



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

September



2009

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 (422888)

Mr Mervyn Bird (423117)

Mr Neil Didlick (422838)

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill (422888)

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 Mr Len Michell

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

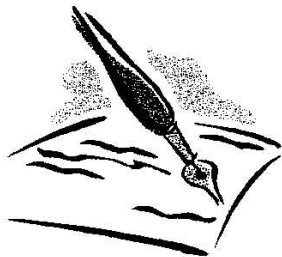
Organist Mr Rodney Ashford (423109)

Connexional Link Person Mrs Beryl Read (422977)

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)

Some Thoughts from the Manse

First of all 'Thank you' for the very warm welcome that so many have given to Mary and me during our first few days on the Isles of Scilly after our four hundred mile move from Thetford in Norfolk.



Both Mary and I are looking forward to being part of all that you are doing as the Methodist Church here in what I expect is the most remote part of British Methodism. We arrived just in time to see the end of the children's holiday club here on St Mary's and we were both so thrilled to see so many children at the morning worship on our very first Sunday on the Isles of Scilly.

For the last eighteen years I have been serving in Norfolk, eight years at Attleborough, five years at Wisbech and five years as Superintendent Minister of the Thetford Circuit. These have been happy years, many friendships have been made, but I am sure it will be good for me to now do something a little different.

In the days to come it is my hope that together we will be seeking to be all that our Father God would want us to be as disciples of His Son Jesus in this wonderful place where we are called to be His church.

Over the coming months I hope to visit you at home, I like very strong tea with very little milk! It has always been our way to have an 'open door', so please do feel free to come and see us at the Manse.

What a joy it is to be a part of God's family, to know of His Holy Spirit leading us into exciting days ahead, and to be channels through which the Good News of The Gospel can bring new life into our world today.

In John's Gospel Jesus says '*I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are now ripe for harvest*'. Now is indeed the time to set out in mission to the good people of these Islands, to offer

to all the opportunity to make a fresh start in life by knowing Jesus, and invite all to take their place in the family of God.

May the blessings of The Kingdom of Heaven be seen in our love of one another.

Yours, by the grace of our loving God, and called to serve in the mighty name of Jesus.

Charlie Gibbs

Greetings from Wales!

Thank you for all your kindness during my last few weeks on the Islands. Thank you, especially, for the many cards and also, of course, the special gifts from the congregations on St Mary's and St Martin's. As I settle into my new home, I shall have fond memories of my time on Scilly.

Every blessing to you all

David

Our Bolt Holes

In September, the Revd. Peter Bolt celebrates 60 years in the Methodist Ministry. He and his wife Joan have had about 17 different homes since they married in 1946. Peter has written 'Our Bolt Holes' which tells the story of their itinerant life. A list is available for orders in the chapel – please pay on receipt of the book (£5).

Notes from St. Martin's

Firstly, welcome to our new minister and his wife Mary. We trust that they will find their time on Scilly a happy and rewarding experience. We look forward to meeting and getting to know them.

Revd. Charles Gibbs will conduct his first service on St. Martins at 6.00pm on Sunday September 6th, when we will be celebrating Harvest. The following day, Monday September 7th, there will be a short act of worship at 7.00 pm, followed by the auction of produce and a pasty supper. For those wishing to share the Monday worship and celebrations, the time of the boat from St. Mary's to St. Martin's will be made known by Revd. Gibbs. Anyone who is able to join us on either day will be most welcome and their support will be much appreciated.

Heather

Belonging to God

How good you are, Lord, and how near you are to us – so near that we may always talk to you, be comforted by you, breathe through you, be enlightened by you, find peace in you, and gain spiritual nourishment from you. Grant that my fellowship with you may never be polluted by malice, pride, envy, greed, gluttony or falsehood. Grant that I may belong wholly to you.

By John Sergieff (1829–1908) a Russian priest of humble family, who became renowned for his prayers which ordinary people could use.

Church Family News

On July 28th we were pleased to welcome Ani into the church for her Baptism. Her family and friends from Bulgaria and the North of England as well as from Tresco and St. Mary's were present on this special occasion. It was supposedly David's last service and his theme was Journeys. "To live fully for Christ where we are today".

During the service Anne Gurr and Gill Trenear were confirmed as members of the Methodist Church. Both are already involved with the fellowship in various ways and their membership will hopefully make them feel very much more at one with other members.

Later in the day we had a special tea, wow, if only our faith was as overflowing as the tables containing our tea!- and gave David some beautiful farewell gifts and a cheque from the fellowship here on St Mary's in recognition of his work amongst us. The gifts included a very clever caricature drawn by June's niece, coasters with a wave design and a clock which were all designed and crafted by Oriel Hicks in her studio here on St. Mary's and as such a delightful reminder of Scilly.



A hand worked gift of a lace cross, by Anne Gurr - who was made a member in the morning - was also presented. A labour of love and respect for David.

The RNLI service, which was to be held on the Quay was transferred to the Chapel. This was disappointing as David had been invited to preach from the Lifeboat.

Thankfully Monday dawned bright, clear and calm for David as he sailed away to a farewell from friends who gave him a send off with flags and placards wishing him well.
Da boch, Dafyd (Goodbye, David).

Last month Jen left us to go and live on the mainland, she will be sorely missed by us all, but another fellowship will appreciate her enthusiasm for the Gospel. We are pleased that her gifts in design have really taken off. May God bless every aspect of her life.

This month has seen Phil Michell on placement here with Revd. Guy Scott but he has also preached here, in fact it was quite a day when he preached at 9.15 and Len preached at 11.00! We pray for Phil and his family as they prepare for Phil's ordination next year. Fortunately the family are able to live in Bristol during his training.

Both Enid Bray and Flo Fairburn have had falls and been in hospital here and on the mainland. We send them our love and prayers.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Frank Smith. Frank was artist Nan's husband and was a beloved 'grandfather' to Joy and Simon. The service was conducted by Revd. Brian Mavers and many joined the family on this occasion. We send our love and prayers to them all.

We welcomed two more children into our church family during the baptism of Flora and Oscar on August 9th. This was during the service at the end of the Holiday club and it was lovely to see so many children and their parents in church for the occasion.

Mary Ratcliffe

P.S. By the time you read this Charles Gibbs will be our new minister. We welcome him and Mary and pray for a blessing on their new life here amongst us.

Thanks to June for the photos.

Harvest

Sickle 'neath arm I forth to the crop,
The first deed the harvest-cut to lop.

Down I will lower my sickle-blade,
The fruitful ear in my grasp is laid,
Up mine eye I will lift from the ground,
Quickly on my heel I will turn round.

I will bring praise to the King of grace
For the ground-crops growing in this place,
To us and the flocks food he will give
As he bestoweth that we may live.

From an old Celtic prayer of South Uist



Late September begins Harvest-time – a time for gratitude and giving

The limit of giving is to be the limit of our ability to give. C S Lewis
Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

As the purse is emptied, the heart is filled. Victor Hugo

Back to church Sunday is on September 27th – here is a poem written with that in mind based on Luke 15: 11-32

Going back

Could I go back
After all this time,
After all I've done,
The places I've been,
The wild living
And the wasted years,
Could I go back?

Would they let me in,
Would he want me at all,
Is it possible even now
To turn round
And simply go home?

From the coming to my senses
Comes decision,
Comes a risking,
Comes a turning
And a danger of rejection, after all.

But when I'm still far off
And searching
The way beckons like a beacon -
And there he is,
Arms wide in welcome.
And he's running out
To bring me in
To the still place of the love
That is my Father and my home.

*Why not invite someone to come to Church with you on this Sunday.
Maybe it will be the opportunity they have been waiting for!*

Methodists work in the community – at home

Singing for the brain in Exeter

Methodists in Exeter have been getting behind a singing group aimed at individuals living with memory loss. Its driving force is Jean Usher, a member of The Mint Methodist Church.

Singing for the Brain™ is a way of bringing together a mixed group of those living with Alzheimer's or dementia, together with their carers and other volunteers for a weekly singing session.

"We sit in a circle," explains Jean, a music teacher and long-time supporter of the Alzheimer's Society. "We're not a choir but a singing group and together we sing songs of all types, often chosen by the group members." Among the singers are individuals who rarely speak but who do sing – and through singing communicate with their carers. Indeed in some instances, this is a rare social activity that partners can share together.



"Often musical memory is retained when other memories appear to be lost," Jean says. "The singing promotes communication and helps develop concentration. Individuals find they are more motivated and can concentrate on other tasks more easily as a result of the singing sessions."

Singing for the Brain™, developed under the auspices of the Alzheimer's Society, is regarded as one aspect of The Mint's outreach work in the area. Many of the group's members and helpers are drawn from its congregation and other local Methodist churches. As a result of their work, and Jean's enthusiasm, other groups are being set up around the country, and the wellbeing of many more individuals is being improved through the power of song.

. . . . and abroad

Fruitful partnership brings children's 'champions' to Swaziland

The care of vulnerable children in Swaziland is a huge national task that needs all the support it can get. In a country where 40 per cent of the adult population are HIV positive, large numbers of children are orphaned and their families headed up either by older siblings or grandmothers. Without money and official documents, these children lack food, education and opportunities. They need 'champions' who can give them care and hope, says Action for Children's Barry Barnes.



Quietly, and with a listening ear, Action for Children and the World Church Relationships team of the Methodist Church are making a difference to some of these youngsters by assisting the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) to set up its own child care schemes. One such project is called Lutsando Lwa Kresto, which means "For the love of Jesus". Its volunteers, all women, are making relationships with schools in the Manzini region. They focus on helping needy children get medical care, assisting with school fees and uniforms and, in some cases, encouraging them to grow food.

"One very sickly child was identified as being HIV positive," they write, "and now he is in good health and full of beautiful smiles!" Another boy, Mthokozisi, has received a bursary grant for five years of secondary school. "It has been such a joy to watch this young man flourish with this opportunity."

These individual cases are small signs of a growing commitment within the MCSA to child care in Swaziland and elsewhere in southern Africa. For the past decade, Barry has been working collaboratively with Church leaders and individual projects in the region, advising, supporting, funding and helping raise the profile of this vital work within the denomination.

Now, MCSA is to appoint a senior official with responsibility for overseeing child care – fruit of a partnership developed with sensitivity and a sign of hope for many more children for years to come.

Christian Aid

Poverty Over: respecting the image of God in all people

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives. In Bolivia, hundreds of thousands of people are living in poverty, even though the country has incredibly valuable oil and gas resources. But things are beginning to change.

Take the case of Bolivian Emitilla Paucara Choque, who worked as a cleaner all her life. She lived hand to mouth with no chance to save. At 77, she is now too old to work. Up until 2006, that would have been a disaster: with no state pension or way to pay rent or buy food, she would have faced utter destitution.

Now, though, she has a pension and can retire, if not in comfort, at least with enough to cover the essentials for a decent life. She says: 'With the pension I pay my rent, my food and all my basic services'.

This is thanks to successful popular campaigning in Bolivia, supported by Christian Aid partners, calling on the government to harness and use its resources to address poverty. In 2006, laws were introduced dramatically raising taxes paid by multinationals profiting from oil and gas exports. The money has gone into social programmes, including pensions for people over 60, and school grants for children.

Tax can provide the revenue for developing states to become independent of donors, offering citizens basic services as well as investing for their future. A fair global tax system is vital in the fight to end poverty. Also crucial is a respect for the human dignity of individuals. For Christian Aid, this means acting on our conviction that all people are created in God's image, with inherent dignity and worth. Emitilla is an example of how individuals can recover that dignity when communities are empowered to be active and visible.

Paying fair taxes and ensuring that tax revenues are put to good use is a way of showing love to our neighbour. When companies or individuals avoid tax they are doing damage to people in need and failing to recognise the image of God in the face of those who are poor. Christian Aid's vision is an end to poverty. We believe that vision can become a reality. We urge you to join us, and add your voice to ours.

Pray for an end to poverty

**Creator God,
You loved the world into life.**

Forgive us when our dreams of the future
are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a kingdom
of justice, peace and an end to poverty.

**Incarnate God,
you taught us to speak out for what is right.**

Make us content with nothing less than a world
that is transformed into the shape of love,
where poverty shall be no more.

**Breath of God,
let there be abundant life.**

Inspire us with the vision of poverty over,
and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen.

Peacemaking Sunday - 20 September 2009

For many years, the United Nations has encouraged the observance of September 20 as the International Day of Peace. The World Council of Churches calls on Churches to make this a day of prayer for peace, and to include prayers for peace in their services on the Sunday before or after September 20.

Birthday Greetings



This month we send our best wishes to Enid Bray, Patti Brooks, Vicki Smith and Mary Ratcliffe. We hope they all have a very happy day.

Gwen is still collecting names so do let her know if you wish to be included in our birthday wishes.

Fresh news from the Ugandan Child Development Fund

When Jesus said '*The fields are white unto harvest*', I believe He was referring to a harvest of people rather than fields of grain. Just as grain needs to be gathered and carried in, rather than left outside to perish. Also in Psalm 126 it is written '*Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him*'.

So what has that got to do with rescuing orphans and widows in Uganda one might ask! My answer to that is 'EVERYTHING!' – because after many years of struggles and tears we are now seeing a harvest of lovely young adults out there who want to serve the Lord Jesus, their saviour. When we found them they were, each and every one in a very sad state, but as the Psalm says in verse two 'THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR THEM'. Some of them had been born into other faiths and gradually, without any pressure, they have now chosen to serve Jesus the Son of the living God.

A number of members of the Isles of Scilly community will remember Richard Mulabe who stayed on St Mary's with Paul and Penny Coombs whilst receiving plastic surgery for burns. He is now a really fine young man but he left a part of his heart on the Islands! Thank you to all who loved, prayed, cared and remembered him throughout the years.

Florence Nalubega is another person who benefited so greatly from her time on the Isles of Scilly and in Cornwall. Their memories of those days are not going to fade, especially for Richard, who says that those were the best days of his life. Thank you, one and all! Thanks too to all the individual people, the members of the Singers group, The Methodist Church members and all who still provide financial support and other donations such as hand knitted teddy bears, via Gwen Clarkson. By giving, caring and working together The Lord has granted us all a beautiful 'Harvest' of happy, healthy, secure youngsters in Uganda.

There is an up-to-date DVD showing some of the work of UCDF in Uganda available on request, on which Richard and Florence share some of their experiences. Please contact Anne Gurr. Also the 2009 Annual Report/Newsletter (including pictures of Richard and Florence) is now ready

Kate Rees, UCDF Co-ordinator. August 2009

Note: I have put copies of the Annual Report on the sideboard in Church. If more are needed please let me know and I will ask Kate to send some more.

Anne

The Holiday Club Building Company

During the first week of August the chapel was transformed into a building site for the meetings of the Holiday Club. Each morning between twenty and thirty children clocked in for a morning packed with activities. They were divided into groups – Electricians, Painters, Bricklayers and Carpenters, each with their own shed where they learnt about the love of Jesus. There were challenges, rousing songs, energetic games, lovely crafts and, each day, a visit from the dreaded Building Inspector who discovered certain things that were not as they should be in each shed, much to the consternation of Site Foreman, Gordon.



Each day two layers of 'bricks' were added to a wall which eventually reached about 12 feet high. The bottom layer had the words 'Jesus Christ is the foundation' and the top one, 'Jesus Christ is love'. All those taking part signed a brick.

Finally, the Sunday morning service gave everyone a chance to sing their songs to the congregation and the 'Building Inspector' gave his approval of the work that had been done, pointing out that it had its foundation in God's word.

Many thanks to Gordon, Sonia and their team for a fantastic week!

September means back to school time....

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.

Education is what is left over when you subtract what you have forgotten from what you have learned.

Children are natural mimics - they act like us in spite of all our attempts to teach them good manners.

Mouse Makes

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.

Psalms 67:6

What's in the pot of jam?

Can you find...

CHERRY • YAM • WINE • KIWI
FIG • MELON • CHIPS • PEAR
PLUM • LIME • APPLE • GRAPE
PEACH • MANGO • ONION
LYCHEE • LEMON
ORANGE

A	P	P	L	E	M	O	N
L	E	K	I	W	I	N	E
Y	A	M	M	A	N	G	O
C	C	H	E	R	R	Y	R
H	H	P	L	U	M	O	A
E	I	E	O	N	I	O	N
E	P	A	N	K	F	I	G
Y	S	R	G	R	A	P	E

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

Can you find these fruit?

PINEAPPLE • GRAPES • FIGS
KIWI • MELON • PEACH • PIP
CHERRY • PEAR • PLUM • LIME
ORANGE • BANANA • APRICOT
APPLES • DATE

All good gifts around us are
sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank
the Lord for all his love.

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

Find these words in the haystack:

HARVEST PLOUGH FOOD
SEED GOD WHEAT SUN
SOIL RAIN BREAD
SCATTER LAND SOW LOAF

Diary dates for September

- 6th St Martin's Harvest Thanksgiving, 6 pm
- 7th Service followed by auction of Harvest produce and a pasty supper on St Martin's, 7 pm.
- 9th Stewards meeting, 2 pm
- 15th Local Preacher & Worship Leaders meeting, 7.30 pm
- 16th Property Committee meeting, 7 pm, Wesley Room
- 20th St Mary's Harvest Thanksgiving, 10.30 am

Joint Harvest Supper – the date has not yet been fixed. Look out for further information.

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Visit our circuit website: www.scillymethodists.co.uk

Some of the material in this edition is taken from www.parishpump.co.uk and from the Methodist Church website, www.methodistchurch.org.uk. We thank them for making their material available to us.

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact 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
Jenny Nightingale	422125
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon & Fiona Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854

Barbara Hasler	422208
Margaret Crane	422596
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pamela 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 SERVICES

St Mary's

6th	10.30 am 8.00 pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs Mr Trevor Adams
13th	9.15 am 11.00 am 8.00 pm	<i>Leader:</i> Neil Didlick <i>Preacher:</i> Revd. Charles Gibbs Revd. Charles Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i> Len Michell
20th	10.30 am 8.00 pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs HARVEST Revd. Charles Gibbs
27th	9.15 am 11.00 am 8.00 pm	<i>Leader:</i> Mervyn Bird <i>Preacher:</i> Neil Didlick Mr Trevor Adams Revd. Charles Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i>

St Martin's

6th	6.00 pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs HARVEST
13th	6.00 pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i>
20th	11.00 am	Barbara Hasler
27th	11.00 am	Revd. Charles Gibbs

Park House

6th	4.00 pm	Len Michell
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