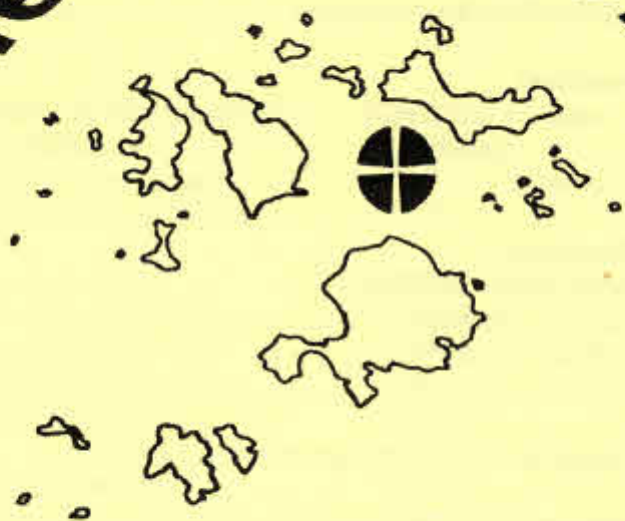


# Isles of Scilly



**Methodist Church Circuit**

# IN TOUCH

*April*



2010

**Chairman of the District**

Revd. Steven 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 (423563)

Mr Mervyn Bird (423117)

Mrs Beryl Read (422977)

Mr Len Michell (422409)

**Circuit Treasurer** Mr Christopher Savill (423563)

**Circuit Meeting Secretary** Mrs Rose Didlick

**Church Stewards St. Mary's**

Mr Philip Lethbridge    Mrs Claire Jenkins

Mrs June Lethbridge    Mrs Sue Williams

Mrs Beryl Read

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

**St. Mary's**

**Treasurer** Mrs Sue Williams (422605)

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Beryl Read

**Property Secretary** Mrs Mary Ratcliffe (423030)

**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 St Mary's Manse



April is here, we begin to welcome visitors to our islands and are rather thankful that a colder than usual winter has passed. In the early hours of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March we put our clocks forward an hour and, hopefully, the good Methodists on the fine isle of St Martin's will have remembered to put their new 'chapel clock' to British Summer Time so that their Minister does not 'run on' too much and risk missing his boat back to St Mary's!

Clocks come and go and so does good and bad weather. The seasons of the year go by, but the Good News of the Gospel is there for every age, every time, and every season of our lives. The writer to the Epistle to the Hebrews (a fine part of The Bible to make time to read) says – **'JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND TOMORROW!'**

At one of our weekly 2.15pm prayer meetings at the Manse a few weeks ago we looked at the book of Jonah from the Old Testament part of our Bibles. At 3pm while we were enjoying our tea and biscuits people were still speaking about what we had read - somehow this ancient story had connected with the things in people's lives. We are told that Jonah, after being thrown overboard from a boat in raging seas by a group of desperate fishermen, is then swallowed up by a whale and is inside this creature for three days and three nights. In the end, despite the folly and mistakes of many, including Jonah (who should have known better), God's will is done and the people of Nineveh find hope in the grace of a forgiving and loving God.

The story of Easter is a little like the strange tale of Jonah, indeed Jesus Himself speaks about Jonah to the people of His day. Despite mistakes and misunderstandings, God's will is seen to be done. When Jesus was nailed to a Cross and left to die between two condemned criminals, some no doubt thought that the whole 'Jesus Thing' was over!

The Kingdom of God will come; the mistakes and the sad things of this world will never be able to stop the love and the grace of

God being received by those who trust in Him. I am quite sure of this because I know that Jesus has been raised from the dead . . . and from the day that I came to realize this, my life has never been the same again. I, like many of you, have a testimony to give about how the grace of God brought new direction to my life, and I am sure that Jonah too would say much the same if he was here with us today.

*On Easter Sunday we will be singing 'Up from the grave He rose, With a mighty victory o'er His foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain, And He lives for ever with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Alleluia Christ arose!'*

I will always be excited when I hear the Good News of the Gospel. Whatever the season of the year and whatever time of day, there is always strength for today and hope for tomorrow to be found in Jesus.

At the appointed time His Kingdom will come! Are you ready to meet Him face to face? Read the record of that first Easter and claim the victory in your life today . . . . for after three days He was raised from the dead that we may have Life Eternal!

By the grace of God I remain for a while the Methodist Minister on these fine Islands.

My calling is to obey The Lord who has been raised from the dead, and to be here for you in times of need.

*Charlie Gibbs*

--oo00O00oo--

### **A Plea for Help**

The members of the Editorial Team are looking for one or two more people to help with In Touch. All that would be required of you is to have time every three or four months to collect in material and put it together to meet a deadline and also to be on good terms with your computer! If you think you could help us please contact any member of the Editorial Team (listed on page 8) and you will be welcomed with open arms!

Hi every body

We send greetings from Charlie Gibbs' old church at Thetford. We receive from Charlie your newsletter each month and what a delight it is. From that we have got your E-Mail address as Charlie appears not to have one. So on this lovely sunny day, the best day we have had for some time, we send greetings.

Thank Charlie for the newsletters and may he continue sending them (it could be sent by E-Mail) we are delighted he and Mary have settled down and doing good work.

We can assure you all that they will give you 110% of their time and love and some exciting things are in store for you all. Try Charlie's soup lunches and strawberry teas and ask him about the sponsored walk for Action for Children, he took us on a 'wild goose chase'. You are blessed indeed in having Charlie and Mary we had some wonderful times with them.

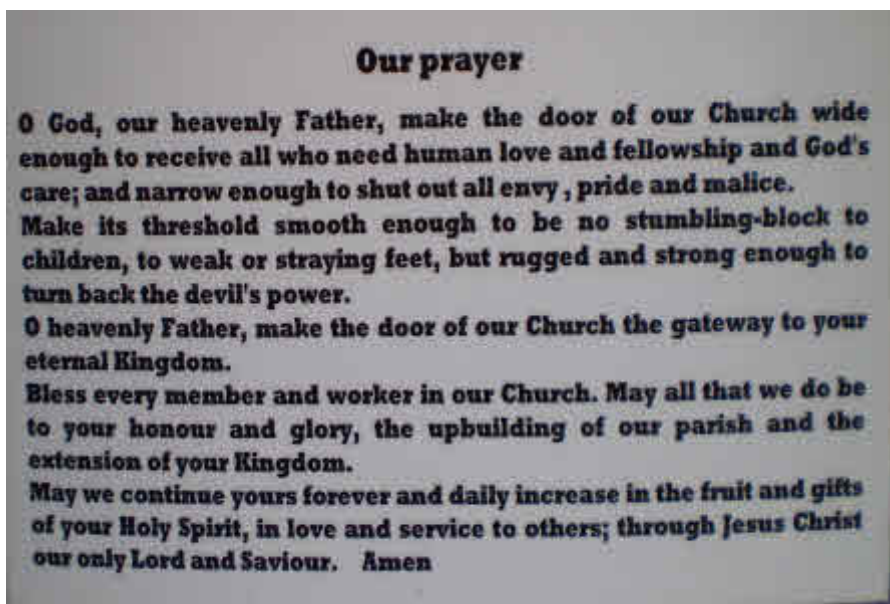
If you would like some more of the tales which will 'turn your day into heaven itself', then let us know.

Anyway every blessing to you all. Thetford Methodist Church. On the mainland.

Russell and Sue.

--oo00O00oo--

Barbara Phillips found this when she was on holiday last year.



## **Notes from St Martin's**

Not very much fresh news to record this month I'm afraid. Steve and Colin Daly remain in our thoughts, as does Mary Evans who had a fall whilst on the mainland. It has been good that Mary and Fiona Bird have been enjoying each others company at St Mary's Hospital during recent weeks.

On Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> Charlie, Alan and I crossed to St. Martins for a family games afternoon in the Reading Room. It was encouraging for Chapel members to welcome three families for tea and cakes prior to Snakes and Ladders, Jenga etc. We all had fun and Charlie was able to get to know people a little better. He used his camera to good advantage, capturing some very intent expressions!!

The united service for Mothering Sunday was held at the Anglican Church this year. Father Guy conducted worship with some support from a visiting vicar on holiday in the Parsonage. There was a good congregation to share thoughts and prayers about motherhood. Both men and women were happy to receive bunches of flowers from the young people who were present. These had been prepared at school by the children and some Church and Chapel members.

Now we turn our minds to Easter and the beginning of the season, when we can once again welcome visitors old and new to our services. We trust that those who have given generously to our fund-raising efforts will appreciate the building improvements, that are now almost complete.

As we look forward to Easter, the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day, let us pray that the planned acts of worship will strike a chord with people across the Islands and those who holiday here.

*Heather*

*Getting Closer To Easter.....*

**AT ST.MARTIN'S**

**METHODIST CHAPEL.**

**HYMNS, READINGS AND  
FRIENDSHIP**

**WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

**THURSDAY 1st APRIL**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**7pm**

**TOGETHER WE WILL MEET AROUND A TABLE  
WE WILL SING WELL KNOW HYMNS, LISTEN  
TO WHAT JESUS SAID ON THAT LAST NIGHT  
WITH HIS DISCIPLES**

**WE WILL ENJOY FRIENDSHIP TOGETHER AS  
WE SHARE TOGETHER IN A SIMPLE MEAL  
OF HOT CROSS BUNS AND TEA & COFFEE.**

**This will be followed by a simple reminder of that special  
evening as we each share in Holy Communion.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME..... BRING A FRIEND!**

*If you play a musical instrument bring it along!*

*If you have a favourite poem come and share it!*

**Families and Children will enjoy this time together.**

## Our Great High Priest

We need no priestly acts nor ritual device  
To tell of Jesus' love who paid the bitter price,  
A perfect life laid down; a Holy sacrifice.

We need no priestly robes, no sacrificial dress,  
Christ lived the spotless life, He is our righteousness;  
We are complete in Him who His dear name confess.

We need no priestly power to make our doubting cease,  
No sin absolving words to give our souls release;  
Christ Jesus does the work and brings us life and peace.

We need no priest but Christ, whose hands and side were riven,  
For none but He can say: 'My child thou art forgiven'.  
And He shall have the praise, who brings us safe to Heaven.

*With thanks to Royton Methodist Church magazine*

--oo00O00oo--

The cross of Christ destroyed the equation religion equals happiness.  
*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

It was not for societies or states that Christ died, but for me.  
*C S Lewis*

Because Christ was God, did he pass unscorched through the fires of Gethsemane and Calvary? Rather let us say, because Christ was God he underwent a suffering that was absolutely infinite. *Augustus H Strong*

One drop of Christ's blood is worth more than heaven and earth. *Martin Luther*





## Lord, Teach me to Pray

*This meditation was used in the Women's World Day of Prayer service. We liked it so much that we want everyone to share it.*



I cannot pray OUR, if my faith has no room for others and their need.

I cannot pray FATHER, if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray WHO ART IN HEAVEN, if all my interests and pursuits are on earthly things.

I cannot pray HALLOWED BE THY NAME, if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy.

I cannot pray THY KINGDOM COME, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, without expending honest effort for it, or if I would withhold from my neighbour the bread that I receive.

I cannot pray LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray DELIVER US FROM EVIL, if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray THINE IS THE KINGDOM, if I am unwilling to obey the King.

I cannot pray THINE IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY, if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

I cannot pray FOR EVER AND EVER, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray AMEN, unless I honestly say, 'Cost what it may, this is my prayer'.

*By Margie Savage of Northern Ireland. Printed in 'Together in Prayer' published by the Women's World Day of Prayer.*

--oo00O00oo--

## **An Easter prayer**

*Karh Barth was the prominent Protestant theologian of his day. Much of his life was devoted to resisting the Nazis.*

O Lord God, our Father, you are the light that can never be put out; and now you give us a light that shall drive away all darkness. You are love without coldness, and you have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all when we meet. You are the love that defies death, and you have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life.

None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But your grace is enough for us. Arouse in us that small degree of joy and thankfulness of which we are capable, to the timid faith which we can muster....to the whole news of life which you have prepared for all of us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Do not allow any of us to remain apathetic or indifferent to the wondrous glory of Easter, but let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our dull hearts.

--oo00O00oo--

## **Editorial Team**

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This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening.

Visit our Circuit website   [www.scillymethodists.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk)

--oo00O00oo--

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.

## **Life in Wartime 1939-1945**

Joe Fairburn, Mr and Mrs Bushell and I were recently involved in talking to small groups of children in the Primary School years 5 and 6 about our lives during the Second World War. It was a privilege to be asked and, as the youngest of we four, my wartime experience was rather different from theirs. I was ten years old when the war broke out. We lived in Kent, a few miles from the city, south of the Thames and just off the old Roman road from London to Dover, nowadays the A2.

In another respect, my family's time in those years was different from most. My parents were Christian pacifists – Conscientious Objectors as they were called, sworn never to take up arms whatever the circumstances. Dad had to go before a court to argue his case against compulsory service in the armed forces. He was a wages clerk, working in the Old Kent Road, New Cross, South London. He paid the men in the South Metropolitan Gas Co. who were making the gas for a large area. It was a very valuable fuel. Dad's job was recognized as being important and he was able to carry on doing it. Additionally he had to fire-watch in the Company area, usually after dark when the German bombers were targeting the gas holders. His own office was next to one and suffered severe damage.

At home Dad had joined the Auxiliary Fire Service as a volunteer and was on duty several nights a week, and also had to fire-watch round our estate, which meant we rarely had his company. Our nights were spent sleeping in the dugout made in our sunken garden by my uncle who had dug trenches in France during the First World War. A neighbouring family joined us and we had beds for four adults and bunks for four children in a very small space.

After the war young men had to do National Service in the armed services. Both my brothers were CO.s and as a pacifist it saddens me to know that more innocent civilians - families, women and children have been killed in the recent wars than all those on the fighting line. Just wars?!

*Gwen Clarkson*

## The Future of British Churches?

*Last month we printed an account of the statement that the President of the Methodist Conference made to the Synod of the Church of England to the effect that the Methodist Church would be prepared to go out of existence for the sake of the 'Kingdom'. Chris Hunt of the Sherwell United Church in Plymouth has sent us his thoughts on this.*

In February 2010 the President of the Methodist Conference, Reverend David Gamble, suggested, in a speech to the General Synod of the Church of England, that he would be willing to sacrifice his Church's existence and forge an alliance with the Anglican Church if it was the best way to spread the Gospel. He said that seeking the Kingdom of God should be considered more important than the continued existence of individual Churches. The numbers attending most British Churches have been falling since the 1930's and the Methodist Church now has only 265,000 members.

John Wesley, known as the creator of Methodism and his brother Charles, the writer of superb hymns, about 6000 in all, were the sons of an Anglican rector, were ordained as Ministers in the Church of England in their 20's and remained so until they died; they did not start a separate Church. When both brothers were at Oxford University they formed a group of like-minded men who were called 'Methodists' because of their orderly life of prayer, worship and service to the poor. In 1738, when he was 35, John experienced a major turning point. At an evening service he 'felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ and Christ only for salvation . . . .' Soon afterwards he began the dynamic, vigorous, direct preaching which became his hallmark. His great success came in speaking in outdoor meetings, village greens, town squares, outside inns. He attracted working class people and the 'have nots'. Church congregations at the time were inclined to be predominantly middle class and were used to a very formal and low-key speaker. John found many church pulpits closed to him.

As well as his constant preaching tours on horseback (he rode more than 250,000 miles and visited Cornwall 32 times), John formed 'societies' of converts which met under a lay leader. These societies were the core of the Methodist Church and the

origins of the 'class' system, each society being divided into classes of 12, each with a class leader. John was convinced that ordination was as valid by priests as by bishops. He ordained preachers to enable them to administer the sacraments. The Methodist Societies had grown up alongside rather than within the Parish Church system. The leaders of the Anglican Church cold-shouldered John Wesley and his Methodist Societies. He hoped that Methodism would eventually be accepted into the Anglican Church. After John died in 1791, aged 88, the gulf widened between the formal Church of England and the Methodists. Some years later, without any formal declaration on either side, Methodism was established as a new Church.

In 2010 are we being too pessimistic? Should we hope for another Non-Conformist revival, or does South India point the way forward, where, since 1946, there has been a United Church of Anglicans, Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians. In Australia too, there has been a United Church which includes a number of denominations, for several decades. There are contentious matters to be tackled, including ordination and the 'open' Communion table, but if the will were there the way forward would be found.

I offer the view that a choice of Churches and worship forms is more likely to have a wider appeal, and therefore a better chance of successful mission, than a union of many Churches striving for a common approach. John Wesley was an excellent example of diversity attracting many, many people who were not attracted to the more formal Church worship style of the day.

### **Birthday greetings**

We send our best wishes for a very happy birthday this month to Celia Ashford, Gwen Clarkson, Mary Gibbs, Barbara Hasler, Stephen Morris, Jenny Nightingale and Guy Ratcliffe.



## Are you an active member?

Are you an active member,  
The kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list.

Do you attend the meetings,  
And mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay at home  
To criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part  
To help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind that just belong?

Do you ever voluntarily  
Help at the Guiding Stick?  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about *'the clique'*?

Come to the meetings often  
And help with hand and heart.  
Don't just be a member,  
But take an active part.

Think this over member,  
You know right from wrong;  
Are you an active member  
Or do you *just belong*?

*With thanks to Royton Methodist Church magazine*

With our Annual Church Meeting coming up in May, perhaps this will give you food for thought!

--oo00O00oo--

## Naughty boys

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew all about it. If any mischief occurred in their town, the two boys were probably involved.

The boy's mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the 8-year old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, 'Do you know where God is, son?' The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open. So the preacher repeated his question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, 'Where is God?'

The boy screamed and bolted from the room, ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, 'What happened?' The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. GOD is missing and they think we did it!'

*Thanks to Jacky for passing this on to us*

--oo00O00oo--

The deed is done, he is now hidden. He who knows where the first steps are to be taken will reveal to some at a cost. It may be in your interest to ask at the manse. On which island will he be found?

## **Methodists putting their faith in God's future**

'God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.' So says the first book of the Bible. Yet today it is estimated that 30% of all species may be under threat by a global warming of 1.5 to 2.5 degrees. So where might hope be found?

A new report and study guide has been produced by the Methodist Church titled '*Hope in God's Future: Christian discipleship in the context of climate change*'. Responding to the report, the 2009 Methodist Conference has invited circuits and districts to offer comments in order to endorse the report as a significant theological statement of the Methodist Church.

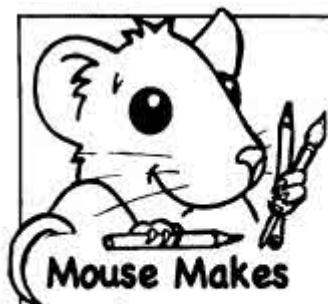
Partner Churches from across the world have welcomed the report. They came together at the British Methodist Conference in 2009 and asserted that: "As part of the created order, the Church must be prophetic, exercising the passion and the commitment of a prophet". This, they suggested, would place the Church at the forefront of initiatives to gather commitments from all nations to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and to make the necessary changes in our lifestyles – in our means of transport, land, buildings and investment practices.

Now Methodist Church House in London and the Manchester and Peterborough offices of the Methodist Church have committed themselves to the 10:10 campaign – pledging to reduce carbon emissions by 10 per cent in the year 2010. Across the country Methodist churches and circuits have organized green fairs, seminars and screenings of films such as Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' and, more recently, 'The Age of Stupid'. These actions provide a public expression of Christian hope – a hope in a redeeming God whose purposes are not just for humankind but for all of creation.

Following the failure of the Copenhagen Summit in December 2009 these actions add weight to our call on governments to agree a strong international treaty to tackle climate change.

From [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)





On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us,  
 Jesus put an end to death  
 by dying for us  
 and showed us the  
 resurrection to come  
 by rising to new life.  
**HAPPY EASTER!**



The angel  
 said: "Jesus...is  
 not here, for he  
 has risen, just as  
 he said"  
 Matthew 28:6

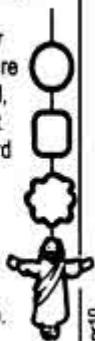


Jesus said:  
 "Where two or  
 three come  
 together in my  
 name I am there  
 with them."  
 Matthew 18:20



Jesus said:  
 "I will come  
 back and take  
 you to myself so  
 that you will  
 be where I am"  
 John 14:3

To make an Easter mobile glue the picture of Jesus to thin card, colour, then cut out. Cut around the word panels and glue together along a length of thin string or wool. Tie end to the top of Jesus and hang up.



Apr10

*Study, Friendship, & Teaching AT*  
**ST. MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH**

THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE MANSE. THEY START AT 7.30pm.  
THEY END WITH REFRESHMENTS AT 9pm.

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- Thursday 15th April.** The Rev Lord Leslie Griffiths of London.  
Past president of the Methodist Church.
- Friday 23rd April.** Mr Len Michell Methodist Preacher
- Friday 30th April.** Rev Charlie Gibbs.  
The 'DNA' of Methodism:- Discipleship
- Thursday 6th May & Friday 7th May** The Reverend Professor W Peter Stephens  
Past president of the Methodist Church.
- Friday 14th May** Rev Andrew Bell Methodist minister  
and chaplain to Essex University
- Friday 21st May** Rev Charlie Gibbs  
The 'DNA' of Methodism:- Evangelism
- Friday 28th May & Sat 29th May** Rev H Barrie Morris Methodist minister  
evangelist, past member of conference,  
and missionary in Central Africa
- Friday 18th June** Mrs Barbara Hasler Local Preacher  
The work of He The Holy Spirit
- Friday 25th June** Mr Len Michell Methodist Preacher

On Fridays the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd of July  
The Rev Charlie Gibbs will lead.  
The subject of this series of four studies will be  
'The 4 Alls Of Methodism'.

## PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact Charlie Gibbs (422406) and then please phone me, Mary Ratcliffe (423030). I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

<b>Mervyn &amp; Stephanie Bird</b>	<b>423117</b>
Sue Williams	422605
Keith & Sam Grossett	422503
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360
<b>Claire Jenkins</b>	<b>423546</b>
Neil & Rose Didlick	422838
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon & Fiona Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854
<b>Barbara Hasler</b>	<b>422208</b>
Margaret Crane	422596
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pamela Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404
<b>William &amp; Tricia Thomas</b>	<b>423144</b>
Peter Laverock	422199
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.*

## APRIL SERVICES

### St Mary's

2nd 10.30 am

4th 6.30 am  
10.30 am

6.30 pm

11th 9.15 am  
11.00 am  
6.30 pm

18th 9.15 am  
11.00 am  
6.30 pm

25th 9.15 am  
11.00 am  
6.30 pm

### St Martin's

4th 3.00 pm

11th 3.00 pm

18th 11.00 am

25th 11.00 am

### Park House

4th 4.00 pm

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Revd Charlie Gibbs

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Sunrise Service on Buzza Hill

Revd Charlie Gibbs

*Holy Communion*

Revd Charlie Gibbs & William Thomas

*Leader, Beryl Read*

*Preacher, Revd Charlie Gibbs*

Barbara Hasler

Revd Charlie Gibbs

Barbara Hasler & Gordon Bird

Neil Didlick

Gordon Bird

Gordon Bird & Neil Didlick

Len Michell

Revd Charlie Gibbs

*Holy Communion*

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Revd Charlie Gibbs

*Holy Communion*

Revd Charlie Gibbs

Len Michell

Revd Charlie Gibbs

*Holy Communion*

Len Michell