

Isles of Scilly



In Touch

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2012

Some thoughts from St. Mary's Manse



As our regular readers will know this is the first 'In Touch' for 2012. We give thanks for growth in our Methodist Church here on the Isles of Scilly in the past year.

On St. Martin's the faithful membership has worked well together, many visitors have been welcomed both to our regular Sunday Worship, and also to the very successful and on-going photo exhibition in the schoolroom.

It was a great sadness to us all when Celia Ashford was called home after a time of illness in the summer, her dedication to the work on St. Martin's is greatly missed, but at a special service of thanksgiving we were able to rejoice in her life which had been so well lived. The chapel on St. Martin's has been pleased to have some new faces at our weekly worship, and at the time of writing we are looking forwards again to our regular fellowship meetings. On St. Mary's we have again welcomed many summer visitors, with the evening 'Songs of Praise' services proving to be very popular with many staying behind after worship enjoying refreshments and feeling part of our worshipping community.

A highlight of the past year has been the establishment of our 'Children's Church' led by Vicky and Merryn Smith. Also on St. Mary's we were delighted at our Annual Church meeting to receive new friends into membership, and also to put into place a 'tithing scheme', which in the years to come will enable us to give to those in need, both locally, and further away. During the summer months a very fruitful 'Bible Week' was held on St. Mary's and we have had good numbers at both our weekly prayer meeting on a Monday and at our Fellowship evenings on a Friday. So, looking back over 2011 we have much to be thankful for in the life of our church.

I expect the same is true also in our own personal lives too. Scilly is certainly a fine place to live, despite the problems that are part of living in a tiny island community 28 miles off Land's End! So it is good at the start of another year to stop and take stock of our lives, and to look forward to all that is to come in 2012.

Taking stock of our lives and seeking direction for the future will always be part of our seeking to be the people of God. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke is a very vivid and challenging story of a successful young man who came to Jesus seeking advice about his relationship with God.

In particular he asks the question "What must I do to inherit Eternal Life?"

This young man, like many of us, seemed to be doing quite well, he was well off, he was well read, and seemed to have faith in God. Yet despite all these good things going on in his life he clearly was uncertain of the future! Although he had much, the one thing he wanted was the assurance of life eternal.

Mark, in his telling of the story remarks that "Jesus loved him" and because of this Jesus wanted the very best for him. The young man had no doubt heard others speaking about that which is described as 'Eternal Life', and despite all that he had he still was not sure about how to receive this precious gift.

At the start of another new year we, like the young man in the story, may look at our lives and conclude that we like him have a lot to be thankful for. We may not be rich, but we have enough! We have food to eat, homes to live in, and money to spend. Indeed most of us living on Scilly, when compared to those living in other parts of the world seem rich by comparison.

It is also true that we, just like the man in our story, are aware of other need, besides the 'material needs' that are part of our daily lives. Most of us have the need to be loved

and valued by others. All of us, from time to time, wonder about those big issues of life and death, and that sometimes 'inner contentment' that we know money cannot buy, and as we go on through life there are times when we too wonder about those deep and profound questions about what is described in the Bible as 'Life Eternal!'

As we read about this man's encounter with Jesus we find that Jesus understands the real needs of the one before him. Jesus sees this man's 'potential' and Jesus understands his deep longing for an assurance of things to come!

What Jesus says to this young man is in many ways so relevant to us as we start another new year with an economic climate that is very different to what it was even at the start of 2011. Even here on Scilly there are some who are talking about recession and the possibility of fewer visitors. For many there is uncertainty about finance, commerce, and future investments, and what Jesus says to this young man seems so true to the circumstances of today. For Jesus plainly says that real hope, and lasting peace can never be obtained by the search for wealth and money.

I expect in this new year that many of us will have choices to make, and it may be that some of us are aware of changes that need to be made in our own lives in the coming year. What really are our priorities? How do the choices before us effect our relationship with God? And at these important cross roads in our lives will we seek to 'honour God' and follow the ways and values of His kingdom? We have just held our annual Covenant Service and we all heard the words' Christ has many services to be done; some are easy; others are difficult. Some bring honour, others bring reproach; Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to

both!' The service then goes on like this 'In some ways we may please Christ and please ourselves, but in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us by Christ, who strengthens us!

I wonder what new challenges will be before us in 2012? Will the choices we make be in accordance with the ways of God? Will we be looking to the future with that God given assurance of 'Life Eternal? And will we face those things with the power to do all things given by Christ who strengthens us? My hope, and my prayer for 2012 is that we the people of God on these fine islands will hold fast to the precious faith which is ours, and that even in the changing times ahead we will continue to be the channels of God's grace in this community. What are your hopes for this new year?

So it is that we give thanks for the past year and place our trust in our Sovereign God for the year ahead. On a personal note I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard in maintaining our properties both on St. Martin's and St. Mary's . At present both our buildings are in good shape for our ongoing mission in this island community. We thank Christopher Savill for managing our circuit finances in such a fine way, and with such a positive and cheerful manner, and for all those who have given to support our ministry of care to all who are resident or visit these very special islands. In December we had a Gift Day on St. Mary's which raised close on £2000, some of which was sent by friends on the mainland who receive our newsletter, so a special thank you to them.

We are rich indeed! God in His great providence to us all has met our deepest needs! He, in Jesus has shared in all that makes us human.and he offers that gift of 'Life Eternal' to all who will receive today!

May His rich blessings continue to be seen in our love for one another. I remain, by the grace of God, your Methodist minister on these fine islands for a while. *Charlie R Gibbs*



News from St Martin's Anglican and Methodist Carol services, the primary school children's Christmas performance and the Chapel Christmas Tree party were all part of the build up to Christmas on St.Martins. As

always each event was well supported and appreciated.

The traditional Christmas Tree party changed a little this year. It was felt that an afternoon gathering would be better for the very young children, and so we started at 3.00pm. After an hour and a half of varied games, sixteen children aged between one and eleven years enjoyed a sit down tea, whilst parents and other adults shared refreshments too. Father Christmas then paid his customary visit, listening to requests and giving crackers, balloons and oranges before heading off with Rudolf and his team to Tresco!! The toys left under the tree were quickly packed and sent to the Salvation Army in Penzance, to aid their work with needy families. Donations for Action for Children amounted to £48. Our thanks to all who supported these good causes.

The following afternoon some of the children who had played games with enthusiasm and enjoyment made their contribution at our Chapel Carol Service. A big thankyou to Jackie and the able young people who read the lessons telling the Christmas story. A full congregation heard the message of our Lord's birth and sang the well loved carols with gusto. We were glad that Uncle Rodney was able to play for the service before joining his daughters for Christmas on the mainland. Cups of tea and mince pies were served at the end of this very special act of worship when many shared a social time together.

It was good to have Daph and Chris Hensleigh home in time for the festive season, after their extended time on the mainland. For those of us who had family members return to Scilly for Christmas the time passed all too quickly, but we give thanks for safe journeys and fun and laughter. As a church we continue to hold some St. Martin's residents in our prayers; those who have lost a family member or close friend and those facing illness with determination and courage. As an old year ends and we trust in fresh blessings during the time ahead, it is perhaps fitting to reflect on those who have ministered to us during the last twelve months. Our appreciation goes to Charlie, Barbara, Len, Mary, Neil and Christopher for their diligence in preparing and leading worship so faithfully. Also Canon Peter has shared his faith with us at special times, as in the recent Covenant Service when it was good to be joined by our Anglican friends and members from St. Marys. We are grateful to him as well. The people of St. Martins wish all readers of In Touch a happy and peaceful 2012.

Heather

LENT LUNCHESES Each year throughout Lent simple lunches are served in the Parish Church Room and the Methodist Hall. These are held to raise money for Christian Aid. Usually these lunches raise about £1000 over the six weeks. It is a very special time of fellowship and the first visitors in the season also come and join us. So please come and help / eat or do both! The first date is Wednesday 29th February.

Prayer is the Key of the day and the Lock of the night. A new Prayer List has been printed and it offers us an opportunity to pray for someone in our fellowship each day as well as specific needs. This list includes those who worship on St Martin's and gives us another opportunity to pray together.

New Five Islands School

We welcome the news that the new Sports Hall is open and will provide many resources for the whole community to get fit. I was long ago informed of the importance of keeping fit to serve the Lord. Health officials also advise us to exercise. Plans for the re-ordering of Carn Gwarvel are now moving forward and then we shall be a very privileged community indeed. We pray that all who use it will be blessed. We regularly pray for Bryce, his staff and the children that our children will be well prepared for adulthood. We give thanks for the welcome given to Charlie and Peter as they take Assemblies.

Friday Fellowship - Discovering the Bible and Joint Lent Fellowship 7.30pm



*God who formed worlds by the power of His
Word*

*Speaks through the Scriptures His truth
to be heard;*

And if we read with the will to obey,

He by His Spirit will show us His way.

God's Word provides the nourishment that every Christian needs to grow, supplying strength from day to day by teaching what we need to know.

Open your Bible prayerfully. Read it carefully, and obey it joyfully.

With God's Word as your map and His Spirit as your compass, you're sure to stay on course.

Journeying with joy.

I thank you for your welcome home after my long Christmas holiday. I have much to give thanks for, seeing all my family and



receiving a special welcome at St Mary's Arbroath, Even playing the part of Herod in their Nativity Play!

It was good to meet with Christian friends in Chatteris, and it comes as quite a shock to realise that I have now lived on the Islands for 14 years which is half the time we lived there! One day I

revisited Ely Cathedral, that great 'Ship of the Fens'. Dating from 1091 it towers above the flat countryside and is visible for many miles around. On a small card, one of many in various parts of the building is written that "The Cathedral points us to a heavenly reality far beyond our brief lifespan. In a rapidly changing world it speaks of the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. It reminds us that, in joy and sorrow, from one generation to another. God is with us.

Lord you been our dwelling place through all generations. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Psalm 90 v 1,2

In the damaged Lady Chapel, in the beautiful space with clear windows throwing light within the Chapel stands a Sculpture of the Madonna by David Wynn, creator of the sculptures in Tresco Garden The card here read that 'The chapel was damaged during the reign of Henry the eighth. Statues of saints were removed, windows broken and even the figures in alcoves around the chapel were beheaded. It is a place of brokenness, reminding us of our broken world, and of Christ's body, broken for our salvation, on the cross.

You, Lord, are no stranger to pain, suffering, and even cruel death on the cross. We pray for those known to us who suffer and are broken. Touch them, and us, with your healing and forgiving love.

Another of David Wynn's sculptures stands in the South Transept. Its title is Encounter and the accompanying card reads "This striking sculpture captures the moment when a distraught Mary Magdalene meets Jesus on the morning of his Resurrection. She fails to recognise him until the moment when he simply says her name "Mary". Like Mary, Jesus knows each one of us by name"

The Lord who created you says, "Do not be afraid, I have called you by name. You are mine" Isaiah 43 v 1.

My visit was a time of pilgrimage to a place well known and loved by all the times of worship made there and for remembrance of the occasions when the Cathedral was full of children times past when Guy composed and conducted specially written pieces of music and also a performance of Noye's Fludde by Benjamin Britten. During one rehearsal for that a schoolchild heard the voice of a local Head teacher speaking loudly from the clerestory above "I God"

The child needed reassurance that it was just Ted speaking and not God himself!

The Cathedral's preparations to help visitors make ready for the first coming of Jesus were also special. Perhaps during the next season of Advent we can use those ideas. They were most helpful.

I was granted "travelling mercies" with kindly helpers along the way who carried my suitcase when there were only stairs to access other platforms. I shall never know who they were but pray God will bless them all.

Wherever we are we are amongst a mighty cloud of witnesses. Living and departed. Praise God!

Mary

News from Wesley Cottage

The sun shone and the sky was blue for nearly all my week in the Isles of Scilly- and yes this was November!

It was a great pleasure to experience these beautiful islands and to be warmly welcomed by many Christians all with their own unique story of faith to tell.

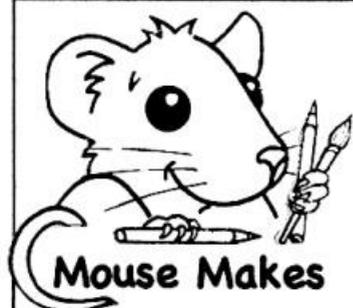
I very much enjoyed my time with you all and appreciated the opportunity to lead worship at the Manse. A number of you expressed interest in hearing more about Wesley Cottage where I am based (see www.wesleycottage.org.uk) so here is a brief update.

In December we held an Advent open day with Steve Wild which was attended by a good number of people from around Cornwall. The year concluded with a Christmas service with the Saltash circuit. This brought our visitor numbers for 2011 to about 850.

As 2012 has begun exciting new projects here are the development of both a Prayer Garden and a Methodist Museum for Cornwall here at Wesley Cottage. We are also holding monthly quiet days on a number of different themes including Celtic Christianity and Looking towards the Cross. Your prayers regarding these developments would be greatly valued.

If any of you are driving up the A30 please arrange to call in and visit and I will be delighted to provide you with light refreshments and a tour of Wesley Cottage.

John Hogarth, Wesley Cottage Curator Tel: 01566 880265

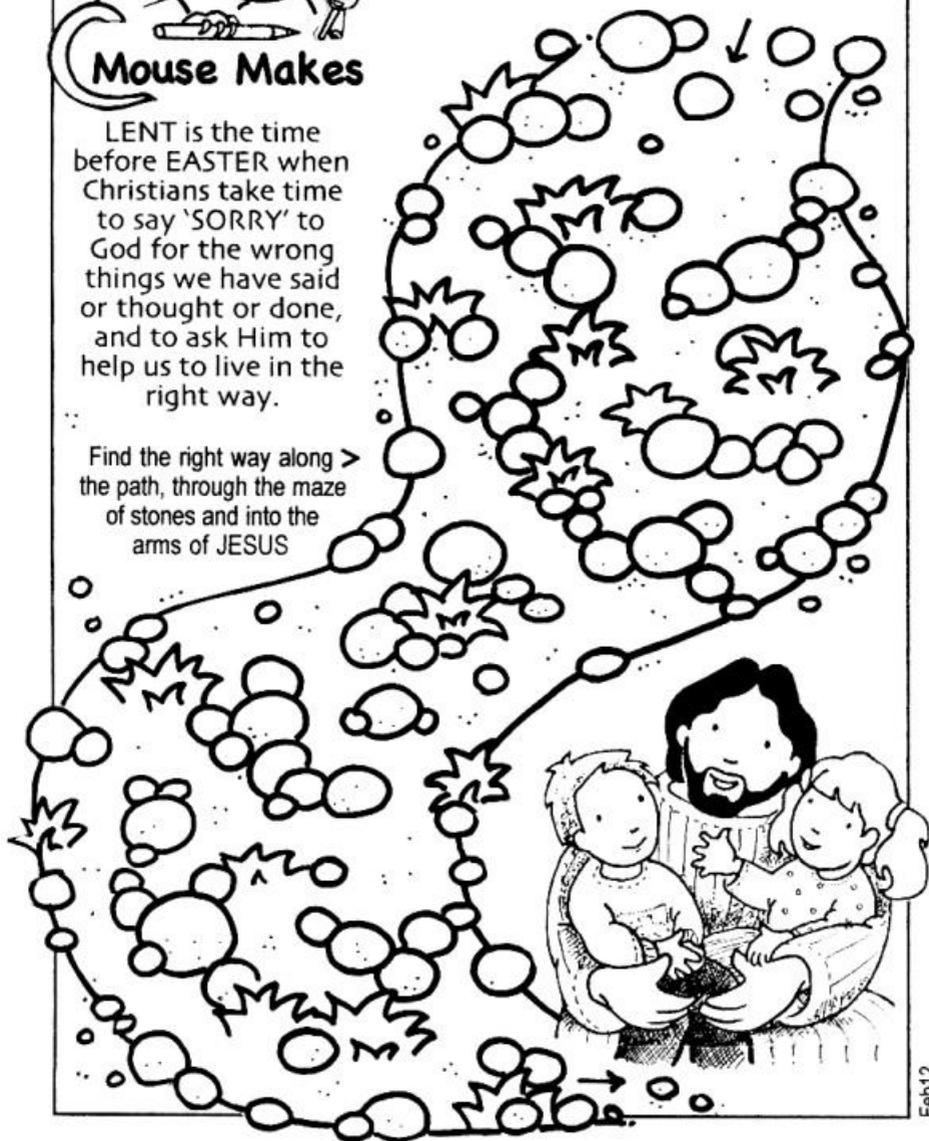


"Teach me how to live,
O LORD.
Lead me along
the right path..."

Psalm 27:11

LENT is the time before EASTER when Christians take time to say 'SORRY' to God for the wrong things we have said or thought or done, and to ask Him to help us to live in the right way.

Find the right way along > the path, through the maze of stones and into the arms of JESUS



Feb12

Family News

Barbara Anderson, Fiona Bird, and Margaret Crane have all been receiving kindly care in hospital. They are all most appreciative of that care and our visits and cards. We also remember Barbara Hasler who has also been rather poorly recently.

On Monday afternoons at 2.15 at the Manse, prayers are offered for the needs of the World, Our island community and those known to us in need of our prayer. It is a precious time and we rejoice in Jesus's promise that "when two or three are gathered in my name I am there with them".
Matthew 18 v 20

Compassion

What a lovely thing it is –
A heart that's warm and kind,
One filled with compassion
That soothes the troubled mind.
A heart that's all forgiving
And always understands,
One who goes the second mile
And never makes demands.

Many hearts grow cold and hard
From knocks upon life's way,
And others lack compassion
In the world today.
Always trim your lamp of love
And keep the flame alight –
For the heart filled with compassion
Is precious in God's sight.

By Kathleen Gillum

Action for Children

As the local representative for this I am thankful that a great deal of money has been raised over the years through a wide variety of events. Now suffering the effects of old age we no longer have many of these events. Is there a supporter willing to take over the reins? I would be very happy to relinquish the task!

Support is still given by those with boxes, though only holding our small change they yield welcome amounts. Many thanks to friends who house a box! In addition there have been generous donations and money generated by book sales. These have raised £200 which has been sent to Jamie Lee in charge of fundraising in this region. Books of general interest and cookery books can be found in the porch of the Manse. Jamie is hoping to visit in the summer and tell us about his work.

Our Christmas collections for many years have been devoted to this charity and , praise the Lord, this has resulted in the grand sum of £590 being sent to AfC Headquarters.

Grateful thanks to all for this continuing commitment.

Gwen Clarkson Representative

Treasury Notes

We give thanks that we received £1999:90 for our Gift Day. Gift Aid on some contributions will bring in a further amount. Thanks to those who worship, whilst on holiday with us also sent gifts.

Thank you.

The amount sent to Action for Children was £590. A cheque for £140 to Cornwall Air Ambulance was as a result of giving at our Christmas Concert. Many participated to make this such a success and we thank them all.

June is often an unseen "mover and shaker" and we thank her for her constant commitment to the outreach of our church by arranging these concerts.



Birthdays in February and March

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you.
God Bless you and keep you
and watch over you.

February

Keith Guy, Barbara James, Jacky Pritchard, Beryl Read, Philip Roberts, Jake Sandford, Emily Smith, Ryan Thomas.
Congratulations to those who can actually celebrate their very special birthdays on the 29th February.

March

Steve Burrows, Lilly Didlick, Claire Jenkins, Len Michell, Simon Morris, Val Parker, Margaret Smith, Heather Terry.

Keith and Beryl have the opportunity to celebrate their very special birthday this year. It must be nice to be as young as Beryl and exciting for Keith to have a proper birthday!

I am reminded that we have not updated our Birthday List for some time so please give Gwen a ring on 423106 with details so that everyone can share in good wishes to you.

He who laughs last laughs longer!

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30 this morning, can you believe that? 2:30am?

Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.

www.scillymethodists.co.uk

Editorial team Anne Gurr manda.gurr@btinternet.com
Mary Ratcliffe maryratcliffe@live.com
Val Parker martinandval.parker@virgin.net

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

Sunday 19th February. Service led by Charlie Gibbs at 6pm in the Manse `NEW DIRECTION FOR A LOST PEOPLE!'
The preaching of the Word with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday 26th February. Morning worship led by Charlie Gibbs at 11am A message for the first Sunday of Lent
MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE!
The preaching of the Word with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday 25th March. Service led by Charlie Gibbs at 6pm in the Manse `WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES IN LIFE!'
The preaching of the Word with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL TO EACH OF OUR SERVICES
Refreshments served in the Hall or Manse after all services.

‘Come praise the Lord, all his servants, Raise your hands in prayer.... and praise the Lord. from Psalm 134

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

2 pm on Friday 2nd March at the Parish Church.

‘LET JUSTICE PREVAIL’ The service has been prepared by Christian Women of Malaysia.

This is a very special day when we can join with all Christians around the world to praise God and pray for Malaysia. The theme “Let Justice Prevail” echoes the present day concerns of the unjust actions endured even today, especially by women who are still discriminated against in the fields of education and employment. Although women are beginning to be accepted into higher education and professional positions, they are still very much in the minority. Voices for truth and Justice have been silenced. Corruption and greed are threatening the way of truth.

The women of Malaysia ask for mercy, forgiveness and justice as they consider these complex issues

March Services

St Mary's

4 th	10.00am	Children's Church
	11.00am	Trevor Adams
	4.00pm	Park House. Rev. Charlie Gibbs
11 th	10,30am	Leader David Pender Preacher Len Michell
	6.00pm	Barbara Hasler
18 th	Mothering Sunday	
	9.15am	Leader Beryl Read Preacher Neil Didlick
	10.00am	Mary Ratcliffe at Parish Church
	6.00pm	Gordon Bird
25 th	9.15am	Leader Neil Didlick Preacher Rev Charlie Gibbs Holy Communion
	11.00am	Barbara Hasler
	6.00pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs Holy Communion

St. Martin's

4 th	11.00am	Rev Charlie Gibbs
11 th	11.00am	Rev Charlie Gibbs
18 th	11,00am	Len Michell
25 th	11.00am	Chris Savill

April Advance Notices.

Easter Special Services Good Friday Walk 10.00am

**Easter Day 6.30am Buzza 10.30am Easter Hymns and
Readings with Holy Communion 6.00pm Songs of Praise**

SERVICES

St. Mary's

5th Feb

10.00am Children's' Church
11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs **Parish Church**
4.00pm Park House Len Michell

12thFeb

9.15am Rev.Charlie Gibbs & Neil Didlick
11.00am Trevor Adams
6.00pm David Pender

19th Feb

9.15am Beryl Read & Barbara Hasler
11.00am Mary Ratcliffe
6.00pm Rev.Charlie Gibbs

26th Feb

First Sunday of Lent

9.15am Mervyn Bird & Mary Ratcliffe
11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs
Holy Communion
6.00pm Trevor Adams

St. Martin's

5th Feb

3.00pm Revd. Charlie Gibbs
Holy Communion

12th Feb

11.00am Barbara Hasler

19th Feb

11.00pm Rev. Charlie Gibbs

26th Feb

First Sunday of Lent

3.00pm Rev Charlie Gibbs
Holy Communion