & Rose Didlick                            422838  
Margaret Snowball                            422896  
Gordon & Fiona Bird                        422550  
Sonia Crompton                                422854

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

**Beryl Read**                                    **422977**  
Dorothy Beedell                               423384  
Peter Laverock                                423692  
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 me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.*

## **SEPTEMBER SERVICES**

### **St. Mary's**

#### **Sept 4th**

10.00am Children's' Church  
11.00am Steve Canning  
4.00pm Park House Mary Ratcliffe  
8.00pm Revd C Gibbs & Steve Canning

#### **Sept.11<sup>th</sup>**

9.15am Gordon Bird & Neil Didlick  
11.00am Revd. Ray Birch  
8.00pm Barbara Hasler

#### **Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

10.30am Revd. Charlie Gibbs & Beryl Read  
Harvest Thanksgiving  
8.00pm Songs of Praise Revd. Charlie Gibbs

#### **Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>**

9.15am Revd.Ruth Goodland & Neil Didlick  
Holy Communion  
11.00am Revd.Ruth Goodland  
Holy Communion  
8.00pm  
Revd.Ruth Goodland and Charlie Gibbs

### **St. Martin's**

#### **Sept. 4th**

6.00pm Revd. Charlie Gibbs  
Harvest Thanksgiving

#### **Sept.11th**

11.00am Christopher Savill

#### **Sept. 18th**

6.00pm Revd. Charlie Gibbs

#### **Sept.25th**

6.00pm Revd.Ruth Goodland and Charlie Gibbs