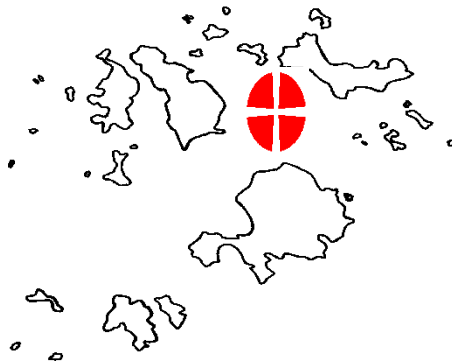


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

September 2013

## **Chairman of the District**

Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

## **Minister**

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs

## **Local Preachers**

Barbara Hasler    Len Michell  
Neil Didlick        Gordon Bird  
Christopher Savill

## **Circuit Stewards**

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

**Circuit Treasurer** Mr Christopher Savill 423563

**Circuit Meeting Secretary** Mrs Rose Didlick

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

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

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

**St. Mary's Treasurer** Mrs Sue Williams (422605)

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Beryl Read

**Property Secretary** Mrs Mary Ratcliffe

**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 the St. Mary's Manse**

September is often a very special month on the Isles of Scilly. Our summer visitors are making the most of the remaining days of summer and our miles of white, sandy beaches and islanders are making the most of summer boating opportunities to visit our off islands and experience the very special tranquility of this unique location. Our Island farmers are beginning to make plans for the flower season that starts in the autumn and our boatmen who crew our Boating Association Boats will be seeking to make the most of the last days of summer.

Our Five Islands School will be starting a new term with a new headmistress. The Council for the Isles of Scilly will be meeting to further their work of providing care and services for this remote island community. Our tiny Methodist Church Circuit starts another year and meets for our Autumn Circuit Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month on St Mary's.

All these things are part of life on these beautiful islands, and these people and these situations are prayed for each and every week at our prayer meetings on a Monday afternoon on St Mary's. We rejoice in the gift of prayer, we earnestly believe that our prayers are answered and we see prayer as a crucial part of our ongoing work and mission as the Methodist Church on the Isles of Scilly.

Last month saw a great deal of activity in our Methodist Church. At the start of the month our District Chair and Evangelist, Steve Wild came over from Truro to lead Worship, visit homes and to encourage us all to be faithful in our witness to the things of God. On St Mary's we welcomed island and visiting children to the Summer Holiday Club led by Gordon Bird, Sonia

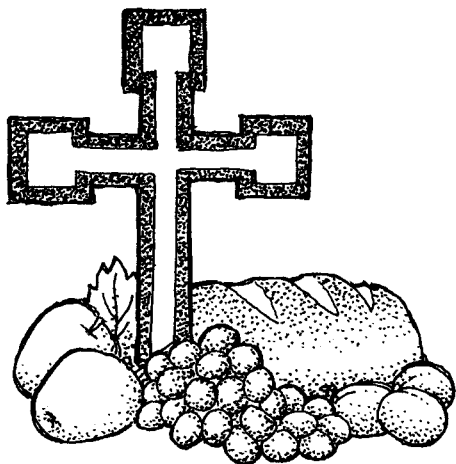
Crompton and their team of dedicated helpers and again this was rooted in the prayers that were said daily in our chapel on St Mary's. We rejoice in our work with the children and are now very blessed by the work of our Children's Church led by Vicki and Merryn Smith. We look forward to even more blessings on this work in the new Methodist year ahead of us.

Also last month we held another Special Songs of Praise evening and on 11<sup>th</sup> August celebrated the life and work of Frances Jane Van-Alstyn, who wrote such classics as To God be the Glory and Blessed Assurance. This was a great evening for locals and holiday makers with Len Michell on the organ and Phillip Lethbridge telling us about the life of this wonderful hymn writer.

Finally we cannot speak about August without mentioning the visit of Rt Rev Professor Peter Stephens. Peter is a much loved friend of our island Methodists, a past president of the World wide Methodist Connexion and has served in the Gambia as bishop in the Methodist Church there. Peter visited homes, preached on St Mary's and St Martin's and led us in study on St Mary's. Peter has reminded us of our connection with the wider Church and has promised to return to our islands to provide help and encouragement in the days to come.

And so it is that in September we start a new year in the life of our church. We certainly get off to a good start on St Martin's, for on September 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrate God's provision at our annual St Martin's Harvest Thanksgiving at 6 pm. The following day, in the evening is the St Martin's Harvest and again the friends on St Martin's invite you to join them for this unique event so do contact me to book your place on the boat for either event. The Harvest thanksgiving on St Mary's is on 15<sup>th</sup> September with worship at 10:30 and a special Songs of Praise at 8:00pm. Harvest is a very special

time. We all love the harvest hymns and it is great to be reminded of the Good News of the Gospel which reminds us of God's provision in life and death. Yes Jesus certainly is Lord of the Harvest in every sense of the word.



For the past few years on the Saturday of Harvest weekend on St Mary's we have held a Church Gift Day which will be 14<sup>th</sup> September this year. This year I will be at the Methodist District Synod in Truro. However the Gift Day will go ahead as planned with refreshments and a welcome at the Manse

from 9 am until 7 pm. The day has proven to be an important day in God's provision for the ongoing witness and mission of our Methodist Church on St Mary's. Please give generously so that we can continue with the many good things that are now in place to serve our island community

Harvest time is about God's provision in our lives and in the first of our Friday Fellowship evenings on 20<sup>th</sup> September we will look at this a little closer, considering what God's word says to us about our approach to money and our dealings with one another.

In Luke's Gospel we have the challenging words from Jesus ' *No servant can serve two masters. You cannot worship both God and money* '. The parable of the unjust steward, recorded only in Luke, leaves us asking the questions ' *By what standards do we seek to live? Do we seek to fair and*

*honest in our dealings with others, how far are we prepared to go in our walk of faith and does our love of money and the security that we find in material things of life affect our relationship with God?’*

The man at the centre of this vivid parable is not set before us as a pattern of morality. Jesus describes his behavior as plain dishonest. In many ways it’s a difficult parable to grasp, yet it still rings true to our modern day ears.

Dishonesty, wheeling and dealing are certainly a topical subject. We read in the newspapers of city bankers being rewarded with big bonuses for their cunning and their manipulation of the money markets. We know so called tax havens and off shore investments have brought wealth and prosperity to some while others struggle to live very basic lives.

In our dealings with others we will often seek to find favour with our fellow man instead of seeking favour with God. We know the temptations of seeking security through the material things of the world and thoughtless regarding the security of seeking a place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Time and again we put our efforts into our life here instead of seeking God’s Gift of Eternal Life. In the world of today, a shrewd business person would find it hard to convince their board of directors to give without counting the cost. The world of commerce and finance would certainly question the teaching of Jesus when he says ‘*Do not store up for yourselves treasure on Earth*’ and what would the city analysts say to Jesus saying ‘*It is impossible to be devoted to God and yet at the same time love money*’?

In my remaining time on these fine islands I expect I will be called to stand many times at the graveside of loved ones

and commend them into the hands of our loving God and will be saying the words *'We brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out'*

May we at this harvest be mindful of God's provision for us all. May we be good stewards of that he has trusted us with and may we always be full of thanksgiving for his saving grace to us all and may we be especially thankful for His gift of Eternal Life which is for all who trust in Jesus.

Enjoy all that is ours in this beautiful place, be sure to honour our Sovereign God in your dealings with others, and tell those who you meet on the journey that surely now the Kingdom of God is very near. May the blessings of that Kingdom continue to be seen in our love and in our care of one another

**Charles R Gibbs**

*Editors Note:*

*The following article was in the Parish Pump and I thought it was pertinent to Charlie's thoughts from the Manse this month*

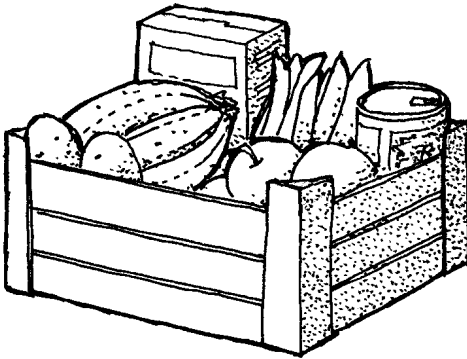
### **Banks, be good!**

Do bankers fear hell and hope for heaven? The Archbishop of Canterbury believes it is possible for banks to be 'good' and play a role in improving society, but only if they are motivated by moral values and not just wealth. Justin Welby, a former oil executive who is still a member of the parliamentary commission on banking standards, was making the comments at a debate in St Paul's Cathedral. He believes that when the next financial crisis comes, Britain will be more likely to survive if it has a 'moral basis'.

## News from St. Martins

How good it has been to regularly feel the warmth of the sun over these past few weeks and to enjoy Scilly at its best. We give thanks that we live in such a beautiful place, where friends and family are eager to visit and we are able to appreciate their company and “catch up.”

Members on St. Martins have welcomed visiting holidaymakers, a mix of familiar and fresh faces. We don't often see children in the congregation, but on August 4<sup>th</sup> a young boy, aged six, happily stood in the pulpit and recited St. John Ch.3 verse 16, which, coincidentally, had been Rev. Gibb's text for the day. In addition, he willingly accepted Charlie's invitation to help receive the offertory.



Jacob brought a smile of appreciation and affection to all our faces.

Julia and Steve Walder have sold St. Martin's Post Office and Stores to Bruce and Jan Frank, who took over towards the end of July. We trust that, with their three children, they

will prosper and enjoy life on the Island. Members of the community gathered at Polreath in early August to mark Julia and Steve's time at “the shop” and to wish them well in semi-retirement.

Finally our thoughts turn to Scotland where Rev. David Easton will soon be moving and where Mary Ratcliffe is caring for her older sister. I am sure everyone would want to wish David every blessing as he takes up his new post as Chairman of the mainland Scotland District. We remember Mary in our prayers and are glad that her contributions to In Touch tell us of her present life in Arbroath.

**Heather Terry**



## Church Gift Day

We look forward to our Annual St Mary's Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. As part of our Harvest Celebrations, we are holding a special Church Gift Day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

On this day you are asked to bring your gifts of money to the Manse between 9 am and 7 pm. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. Thank you!

Please give generously that we may continue with the many good things that are now in place for us to serve this island community

If you are unable to come to the Manse on 14<sup>th</sup>, please send your gifts by post to

**The Manse**  
**St Mary's**  
**Isles of Scilly**  
**TR210JT**



Please make cheques payable to  
St Mary's Methodist Church

# **Sunshine through the Shadows**

New Book by Rita Trotman

**A story of hope, courage and a new life for three  
abandoned Romanian teenagers**

This story begins in the early nineties when the west was still unraveling the horrors lurking behind Romanian orphanage walls. From the depths of childhood despair to present-day freedom for three boys, the book is an authentic, first-hand account of life under Ceausescu for abandoned children. The story is told from Rita's diaries, kept over twenty two years, and also by three boys who survived the regime.

**Much of the money for this project was raised by the  
generosity of the people of Scilly.**

**BOOK SIGNING AT THE LIBRARY**

**St Mary's**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 10.30am**

*E mail from Rita*

I am coming to St. Mary's to launch my new book 'Sunshine through the Shadows' on September 21st. It is the twenty two year story of the Romanian orphanage to which Scilly has so generously given money. I have attached a little information and would be delighted if church members are able to come. This has been a project very much at the heart of Scilly and also the church which has supported it for years.

Rita Trotman

## **TEEN meets GOD: Luke's story**

I grew up in a Christian household, but my parents left the decision to me over whether I'd decide to become a Christian. I attended church regularly with them and built up a nucleus of friends there, but ultimately I was left to make my own choice.

When I was 11 I attended a 'Saltmine' camp, which was a Christian summer camp. I got this amazing buzz through being in the meetings – a kind of spiritual 'high' - and this was the first time I began to feel like God was real. I made a decision that week that I would follow Jesus.

However, life quickly settled back into its status quo and a few years later I found myself fairly unhappy, and so looked to my Bible for help. I continued attending summer camps and, aged 14, felt a renewed sense of purpose. I decided that year to get baptised, and this is when I believe I truly became a Christian. I didn't want to just be a Sunday Christian and I wanted my faith to be for always. I didn't want to lose the feeling that I got at these camps and I knew that was only achievable through getting to know God better.

Since that point my life has slowly flourished. I began standing up for my faith at school and to my surprise people began to accept it. Of course there's a lot of banter around these sorts of things, but actually I've felt enabled to strengthen my friendships with people and tell them about God. I've begun reading my Bible more and have found that the more things I give over to God (exams, sports, etc.) the more things seem to grow and prosper. I now have a solid church family, and a sense of belonging that is so important. I've now co-founded a Christian website for

teenagers, and I've even begun to preach, which is something I'm extremely passionate about for the future. Loads of exciting things have happened since I became a Christian!

Luke is 16 and lives in the Midlands. He's the co-founder of the website: [www.forchristianteens.com](http://www.forchristianteens.com)

Luke made a decision to follow Jesus. He prayed, asking God to forgive him for the things he does wrong, and then he promised to live God's way. To find out more about the Christian faith, visit <http://www.lookingforgod.com>

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## **The Wedding of David & Isobella**

David & Isobella are happy to announce that their wedding will take place at St Mary's Methodist Chapel at 2 pm on Saturday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 2013. Rev Charles R Gibbs will be officiating the wedding service and blessing, followed by a day of celebration at Tolman Restaurant Old Town. Anyone wishing to attend the service and evening celebrations from 8pm onwards is cordially invited by David & Isobella to join them in this most blessed day. The afternoon reception has been restricted to invite only due to the availability of seating. May the Lord shine His blessing upon this happy event.

David and Isabella

*I am sure we all wish David and Isabella every happiness and blessing both on their wedding day and for their life together.*

## The Harvest Comes

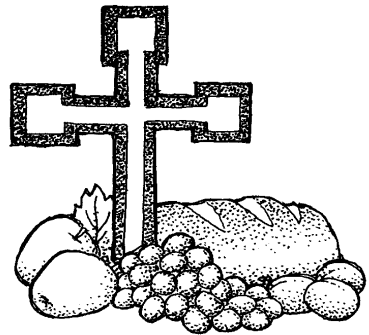
The harvest comes  
The fields turn gold  
The grain is ripe.  
And, as of old  
The workers glean,  
And thresh, and grind  
They knead and bake  
And bread we find

Fruit of the grain  
A Holy token  
Of our Lamb of God  
His body broken

The sun shines warm  
The grapes are ripened  
The fruit is picked  
For Vintner's stipend.  
The grapes are crushed  
Their juices stored  
And in due course,  
The wine is poured

Fruit of the vine  
A token, too  
Of the blood of Christ  
That was shed for you

Nigel Beeton





"All safely gathered in – another nice little cash crop, Vicar."

~~~~~

### **How to get to heaven**

"If sold my house and my car, had a big car boot sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into Heaven?" the teacher asked her Sunday School class. "No!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, 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 five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead first!"

## **I know what you meant, but it's not what you said....**

*These are classics - real life extracts from church bulletins and announcements that didn't come out quite in the way intended!*

- \* From a pew-sheet: Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
- \* Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.
- \* Announcement in an Episcopalian pew-sheet: Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8pm in the church recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.
- \* Report in a church magazine: Miss Charlene Mason sang I will not pass this way again, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- \* From a pew-sheet: Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. Now's your chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- \* From an announcement: The sermon this morning is entitled 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight will be: 'Searching for Jesus'.
- \* From a pew-sheet: Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. Do go along if you can sing at all. They need all the help they can get.
- \* From an announcement: Sadly, Barbara remains in the hospital awaiting more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping, and has requested tapes of the minister's sermons.

## **Friday Fellowship and Study on St Mary's**

Friday meetings start again 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Manse. The meetings start at 7:30 pm and finish at 9 pm when refreshments are served. They are open to all and are to explore more of what it may mean to us to be disciples of Jesus today.

### **Programme:**

#### **20<sup>th</sup> September: Luke 16:1-13**

Our dealings with others and our love of money

Led by Charlie Gibbs looking at how our approach to money may affect our relationship with God

#### **27<sup>th</sup> September: Luke 14:25-35**

Counting the cost of being a disciple

Led by Charlie Gibbs looking at the effects that Church membership may have on our families

#### **11<sup>th</sup> October: Luke 3: 1-20**

Is the Gospel really Good News?

Led by Charlie Gibbs looking at the difficulties of being ready to come face to face with God

#### **18<sup>th</sup> October**

An evening with Len Michell

We look forward to Len leading us again in fellowship and study. Len, as always, will provide us with a challenging and thoughtful evening

#### **25<sup>th</sup> October**

An evening with Barbara Hasler

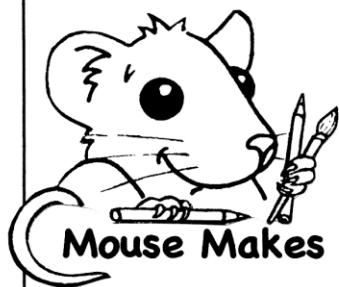
Barbara always brings a different way of looking at things to our precious Christian faith. Be sure not to miss this special time of fellowship together

Do come along. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

*For more details contact our minister*

*Rev Charlie Gibbs Scillonia 422406*

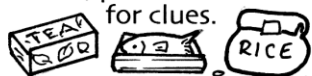




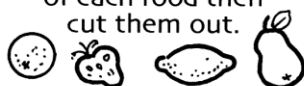
Where in the world  
does your food  
come from?



Look on the labels,  
boxes, packets and cans  
for clues.



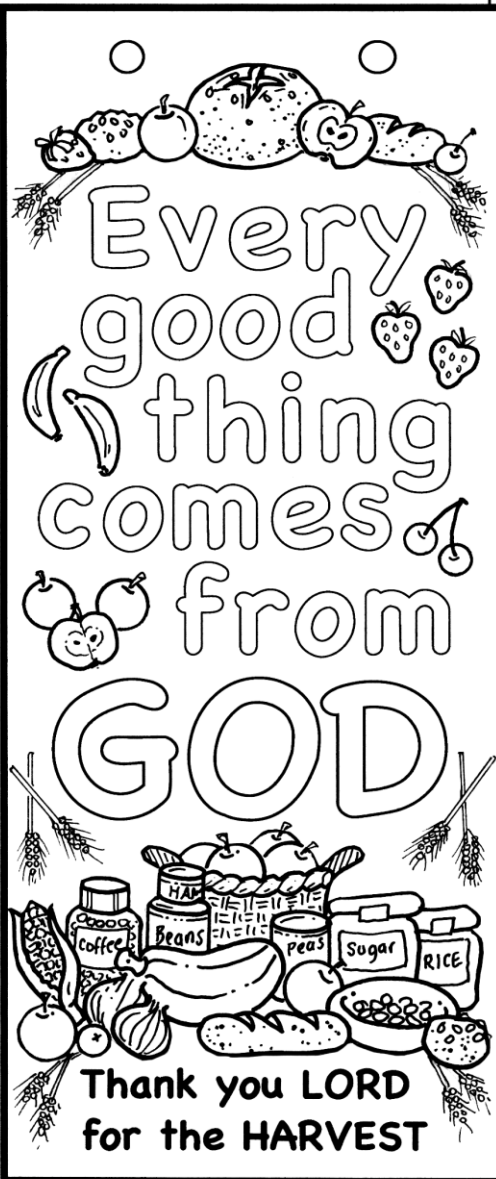
Draw small pictures  
of each food then  
cut them out.



Stick your food pictures  
onto a map of the world  
over the country  
they came from.



TO MAKE the harvest banner  
Colour in then cut out. Hang  
up in the kitchen or attach  
to your harvest offering



## **Diary Dates**

### **September**

1<sup>ST</sup> September: Children's Church

8<sup>th</sup> September: Harvest Thanksgiving on St Martin's

9<sup>th</sup> September: St Martin's Harvest Sale. Please contact Charlie to arrange boating for either of these events

13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> September : decorating the chapel on St Mary's for Harvest. Please ask Claire or June to find out when. All help welcome

14<sup>th</sup> September: Gift Day on St Mary's.

15<sup>th</sup> September: Harvest Services on St Mary's 10:30 and 8pm

See also Friday Fellowship and Gift Day

### **Happy Birthday to you!**

Birthday Greetings for September go to Patti Brooks, Vicki Smith, Lois Morris and Mary Ratcliffe



God's blessings to you all.

*If we haven't included your name, and you have a birthday this month, please feel included in our best wishes and prayers.*

### **Editorial Team**

Anne Gurr                    [e.anne.gurr@gmail.com](mailto:e.anne.gurr@gmail.com)

Mary Ratcliffe            [maryratcliffe@live.com](mailto:maryratcliffe@live.com)

Val Parker                 [martinandval.parker@virgin.net](mailto:martinandval.parker@virgin.net)

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

## PRAYER CHAIN

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

<b>Mervyn &amp; Stephanie Bird</b>	<b>423117</b>
Sue Williams	422605
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360

<b>Claire Jenkins</b>	<b>423546</b>
Neil & Rose Didlick	422838
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854

<b>Barbara Hasler</b>	<b>422208</b>
Margaret Crane	422596
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pamela Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404

<b>Beryl Read</b>	<b>422977</b>
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.*

## **September Notices**

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

1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 Children's Church 11:00 Revd Charles Gibbs 20:00 Barbara Hasler
Park House	16:00 Gordon Bird
8 <sup>th</sup>	09:15 David Pender/ Mary Ratcliffe 11.00 Trevor Adams 20:00 Revd Charles Gibbs Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 Revd Charles Gibbs Harvest 20.00 Revd Charles Gibbs Harvest Songs of Praise
22 <sup>nd</sup>	09.15 Revd Charlie Gibbs/Neil Didlick 11:00 Revd Ray Birch 20:00 Revd Charles Gibbs
29 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 Rev Steve Wild / Mervyn Bird 11.00 Revd Charles Gibbs Communion 20:00 Revd Steve Wild

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

1 <sup>st</sup>	18:00 Revd Charles Gibbs
8 <sup>th</sup>	18:00 Revd Charlie Gibbs Harvest
15 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 Revd Ray Birch
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11:00 Revd Charles Gibbs
29 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 Christopher Savill Communion