

Isles of Scilly



In Touch

SEPTEMBER 2010

The Methodist Church on The Isles of Scilly.

Sharing the Good News of The Gospel today!

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
Mr William Thomas Mrs Sue Williams

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read

Property Secretary Mrs Ann 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 thought from St Mary's Manse.....

As I write this letter Scilly is in the full swing of summer activity. Earlier in the week I had been over to St Martin's to their annual Island Fete. This was certainly a grand event, lots of stalls, lots of people, and all in glorious St Martin's sunshine. I was pleased to see our chapel members staffing so many stalls, reminding me of how in that close knit community all get involved

in supporting so many different things.

Much the same could be said about the events put on at St Martin's and St Mary's in support of Action for Children. Here on St Mary's a grand coffee morning was held at the Atlantic Hotel, this was arranged by Ann Mumford and Gwen Clarkson, again a splendid occasion in a splendid setting with wonderful views of the harbour on St Mary's. On St Martin's a coffee morning for Action for Children was held in the Reading Room in the centre of the Island. Here Celia Ashford and Christine Hensleigh got together a band of helpers who staffed the stalls and provided home made cakes, much to the delight of the many visitors who made this a most memorable day.....again in glorious sunshine.

Mary and I have now come to the end of our first year here on Scilly. Now we at least know what to expect in the coming years, and we both are beginning to feel at home in this place which in some ways is so different to where we have served before.

The church on these islands has so many opportunities and so many challenges. It is certainly a joy to welcome so many visitors over the summer months, and many have said how much they have valued being with us in worship on a Sunday.

A lot of visitors come year after year. Gwen sends this magazine to a long list of friends on the mainland, and Chris Savill tells me that lots of people visit our church website from all over the world. Our ministry is to these visitors but it is also to those who live and work on these islands when our visitors have gone home.

I now know what to expect in the winter months ahead, and it is certainly very different to the summer. It is maybe in the winter that we see the real state of our church. Our numbers are quite small, which is a reflection of the small number of people who are resident here over the winter months. It is during this time that our focus is on caring for one another and being there to help and support to this island community. And it is then that we are called to be a sign of God's Kingdom in this place.

As I am beginning to understand more about Scilly and the people who live here I can see that the church still has an important part to play in this community. So many of the situations and the circumstances which I have witnessed during my first year here seem to be 'crying out' to be touched and healed by the unchanging message of God's grace.

Matthew in his Gospel records for us the words that are often referred to as Jesus's 'Sermon On The Mount'. Here we have laid before us what I often think of as a 'glimpse into the kingdom of heaven' What Jesus says is a great challenge as to just what our priorities are in life, he speaks of a community where outcasts are welcome, where security is found, not in wealth, but instead in acts of human kindness, and of a way of living that offers hope, even to in the darkest moments of our lives. His words are a challenge to us all, but they are certainly a great challenge to many of the situations here on Scilly.

In this sermon, Jesus tells us about the wise and foolish builders. The foolish builder built a fine house on sand, but it did not withstand the winter storms. The wise builder built his house on solid rock, and it stood firm, even when things got rough!

O how I long to see this island community being rebuilt on that solid rock of Jesus! O how I long to see God's love and God's grace and forgiveness touching the hearts of those who live on these beautiful islands, and O how I long for his healing to be witnessed among the ordinary people of this place.

Those of us who know the truth and the power of these things I pray will be strengthened by God's Holy Spirit! I pray that we will be tireless in our love of one another, and that even when those winter storms come, and the sea of life is raging, that we will be resolute in sharing our message of hope with others!

Enjoy the remaining days of summer! Pray for one another, and care for one another. Be there for one another in the storms of life..... and continue to trust in The Lord Jesus, that you may be safe and secure in His blessings.

I remain by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these fine islands.

Charlie Gibbs

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. -
St Augustine of Hippo

He who labours as he prays lifts up his heart to God with his hands. - St Bernard of Clairvaux

8th August 2010.... A DAY TO REMEMBER

The day started early with Philip Lethbridge loading up chairs from the chapel to take to Carreg Dhu. At 10.30 Mervyn was on top form as he led a cheerful act of worship in glorious sunshine in the gardens. Visitors joined in, and William Thomas offered a challenging message that certainly reminded us all of the grace of God. As always our worship band got everything just right making this a perfect and most memorable time for us all.

The afternoon was spent on the remote island of St. Helen's. On the trip beautiful cards were given out by Mary Ratcliffe, who later spoke about our pilgrimage and preached a message of great encouragement for us all to take time to listen and to receive from God. It was good to be together in the sunshine, it was good to share in real Christian fellowship, and it was great fun getting off and on the boats at St. Helen's.

In the evening William led us as we presented 'Rock' the musical about Simon Peter. It all went so well.... despite some nervousness before we started. Our soloists William, Philip, Tricia, Rose, June and Mary gave a lift to us all, but Philip playing the part of Peter was the star of the evening.....He certainly made us stop and think!

When we went to bed I said to Mary" Is it possible to have too much of a good thing?" She said nothing, and just switched off the light.....It had been a great day!!!!
Thank you to all who made this possible.

Charlie



Sunday September 19th Harvest Thanksg- giving

We look forward to our Harvest Thanksgiving at St. Mary's on the 19th at 10.30 Please do tell your friends about this, and maybe invite them along. The service will not be too long.... and there will be all the well known Harvest Hymns that we love to sing.

**PLEASE BRING HARVEST PRODUCE TO THE SERVICE!
I WOULD LIKE IT BROUGHT TO THE FRONT DURING THE
SECOND HYMN.....THE MORE THE BETTER!**

**ALSO..... Please tell your children and grandchildren about
this.....that they will enjoy it, and hopefully will be
encouraged to take part.**

In the evening at 8pm we will be back in Chapel with a Special Harvest Songs of Praise Service..... Be sure not to miss this!!! Harvest hymns, Bible Readings, and a message of hope. Refreshments will be served at the Manse at about 9pm.

'To thee O Lord our hearts we raise in joyful adoration'

In Loving Memory of Flo Fairburn

I am sure that you will all have seen the wonderful new notice boards now in place at our St Mary's Chapel.

These notice boards have been lovingly made by Martin Parker. They are made of hardwood with stainless steel fittings to withstand the Isles of Scilly winters, and they are indeed a fitting tribute to Flo who was so devoted to our church.

I am delighted to see these now in place. I know that Martin has spent many long hours working on these fine notice boards which will be there for many years. So thank you Martin for such devotion, and thank you Val for sparing Martin for all the time it took to complete these fine notice boards.

We continue to hold Joe and the family in our prayers, but I am sure every time Joe comes to chapel and sees these notice boards he will be reminded of the many years that Flo came with him to worship in our chapel.

We give thanks for the promise of life eternal, and for the devotion of God's people which is seen in our acts of human kindness. These notice boards are an example of this and we are truly thankful.

Charlie Gibbs

Sympathy.

We wish to express our sincere condolences to Peter Laverock, whose Mother died on Sunday 8th August.

We appreciate Peter's work with the young people and pray that he will know God's peace at this time and God's strength for the years ahead.



July was the month in which we in the Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit remembered and supported Action for Children.

After the special Sunday on July 11th when we thought about outreach to children and young people suffering neglect in various ways, we held a coffee morning on St Martin's and next day on St Mary's. Their small community raised over £450...what a superb achievement!

Although we enjoyed the lovely venue of the Atlantic Hotel, and the morning was overcast so visitors came to us rather than taking a boat to another island, we did not raise quite as much. Both events were so successful and we thank everyone who contributed in any way at all, whether helping, supplying cakes or gifts for the stalls or importantly, just buying!

Several friends have Collecting Boxes at home for National Childrens' Home as the charity was called until recently. They are usually filled with small change and get very heavy! Even so, recently opened boxes have produced really worthwhile contributions. I have a spare box if anyone else would like one! Other donations have been given and it has been a great joy to send over £1000 to Action For Children at the end of last month!

We shall have had a Bookstall on Holgates Green on August Bank Holiday Monday 30th August.. please no more books at present... Then in the season of Advent we again raise money for the charity. Sadly the need is very much ongoing, so we cannot afford to rest on our laurels!

Gwen Clarkson.

Ed. We thank God for all Gwen's work as the Representative for Action for Children

Back to Basics

Back to basics- that's the slogan
For our nation's way ahead;
"Back to basics", cry our leaders
"Rescue Britain from the red".
Back to basics in the schoolroom
Teach 3'R's and spelling too,
Back to basics in our prisons-
Softer measures will not do!
Back to basics! Single mothers
Mustn't jump the housing queue
If the scheme condones this practice
All the rest get in a stew...
Back to basics in our families
Children need their parents' care
Should we wonder at the problems?
Caused when Mum and Dad aren't there.
Surely we should heed these warnings,
Yet the cure lies deeper still;
'Back to Basics' in our lifestyle
Touches conscience- bitter pill!
What about the deeper basics-
Our relationship with God -
OUR Creator, the Almighty
Who supplies our breath, our food?
Are we troubled by abortions
Soaring crime rates, quick divorce?
Conscience tells us these are symptoms
Of our nations downward course.
Step by step our feet have wandered
Far from Scripture's faithful Word;
'Back to Basics' spells repentance,
Seeking God, by conscience spurred.
Dusty Bibles on our bookshelves
Tell how God can meet our need,
Can forgive our dire transgressions
In His mercy we but plead.

'Back to basics' Sinful Britons
May find refuge in Christ's blood;
Humbled, He'll renew and guide us,
Full salvation He'll provide us,
For He is our fathers' God. (Laurie Twyman)

Anthology (2) March 2002- Bob and Mary Gray

Long term visitors who wish to be remembered to many of our fellowship.

Naval Chaplain

I was pleased to see that the August edition contained reference to the celebration of the 150 years of participation in chaplaincy to the armed forces by Methodist Ministers. A small booklet was published to mark this and when I opened mine I was a bit taken aback to see a picture of me, robed and emerging from the body of a submarine. I have to say I haven't my own copy of this picture and can't remember when it was taken, save that my beard was yet to appear and it must therefore date back to about 1972-3. The submarine was obviously alongside in the base at HMS DOLPHIN in Gosport which was part of my appointment at the time. Little did I know that twenty-five years of my ministry would be spent as a Methodist Minister serving in the Church of Scotland and Free Churches branch of Naval Chaplaincy. Once I thought a rough voyage on the old Scillonian was a long trip but that was somewhat dwarfed by voyages from Gibraltar to the Falklands in the Ice Patrol Ship HMS ENDURANCE, and from the Arabian Gulf to Fremantle in Australia in HMS TIGER. Royal Naval Chaplains hold the Queen's Commission but unlike chaplains of the other two arms they wear no badges of rank and the usual phrase to describe them is that they are there to be "the friends and advisors of all on board ship" and shore bases and establishments are still referred to as ships.

The Reverend Tony Pudner

Don't forget starving Christians in Niger

Barnabas Fund is urging Christians not to forget their starving brothers and sisters in stricken Niger following mainstream news reports about the escalating food crisis.

The renewed call follows aid appeals from Oxfam, which described the situation as “*extremely desperate*”, and Save the Children, which warned that up to 380,000 children under five are at risk of death by starvation.

Barnabas Fund is already helping the Christian community, having provided 681 families with maize or millet and rice – funded by donations totalling £40,000 – but more aid is urgently needed. Visit: www.barnabasfund.org/Dont-forget-starving-Christians-in-Niger

MRDF seeks support for Pakistan flood victims

WITH more than 1,500 people dead after heavy flooding in north-west Pakistan, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) is accepting donations to support relief efforts in the affected areas.

The United Nations estimates that more than 3 million people have been affected by the flooding. There are fears that the number of casualties and homeless will rise as rescuers gain access to hard-to-reach areas where roads were destroyed. Initial aerial pictures show that whole villages have been washed away.

There are also concerns that diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea will spread as there is a limited supply of clean water.

O Lord all things come from you, may we generously share our wealth with all in need. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen

God whispered in my ear one day
And said how it would be
I shrugged and turned away and said
"No way, you can't mean me!"

Next time it wasn't a whisper
He spoke quite loud and clear
He had a job for me to do
He said "have faith, don't fear".

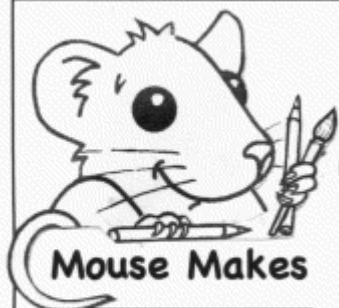
So I took the challenge offered
But how should I begin?
This task was much too big for me
I had to trust in him.

When the problems overwhelmed me
And I couldn't see my way
I'd put my faith and hope in Him
Fall to my knees and pray.

And my God, he never failed me
Through good days and through bad
He filled me with a courage
I never knew I had.

So if you feel God calling you
Don't doubt and answer "no"
He knows the plans he has for you
Step out in faith...and go!

By Mallie Sharpe



Mouse Makes

Colour this harvest picture then write a prayer of praise and thanks to God.

"Oh God, it is right to praise you in Zion and keep our promises to you, because you answer our prayers....

You show your care for the land by sending rain; you make it rich and fertile.

You fill the streams with water, you provide the earth with crops....

What a rich harvest your goodness provides! Wherever you go there is plenty...

The fields are covered with sheep; the valleys are full of wheat.

Everything shouts and sings for joy."

from Psalm 65



Thank you LORD for the Harvest

Sep10

Glastonbury- Facts you may not have known

Probably most of our readers know little of the Glastonbury Festival held in each year on the farm of Michael Eaves.

It is still a working farm for the rest of the year, and in fact the work of caring for the livestock continues throughout the time of the festival. Michael now arranges this with his daughter Emily and it grows year on year with other arts besides music – it is really called A Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts.

The festival has always donated large sums to charities throughout the world, this year the beneficiaries were Oxfam, Greenpeace and Water Aid as well as local charities. In the past it has funded schools and wells in Africa, farm projects in Vietnam and social housing in nearby Pilton. Last year it gave away £2 million.

Michael Eavis says " There used to be a lion on Golden Syrup tins, I don't know if it is still on it, but it had a motto 'Out of the strong came forth sweetness' and I felt the same about the festival..... "He goes on to say" It must be a Methodist thing. I felt deep down that we were doing something right".



How often given ideas are not put into practise, but what a blessing when they are. Last month I enjoyed listening to Tom Henderson from Shelter Box speaking of his inspiration to help people in distress. Today we are being asked to contribute to yet another major disaster. People like Tom and Michael have made it easier for us all to be part of the solution. We thank God for them and His love for all mankind.

Mary Ratcliffe

Then and Now

It was a great privilege to be able to speak at the Pilgrimage service on St Helen's. Many years ago it had a significant effect on me, in that, if Elidius could witness to people in this remote place then surely I could do the same where I lived. At that time we were living in the Fens. Recently I went back to the Fens to Chatteris where it gave me great pleasure to see Bibles given in memory of Guy and his beloved parents in use. Others will find them easy to read and understand and the bookplate is a testimony to their Christian lives which I pray will encourage others.

Looking back we can see God's hand in our lives quite clearly, something which isn't easily seen day by day.

For me, after Guy's passing into Glory, I have had many decisions to make and the one which weighed heavily was the question of where to live, or rather more importantly "What does God want me to do"

With the help of our visiting friends Stephen and Heather I found a retreat in Newquay where I thought I would find the answer. Surprisingly I found the answer before I went!

It is a long time since I was involved in 'active' ministry but now it seems that this is the way forward. Many years ago I received a calling to explain the Gospel to those who didn't understand it, and this will remain a priority. I shall have to wait and see what else is on God's agenda. I will need your prayerful support as always.

Mary Ratcliffe

'Philip ran over and heard him reading the book of the prophet Isaiah. He asked him "Do you understand what you are reading?" The official replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" and he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him.

Acts 8

Resurrection

So very many years have passed,
since I first dreamed the dream,
of lying prostrate in a courtyard.
The mighty in their robes stood by and heard my cry –
“I only want to serve the Lord until I die”.

So many years have passed since I first heard God’s call
First given to Philip,
to explain the truth
to those who know God’s
word but not its meaning.

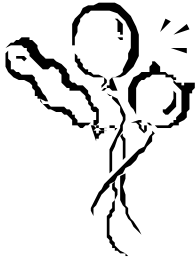
So very many years have passed, since first I trembled
knowing that God’s call
had, without doubt, come to me.
And then for many years I felt the pain of others unbelief
and often cried “ I only want to serve the Lord, until I die”.

So very many years have passed
Christ arrayed in glory still and unknown strangers too, dressed in
their ragged robes of sin,
hear my voice speak out
about this man and how he came to die to give them life.

And others wonder how, though many years have passed since
first I dreamed my dream,
I’ve laboured on at His command and miracles have seen.
I’ve learnt at times, when sorely tried, by tiredness or grief,
that only death of self in Christ could ease my pain.

***So I can say with joy today, that all who die to self, for
Christ are raised again***

Mary Ratcliffe



Birthdays in September

Patti Brooks, Angela Jenkins, Lois Morris, Mary Ratcliffe, Vicki Smith, Sue Williams.

Visit our Circuit website
www.scillymethodists.co.uk

Some material in this magazine was obtained from www.parishpump.co.uk. We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

The Future of In Touch

The editorial team are trying to find ways of reducing the cost of IN Touch and we would welcome peoples' thoughts.

Several possible strategies have been put forward.

- 1.** Reduce the number of issues per year-for example have it bi-monthly between October and May.
- 2.** Have a slimmed down version which just gives reports of what has happened and information about future events.
- 3.** Reduce the number of copies that are printed. We have already asked our mainland readers if they wish to continue receiving In Touch and this has resulted in a reduction in the number that we mail. Are there any local readers who do not wish to continue to have it regularly or who would prefer to read it on-line on our website?
- 4.** Introduce a nominal charge per year or seek advertising revenue.
- 5.** Please let us have your views.

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ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH.
*CELEBRATING GOD'S
GOODNESS
ON THE ISLES OF SCILLY!*

**HARVEST
THANKSGIVING.**

Sunday 19th September
10.30am

Rev Charlie Gibbs
And Mrs Beryl Read

**8pm HARVEST
SONGS OF PRAISE**
Led by William Thomas
And Charlie Gibbs.

*Come and sing those wonderful Harvest
Hymns. REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT
THE MANSE AT ABOUT 9pm.*

ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH
COME AND SING!

An evening of well known
and much loved hymns.
And a message of Hope given by
The Rev Charlie Gibbs.

THE OFFER OF LIFE OR DEATH!

SUNDAY

12th SEPTEMBER

8pm

**BE SURE NOT TO MISS THIS WONDERFUL TIME
TOGETHER.** *This evening worship will end at about
9.15pm when refreshments will be served at The Manse.*

**YOU WILL BE GLAD
THAT YOU VISITED
ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH**

*The Church at the centre of this Island community where
all can find strength for today and hope for tomorrow!*

MATT LETHBRIDGE B.E.M.

Matt Lethbridge passed peacefully from this life in St Mary's Hospital on the 10th of August.

This life was a 'Life Well Lived' in so many ways. Matt's life was a life of service, sacrifice, and devotion, and in a sense his death marks the end of an era here on Scilly.

We now trust that Matt is now safe and secure in that place which has been prepared for him, and for all who trust in The Lord.

We continue to uphold Pat and the family in our prayers, and we give thanks for all that was said at the service of thanksgiving for Matt's life in our chapel on the 13th of August.

Let the lower lights be burning, send a gleam across the wave; some poor fainting, struggling seaman, you may rescue... you may save!

We give thanks for Gwen's diligent and assiduous care in the monthly distribution of this In Touch magazine.

Gwen has been on the telephone to many of our mainland recipients asking them about our newsletter. She reports a very positive response, and even promises of donations to help in our mission through this newsletter. It is good to hear that so many love to receive 'In Touch'.

Also we say thankyou to Anne, and Val, and Mary who are our very able editors..... What an excellent way of spreading good will, kindness, and our faith in a loving God!

If you would like to be sure of receiving a regular copy of this magazine ring Gwen on 423106.

News from St Martins

For the last 10 years Cella has organised various ways for us to raise money for Action for Children.

Over the years we did walks round the Island with collecting boxes jangling but decided perhaps a coffee morning might be more fruitful. These were held in Cella and Rodney's garden and enjoyed by islands and visitors alike. We then thought it would be easier for Cella if we held it in our Reading Room.

Cella has decided this year will be her last one as "organiser" - a hard act to follow!

St Martins' islanders are very generous with gifts of cakes, coffee, tea, milk etc and our thanks go to them all.

We started this year at 10.30am and we were all kept very busy including Gladys with a Bring and Buy stall.

As the doctors have a surgery on Wednesday afternoons in the Reading Room, Dr Jeffries also enjoyed coffee and cake and we finally finished about 3.30pm! Many thanks to all who made the day so successful. We raised over £450.

Congratulations to Gladys and Derek Perkins who celebrate their 63rd Wedding Anniversary and also Cella and Rodney celebrating their 55th (Emerald!) Wedding Anniversary. God's blessing to both couples.

Chris Hensleigh

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
Keith & Sam Grossett	422503
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

William & Tricia Thomas	423144
Peter Laverock	423692
Beryl Read	422977
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

- 5th 9.15 Neil Didlick & Rev Charlie Gibbs
 (Holy Communion)
 11.00 Barbara Haslar
 8pm Trevor Adams
- 12th 9.15 Len Michell &
 Mervyn Bird
 11.00 Rev Charles Gibbs
 (Holy Communion)
 8pm Rev Charles Gibbs
- 19th 10.30 Harvest Thanksgiving
 Beryl Read & Rev Charlie Gibbs
 8pm Harvest Songs of Praise
 William Thomas & Rev Charlie Gibbs
- 26th 9.15 Neil Didlick & Mervyn Bird
 11.00 Trevor Adams
 8pm Rev Charlie Gibbs
 (Holy Communion)

St. Martin's

- 5th 6.00 Harvest Thanksgiving
 Rev. Charlie Gibbs
- 12th 6.00 Rev. Stallard
- 19th 11.00 Christopher Savill
- 26th 11.00 Rev. Charlie Gibbs
 (Holy Communion)