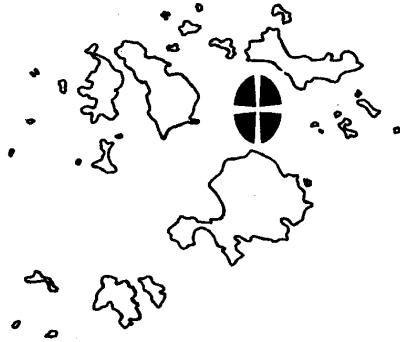


Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

In Touch

April 2009



From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I know we say this every year, but “hasn’t Easter come around again quickly!”

We say this sort of thing about all sorts of times and occasions, of course. We know in our heads that events may occur annually, but it’s as if our hearts are waiting to be surprised.

Perhaps this is a parable for Easter itself. It’s more than an event that we need to take on board in our minds – although it’s vital that we engage our minds with our faith and its major matters – it also needs to capture our souls, the heart of our being. And Easter is capable of doing that.

Every Easter we can be surprised by the expected. Every Easter the risen Christ can meet us on the way as he did the women and men at the tomb or the disciples on the way to Emmaus. Every Easter we can discover again the resurrection hope that lies at the heart of our faith.

Whether you will be spending Easter on the Islands, or elsewhere, sharing in the sunrise service on Buzza, or the celebration services in one of our churches, I pray that Easter may once more surprise us all in a special way.

Every blessing,

David.

News from St Martin's.

Unfortunately for our congregation and for the St.Mary's based local preachers, who spend considerable time preparing for their services, on a few occasions this winter strong winds have prevented Sunday worship. Since the New Year, Barbara Hasler has missed two services and Len Michell one. We look forward to calmer Sundays!

The weather was not a problem when David, Alan and I needed to cross the water on February 28th, to join with other St.Martin's members for an outreach initiative for school aged children and their parents. It was good to welcome three Island families to a tabletop games session at the Reading Room. Cake, hot drinks and squash was on offer throughout the two-hour afternoon slot, and a good fun time was enjoyed by children and adults alike. As always Jenga was nail biting whilst Monopoly went on for ever!! But they were only two of the many games on offer.

We thought it an idea well worth repeating, maybe with a broader age range next time.

Perhaps some readers of In Touch have, on Sunday evenings, been following the excellent adaptation for television of Larkrise to Candleford. The eagle-eyed may have spotted Mark Heaps name amongst the credits, as he plays the postman Thomas Brown. Mark is a son of the late Rev. Donald Heap (and his wife Mildred), our minister in Scilly in the late seventies and early eighties. I had the pleasure of meeting Mark and his family when they spent a holiday here last August: maybe others who remember his father did too. He seemed genuinely pleased to hear what I could recall of his father's work in the Islands.

Heather.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow - an EASTER meditation:

The New Testament not only reminds us that Christ rose from the dead on the first Easter morning, but it also reminds us that his resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Paul could hardly say it more plainly. 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins' (1 Cor. 15:17).

But that is not all. Paul adds that if Christ still lies in the tomb then all those who died in the Christian faith have perished and the gospel offers no more hope than the pagan cults. He gives the same emphasis to Christ's resurrection when he writes to the Roman Christians. Our Lord was 'put to death for our sins and raised for our justification' (Rom. 4:25). Salvation is offered to all who sincerely confess that Jesus is Lord and who believe 'that God raised him from the dead' (Rom. 10:9).

Faith in our Lord's resurrection is not peripheral to the Christian gospel; it is absolutely foundational. Abraham, Moses, Confucius, Mohammed and all the religious leaders of every age and creed are all dead - Christ alone rose from the dead and lives forever. Only the Christian gospel has an Easter Day!

And from the first Easter Day comes the story of the Emmaus Road and how two disciples were transformed when they discovered their Lord was alive. Luke recounts the event in some detail (24:13-35).

Two disciples, one named Cleopas, were returning from Jerusalem to Emmaus on that Easter evening. As yet they did not know that their Lord was risen and they were downcast and desolate.

When a stranger joined them on the road they told him of the mighty works that Jesus of Nazareth had done, for 'he was a prophet mighty in deed and word.' Then they added 'We had hoped ...it is now the third day.' 'We had hoped.' Having been eyewitnesses of our Lord's ministry, they were sure he must be the Messiah. But it had all gone wrong. He had been arrested, falsely accused and crucified. Now his body lay in Joseph's tomb and three days had come and gone.

How they had hoped! Hoped for a sign, hoped for a miracle,
hoped that somehow God would intervene, but nothing
happened. They were going home, sad, disconsolate and with
so many memories.

They invited the stranger into their home and as he broke
bread they suddenly realised it was the Lord! He WAS risen!
He WAS alive! He was with them! Without waiting for the
morning, they headed back to Jerusalem to share their great
good news with the other disciples. Their meeting with the
Risen Lord changed everything! Fear and doubt and sorrow
evaporated as their hearts grasped the Easter gospel. Jesus
lives! And when our hearts truly embrace this great truth, it will
transform all our tomorrows!

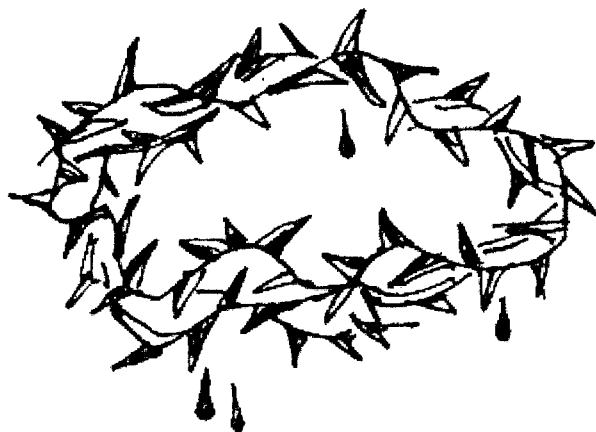
Because He lives I can face tomorrow

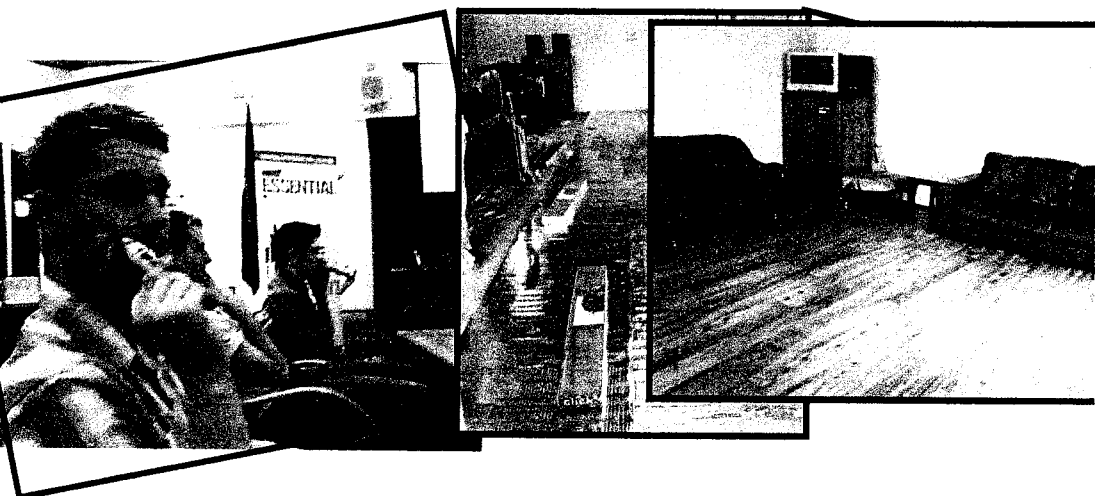
Because He lives all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living just because He lives!

(William J Gaither, 1936-)





Essential Newsletter 06

Well, can't deny this past month and a bit hasn't been the most difficult so far, for oodles of reasons; business, and routine, high points and challenging points. It's been exciting though. I love the range of jobs we end up doing as youth workers...in the morning, teaching a lesson, next moment running a lunch time club, then rushing a nappy to a busy household, then back to prep evening clubs... There have been moments galore which break the routine though, weekends away, leading various activities, and even becoming a builder for a week and setting a new floor in the youth club over half term.

All 'essentials' and about 60 odd other youth workers went to a youth work conference called forge, run by 'Alove', our bosses, which was great fun, to see everyone and go to some entertaining talks and get into some fun debates.

Another opportunity away we had was on a two day retreat, where me and my team mate, went to stay in the middle of the Yorkshire dales, miles from anywhere, had our phones taken off us and had no access to any form of technology... was a challenging couple of days...

Myself and Mark had to run a day holiday club, full of fun activities and games and songs and so on. We were able to invite up a couple of 'essentials' from Nottingham to come and join in, and was a really good experience, working with them, for the children!

And then, last week we had another weekend long holiday club, which was entitled 'Animal Delight', and involved a trip to a farm, with children aged between 1 and 8...and lots of them.

As well as that, we've had the classic, Friday night sanctuaries, lunchtime clubs, street angels, prayer nights, livewires, junior soldiers, youth cells and church meetings. We've led some of these things, and one highlight in particular was leading a youth discussion in church, with the topic, 'can you prove God exists', which led into a fuelled and fun debate between the children.

Something we've been involved with a couple of times now, are Guys evenings, where a group of male youth workers from around the area and mates meet up. A couple of times its been a straight forward curry night, with cubes of jelly, but a couple of weeks ago, we set up and had a comedy night, watching our favourite comedy clips in a cinema setting, with pizza, and was great success.

I may have mentioned in previous newsletters, our involvement with the Grace project in Ghana and how we are linking Wetherby school with the one over there, we had numerous fundraising events and activities in the build up to Christmas, and we were blessed to have a cheque for over £2000 presented to the project!

We had a training day recently, which involved a very heated competitive game of bowling, a team meal followed by bereavement training, to help us communicate with and try and meet the needs of children who have experienced loss.

As part of the churches program here, they invite, once a month guest speakers to talk on a Sunday called 'Imprint', we've had various interesting speakers and the past two has been international worship leader and speaker Godfrey Burtel and most recently Russ Rook, an author and also a guy who headed up some of our training back in September.

The young people of the church on the imprint Sunday Russ Rook did, went out glass bottle collecting in the closest estate as an act of service and a great little activity to get involved with the community. Very loud, very hyper active!

Well, that's that, two pages this time, very sorry about that.

Coming up next week is the last block of training, and we're off to some where in Sheffield for that and will involve talks from Chik Yu, Andrew Grinell and Gary Bishop.

Thank You so much for your continued support, any questions or queries about anything, essential, the Grace project etc feel free to contact me!

Have a great lent!
Corentyn!!

Methodist National News

The Methodist Church is investing £7,000,000 over the next 10 years in a major new initiative designed to reach out to young adults who have no contact with the Church.

Venture fx will pioneer new Christian communities among the 20s to 30s age range in 20 different locations across the the Connexion

Nathan's News

Dear all,

Just a quick update about Nathan and the 'Uganda YWAM team'

It has been a busy couple days with the team but all has turned out for good- praise God for His protection!

The living conditions in the North of Uganda were challenging, as expected but the students said it was really good. The ministry was great and as a team they united in serving each other on a new level. Praise God!

In the end, they did have trouble with sickness though. So on Saturday the team left Padar, a day early, and headed to Lyra as there were 5 people (Matt, Sanna, Bryce, Marisa and Nathan) feeling sick with diarrhoea. Matt and Nathan in particular also had fevers and so it was necessary to see the doctor with the risk of malaria. Nathan, as you would expect, had the highest malaria count in his blood. He said he had a few scary nights, and was evacuated on the back of an open lorry with a 5 hour drive on a really bumpy lane to the nearest hospital with the girls spraying sunscreen on him and wetting his shirt as a flannel. He says "it was an experience but God is good and God is faithful, not to worry as there were so many people praying for me, doctors were amazing hallelujah!!!" The 5 people all 'tested positive' for malaria and were given treatment. Matt and Nathan, being sicker, were treated with IV medication and fluids because they were also quite dehydrated.

Have just spoken to Nathan – they've arrived back in Switzerland for debriefing before returning home next Friday (6th March). He's very tired and worn out after his spell of sickness, lost quite a bit of weight but is looking forward to some pasties, raw fry and Mother's roast dinners. He sends his love to everyone and asked us to thank you for your prayers.

We would appreciate your prayers that the Lord will sort out the challenges we are having with obtaining a visa for Nathan's Bible Study course in South Africa at the end of this month!

Bless you all
William & Tricia

Saint George

St George was born to Christian parents in Cappadocia (modern-day Turkey) in the 3rd century AD and became a Roman soldier. When the Emperor Diocletian started persecuting Christians, St George pleaded with him to spare them but Diocletian imprisoned and tortured him to try to make him deny his faith. He was finally beheaded in Palestine on 23rd April 303.

During the first Crusade the Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch so they made him a saint of the army and spread word about him when they returned to England.

The legend about him slaying the dragon arose in the 13th century. According to the legend St George did not kill the dragon outright but only did so when the people had promised to believe in Jesus and be baptized. Accordingly 15,000 people were baptized and the dragon was slain.



In 1222 April 23rd was declared to be St George's day and he was made England's patron saint in the 14th century. In 1415 April 23rd was made a national feast day.

He is also patron saint of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine and Portugal although he is celebrated on different days.

Anne Gurr

Christian Aid Co-ordinator

Is anyone interested? Have you got time to help? Mary Leathers is giving up as Co-ordinator so a new Co-ordinator for Christian Aid is needed. The job includes organising the lent lunches and the lunch during the Christian Aid week, organising the collectors and giving out the bags and collecting in money.

A big thanks to Mary for all her hard work.

Here's a thought

According to the theory of aerodynamics and as may be readily demonstrated through wind tunnel experiments, the bumblebee is unable to fly. This is because the size, weight and shape of it's body in relation to the total wingspread makes flying impossible..... but the bumblebee , being ignorant of this, goes ahead and flies anyway..... and makes a little honey every day.

Submitted by Joe Fairburn

A Visit by Cornish Methodists, June 1st 2009

Most of you will remember the Ascension Day visit by several Hundred Methodists from across Cornwall a few years ago. Steven Wild, chair of the Cornwall Methodist District, is keen that another group should come over on the Scillonian again this year. Ascension Day is not possible, because the new Bishop Truro is coming over then to bless the bells in the Parish Church.

So, the visit will be on Monday June 1st. The programme will be similar to last time, when there was a service on Holgate's Green and we provided a sandwich lunch. Please keep this date free and, of course, all offers of help nearer the time will be gratefully received.

Editorial Team

Anne Gurr manda.gurr@btinternet.com
Mary Ratcliffe maryratcliffe370@hotmail.com
Val Parker martinandval.parker@virgin.net
Any contributions will be gratefully received

Gift Aid

At the last Church Council it was agreed that Stephanie would act in liaison with me with a view to taking over the office of gift aid secretary in due course.

I now feel that I have exceeded my "sell-by-date" and am in the process of notifying HMR&C, with the appropriate supporting certificates, that Mrs Stephanie Bird will be Gift Aid Secretary (until she is 92) or as otherwise notified.

Joe Fairburn

I am sure we would all like to take this opportunity to thank Joe for all his hard work over the years both as Gift Aid Secretary and as Treasurer of the Circuit and St Mary's. Maybe he is thinking of retiring?!!



"It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we *hope* to find lots of foreign coins!"

The Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer service was prepared this year by Christian women of Papua New Guinea. The title "In Christ there are many members but one body". The bible lessons were from Romans 12; 4-21, Exodus 2;1-10 and Acts 4; 32-35. In her address Mrs Fiona Maybrey spoke of Christians who walked in faith and trust, being used by God to make a difference in their land. They prayed and worked together for peace, in our world. Two stories in the service spoke to me powerfully. There was a civil war in Bougainville from 1989 until 2004. More than 20,000 men, women and children died in the conflict. The story continues:

After eight years of unsuccessful attempts by the Government to find peace solutions to the crisis, the late Premier of Bougainville challenged the women. It was the first time that 800 women from different languages, traditions, and church denominations came together as one body. We braved the open seas and walked the rugged mountains to travel to Arawa, the main centre where the crisis originated. We shared openly , whether we supported the government or the militants , in order to look for ways to end the conflict. Our goal was to save the lives of our children and to bring genuine peace and reconciliation within our families our communities and ourselves.

At the end of one week of discussion and much prayer, a group of mothers risked their lives in visiting the rebel forces in the bush. This became the first ever meeting with the rebels and this is where peace talks began.

Also there was tribal fighting in Papua New Guinea where tribal fighting is a worry for many mothers and children. For a long time the fighting had been traditional with bows and arrows but now it is with modern firearms. My husband became a victim when he was killed by another tribe. Our Tribal members were ready to retaliate. However this revenge did not take place due to

the Christian commitment of family members and also to the prayers the many women and children who pray continually for peace. Instead , forgiveness and reconciliation were extended towards the enemy

These stories show God moves powerfully through his people. We too must continue to pray for our islands and our country. The following sentences are lines from the hymns that we sang at the service

“ What shall our greeting be; sign of our unity?”

“ What is our mission here? He makes his purpose clear; one world, one Lord”

“ Give me your hand , my friend; Jesus is Lord”

Then the closing hymn – The Day thou gavest Lord is ended
As o’er each continent and island..

..The voice of prayer is never silent

Nor dies the strain of Praise away

Amen

The Prayer of Blessing

Loving and merciful God, God of oneness and unity, though we have different cultures, languages, colours and traditions, we are one in your spirit. Thank you for opening our hearts to see the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who has united us. Though we are many members In Christ we are one body.

Let us go forth , empowered to make a difference so that people around the world will see and feel the oneness of Christ in this broken world, and be compelled to draw closer to God. May the source of oneness and unity bind us together with his endless love, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Claire Jenkins

Birthday greetings this month go to Guy Ratcliffe, Barbara Hasler, Steve Morris, Jenny N, Celia Ashford and Elisabeth Tanner. Special greetings to Gwen who will be 80 this month.

God's blessings to you all.

Gwen is still collecting birthdays so if we haven't included your name, and you have a birthday this month, please feel included in our best wishes and prayers. If you would like your or someone else's birthday acknowledged in In Touch then please let Gwen know.

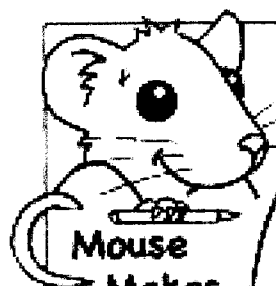


Did you know?

The Stockbroker

That a stockbroker is a man who knows very little about a great deal and keeps knowing less and less about more and more until he knows practically nothing about anything whereas an Investment Analyst is a man who knows a great deal about very little and who goes along knowing more and more about less and less until he knows practically everything about nothing.

The client starts out knowing everything about everything but eventually reaches a level where he knows nothing about anything due to advice he receives from brokers and analysts.



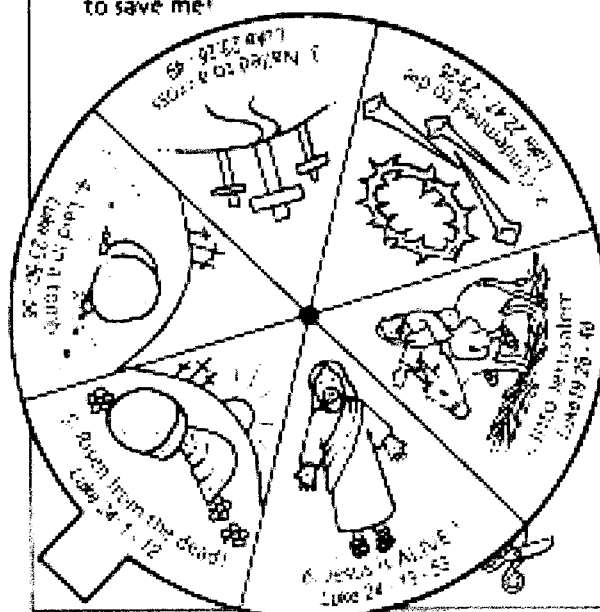
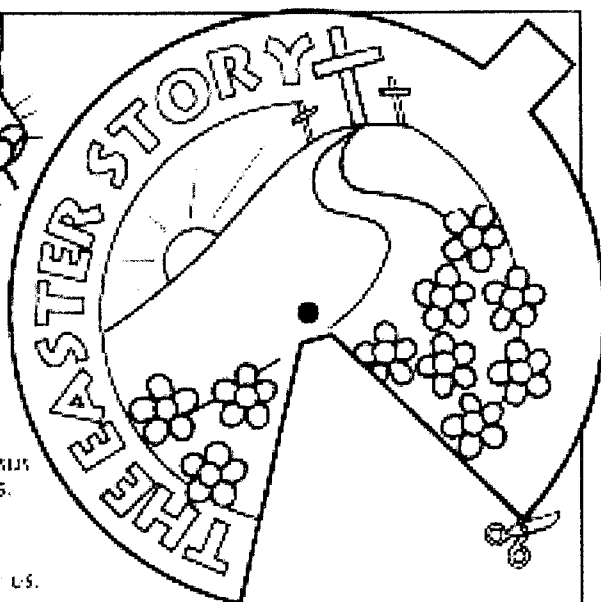
Mouse Makes

Nailed on a
cross,
condemned
to die.

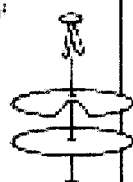
They said that Jesus
was telling lies.

But he is risen
for all to see!

He came to save us.
Jesus came
to save me!



To make your
Easter Story Teller
glue the page onto
thin card. Enough
then carefully cut
around both circles.
With the help of an
adult, pierce a small
hole through the
centre of
both
circles. Push a
split pin
through
the top
circle
and again through
the bottom circle to
join together.
Spin around to tell
the Easter Story.



upside

Diary Dates

April

2nd
8th
25th

Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, St. Martin's
St. Martin's Fellowship
Cornwall Methodist District Synod, Newquay

"At this point I should be saying a prayer for the blessing of the water" said a priest in Woking.

Unfortunately it's all gone down the plughole."

