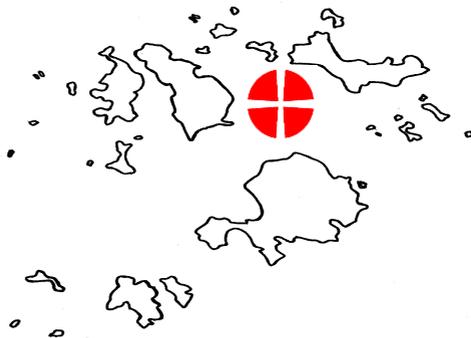


Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

In Touch

April 2013

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 receive this edition of In Touch magazine, things will be in full swing here on the Isles of Scilly. Our hotels, holiday lets and guest houses are ready to receive this year's visitors, our boatmen are at the quay to transport both regular and new visitors to the tranquillity of our off islands, and in our Methodist Chapels on St. Mary's and St. Martin's we are looking forward once again to welcoming distant friends to be with us again in worship.

This month, we have some very special friends visiting these islands and our churches. The Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest is sending a deputation to Scilly, and they will be here from the 11th to the 13th of April. This is the 'Seaman's Mission' of the Methodist Church, and has been in the front line in caring for seamen since it was established in 1843. Based in the East End of London, this important part of our Methodist family seeks to offer help to seamen from all nations. On the evening of Friday 12th April, there will be an opportunity to meet with them on St. Mary's, so be sure not to miss the chance to hear more about this important part of our Methodist Mission.

Later this month the World Gig Racing Championship is again being held on Scilly. St. Mary's will be full of international visitors, there will be excitement throughout the weekend, and our church hall on St. Mary's will be providing accommodation for young rowers from the mainland who will be hoping to be cheered on with much acclaim by the huge crowds who will be on our islands for this spectacular event. In a small kind of way, those who are on the winning team become celebrities for a while; they will receive trophies, their pictures will be in the papers, and for a while they will be honoured and respected by those who have witnessed their achievement in crossing the raging seas in a gig.

Yes, being acclaimed by others makes us feel good; being seen as a celebrity is the great aim of many, and this is not just true of the fine young men and women who put so much effort into the

wonderful sport of gig racing, but is equally true in almost all areas of our lives. Yes, it is true; we love the praise and acclaim of others on almost every aspect of our lives.

Each day we read in our papers and we are confronted by the media with countless images of those who deserve our praise and acclaim. Entertainers, actors, comedians and writers are held before us as celebrities, and we are encouraged to celebrate their achievements. Our business leaders, our politicians and that endless list of sports personalities are constantly placed before us that we may worship their achievements and their commitment, and their lifestyles. We say "look at what they have achieved"; we seek to be like them, and we encourage our children and our grandchildren to be obsessed by these images of success and worldly acclaim.

In St. John's gospel, there is a very moving story of Jesus being in the city of Jerusalem at the time of an important religious festival. Many top people had come to the city for this grand event, and the top men of religion were very evident in the temple courts. These men were proud of their position in Jewish society, and they were held in high acclaim by many in the holy city of Jerusalem.

John tells of how Jesus, instead of being found among the social elite of His day, goes to a back street where the poor beggars of the city would meet, hidden away from those who loved nothing more than the acclaim of others. It is here that Jesus heals a poor beggar who had been crippled by his illness for thirty eight years, and as we read on we find that this happened on the Jewish Sabbath. This brings Jesus into conflict with the elite religious leaders of His day; a great debate then takes place in the temple courts. His accusers seem blind to the God-given authority of Jesus, and instead see Him as nothing more than a threat to their lifestyle, their position and standing in that close-knit community. Jesus says to them **"How can you believe if you seek the praise of others, yet make no effort to seek the praise which comes only from God?"**

Yes, there is a tragic ring from this sad story of conflict. Because of their pride, and because of their blindness to the purpose of Almighty God, those who should have welcomed Jesus as their promised saviour instead fail to see their need, and they conclude that they have no need to believe in the one who had been sent to be the Saviour of the world.

The picture that John brings before us is a very sad one, to say the least. Those intelligent men of religion who argue with Jesus were greatly respected in that exclusive community in the holy city of Jerusalem, and they were held in high esteem by those in the towns and villages of Judea. They, unlike the 'sinners and outcasts' they so despised, took the highest places in that close-knit society; they were held in much acclaim by others, and they were at the very top of the social ladder. Yet, because of their high standing, and because they knew the respect of so many, they could see no good of salvation, no need of repentance, and no need whatsoever of receiving Jesus as the one sent by God to be the Saviour of the World.

There are many obstacles to our journey through life that may stop us from truly seeking to please our sovereign God. There is much in this world that may make us blind to our need of the Gospel, and there are countless reasons why we may deny our need of God's saving grace to us in Jesus. But, as Jesus reminded those proud men of Jerusalem, what others may say of us, in what acclaim we are held in our community, and the praise of others, can so often be a great barrier to us seeking to know the praise of God.

Yes, in today's world of celebrity culture the dangers are clear. Each day we are encouraged to celebrate the human achievements of others, we find security in wealth and in prestige, and we can find much satisfaction from our standing and status in the community. But, where is the Gospel in all of this? Where is our relationship with God and our need for salvation, and do we ever stop to think about living a life that is pleasing to God?

Yes, as we read the Gospels, we cannot fail to see the great impact that Jesus had upon the ordinary people of His day. Large crowds flocked to hear him speak about the kingdom of heaven; He reached out with good news and healing to those who were cast aside by others. He shared meals with those described as sinners, publicans and tax collectors, and He even went to the despised people of Samaria to tell them of God's great gift of grace and mercy. Those whose lives were touched by Jesus may not have found acclaim with others, but they did learn much about the promised gift of life eternal.

The Methodist Circuit here on Scilly is the smallest in Britain; in the winter months our fellowship is very close-knit as we might expect in a tiny island community such as this, but we must always remember that there is nothing 'exclusive' about the Gospel which we have received. Even here on these remote islands this Gospel still had the power to touch and transform lives! This Gospel does not recognise distinctions or differences, is not bound by status or class, and all that we have we will always long to share with others.

Here on the Isles of Scilly, as in so many other parts of Britain today, we see many who no longer feel the need to worship our gracious God. Sunday for many is no longer 'The Lord's Day'; instead we go shopping, we seek to be entertained by those in high acclaim, or we flock to celebrate with others at the Gig Racing Championships, or at the countless other events that make the perfect Sunday for so many. Yes, the results are clear for all to see. We may hold the achievements of others in high regard, but we see little need to give thanks to God for His saving grace to us in Jesus. We could say more, but we all know the facts; the evidence is there before us, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ on these islands has never before witnessed such a denial of our precious Christian faith.

Yes, the Gospel is for the good and the bad; it is for the attractive and the ugly, and it is for the rich and the poor. Or, as John puts it at the start of his gospel 'For all those who believe in His name!'

Some have said that there has never been a time when human achievement has been so highly acclaimed, and there has never been a time when the faith of our church has been so sidelined and marginalised in our community.

Jesus said, "**How can you believe if you seek the praise of others, yet make no effort to know the praise of God!**" Yes, at the start of our season of welcoming visitors to our fine islands, the challenge is clear. The more we seek the praise of others, the less we will seek the praise of God, and the more we seek to please those around us, the less we are likely to please our sovereign God.

I remain, by the grace of our Lord, the Methodist minister on these beautiful islands for a while

Charles R Gibbs

News from St. Martins

As is to be expected in January, February and March, those of us crossing from St. Marys to worship on St. Martins have had a few trips in heavy weather this winter, a particular case in point being Mothering Sunday. However no services have been cancelled, and our thanks are extended to the boatmen who have turned out when their inclinations might have been otherwise. In addition to Rev. C. Gibbs, David Pender, Mike King, Len Michell, Beryl Read and Rev. S. Wild, St. Martin's folk have been happy to have other members from St. Marys join them on occasion and are appreciative of this support.

A visit to Scilly from the Chairman of the Cornwall district is always a time when the "Scilly outpost" feels closer to our fellow Methodists in the chapels of Cornwall. Although Steve Wild couldn't bring his projector to St. Martins he was able to show us some computer pictures of Bray Chapel and the

congregation there. He gave a lively account of how their membership has flourished since one young mother asked for her child to be baptised before it finally closed as a place of worship. The story was one of encouragement and a fine example of the Holy Spirit at work in a small community.

The week following Steve Wild's visit David Pender brought his fiancée Bella to St. Martins for the morning service. Along with Pattie and Andy, we were all glad to share their happiness and witness the engagement blessing given by Charlie.

When possible David has been a faithful attender at St. Martins and has led worship a few times. We wish him and Bella all that is good in the years ahead.

Worship on Mothering Sunday was at the Anglican Church when Canon Paul Miller and Mrs Mary Ratcliffe took the service, with Natalie Williams and Jackie Perkins reading the lessons. Jake and Isabella ably assisted Paul with the tribute to mothers and distribution of flowers. A good congregation ensured that the singing in the round of "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" made a pleasing sound for Our Lord.

The announcement about St. Martins Hotel going into liquidation obviously has serious loss of income implications for many on the Island, including young families. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who feel insecure about the future. Similarly we are conscious that Graham Thomas, Roy (Cuth) Stevens, Edna Goddard, Terry Perkins, Gladys Perkins and Rodney Ashford are experiencing health issues right now and we uphold them through trying times.

Chris and Chris have returned safely from a wonderful holiday in New Zealand and we are thankful for that. I think the raw easterly winds came as a bit of a shock when they reached Penzance and Scilly!! As we prepare to mark the sadness and confusion of Good Friday followed by the joy of Easter Day, may we all be renewed in the love of our Lord Jesus.

Heather Terry

Letter from Isobella Pratt

Dear Members of the St Mary's Circuit

What an honour it was to meet you all on my first visit to the beautiful Isles of Scilly recently. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome I received and for making mine and David Pender's engagement weekend so memorable. You made my first trip to the Isles of Scilly really enjoyable.

David and I are most appreciative of all your prayers, cards, kind comments and gifts.

Getting engaged to David has truly been one of the happiest moments in my life and I want to thank everyone for making the occasion such a success in every sense of the word.

Above all, thanks be to God for blessing David and I with each other and his promise for our future life together. In God we trust that he shall grant our hearts' desire. We both look forward to getting married in December and as we continue to pray for you, we would appreciate your continuing prayers for us as we begin the preparations for our wedding in December.

Thank you very much and God Bless!

Isobella Pratt

We were all delighted to meet Bella on her recent visit and wish her and David every happiness

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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*

Important advance notice

Annual Church Meeting

**Sunday 28th April
12 noon**

The Annual Church Meeting is an open meeting, which means that anyone can come and ask questions or bring suggestions for the development of our Methodist Mission on St Mary's.

Our minister will give a report on the past year and share a vision for the coming year. We will elect our Church Stewards and reps to serve on our Council. Both positions are to serve from September. We are seeking nominations. Please give names to Charlie by 25th April. All members are welcome to stand. At the meeting we will also be deciding which causes to donate the monies from our tithing scheme (from Sept 2011- Sept 2012).

A bring and share lunch will be served at 1:15pm

Everyone is welcome at this special time in the life of our Church.

Please come along to support the church.

See next page for some thoughts from our minister to be shared at this meeting

We give thanks for all that is past and trust God for all that is to come

At our St. Mary's Annual Church Meeting we pause to reflect upon last year, and to consider the challenges which lay before us in the year to come.

Throughout the year we have maintained three acts of worship each Sunday; we have continued to meet mid-week in fellowship meetings, and we have met each Monday to offer our prayers to our Sovereign God. These things are testimony to the fact that we still believe that our common belief in the Gospel is a sign of our unity, and a sign of our precious Christian faith.

Our pastoral committee has met to distribute membership tickets to our 54 members, and a further 60 tickets of fellowship have been distributed to those with connections to our church.

Our minister continues to work closely with our hospital in his role as Hospital Chaplain, and he continues to visit the homes of the elderly and house-bound to offer care and support. In addition to this, members of our church visit people at home to show our care in the community and each month we meet at our Park House Residential Home to lead worship and meet with the residents.

Our work with children and young people is still an important part of our mission as a church. We give thanks for the excellent work of Vicki and Merryn Smith with our Children's church, and the encouragement they give each Sunday with their work with children. Again we had a wonderful Holiday Club for the children in the summer, and the number of children coming along to Sunday Seekers has been very good, and we thank Gordon Bird and his team of helpers for this wonderful work with our island children. In addition to this, we give thanks that our minister is able to go into our island school and lead assemblies and get to know the children. Jenny Nightingale has been visiting St. Mary's each month in her work with young people, and we rejoice that the Youth Alpha Course set up by her has been so successful, and we thank Lynn Miller for helping

to lead these very important evenings for our young people. All these things are signs of our commitment to further work with children, young people and families on St. Mary's.

In February we were visited by the Vice President of the Methodist Church Mike King, and his wife Isobel. Mike has written and spoken nationally about the very warm welcome they received here on Scilly; they were encouraged by the vision we have of sharing our faith in this small island community. On the Sunday evening of their visit, Mike was able to share with us his work in the world-wide Methodist Church, and to encourage us to grasp the challenge of engaging with those living in places very different to this. It is our hope, and indeed part of our vision, to help in any way we can, and to engage with the world-wide work of our church.

In the weeks before Christmas we held a lantern making workshop in our church hall. We were amazed by the number of people who came to join us. This was linked with our church Facebook page, and the comments we received have been very positive. We thank Rose and Neil for this visionary way of us seeking to be the church on these islands, and we pray that in the days ahead we shall be able to build on these crucial links we now have with the wider community.

On the lead up to Easter, we were able to show the film 'The Passion of Christ'. Again, this was an attempt to connect with the wider community. These are examples of new ventures which we hope and pray will feed into the ongoing work with children and families mentioned above. All of these things are a step in the right direction; they are a vital sign that we really do want to share our precious Christian faith, and that we do care for this island community.

In March next year we shall hold a 'Lay Witness' weekend. In the build up to this, Mike Owens has made two visits to St. Mary's, and has appointed members of our church to work towards this important time. These weekends have proved very helpful in building up the church in every way, and we are thankful to Mary Ratcliffe and her team of helpers, who will be keeping us in touch with the plans and encouraging everyone to

grasp this opportunity to work together as the Church of Christ on these islands. This I believe will be an important time in the life and mission of our church.

Some have remarked that the number of visitors to St. Mary's is a little down on what it once had been. This is reflected in the lower numbers at our Monday and Friday slide show evenings, but those who have come have enjoyed what we offer. In particular, we thank June and Philip Lethbridge, who each year produce new pictures for the summer season.

Despite the fact that there have been fewer visitors to the islands, we have still welcomed many visitors to our three acts of worship each Sunday. The evening Songs of Praise services have proved very popular with visitors, and we thank Len Michel for playing the same old hymns which always seem to be requested. Over the summer months at 9pm we always provide refreshments at the manse for visitors; this has proved to be very popular and we thank those who help with this and make time to speak with our summer visitors; it really does mean a lot to them.

In September we had a gift day, which brought in the staggering amount of over £4000 (from memory). Some of this money was sent by those who receive our 'In Touch' newsletter on the mainland. This monthly magazine is very important in our outreach with copies placed in the health centre, hospital, and various other places around the island. We give thanks to Anne Gurr, Val Parker and Mary Ratcliffe for their superb work in publishing this on time every month, and to Gwen Clarkson, who is in charge of mainland distribution.

Over the past year, David Pender and Mary Ratcliffe have been working hard studying to become accredited as Methodist Local Preachers. Both have received good marks in their written work which is sent away to London, and we thank John Hogarth, who is their very able tutor, and also Barbara, Len, Neil, and Gordon who have offered such encouragement to our two new preachers.

Over the year we have welcomed many visiting preachers, and in particular I mention professor Peter Stephens, who has made several visits, and will be with us again later in the year. Peter is a past President of the Methodist Church and past Bishop of our church in the Gambia. We give thanks for his offers of help to our church

Our property committee have met to put in place a scheme of ongoing maintenance, and report that the building is in good shape, apart from ongoing decoration. We thank our committee for all they do, and in particular we thank Martin Parker for renovating and repairing our noticeboards earlier this year. At present we are seeking quotes for the painting and repair of external wood work and the guttering. The boilers have been service, and all electrical items passed as fit for purpose.

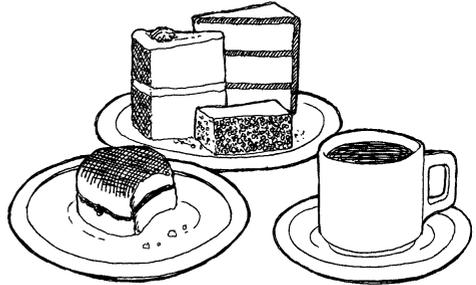
Our finance committee presented the accounts for the year ending August 2012 to our church council, and they have been checked by an accountant. Despite the great generosity of those who contribute to the work of the church on an ongoing weekly basis, we all know that the contributions to church funds made by visitors is still vital in helping us meet our ever-increasing costs. This year at our Annual Church Meeting we shall be looking at the monies to be given to other good causes from our freewill offerings made between September 2011 and August 2012, as agreed at our 2012 AGM. We thank Sue Williams for her work in serving us as our church treasurer.

Over the past year our minister has conducted five baptisms, one wedding, one wedding blessing and nine funerals.

We thank God for all that is past, and we trust in Him for all that is to come.

Action For Children

We are having a grand fund-raising day for our Methodist children's charity on Monday April 1st (not a Fool's day, we trust!). We shall be in the Methodist Hall from 10am until 4pm, with books, coffee, tea and other refreshments on sale. We hope that lots of friends will make an effort to spend time and money with us during the day.



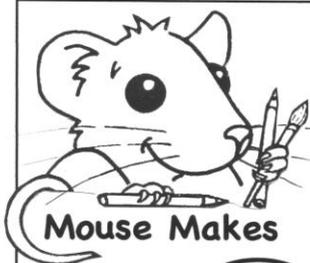
Many books in excellent condition will be laid out, according to their subject, on large tables at the end of the hall and will be on sale very cheaply! We have a large stock of books which we need to sell, so please, do not bring any more to add to the pile!

A quite different situation applies to our food and drinks supply. We shall need help during the Coffee Morning from 10am when we shall serve biscuits with the drinks. From noon onwards we shall be having one of our Bring and Share Luncheons of light salads, cheeses etc, when we hope many will want to join us. Then during the afternoon it will be tea and coffee with cakes or biscuits. Again hopefully all provided by our supporters!

Please make an effort to come to the hall during the day and spend time and money in support of this most important charity, sadly much still needed in this country.

Gwen Clarkson

Representative for Action for Children



What is your most valuable treasure?

The bible tells us that the most valuable thing you can ever have is something that can **NEVER** be lost, broken or stolen.

The most **valuable** thing you can have is to be **friends with God** through Jesus.

Read: Matthew 6:19-21

Keep my words, treasure up my commands
Prov 7:1

Do not store up treasures on earth
Matt 6:19

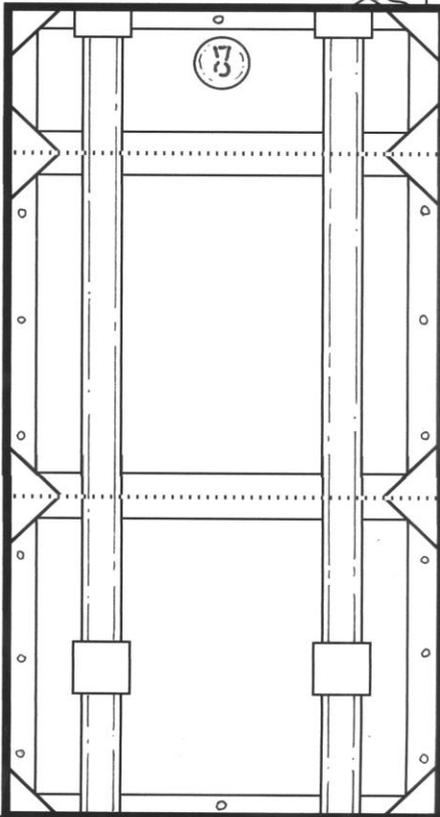
Your **HEART** will be where your riches are
Matt 6:21

In **Christ** are hidden all the **treasures** of **wisdom** and **understanding**
Col 2:3

Be **RICH** in good deeds
1 Tim 6:18

Be **generous** givers
1 Tim 6:18

Cut out these coins. Cut out the treasure box and fold along the dotted lines. Glue the coins inside the box



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.

Uganda child development fun

Teddies for Uganda

With many thanks to our small band of knitters and to Mary Barnes who makes a bag for each of the teddies, we were able to send a goodly number off to U.C.D.F. At the end of 2012. We have now received many lovely photos of happy children cuddling their bears. In its bag it is often the only item they can ever claim as theirs alone. Sadly we have not yet sent enough for each child to have one and they still have to share

. . . So, we still need to be knitting! More teddies will be going away from here soon.



Please look at these lovely pictures, mounted on a huge sheet of paper and displayed on the wall of the Methodist hall. New knitters will be much appreciated; also any offers of spare wool however lacking in length – It takes very little of each colour to knit a teddy.

Gwen Clarkson

Diary Dates

April

28th 12.00 Annual Church Meeting following the morning service with a bring and share lunch at 1:15.

May

1st Gig weekend. We are serving cakes and sandwiches on the quay. All offers of help and / or cakes will be gratefully received. Please bring cakes to the manse on Friday or straight to the quay on Saturday.

Urgent appeal from minister

Can you help? We need someone to serve as a church steward. As a steward you will be part of a team that helps to make sure that our chapel is ready to welcome all on a Sunday. If you think that you may be able to serve as a steward in our church please do come and speak either with me (422406) or with our senior Steward Philip Lethbridge (422404).

Please do consider this appeal, as appointments will be made at the Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 28th April.

Have you ever wondered....

- ~ Are clones people two?
- ~ Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?
- ~ Why is it that night falls, but day breaks?
- ~ Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple?
- ~ Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's a cargo?

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 Bird 422550

Sonia Crompton 422854

Barbara Hasler **422208**

Margaret Crane 422596

Len & Sylvia Michell 422409

Pamela Thomas 423115

June Lethbridge 422404

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 NOTICES

St Mary's

7 th	9.15 11.00am 4.00pm	Childrens Church Revd. Charlie Gibbs Barbara Hasler <i>PARK HOUSE</i>
14 th	9.15am 11.00am 6.00pm	Neil Didlick Mervyn Bird Revd. Trevor Adams Revd. Charlie Gibbs
21 st	9.15am 11.00 am 6.00pm	Neil Didlick Revd Charlie Gibbs <i>Communion</i> Barbara Hasler Revd. Charlie Gibbs <i>Communion</i>
28 th	9.15am. 11.00am 6.00pm	Len Michel Beryl Read Revd. Charlie Gibbs Revd. Charlie Gibbs <i>Communion</i>

St Martin's

7 th	3.00pm	Revd. Charlie Gibbs
14 th	11.00am	Revd. Charlie Gibbs
21 st	3:00pm	Revd. Charlie Gibbs <i>Communion</i>
28 th	11:00am	Mary Ratcliffe