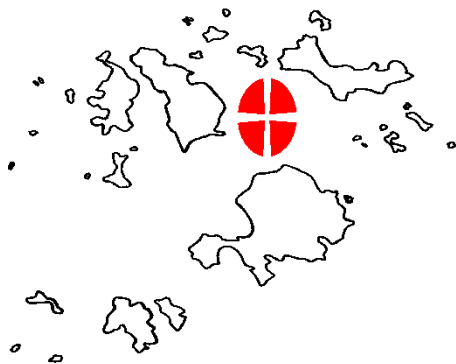


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

**Methodist Church Circuit
December 2018/January 2019**

Chairman of the District:

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Superintendent Minister:

Revd. Michael Pullan B.Ed.,BD.

422406

Local Preachers:

Mr. Len Michell 422409

Mr. Gordon Bird 422550

Mr. C. Savill 423563

Circuit Stewards:

Mrs. Christine Savill 423563

Mr. Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs. Beryl Read 422977

Mr. Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer: Mr. Christopher Savill 423563**Gift Aid Secretary:** Mrs. Stephanie Bird 423117**Circuit Meeting Secretary:** Mrs. Heather Terry 422329**Church Stewards:**

St. Mary: Mrs. Claire Jenkins Mrs. June Lethbridge

Mr. Philip Lethbridge Mrs. Leigh Kendrick

Mrs. Sue Williams

St. Martin's: Mrs. Barbara Jones

St. Mary's:**Treasurer:** Mrs. Sue Williams 422605**Church Council Secretary:** Mrs. Beryl Read 422977**Hall Booking Secretary:** Mrs. Anne Gurr 422224**Organist:** Mr. Len Michell 422409**Deputy Organist:** Mr. Philip Lethbridge 422404**St. Martin's:****Church Council Secretary:** Mrs. Jackie Perkins 422814**Church Treasurer:** Mr. Alan Terry 422329**Connexional Link Person:** Mrs. Beryl Read 422977

Thoughts from the Manse



Dear Friends,

'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hatif not etc – then God bless you'. I used to sing and hear it sung by carollers.

The words may show us people's understanding of Christmas – food aplenty (goose) – charitable giving (penny etc) – God's blessing, with this coming way down the order.

The truth is, it should be God first; in Christ He became like us, that we may become like Him.

As we assess 2018 and look to 2019, we might recognise that we've all had problems of one kind or another. How would life be if we had no problems to deal with? For most of us it might be a welcome relief, being set free. Problems can weigh us down and we're full of life's problems instead of opportunities. It's similar in church life, we're weighed down instead of lifted up. That's not what God wants.

Advent and Christmas remind us of and give us opportunities to speak about God as problem solver rather than problem maker.

As we think of Christ's coming, we remember that Jesus is the one who solves the greatest problem of the world – the sin within each of us.

At Christmas this problem solver (Saviour) was born into the world (incarnated) so that we might believe (faith), receive forgiveness (be understood) and be set free (saved). Jesus came that our burdens might be lifted and He spoke of the problem-solving of peace, love and compassion.

Mark's Gospel begins 'This is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the son of God'. Christmas is always a beginning, not an ending (burdens are lifted at Calvary).

We end the year celebrating this beginning. If we can move into 2019 with the sentiment/reality 'as I face tomorrow with its problems large and small, I'll trust the God of miracles, give to Him my all', it will be a happy one.

Ann joins me in wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Michael

News from St Martin's

It was good to be able to partake in A Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Unity of the Church, when church leaders were able to visit St Martin's Church and Chapel. It's not every day that the Bishop of St Germans, the Rev Ruth Gee of the Methodist Connexion, a representative of the Catholic Bishop of Plymouth, and the Methodist Chairman of the Cornish District are all able to make it to our little outpost!

Several of our members have been taking their autumn breaks, some on holiday, some visiting sick relatives, and sadly for Julia and Steve, attending the funeral of a dear friend Wendy Keogh.

We have enjoyed a variety of preachers while Michael was on his mystery cruise, and praise both Len and Gordon who cross the high seas to share worship with us, when they are not in the best of health.

The Remembrance Service was held in Chapel this year, led by Rev Pullan with Canon Gay giving the sermon and playing the organ with gusto!

We then progressed to the Church to lay the wreath at the war memorial - always a poignant moment when the Roll of Honour is read, and some of our members can remember those who gave their lives.

Val Thomas



Pause for Prayer

We agreed at the last Church Council to pause for prayer every Wednesday at noon.

Why not use the five digits on your hand to pray for:

Someone you know
The life of the Church
Island life and community
A needy area overseas
Yourself.

Please share in this whoever you are, wherever you live and may be at noon on Wednesdays.

Letter from the Haslers

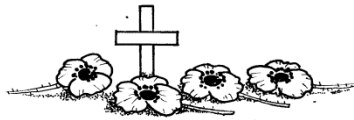
Thank you for your kind good wishes and for the lovely flowers you sent – most unusual.

We often think of you all. It will take quite a long time to settle in. It's a totally different life. Hey! Ho!

Our love and blessings to all

Barbara and Bill

Their address is Flat 14
Hayes Park
Sedgehill
Shaftesbury
Dorset SP7 9JR



Remembrance Poppies

Many congratulations to all those involved in producing the display of poppies at the Remembrance Day service. To Sue Williams and her band of knitters for the cascade of knitted poppies and to the school children who made poppies each with a name from the Roll of Honour written on it. Thanks also to the children for their lovely reading and singing.



Christmas Services

Monday 24th December:

4pm at Parish Church: Christingle Service

Midnight Communion at Parish Church

Tuesday 25th December:

10am Methodist Church

Bring a present to share/show.

Action for Children Income 2017/18

Since last writing about AfC income a year ago, I have been able to send **£483 – 96** to the charity. The sum does not include the money sent by Sue Williams from the St. Mary's Chapel Christmas collections. A breakdown of the total is listed below. Although sales from the roadside box are over £100 more than last year, the overall total is down as we didn't have an AfC fund raiser and the ordered pew envelopes didn't arrive. Understandably, Gwen felt unable to embark on blackberry selling again.

Gwen and I thank all those who have supported the fund raising efforts in any way. AfC are always appreciative of our efforts and certainly need a sustained income to continue their essential and wide ranging work. Interestingly, they are now in the process of bringing back residential children's homes, such is the requirement for vulnerable youngsters with complex and challenging needs,

With the passing of some of our members in the last few years, there are now less people with home collection boxes. If you would like a box for your small (or large!) change please let me know. We have benefitted this year from John Bourdeaux kindly placing one on the counter at his Old Town pottery.

Please can I again ask you to save unwanted paperback books until next spring, when I will receive them for the roadside box? Thank you.

Heather

Roadside book and vegetable box	£381 – 65
Home collection boxes	£ 67 – 92
Chapel copper coin collection	£ 19 – 39
Sale of beach chair and sunshade donated by a visitor.	£ 15 – 00
TOTAL	£483 – 96

In addition to the £483 – 96 total from St. Mary's fund raising, £115-92 was collected in the Action for Children boxes held by St. Martins Chapel members. Thank you to them too.

World Day of Prayer 2019
(Formally Women's World Day of Prayer)

Following widespread consultation earlier in the year, at their AGM in May the National Committee voted to remove 'women's' from the name of the movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. But although the title has changed the initiative will remain a women led global ecumenical movement.

The date for next year's World Day of Prayer is **Friday March 1st 2019**. I trust that we can again mark this special day here in the Islands. Provisionally the place of worship is the Roman Catholic Star of the Sea Church, but this has to be confirmed when Bishop Christopher soon returns to St. Mary's.

The Christian ladies of Slovenia have prepared the service, which is called 'Come -Everything is Ready!' At the heart of the worship is an open invitation for all to come to God's table.

A planning and preparation meeting will be held in the Anglican Church pavilion **at 2.00pm on Friday February 15th 2019**. Please join us, you will be very welcome. I will confirm the place of worship and circulate this information again nearer the time, but perhaps you would like to note the dates now.

Thank you,
Heather



Mother and Toddler Group

A Mother and Toddler Group will be meeting during the winter months in the Methodist Hall on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.



Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is.

Athanasius

Jesus did not come to take sides, but to take over.

Anon

Christmas throughout the Christian world

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace. Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25th December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7th January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6th January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus, God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.

Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The significance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St

Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God. And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.



Birthday Greetings

We send our love and best wishes in December to Pauline Jackson Cocking, Gladys Perkins, Josh Smith and Merryn Smith, and in January to Gordon Bird, Stephanie Bird, John Goody, Martin Parker, Anthea Roberts, William Thomas, Nathan Thomas and Liz Turner.



Children's Birthdays



December: Louis Asten, Ellen Clark, Megan Woodcock.

January: Layla Guy, Bella Plowman, Jade Thomas.
We wish you all a very happy day.



My brother heard a woman on the bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it, 'Oh Lor!' They bring religion into everything. Look – they're dragging it even into Christmas now!'

CS Lewis

It may be Christmas, but does it meet Health and Safety....?!

Just wait until political correctness gets hold of some well-loved carols..

The Rocking Song

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, both due to risk of allergy to animal fur, and for ethical reasons. Please lend little Jesus a nice cellular blanket instead, or perhaps micro-fleece material. Please note, only persons who have been subject to a DBS check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their disclosure with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.

While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground.
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around

The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Please note, the angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her glory all around she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load.

The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load that a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry. Also included in the guidelines is guidance regarding how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required over a four-

hour plodding period. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled 'little' and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr Donkey. To comment upon his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable – as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as 'cash for gold' etc, gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipient's name or perhaps give a gift voucher.

Also, we would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest the use of a satnav, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption.



If there had been three wise women...

they would have asked for directions

they would have been on time

they would have assisted with the birth

they would have cleaned the stable

they would have brought more practical gifts (i.e. disposable nappies!)

Anyone for Haiku?

Some time ago the 'Methodist Recorder' publication ran a Haiku competition and the entries were fascinating. Some were moving, some uplifting and all were thought provoking and pleasing.

The Haiku is a short form of Japanese poetry, pioneered by Basho in the 17th century. The most distinctive feature of the Haiku is its structure of three lines and syllable pattern 5-7-5. I understand that someone has given a talk on Haiku to the U3A group so some of you will know better than I do what I'm writing about!

So would anyone like to compose a Haiku and submit it to this magazine? Please send to the editor. The poems submitted to the 'Methodist Recorder' combined reflections on faith with 'season' words.

Sylvia Michell

Here's a tip on how to tackle this. Think of a topic and then write down words that come into your head as you think about the topic. You can then use those words to compose your Haiku. Here are some examples to get you going.

Christmas

Baby in manger
Star shines bright, angel choirs sing,
Wise men worship Him. *Anne*

New Year

New year dawns with hope.
Bright star of resolve fades fast.
There's always next year. *Tracey Gurr*

Lent

The earth holds its breath
A time of expectation
Easter yet to come. *Sylvia*



A Christmas Poem

Three Kings on their camels travelled from far,
Guided divinely by bright shining star.
It led them to Bethlehem where, in a stall,
On manger bed lay Christ, King of us all.
Still to this day we rejoice at His birth,
The Son of God sent down to us here on earth.

On Christmas Day, the Christ Child lay
New born upon a bed of hay.
A bright star shone up in the sky,
Whilst choirs of angels sang on high
A hushed and glorious lullaby.

Shepherds came and knelt in awe,
The animals stood at the stable door.
Wise men came with gifts, and saw
The tiny child, God's gift to man,
And that is how it all began.

*These verses were sent to us by a friend, Sue Deft, who said the words came to her as she looked at two Christmas cards on her mantelpiece.
From Kenneth and Pauline Jackson Cocking*



Poster found in a church in France (translated)

As you visit this church this Christmas, it is possible that you may hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile, so thank you for turning it off. If you want to talk to God, please choose a quiet corner here, and talk to Him. If you want to see Him later, send Him a text while driving.

~~~~~

At Christmas time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.' (J. John).

## **How Father Christmas got where he is today**

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



### **CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 10am to 12 noon in the Wesley Room in the Manse.

Come and enjoy some tea or coffee, have a chat and take the opportunity to buy some Fairtrade products.

All are welcome.



### **Christmas stamps**

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.' What denomination?' asked the clerk. 'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Church of England ones please.'

## Editorial Team

Anne Gurr                    e.anne.gurr@gmail.com  
Barbara James            bjjethen@gmail.com  
Val Parker                 martinandval.parker@gmail.com

This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Please send your contributions to the editor by 15th of the month.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website [www.scillymethodists.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk) and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed. If you would prefer to read In Touch in this way please let us know and we can save the cost of a paper copy.

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Some material in this magazine was obtained from www.parishpump.co.uk. We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to use.

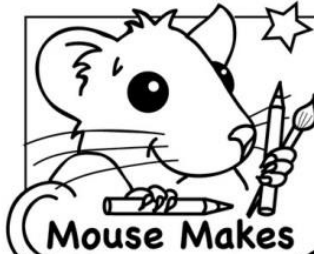


New Year

Write it on your calendar, and write it on your heart,
Mark it in your diary – this year's a fresh new start.
A time of new beginnings, of looking forward too,
A time for all those hopes and dreams,
Now make them all come true!

Write it on your calendar, and mark it out in red,
A time for going forward, a brighter path ahead.
Forget those resolutions and step out day by day,
The past is simply left behind,
Go bravely on your way.

Iris Hesselden



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

When Mary gave birth to Jesus she wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. There were shepherds in a field nearby looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. The angel said, *"Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, I bring you good news! Today your Saviour has been born, He is Christ the Lord."*

Then an army of angels appeared praising God. When the angels left the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Joseph and Mary and saw the baby lying in a manger.



A picture to colour for Christmas

Dec18 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

JANUARY SERVICES

St Mary's

6th	11.00am	Service for Epiphany at the Parish Church
13th	11.00am	United Covenant Service <i>Holy Communion</i>
20th	9.15am 11.00am 6.00pm	Gordon Bird Rev Michael Pullan Rev Michael Pullan (in Wesley Room)
27th	9.15am 11.00am	Rev Michael Pullan Beryl Read

St Martins

6th	2.00pm	Rev Michael Pullan
13th	3.00pm	United Covenant Service <i>Holy Communion</i>
20th	11.00am	Len Michell
27th	3.00pm	Rev Michael Pullan



DECEMBER SERVICES

St Marys

2nd	9.15am	D. Ward Rev Michael Pullan <i>Holy Communion</i>
	11.00am	
	6.00pm	Advent Service at Parish Church
9th	9.15am	Mrs J. Ward Rev Michael Pullan
	11.00am	
16th	9.15am	Rev Michael Pullan Len Michell
	11.00am	
23rd	11.00am	Rev Michael Pullan <i>Carols old and new</i> Walking Nativity and Candlelit Carols
	6.00pm	
30th	9.15am	Beryl Read Stewards
	11.00am	

St Martin's

2nd	11.00am	G.Bird
9th	3.00pm	Rev Michael Pullan and Canon Perran Gay (at Anglican Church)
16th	11.00am	Rev Michael Pullan
23rd	3.00pm	Rev Michael Pullan <i>Carols</i>
30th		Christopher Savill

Park House

2nd	4.00pm	Rev Michael Pullan <i>Carols</i>
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