

Isles of Scilly



In Touch

Methodist Church Circuit
April May 2017

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Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Jane Willcock 422406

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Mr Gordon Bird, Mr Christopher Savill

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Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 422563

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Church Stewards St. Mary's

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Mr Phillip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read

Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Leigh Kendrick

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Property Secretary

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

Some thoughts from the St. Mary's Manse

As I'm writing this Lent is approaching – Pancake Day, Ash Wednesday and then forty days – of what? Fasting, misery, giving up?

No, I don't think so! In the Christian church Lent is a season, like Advent, when we're called to "get ready" to "prepare." If any of you have ever had to arrange a wedding, or wait for the arrival of a baby you know that you don't leave things to the last moment and suddenly "spring into action." Most of the hard work is done ahead of time, in the preparation.

It's just the same in the church – Christmas and Easter are great celebrations but, in order to enter fully into the joy of them we need to be ready, we need to prepare.

When I was in school, which, I have to admit, was a school specifically for Methodist Minister's daughters, we clearly had a very skewed idea of the meaning of Lent. If anyone offered us chocolates, sweets, anything which we thought we ought to "give up~" we would take it, put it in a shoe box and keep it so we could feast on Easter Day!! Hardly the spirit of sacrificial abstinence. And maybe it was that experience which put me off the idea of "giving up" and selecting rather to "take up" something worthwhile.

It seems to me that one of the best things we can take up if we don't already do it and improve on if we do, is a daily reading of the Bible. The Methodist Church has designated June as "Bible Month" when all our congregations are going to focus on the letter of James for private study as well as public worship.

This morning as I was listening to Radio Cornwall's Sunday Programme Bishop Chris, the Bishop of St. Germans, was

talking about an initiative being promoted by himself and Bishop Tim in which they encourage us, during Lent, to find another person and together read the Bible each week. To read, listen and talk over what the Bible says. There's a booklet available with six Bible passages to study. If you are interested you can contact the Diocesan Office in Truro or look online at:-

www.trurodiocese.org.uk/in2thebible

It is also a joy to be able to take part in the various events to be shared between our Churches in the Islands from Ash Wednesday throughout Lent and Easter. I do encourage you to share in whichever you can so that, together, we can prepare ourselves for both the sorrow of Good Friday and, most of all, the joy of Easter Day.

God bless you at this most amazing time of year – and do enjoy your pancakes!

Jane
X

Lent and Easter Events

Lent lunches: every Wednesday 12:00 – 1:30

Lent Bible Study: Every Friday in Pavilion 7:30

Easter Sunday: 6:30 service on the Buzza followed by breakfast at the Manse at 7am

News from St Martin's

We have enjoyed all the traditional Christmas celebrations with family and friends. On Saturday Dec 17th we entertained the local children at the annual Christmas party in the reading room, which was expertly organised by Heather and her not so little helpers. The games were followed by a tasty tea prepared by all the ladies. The arrival of Father Christmas was a fitting end to the fun and we raised £155 for the Methodist charity Action for Children.

On Sunday the 18th Rev Jane led our worship at our popular Carol service, when we remember the real message of Christmas. The children, as ever read beautifully, and carols were sung with passion. We were also entertained to musical numbers so ably preformed by Piran, Sophie, Milly and Rosie. An amazing £308 was collected for the Save the Children Fund for their Yemen appeal.

The carol singing on Christmas Eve was well supported, with almost as many singers as folk to sing to! We are so lucky to have our very own "local preacher" and It was lovely to be able to worship on Christmas Day, thanks to Chris.

Some of us were able to join the St Mary's congregation on New Year's Day, having stayed over. There was understandably no boating.

On Dec 20th Gladys Perkins celebrated her 90th birthday, with her extended family including husband Derek, 3 children (and spouses), 4 grand children and 4 great grandchildren. Gladys is very much a 'real' Scillonian and proud of her roots. One of her Gibson ancestors was instrumental in the building of our Chapel. More recently her Uncle Wilfred Christopher was a local preacher and organist. Gladys was married in Chapel and has worshipped here all her life. Her more recent project to raise funds through a photo exhibition in the Sunday School has been very successful.

A lady with passion for 'her island' Gladys has represented St. Martin's as a councilor for many years, and is most concerned that we may end up with only one per off island. She has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for us all, which has included being chairperson of St. Martin's school governors; chairperson of the Reading room Committee (overseeing the building of a new extension) and setting up and running the initial 'island group' to market our tourist industry.

Throughout all Gladys has helped run the family flower farm with Derek, and it would be a shock to discover how many flowers she has tied over the decades. Along with her faith her family have been the centre of her life and it was so good to have most of them join her to celebrate this special birthday. There were musical and poetic serenades at her party as a mark of respect and love. We wish her health and happiness.

We were blessed with the company of both Canon Piran Gaye and Rev Jane to celebrate our Covenant Service held in January. It is always good to revisit what is probably one of the most important times in our Christian year, when we reflect on Gods promises and our own commitments.

Val Thomas

News from St Mary's

Christmas has come and gone and we are well into the New Year. It was lovely to welcome Vicky Smith back for the holidays and hear all her news.

We wish Anne a speedy recovery. Mary Ratcliffe has settled into her life at Cambridge and she has had excellent news about her health.

Sadly Joe Fairburn passed away on 15th February. His funeral was on 25th February. Joe first came to the Islands in 1968 when he came on holiday with his wife Flo and daughter Valerie. He decided that he wanted to live here when he retired and was able to realise this ambition in 1977 when he retired from the Civil Service.

On moving here, Joe and Flo ran a guest house for a number of years. They both attended the Chapel on St Mary's and Joe used his talents as a Chartered Accountant to be Church Treasurer, a role he performed for many years.

He took the collection for many years too and many holiday makers will remember his friendly greetings and thanks for their offerings. Over the years he took his turn with projector for the slide shows and supported Flo with the At Home afternoons by providing transport for those who needed it.

Joe and Flo strongly believed in expressing their Christian faith through a life of service to others. Joe felt privileged to live on the Islands and wanted to put back into the Community. He was treasurer for various organizations, in particular for the funding raising for the new Health Centre. Once he moved to Old Town and had a car again, he was a hospital driver and would frequently stop on his way around the island to offer people lifts. His quiet, steady and friendly approach to life will be missed.

Valerie and Martin would like to thank all those who have supported them through prayers, cards and practical means not only in his last days but also in his later years.

During Lent, the Hunger lunches will be taking place every Wednesday 12:00 noon until 1:30 starting on 1st March. The first ones are in the Parish Church Hall.

Collection plate, church envelopes, gift aid envelopes amounted to £1,122.50.

Standing orders into our bank account. £235

Under new rules, we can claim gift aid on everything that is an offering to the church.

Valerie Parker

**GRAVESTONE CLEANING SERVICE
IN RETURN FOR A MODEST
DONATION TO
ST. MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH**

Scrubbing/cleaning headstone including weeding - £10.00
Painting lettering where appropriate - £5.00

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In January the above advertisement launched a Grave Cleaning project on St. Mary's in return for donations to the Methodist Church funds.

This is an extension of a long standing hobby and a service which is already appealing to the community.

It has got off to a promising start with an average of one new job each week which, taking into account the restraints of the winter weather, is manageable.

The work is recorded with 'before' and 'after' photographs and families are often amazed when they see what a transformation has been achieved. In some cases, graves have been untouched for decades and these can present a real, but welcome, challenge.

The project is also serving as outreach in the community as people observe the ongoing work in the Churchyard and are interested to ask about this Church based service.

Please continue to support the work with your prayers and by sharing the details with your friends and neighbours. For anyone based on the mainland who might be interested the contact details are:

**Revd. Jane Willcock – 01720 422406**

**Barbara James – 01720 422674**

## **Women's World Day of Prayer: The Philippines**

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services were held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on that day, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan – named locally as 'Yolanda' – struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears.

The service focuses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes. Why not find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service? The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service.

This year the service took place in the Chapel Hall on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2:00 pm.

## **Mothering Sunday**

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day. This year on 26<sup>th</sup> March, the Mothering Sunday Service was in the Parish Church at 11:00 am.

**Report on General Church Meeting  
held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
regarding Finance.**

It is always with a sinking heart that I approach "finance meetings" particularly when I know that the news I have isn't good. However, as we all know, we are stewards of all that God has given us and the responsibility of maintaining the fabric of our buildings and of ensuring that our finances are in a good position is important in our work for the Kingdom. That being so, an open Church meeting was held in January for anyone with an interest in the Chapel here on St. Mary's to attend.

It is apparent that, in spite of much hard work and sacrificial giving, we as a congregation are struggling to maintain the assessment asked of us annually in order to pay for ministerial cover and to cover the ongoing expenses of our Chapel.

This situation has been exacerbated by the need to have the Chapel re-wired – the current wiring has been condemned and we are only able to use one socket in the kitchen – as well as the heating in the hall failing and the daily building maintenance which is essential.

It is with gratitude that in the recent past two very generous gifts have been made to pay for ministerial cover and any emergency but neither of these can go toward maintenance and neither will last indefinitely and, once spent, they are gone. It is, therefore, that we commit ourselves to fund raising and to personal giving.

While none of this is what I would want to bring to a meeting, I am immensely grateful to all those present for the insightful and courteous way they received the news and then asked relevant questions. The whole tenor of the meeting was purposeful and pleasant.

Our way forward is what must now focus our thinking and actions. It is to that end that we are establishing a fund raising committee to come up with some inventive ideas! I also appeal to any of our friends who have links with the Chapel or the Islands to consider whether you could support us in any way, either short or long term.

My hope is that we could find ourselves in a position where we are able, not only to fulfil our obligations regarding buildings and personnel, but also to have sufficient to give to those in need. As John Wesley advocated, "To earn all we can, to save all we can and to give all we can" in order to be good stewards of what God has given us.

The danger of a letter like this is that it will be seen as the Church asking for something for itself and that is as far from my intention as possible. The Church - buildings and people - are here to bring the Good News of God's boundless love to all people and to share that love with the community in practical as well as spiritual ways.

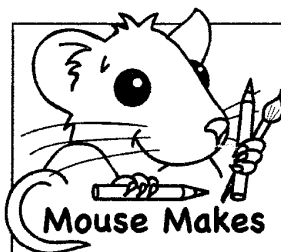
One of the great privileges of ministering here on the Isles of Scilly is to work in close partnership with other denominations as people who love and serve Jesus. In the case of the Methodist Chapel, it is the only non-conformist place of worship and, as such, offers a place to a wide range of Christian understanding and worship.

I ask for your prayers as we undertake to seek God's will for us in what are austere and difficult days for so many in our nation and world. I believe He has a place and a purpose for us here and pray that we will be able to meet the challenge through His grace.

In Jesus service,

**Jane.**





### SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did.

Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance.

In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



### WHAT IS LENT?

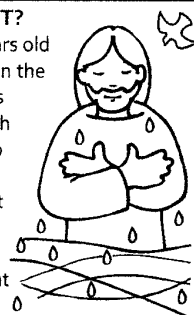
When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone.

For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God,

preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called **LENT**



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil *three* times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.



① The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**

② The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**

③ The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."

Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,  
Please forgive me for

Amen

## **Christian Aid Appeal for Good Neighbours**

As Christians around the world mark Lent, Christian Aid is asking the British public to support people seeking a safe place to call home.

Based on the hymn 'When I Needed A Neighbour, Were You There', Christian Aid is asking its supporters to follow Christian Aid's Lent calendar, and reflect each day on the good things in their lives, thinking about daily opportunities to give, act and pray for communities around the world, and helping them to find a safe place to call home.

This Lent, Christian Aid is working with local partners in South Sudan, to provide much-needed food, safe water to drink and sanitation facilities to desperate communities. The charity says that £15 can provide fishing gear for a family; £8.50 could provide two cooking pots so they can eat a hot meal; and £3 could pay for two plastic jerry cans so they can store safe drinking water.

### **Editorial Team**

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Val Parker      [martinandval.parker@virgin.net](mailto:martinandval.parker@virgin.net)

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

## **Coffee Morning**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, I will be hosting a coffee morning in The Manse from 10am-12pm. The proceeds will be shared between St Mary's Methodist Church and my trip to Belarus in June, where I will be volunteering at an orphanage in Minsk with underdeveloped and deprived children through the charity 'Leaves of Hope'. Any cake donations would be gratefully received.

Hope to see you there,  
Adele Bird.



### **Birthday Greetings for April**

Barbara Hasler, Steve Morris, Gwen Clarkson

### **May**

Harriet Pender, Michael Jenkins, Mervyn Bird, Chris Hensleigh, Nick Jenkins, Andy Brooks and

God's blessings to you all.

## **Apologies**

As Editor for this month, I apologise for the lack of In Touch last month and for the lateness of this edition. Some of the articles may well be out of date but I have included them anyway. As an editorial team, we have decided to produce the In Touch every two months throughout the year from now on.



*One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety'...*

## **MAY SERVICES**

### **St. Mary's**

|      |                         |                                                                                           |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7th  | 09:15<br>11:00          | Gordon Bird / Beryl Read<br>Len Michell                                                   |
| 14th | 10:30<br>18:00          | Ann Browse / Revd. Jane Willcock<br>Revd. Jane Willcock Communion                         |
| 21st | 09:15<br>11:00<br>18:00 | Revd. Cannon Perran /Gordon Bird<br>Revd Dr John Johnson Communion<br>Revd. Jane Willcock |
| 28th | 9:15<br>11:00<br>18:00  | Len Michell/Gordon Bird<br>Revd. Jane Willcock<br>Beryl Read                              |

### **St. Martin's**

|                  |       |                                 |
|------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 7th              | 11:00 | Gordon Bird                     |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 15:00 | Ann Browse/ Revd. Jane Willcock |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | 15:00 | Revd Dr John Johnson Communion  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | 11:00 | Beryl Read                      |

### **Park House**

|                 |       |             |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> | 16:00 | Len Michell |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|



## PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact Rev Jane Willcock 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**

Margaret Snowball                            422896

Gordon Bird                                      422550

Sonia Crompton                                422854

**Barbara Hasler**                                      **422208**

Len & Sylvia Michell                            422409

Pam 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.*

*If anyone else would like to join in this special ministry please contact me on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of His grace.*

## April Notices

### St. Mary's

|                  |       |                                  |
|------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 09:15 | Len Michell Kim Watson           |
|                  | 11:00 | Gordon Bird                      |
|                  | 18:00 | Revd Jane Willcock               |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30 | Revd Jane Willcock               |
|                  | 18:00 | Len Michell                      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 6:30  | Easter Morning Buzza             |
|                  | 11:00 | Revd Jane Willcox Sacrament      |
|                  | 18.00 | Revd Jane Willcock               |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 09.15 | Revd Jane Willcock/ John Wilcock |
| Communion        |       |                                  |
|                  | 11:00 | Revd Margaret Brock              |
|                  | 18:00 | Revd Jane Willcock               |

### St. Martin's

|                  |       |                         |
|------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 11:00 | Revd Jane Willcock      |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 15:00 | Revd Jane Willcock      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 15:00 | Revd Jane Willcock      |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 11:00 | Bishop W Peter Stephens |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | 11:00 | Revd Jane Willcock      |

### Park House

|                 |       |                    |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 16:00 | Revd Jane Willcock |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------|