

# Isles of Scilly



**Methodist Church Circuit**

# IN TOUCH



September 2016



## Thought for the Month

*While we do not have a Minister to write a thought for the month we are making use of one provided by Parish Pump.*

Fifteen years ago, on 11th Sept 2001, terrorist attacks demolished the Twin Towers in New York. They killed 2,996 people and injured more than 6,000. Events like 9/11 raise the inevitable question: Why does God allow such suffering to take place?

There are no easy answers to this question! We cannot fully understand why such things happen, although we live in a fallen world, where people make real choices. Yet the Bible affirms that God identifies with our suffering, supremely when Jesus experienced suffering and death.

It is on the Cross that God knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unjust attack. 'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?' (John Stott). What does this mean? We cannot know why God allows evil and suffering to continue, but we do know that He does love and care for us: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). God loved us enough to fully engage with the mess of the world.

We also can view such events in the light of resurrection. Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in Me will live' (John 11:25). Resurrection points to the restoration for us of the life we lost. New heavens and new earth point to a world and relationships restored and perfected! In *The Lord of the Rings*, Sam Gamgee exclaims: 'Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead! Is everything sad going to come untrue?' The answer of the Bible is Yes!

## **Welcome to Rev Jane and Mr John Willcock**

A service to welcome Rev Jane Willcock as our Superintendent Minister, will be held at 11.30am on Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> at St. Mary's Chapel. A bring and share lunch will follow this induction service. You are invited to bring a contribution of food to the hall prior to the act of worship.

Rev Steve Wild will lead the service, with Rev Carole Holmes and Canon Perran Gay also being present. Representatives from community organizations have been invited to join us.

Please help to make Jane and John feel appreciated and welcome by coming along to this special service.

Thank you,

Heather Terry.

*A new school year starts this month so let us spare a thought for teachers*

### **A prayer of thanks for teachers**

Dear Father,

Thank you for teachers. Thank you for their gifts of knowledge and communication. Please give them patience and understanding in their work and most of all the wisdom to listen to you and to be directed by your Kingdom values. Thank you for Jesus – the best teacher of all. Help us all to learn from Him that greatest of all lessons, that you are the living God, His Father and ours, and that you love us and want us to know you.

Father, as we pray and trust in the name of Jesus, our teacher and Lord, may that close knowledge of you become our reality. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

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

We said our farewells to Rev Charlie and Mary at a lunch in the Sunday School on Sunday 17th July after Charlie's last service. We thank Charlie for his, support, guidance and care, and for their friendship over the years, and we wish them peace and happiness in their retirement. We are blessed to have local preachers to so ably fill the gap until the Rev Jane Willcock joins us for the next year. We look forward to her ministry and hope she and John enjoy their time with us. We extend a very warm welcome to them both.

Gladys P at nearly 90 ran her usual white elephant stall at the St Martin's fete and raised a record amount for the Chapel funds. It being on a Sunday, initially caused some alarm, but with Chris able to hold the morning service earlier, we were able to compromise. The change of day meant more locals could enjoy the fete and along with lovely weather, we saw a record crowd.

Chris Hensleigh has not been too well, so we wish her a good recovery. Our thoughts are also with Dick and Sheila Trafford who have recently lost a much loved daughter-in-law. Meanwhile, Rodney has returned to the organ in our hour of need, and it has been good to sing to "proper music"! We welcome again friends - Rev Tony Pudner and Wendy- here for their summer stay on the island, and we thank them for giving of their time, with Tony taking a service and Wendy playing the organ.

Finally congratulations go to Derek and Gladys who celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

*Val Thomas*

## **Thanks**

Alex, Helena, Bella and Alfie would like to thank you all for a very special service on 31<sup>st</sup> July for Alfie's christening. Special thanks go to Sonia and Gordon for keeping the children entertained!

## Mission to a Remote Circuit

They came from Norfolk in the east  
To serve the church far in the west,  
A place remote and very small.  
They'd hardly heard of it at all.  
But there we were – a varied band,  
A motley crew from every land.

The Co-op shelves were often empty.  
They came from where there's always plenty.  
The daily papers – what are they?  
'Delayed by fog again' they say.  
Well winter brings a further shock  
More essential products out of stock!  
The weather rules us – don't you know?  
But then, we don't see too much snow.

Scillonian ferry stays in dock  
And Skybus just ignores the clock.  
'Where have we landed? That's the question,  
Enough to give us indigestion'.  
But here they are and here they'll stay  
For seven years to preach and pray.

But then they get to meet us all.  
We're really not that bad at all!  
Problems, problems – 'here we go'.  
They know they've both been there before.

Visitors come from far and wide  
To worship at our church.  
They come from North, South, East and West  
Because the Southwest is the best!  
New friends they've made from far and wide.  
Drawn to these shores by wind and tide.  
St Martin's beaches, St Agnes shore  
Exotic plants – there's even more.  
Sometimes we see the golden sun,  
Then swim and sail and have such fun.

There are nine miles of brand new road  
But not enough for Charles I s'pose.  
He pines for Norfolk; so they can drive  
For miles and miles each day.

They'll miss the trips on speedy ribs.  
That's quite a thrill for Charlie Gibbs.  
And will they miss these lovely Isles?  
A special place on which God smiles.  
He'll also miss the local bus  
But most of all – WILL THEY MISS US?

*June*

PS. I shall miss Mary singing at my side. J.



### **A Chinese proverb**

If there be righteousness in the heart  
There will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character  
There will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home  
There will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation  
There will be peace in the world.

If there is peace in the world  
What a wonderful place this would be.

## **The Blame Game over the Great Fire of London – 450 years ago**

Just after midnight on Sunday 2nd September 1666 a fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane in the old City of London.

By the following Wednesday it had destroyed 13,200 buildings, including the Royal Exchange and St Paul's Cathedral. 70,000 people were homeless, some of them on the banks of the Thames or having fled to the fields of Islington and Highgate. The entire city within the Roman walls was derelict, a sea of smoking debris. The Great Fire of London, 450 years ago this month, was a catastrophe unparalleled in peace-time English history. Yet it seems that fatalities were few – possibly no more than a dozen or so.

Even before the smoke had cleared the search for people to blame began. God was high on some people's agenda. The fire was obviously His judgment on the indulgent life-style of some of its residents. More common, however, was the belief that it was all the work of immigrants. The Papists, with their supposed allegiance to a foreign power, were high on the list. So were the Dutch and the French, with whom England had recently been in conflict.

The Monument erected to mark the spot where the fire began carried the totally unproven claim that it was the work of Roman Catholics – the allegation was not removed until 1830.

It's a strange truth that we tend to feel better if there's somebody to blame. After all, it couldn't just happen, could it?

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### **Preaching hazards**

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Rev Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. 'When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation'.

**Children's understanding of the Bible can have a charm all its own...**

A deacon is a mass of inflammable material.

The Pharisees fasted in public but in private they devoured widows' houses.

Today wild beasts are confined to Theological Gardens.

The natives of Macedonia did not believe, so St. Paul got stoned.

A Republican is a sinner mentioned in the Bible.

Iran is the Bible of the Moslems.



**Church Notices that didn't quite make it...**

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the vicar's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

Don't allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.



## The Divine Paradoxes

Hymns are often mentioned in the Bible. After the last supper, we read....*'When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives'*.

We read of Paul and Silas 'singing hymns in prison'. The hymns were mostly the psalms in those days, and today it is an established fact that any programmes of hymn-singing on television or radio are sure of a vast listening or viewing audience.

There is hardly an experience of life which is not embodied in some hymn or other, and most people agree that hymns have been, and are, a great source of strength, comfort and inspiration.

There are, however, some hymns with which we have become so familiar that we are in danger of singing amazingly profound truths almost automatically. It is so easy to lose the wonder of their message and then they fail to 'move' us. But many still convey personal joy, and in the best of them the writers have combined personal experience with sound theological truth.

Have you ever thought of using your hymn book as a 'treasury of devotion' .... for prayers, praise, thanksgiving, seeking help and guidance .... and so on? *'Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings'* one hymn says. This is so often true of some special hymn or even a single line, as we study them.

There is a true story of a prisoner-of-war who sang with great feeling that hymn full of glorious paradoxes .... and what a blessing it brought him and those with whom he shared it. That hymn was 275 in Hymns and Psalms by Charles Wesley and the particular verses were 3 & 4:

*Jesus, my all-in-all Thou art,  
My rest in toil, my ease in pain.  
The med'cine of my broken heart,  
In war my peace, in loss my gain.  
My smile beneath the tyrant's frown,  
In shame my glory and my crown.*

*In want my plentiful supply,  
In weakness my almighty power,  
In bonds my perfect liberty,  
My light in Satan's darkest hour,  
In grief my joy unspeakable...  
My life in death, my heaven in hell.*

*With thanks to Trinity Methodist Church, Royton.*

### **Miscellaneous one-liners**

What part of "THOU SHALT NOT" don't you understand?

A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday.

Don't let the littleness in others bring out the littleness in you.

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord.

We don't change God's message - His message changes us.

The best thing parents can do for their children is to love each other.

Harsh words break no bones but they do break hearts.

To get out of a difficulty, one usually must go through it.

We take for granted the things that we should be giving thanks for.

For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back.

Do what you can, for who you can, with what you have, and where you are.

## **Songs of Hope and Joy – Prayers from the Psalms**

*The book of psalms is a collection of songs and prayers that were used in daily worship, in festivals and in royal events with music and dancing, to express the hope and joy of the people in God's great saving acts.*

*These Psalms are unsurpassed in expressing the praise and thanksgiving of a whole people to God.*

*Many are also personal prayers of joy and sadness and express a deep personal relationship with God, full of soul-searching, with a profound sense of God's holiness.*

The above description is the introduction to a little book which contains prayers based on various psalms. In some cases these have been shortened but nevertheless capture the mood and spirit of the psalm in such a way as to help our own personal prayer and devotion. Here is one such psalm/prayer:

### *Come, Ring out our Joy – based on Psalm 95*

*Come, ring out our joy to the Lord and our praise to our God,  
For He is the One who gives us life.*

*Come let us give Him thanks, with songs let us honour Him,  
For He is the One who made us.*

*Come, let us revere the Lord, for he is our God and we are His  
people.*

*Come, let us listen to His voice today and open our hearts to His  
word,*

*For He is the One who leads us.*

*Come close to Him so as not to be led astray, for he is the One who  
cares for us.*

*With thanks to Trinity Methodist Church, Royton.*

## **What exactly is 'a lie'?**

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote: 'A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble.'

## **Operation Christmas Child 2016 – time to pack those shoeboxes!**

Earlier this year, thousands of children in Liberia were delighted to receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, especially following that country's widespread trauma over the Ebola crisis. Now a new film showing the OCC delivery to the children of Liberia is available, as another season of packing shoeboxes gets underway.

The Operation Christmas Child yearly campaign is all about providing some joy to deprived children in the developing world. 'A simple Christmas shoebox gift is a 'treasure chest' for a child who has never received such a gift before. It is a powerful symbol of hope that someone, somewhere, cared enough to pack a gift meant just for them.'

In 2015, generous people across the UK packed 900,008 shoeboxes for children. These were sent to 14 different countries – their only Christmas gifts that year. Worldwide, 11 million children were given shoeboxes, 'experiencing God's unconditional love through a simple gift'.

This year, OCC will be again supported by individuals, families, churches, schools, workplaces and community groups across the UK. Look out for information about our support for this project here on the Islands.

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### **Open wide**

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'

## They Need Christ

There are people hurting in the world out there  
There are children crying and no-one to care,  
And they'll go on hurting in the world out there,  
And they'll go on dying, drowning in despair,  
And they'll go on crying, that's unless we care,  
They need YOU, they need ME, they need CHRIST.

There are people living who would rather die,  
And their Christian neighbours simply pass them by.  
There are people sitting by a silent phone,  
People cold and hungry, people left alone,  
Suicides for reasons that remain unknown,  
They need YOU, they need ME, they need CHRIST.

There's the prostitute and there's the prisoner too,  
There's the skidrow fella who won't look at you,  
The compulsive gambler dreaming of his yacht,  
And the lad that's stealing just to get his shot,  
And the girl that's pregnant and pretends she's not,  
They need YOU, they need ME, they need CHRIST.

There are runaways who want a place to go,  
There are alcoholics who don't seem to know,  
There are Godless people who have lost their way,  
And they need God's love but they're afraid to say.  
If we close our eyes perhaps they'll go away  
Without YOU, without ME, without CHRIST.

*With thanks to Trinity Methodist Church, Royton.*

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It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to. – Anon

There is a net of love by which you can catch souls. - Mother Teresa

## 1066 and All That - 950 years on

950 years ago this month, on 27th September, a fleet of ships full of Norman soldiers set sail for Kent. Led by the Norman duke William, their aim was to defeat the Anglo-Saxon army of King Harold and seize power in England. Just over a fortnight later they achieved their purpose at the battle of Hastings. King Harold was killed, reportedly hit in the eye by an arrow, and the English army defeated.

1066 is a date everyone knows. It's one of great significance, because Anglo-Saxon England was to be radically changed, culturally, linguistically and racially. Yet again immigrants (definitely illegal in this case!) would bring a whole new world with them. Probably more than in any other way, it was our language that changed.

Over the next 200 years the guttural sounds from northern Europe and Scandinavia mixed with the softer tones of the Mediterranean to produce what we would recognise as English, probably the most versatile and expressive language in the world – the language of Shakespeare, Milton, Charlotte Bronte and T.S. Eliot.

We take it for granted. Just consider, however, this line of Shakespeare's (from Macbeth): 'the multitudinous seas incarnadine, making the green one red'. The two longest words are the playwright's concoctions from across the Channel. The short words are from our more northerly intruders centuries earlier. Together they make a memorable, brilliant and unique verbal picture, possible only in our strange but wonderful language. Thank you, William!

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We were not put on this earth to see through each other.... But to see each other through!

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

### **'I didn't know I was lost!'**

"Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep" (Luke 15:6)

Some readers may remember the media report one August, of a young secretary who went missing for some days, through a con-trick perpetrated by a deceiving businessman.

Eventually she was found, in a somewhat confused state, at Basingstoke railway station. Evidently she had been completely unaware of the TV news – and of the public concern. In her own words, at the resulting press conference, she confessed, 'I didn't know I was lost until I was found!'

In this famous fifteenth chapter of Luke, Jesus' parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost prodigal son, was basically making a single point – the steadfast determination of the eternal Father to do everything possible to find and recover every stray individual – even if they were taken by surprise at His seeking love.

Years ago I was leading a hospital ward service one Sunday morning, with a little team around me. It was still politically okay to do so in those days! All I could see of one patient was a newspaper, firmly held up – and a thin spiral of cigarette smoke that drifted up from behind the paper. Yes, back then it was still permitted to smoke in a hospital ward!

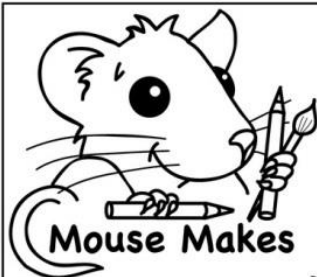
Two days later I went visiting in the same ward, bed to bed. And there was the patient – a woman in her early thirties.


'So you're the one who was speaking on Sunday morning!' she exclaimed. 'I never looked in your direction once; I was determined to hide behind my paper and my cigarette. But I was listening all the time. And every word you said was for me. I want now to follow what you were talking about. How do I get started?'

This is the wonder of God's ways with us. Jesus Christ is the Shepherd; out on the hills looking, working, seeking for that one sheep that is missing from the safety of God's fold. And when, by the message of His sacrificial love, that single 'lost' one is reclaimed, the angels are aglow with joy. Jesus said so.

What happened to the other patients that Sunday morning? Who can tell? But Heaven itself was lit up that day over just one.

*By Richard Bewes*



**Thank you  
God for...** 

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See how many words can you  
make using the letters from  
**HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING**



Lord God, you made the world;  
You made the land we live on,  
the air we breathe,  
the water we drink,  
the food we eat.



**Thank you Lord for the harvest.**



Lord God, you give us all that  
we need each day to live.



**Thank you Lord for the harvest.**

Lord God, help us to share all that you give us.

**Thank you Lord for the harvest.**



*"May the peoples praise you, O God,  
may all the peoples praise you.  
The land has yielded it's harvest and  
God, our God, has blessed us."*  
Psalm 67:6

What foods can you think of to finish this acrostic?

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| H .....       | F .....       |
| A .....       | E .....       |
| Raspberries.. | S .....       |
| V .....       | T .....       |
| E .....       | I .....       |
| S .....       | Vegetables... |
| T .....       | A .....       |
|               | L .....       |





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

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website [www.scillymethodists.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk) and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed. If you would prefer to read In Touch in this way please let us know and we can save the cost of a paper copy.

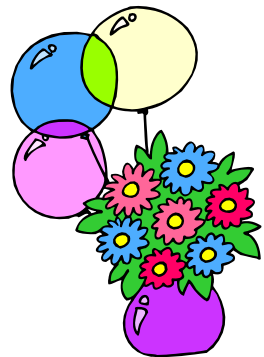
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Some material in this magazine was obtained from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

## Birthday Greetings

This month we send our love and best wishes to Patti Brooks, Angela Jenkins, Lois Morris, Flora Newrick, Mary Ratcliffe, Vicki Smith and Sue Williams.

*Happy Birthday to you  
To Jesus be true  
God bless you and keep you  
Happy Birthday to you!*



## SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

### St Mary's

|      |         |                                                                              |
|------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _4th | 10.30am | Rev. Jane Willcock and Sonia Crompton<br><i>Holy Communion</i>               |
|      | 8.00pm  | Len Michell                                                                  |
| 11th | 9.15am  | Barbara Hasler and Kim Watson                                                |
|      | 11.00am | Len Michell                                                                  |
|      | 8.00pm  | Gordon Bird                                                                  |
| 18th |         | <b>Harvest</b>                                                               |
|      | 10.30am | Rev Jane Willcock and Vicki Smith<br><i>Joint Service with the Anglicans</i> |
|      | 8.00pm  | Rev Jane Willcock                                                            |
| 25th | 9.15am  | Rev Jane Willcock and Sonia Crompton                                         |
|      | 11.00am | Rev Jane Willcock                                                            |
|      | 8.00pm  | Rev Jane Willcock<br><i>Holy Communion</i>                                   |

### St Martin's

|      |         |                                     |
|------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 4th  | 6.00pm  | <b>Harvest</b>                      |
|      |         | Rev Jane Willcock                   |
| 11th | 6.00pm  | Christopher Savill                  |
| 18th | 11.00am | Beryl Read<br><i>Family Service</i> |
| 25th | 11.00am | Mary Ratcliffe                      |

### Park House

|      |        |             |
|------|--------|-------------|
| _4th | 4.00pm | Gordon Bird |
|------|--------|-------------|