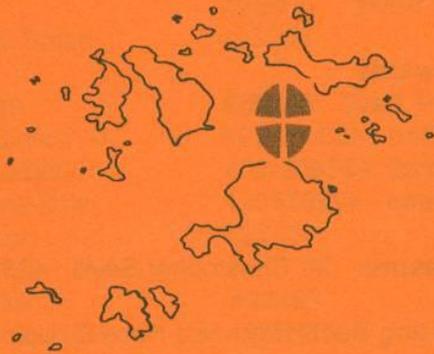


Isles of Scilly



# In Touch

April 2012

Methodist Church Circuit

**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 423563  
Mr Mervyn Bird 423117  
Mr Len Michell 422409  
Mrs Beryl Read 422977

**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

**Organist** Mr Len Michell 422409

**St. Martin's**

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Jackie Perkins

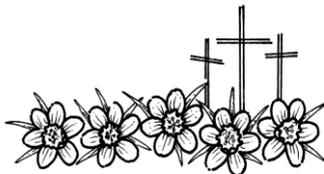
**Church Treasurer** Mr Alan Terry

**Organist** Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

**Connexional Link Person** Beryl Read 422977

**Gift Aid Secretary** Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)

**From the Manse**  
**Dear Friends,**



By the time you read this Newsletter the 'Visitor Season' will be in full swing here on Scilly. The tripper boats will be running, the Scillonian will be making daily visits, the shops, hotels and cafes will be open and we will be welcoming new friends to our weekly worship.

April gets to a great start with Palm Sunday on 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. We are delighted that Jill Baker, the National President of Methodist Women in Britain will be visiting these islands over that week-end. On the Friday evening Jill will be leading a meeting on St Mary's and on Palm Sunday will be taking worship on St Mary's in the morning and St Martin's in the afternoon.

Good Friday is on the 6<sup>th</sup>. At 10 am we will meet for worship in the chapel on St Mary's. At 10:30 Canon Peter Walker will lead us for a walk of witness which will end at the top of Buzza Hill where a wooden cross will be put in place ready for our worship early on Easter Morning. A Good Friday luncheon will be served at the manse from 12 noon. All will find a warm welcome at these very special times together.

On Easter Sunday on the 8th we will meet together at Buzza Tower for our sunrise worship with myself and Canon Peter Walker. At 7 am breakfast will be served in the manse. All are welcome.

At 10:30 we meet in our chapel for our special Easter morning service with Holy Communion and the dressing of the cross with wonderful Isles of Scilly flowers. In the evening our special Easter Celebration Songs of Praise is at 6 pm and is led by myself and our friend from Southend on Sea, the Rev Ray Birch. Refreshments will be served at 7:15 and we are looking forward to welcoming many visitors at this very special act of worship.

Do come over to St Martin's to share in the special Easter Communion at 3 pm in the historic chapel at Signal Rock.

Our Easter services will of course be very much about the Empty Cross which is the sign that reminds us of the gift of Eternal Life which has been won for us by Jesus but it also about how we should live our lives as His Disciples in the world today.

While on his way to Jerusalem Jesus passed through the village of Caesarea Philippi and it was here that Jesus tells his disciples of all that lay ahead of them in Jerusalem. He tells them that he was to be betrayed and arrested and that he would be put to death. This was not what the disciples wanted to hear and Peter in particular makes this very clear to Jesus. It was at this point that Jesus turns to the crowd who had gathered and says to them 'If anyone would come after me they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow'

We of course know the things that Jesus spoke of there in Caesarea Philippi. We know that Jesus was later betrayed by one of his twelve disciples. We know the agony that he faced in the garden of Gethsemane. We know that he was nailed to a cross outside the city walls of Jerusalem. We know the Easter Story of him being raised from the dead by the Almighty Power of God. But Peter at this point knew none of these things.

Peter just like the other disciples for that moment was caught up in all that was happening. He had witnessed the feeding of the five thousand. He had seen the sick being healed in the villages of Galilee and he had been there as the ordinary people of the day came to hear Jesus speak about the promise of the coming of God's Kingdom.

Peter, just like many others, was quite certain that Jesus was about to be welcomed and received as a great prophet and as the one who would bring new hope to the people of Israel. Peter was convinced that Jesus would be acclaimed by the People of Jerusalem as their promised Messiah. And it is this point that, according to the Gospel writers, Peter fiercely argues with Jesus and will just not accept that before them is this way of betrayal, rejection and death.

This was a very important moment for those first followers of Jesus. Indeed some have described this as the turning point in

the Gospel. Little by little, as the disciples get closer to Jerusalem it becomes clear that to follow the way of Jesus would be far from easy. The ways and values of the Kingdom are very different to the ways and values of this world and this is certainly the case in our world today. At times for us to take the way of Jesus will be a tough choice to make. It seems that Jesus was saying to His Disciples that for the Kingdom of God to become a reality sacrifices would need to be made.

Over the years many have pondered these words of Jesus to His disciples there in Caesarea Philippi and they have concluded that if you were to attempt to take the idea of sacrifice out of the Gospel you would have no Gospel to tell and no hope to offer to this world in which we live.

We, it seems, are called to do nothing less than take up our cross and follow. Indeed the Apostle Paul when seeking to bring hope and life in the early days of the church urges the members to live sacrificial lives and says this is the only way they will truly know the will of God. Paul then goes on to explain what this may mean. He speaks of us being devoted to one another in love, about bearing pain and afflictions and the cost in caring and providing for others. These Paul insists are the hall marks of true followers of Jesus.

In the light of our Easter celebrations we are reminded that it will never be easy for us to follow the way of Jesus. For us to take up the cross and follow will often mean that sacrifices have to be made. This may mean us giving sacrificially to resource the mission of our Church. It may mean us taking on tasks that we would rather not be doing and it may well require us making other sacrifices in our day to day lives.

Paul, just like Jesus before him, speaks of a way of life and a way of love that is radically different to the way of this world. He says we are to bless those who persecute us, to rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn. We are never to become proud or conceited in our lives.

The way of Jesus and the cross is not easy. In the days ahead we, His Disciples, will be called to be with others in all the circumstances of life. We will be there with those who mourn, and to weep with those who weep. We will be there to offer support, understanding and care in the face of despair and failure....This is the way of Jesus. This is the way of the cross and this must be the way of our Church.

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is God's way of bringing hope to this world. We will be celebrating this hope at the empty cross on Easter Sunday. We will be living this hope each time we step out in faith and live that 'sacrificial life'

May we never doubt the almighty plan of our Sovereign God. May we know the power of the empty cross of Jesus to bring light in times of darkness and hope in times of despair and may we be truly thankful for our precious faith which makes it possible to take up our cross and to follow the way of Jesus today.

May we be richly blessed this Easter and may this rich blessing continue to be seen in our love of one another. I remain, by the grace of God, your minister on these fine islands for a while.

Charles R Gibbs

## *Can you help?*

At our annual Church meeting in May we will be electing our Church Stewards to serve for the next Methodist Year, starting on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

At present our stewards are Philip Lethbridge, Clare Jenkins, June Lethbridge, Beryl Reid and Sue Williams. It would be wonderful to have another name to help our team of stewards

To find our more please contact one of our stewards or Charlie Gibbs.

This is a good way to serve our local church and an important post to help with the smooth running of our Sunday Services

## **Notes from St.Martins.**

As I write these notes, for the April edition of In Touch, several of our members are taking a break before the holiday season starts. Those of us who remain in Scilly have enjoyed some glorious days. Forget the fog!! Our senses have been stirred and we give thanks for the sound of birdsong, the sight of tulips and wallflowers, the scent of narcissi and the touch of the sun's warmth. A real taste of Spring.

Our weekly services on St. Martins have not been interrupted by winter gales, nor have Charlie's weekly pastoral visits and monthly Fellowship. During the quiet months we have been glad to welcome our Anglican friends and those who sometimes cross from St. Mary's to worship with us. Thank you.

The St. Martins community shared some anxious and sad times with Island folk facing sickness and bereavement in 2011. Sadly 2012 did not get off to a better start. After a long period of illness and treatment, Mary Haley passed away in January. More recently Ian Mitchell lost a young daughter in her twenties and Mary Evans's elderly sister died in Norfolk. We are also aware of the tragic untimely death of Lewis on St. Mary's. Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers remain with those who have lost loved ones and are having to adjust to life without them.

It is now the season of Lent and Easter is on the horizon. May the meaning of Our Lord's resurrection be a source of comfort and inspiration to us all, but particularly to those who are mourning.

Heather Terry.

# **Don't forget!**

Our Spring Circuit meeting is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6 :30 pm. Please contact Rose Didlick our circuit meeting secretary on 422838 so that she can arrange our boating requirements

## **Action For Children**

In the past few weeks our commitment to Action for Children here on St Mary's has become much more obvious to the folks in the local population. Our Minister, the Rev Charlie suggested that we should set up a collection of two pence pieces around the wall of the Chapel. The first few were duly laid down, starting from the front door of the entrance. The idea immediately took off and in no time at all the line had reached the front door of the Chapel! We expect the response to be even greater once the visitors start coming and joining us for worship.

Independently of this June Lethbridge has for a long been making a collection of two pence pieces and she recently gave me a heavy bag full of them. The contents amounted to no less than £5.00!! Furthermore she tells me she has another collection of penny coins she will donate. We have a small bag of coins already, so in due course we will be giving them to Jamie Lee from AFC when he visits us in the summer for the weekend. By then it will certainly be worth giving him the two pence in the Chapel line.

My appeal for help with raising money for the charity has been answered! Heather Terry has kindly offered to take over the task of dealing with the cash. She will therefore be shortly sending a total of £6.00 in 2 ps and £1.00 in 1 ps to Jamie Lee.

Every penny helps!

**Gwen Clarkson**  
**Representative for Action for Children**

## **Christian Aid responds to worsening Sahel hunger crisis**

Now seven million people across five West African countries are facing the spectre of famine within months. Thousands are already on the march, looking for secure food sources. Niger, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mauritania have declared states of emergency and are calling for international assistance.

In response to this, Christian Aid is preparing to focus on those living in the stricken Sahel region. The Sahel is the belt of land just south of the Sahara, about 1000 kilometres wide, and stretching right across the continent, spanning several countries. It is one of the poorest and most environmentally damaged places on earth.

The Sahel includes drought-smitten Mali, which lost 11.8% of total cereal output between 2010 – 2011; Burkina, where an estimated 41.47% of the country will face severe food insecurity, and Niger, where the government fears that more than half of the nation's villages are now running out of basic food, and that more than 5m people are food insecure. Christian Aid is working with other UK agencies through the Sahel Working Group (SWG).

## **Important advance notice**

**sunday 13th May  
12:30**

## **Annual Church Meeting**

After morning worship there will be a "bring and share" lunch. Please speak to Beryl Reid on 422977 so that we can have some idea of numbers. Everyone is welcome at this special time in the life of our Church

## **Christian Witness and worship.**

This inveterate hoarder has been asked to have a grand clear-out of old papers and the job is in hand. It can be a sad but also rewarding activity. There was the discovery that the year 2000 was also the 100th year birthday of the Methodist Church here on St Mary's. I looked up the issue for July which reported on the events, hosted by the Minister, the Revd. Brian Mavers.

In the same month was an article I wrote about the long train journeys which my dear husband Peter and I took from Land's End to John O' Groats and then the ferry to Orkney. Sadly I remember none of it so am glad to read about the highlights. These were the visits we made at every stop to the local places of worship. This meant that we experienced a wide range of ways it is done. Our first call was in Briggflats, where the Society of Friends, the Quakers, met in a very simple room in their early days. We then went in the ancient Norse Cathedral in Kirkwall on Orkney. Since the Reformation the service has followed the practice of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Later coming south we came to the island of Lamholm, where we enjoyed an uplifting insight. During the Second World War it was inhabited by Italian prisoners of war, living in Nissen huts. Naturally they wanted to practise their Catholic faith.

Two decrepit huts were transformed with simple materials to make a chancel of great beauty. It has now become a place of pilgrimage and the Mass is celebrated every first Sunday in the month throughout the summer.

Coming south to the New Forest we took the chance to go in the ancient Romsey Abbey Church--- a huge Cathedral -like building. To our shame we rarely went inside when living in the area for nearly thirty years!

We had a full commitment to the neighbouring Abbey United Reformed Church, with the style and worship in which I had been reared. On our last Sunday away I was taken to the Gospel Hall in Cheddar. We sang from Mission

Praise to the accompaniment of piano and harmonium--- a powerful combination! My denominational journey was completed with a visit to the Gwennap Pit with our dear friend William Hall. The little chapel next to the Pit, the treasure of Methodism where John Wesley preached, is still tended by local Methodists.

Such a variety of Christian witness and also of worship experienced and seen in our fortnight away and by no means the complete range of the possibilities. There came an appreciation of the commitment of ordinary men and women to our Lord Jesus Christ and to His service in so many ways.

It would be really rewarding if members of our congregations here in Scilly could record for us their experiences when visiting other churches elsewhere and especially if the style of worship is different from ours!

**Gwen Clarkson.**

### **All Fool's Day**

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve's Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula : 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

## **The many names of CHRIST**

To the ARTIST he is the One Altogether Lovely.

To the ARCHITECT he is the Chief Corner Stone.

To the BAKER he is the Living Bread.

To the BANKER he is the Hidden Treasure.

To the BIOLOGIST he is the Life.

To the BUILDER he is the Sure Foundation.

To the CARPENTER he is the Door.

To the DOCTOR he is the Great Physician.

To the EDUCATOR he is the Great Teacher.

To the ENGINEER he is the New and Living Way.

To the FLORIST he is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley.

To the FARMER he is the Good Shepherd.

To the FRIGHTENED and HELPLESS he is a very present Help in Trouble.

To the GEOLOGIST he is the Rock of Ages.

To the HORTICULTURIST he is the True Vine.

To the JUDGE he is the Righteous Judge, Judge of All Men.

To the JEWELER he is the Pearl of Great Price.

To the LAWYER he is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate.

To the NEWSPAPER he is the Good Tidings of Great Joy.

To the OPTICIAN he is the Light of the Eyes.

To the PHILANTHROPIST he is the Unspeakable Gift.

To the PHILOSOPHER he is the Wisdom of God.

To the PREACHER he is the Word of God.

To the SCULPTOR he is the Living Stone.

To the SERVANT he is the Good Master.

To the STATESMAN he is the Desire of All Nations.

To the STUDENT he is the Incarnate Truth.

To the THEOLOGIAN he is the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

To the TOILER he is the Giver of Rest.

To the SINNER he is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the World.

To the CHRISTIAN he is the Son of the Living God, the Savior, the Redeemer and the Lord.

To me...he is all of this. He is my everything, my Saviour, my King, my God.

What is he to you?

## A Fish's Life

A tank of fishes tropical  
In my doctor's waiting room  
Starts conversations topical  
As folk's appointments loom.

'Those fish – their life's agreeable,'  
Muses Bert (he's got a cold),  
'They're warm, they're clean, they're comfortable,  
'They've all struck piscine gold!'

'You're right, they want for nothing,'  
Says backache sufferer Bill,  
'They've fish food for the stuffing,  
'And they are never ill!'

Poor Sid, his problem's snoring,  
(His wife can't bear the sound),  
Says 'Surely it is boring,  
'Just swimming round and round?'

Sniffs Bert, 'I fear you're wrong,  
'I hope you will forgive,  
'You see, their memory's not that long,  
'In fact, it's like a sieve!'

Then a goldfish, name of Eric,  
Shed a watery little tear,  
And said to his friend Derek,  
'That's Bert's sixth visit here.'

*By Nigel Beeton*



"I agree, Vicar, the church's bats problem is getting worse – all that high-frequency squeaking is interfering with my iPod."

## Women's World Day of Prayer

The theme of this years' service was "Let justice Prevail" and was prepared by the women of Malaysia.

Our opening greeting was Malaysian meaning peace and welcome. This is a daily reminder that the harmony of a nation is rooted in peace and welcome to all peoples of all faiths. Fair and just governance is the basis for peace and harmony in the social order. However this is undermined by corruption and greed. It is distorted when voices for justice and truth are silenced. Do we engage or stay neutral? We heard that God calls us to be righteous citizens of our country. So we do have a role to play by speaking out against all forms of injustice. Here is the challenge for us. With readings from Habakkuk and St Luke's Gospel the plight of injustice and our dependence on God to ensure justice does prevail was explored.

What are today's injustices?

In our diverse world with its gaps between rich and poor between power and powerless we are challenged to demonstrate in word and action our faith in a liberating God who will act with judgement against those exercise power unjustly.

If the world were a village of 100 people

80 would live in poor housing

67 would be unable to read

50 would go hungry

7 would have access to the internet

24 would not have electricity

1 would go to university

33 would not have safe water to drink

We may have the same complaint as Habakkuk so we must do as he did and bring them before God, ask questions and seek the answers. We must consider the message that God gave Habakkuk and recognise God's long term plans and purposes. In his time, in his way he will reveal the answers that we seek.

**Birthday Greetings** this month go to

Barbara Hasler, Steve Morris, Jenny, Gwen and Elisabeth Tanner.

Happy birthday to you  
To Jesus be true  
God bless you and keep you  
Happy Birthday to you.

### **Letter to God**

A Sunday School teacher invited her children to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

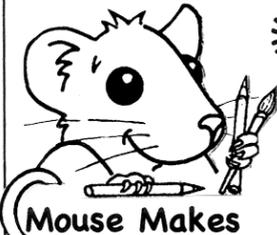
### **On the same note....**

On Monday morning in school the children were telling their news. One girl looked at her teacher and said

'I went to Church on Sunday'

'That was nice 'replied her teacher' Which one did you go to?'

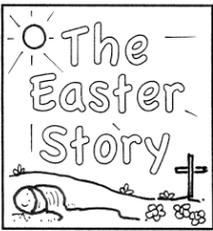
'The one with God in it' came the reply!



**Mouse Makes**

Jesus Christ is risen today!  
our triumphant holy day,  
who did once upon the cross  
suffer to redeem our loss.

Sing we to our God above  
praise eternal as his love,  
for the Lord from death is raised  
Father, Spirit, Son be praised!  
**ALLELUIA!**

**The Easter Story**



**Into Jerusalem**  
Luke 19:28-48



**The Last Supper**  
Luke 22:7-38

glue to 'Betrayed'



**Betrayed**  
Luke 22:1-3, 39-53



**Condemned**  
Luke 22:54-23:25



**Crucified**  
Luke 23:26-49

glue to 'Buried'



**Buried**  
Luke 23:50-56

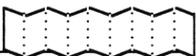


**Risen**  
Luke 24:1-12



**Jesus is Alive!**  
Luke 24:13-53

**Make a mini Easter book:** Cut out the strips, glue them together then zig-zag fold along the dotted lines.



Apr12

## **Diary Dates**

### **April**

4<sup>th</sup> Last lunch for Christian Aid in parish Church Hall

17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Meeting at 6.30 pm

### **May**

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Meeting- 12.30 Bring and share lunch following the morning service. Please speak to Beryl on 422977 to give her some idea of numbers

## **Letter to God**

A Sunday School teacher invited her children to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

## **On the same note....**

On Monday morning in school the children were telling their news. One girl looked at her teacher and said 'I went to Church on Sunday'

'That was nice 'replied her teacher' Which one did you go to?'

'The one with God in it' came the reply!

## **Editorial Team**

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**Any contributions will be gratefully received** *The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe*

## PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030 or Revd. Charles Gibbs 422406. I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

**Mervyn & Stephanie Bird**      **423117**  
Sue Williams                      422605  
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  
Pamela Thomas                  423115  
June Lethbridge                  422404

**Beryl Read**                              **422977**  
Peter Laverock                    423692  
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 NOTICES

### St. Mary's

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Children's Church
	11.am	Baker/ Mary Ratcliffe
Park Hse	4pm	Barbara Hasler
8th	10.30am	Charlie Gibbs
		Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.0pm	Charlie Gibbs/ Rev Ray Birch
		Songs of Praise
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Leader: Beryl Read
		Preacher: Barbara Hasler
	11.00am	Trevor Adams
	6 pm	David Pender
23 <sup>2nd</sup>	9.15	Leader: Mervyn Bird
		Preacher:Neil Didlick
	11.00	Revd. Charles Gibbs
	6pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs
29 <sup>th</sup>	9.15	Leader: Neil Didlick
		Preacher: . Charles Gibbs
		Sacrament of Holy Communion
	11.00	Revd. Bolt
		Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6pm	Trevor Adams

### St. Martin's

1 <sup>st</sup>	3.00pm:	Revd. Charles Gibbs/ Rev Ray Baker
8 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm :	Revd. Charles Gibbs
		Sacrament of Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am:	Revd. Charles Gibbs
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00	Mary Ratcliffe
29 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs