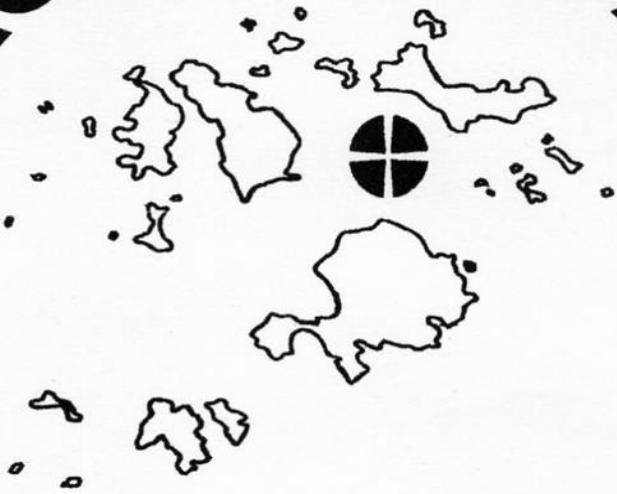


Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

Chairman of the District:

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Superintendent Minister:

Revd. Michael Pullan B.Ed. B.D. 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's: 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**Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs. Barbara James 422674

Thoughts from The Manse.....

Dear Friends,

Not as many letters now as 10 years ago - replaced by texts or emails. Conversations/chatting is less, some argue, as a result.

When we receive a letter we may ask:

1. **Who is it from?** Clues might include the postmark, handwriting, the words of the letter, but more importantly - the signature.
2. **What does it say?** It may contain all kinds of news/gossip and some views.
3. **What does it involve?** Usually a reply/response, even if it isn't an invitation to a special event with RSVP on it.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Christians in Corinth (2 Corinthians 3 v2-3) "You are our letter, written on our hearts to be known and read by you all and you show that you are a letter of Christ...written not with ink, but the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on....human hearts".

A response to a letter will need an envelope, a stamp and the Royal Mail Postal Service.

The same 3 questions may be asked of us about the Christian Faith. We can respond to **Who is it from?** by saying all that Christ means to us, and the fact of Him being 'The Churches' one foundation.

We can indicate that Christianity has lots to say about many issues in the world but that it supremely speaks of Christ's love for everyone and the difference He can make in individual lives as we know His love.

Our response to this is our involvement. We accept what Christ has done for us (and for everyone) and commit ourselves to Him.

Would Paul be able to say of us, that we are Living Letters equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit?

May we be Living Letters for Christ through Lent and beyond.

Michael

~~~~~

**26 February - Ash Wednesday:  
My memory of the Passover in Jerusalem by David Winter**

At the end of this month Ash Wednesday introduces the Christian preparation for Easter, which normally coincides with Passover, the major Jewish celebration of the year. It's near Easter because Jesus was crucified at Passover, having just shared this very meal with his disciples.

Passover celebrates and recalls the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. Led by Moses they crossed the Red Sea and 40 days later entered the 'Promised Land.' They shared the Passover meal at their last night in Egypt and have kept it all for nearly the past three thousand years or so that have followed.

Many years ago, when I was in Jerusalem to produce a radio programme, I was invited to join a Jewish family for their Passover meal. It was a great occasion, very like our Christmas, a family event with deep religious significance for those who seek it. At the meal in Jerusalem we ate modest lentils and unleavened bread – Matzos as we now call it. We also drank plenty of wine but not from the cup at the end of the table. That is 'Elijah's cup', only to be drunk from when the prophet comes to announce the arrival of the Messiah.

At the last supper Jesus instructed His disciples to drink from that cup after supper, which may have shocked them at the time. The Messiah had come!

\*\*\*\*\*

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.  
*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## **NEWS from ST. MARTIN'S**

The Christmas season when we celebrate and give thanks for our Saviour's birth has now past but we can take that message of love, hope and joy with us throughout 2020.

As always Christmas was a special time on St. Martin's. However before I elaborate a little there is a slightly older piece of information to share. The Action for Children boxes which our Members have in their homes raised £105 - 17p in 2018/19 - a good sum for a very worthy cause.

The Christmas activities began with the School children's performance of their Nativity play, this was an excellent production enjoyed by most of the Community. The children, teachers and parents are to be congratulated on their achievements.

Islanders next came together for the carol service in the Anglican Church, the Rev. Canon Gay led the service and it was a joyful time as we sang and listened to the familiar carols and readings and then shared some refreshments together.

The traditional Christmas Tree Party followed on the Saturday. This is a party organised by Chapel Members for the children of the Island - it is always a very busy but happy afternoon. Games are played, the children all sit around a large table for tea (this is lovely to see!) and Father Christmas pays a visit before tired children and helpers go home. Voluntary donations are given which goes to Action for Children and this year £94.30 was raised.

The carol service in the Chapel on the Sunday was very well attended but unfortunately due to the weather the Rev. Michael Pullan and Heather (Heather in consultation with Michael organises this service) and Alan were not able to get across. Chris stepped in to lead the service and observed that it was only the second time in thirty six years that he had had to lead the Carol service. We were privileged to have some talented young musicians play their instruments for us at the beginning and end of the service which was appreciated.

The singing of the carols was enthusiastic and joyful and the readings recounting the story of that first Christmas were well read.

A time of fellowship with mince pies and tea followed the service plus the singing of Happy Birthday to two of our Community!

The collection at this service was donated to the St. Petroc's Society who help and support the homeless in Cornwall and raised £ 201.45.

It was good to see family and friends home for Christmas and now some of our Members are travelling to various parts of the world for their holidays. Valerie and Graham (Val normally writes these notes) are visiting their son in Australia, Jackie has gone to Mexico and Barbara is on a cruise around South America leaving from and returning to Southampton. We wish them happy times and safe travelling.

Finally, from St. Martin's, to all readers of this magazine, best wishes for a happy and blessed 2020.

Christine Savill

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SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY
10.00 for 10.30 am
in the Methodist Church Hall

Revd Paul Smith will lead us through 'God in Love Unites Us', and the issues it raises.

He will help us through the administrative process. A vote is taken at Church Council, Circuit Meeting and Synod on the five proposals in the report.

Do come if you can, and prepare prayerfully.

On Sunday 22nd December a well attended **united service of Carols by Candlelight** was held in the Methodist Chapel. Because of the very windy weather the Walking Nativity did not take place. Instead the participants walked around the Chapel to the crib at the front, and then the wonderful Christmas story began to unfold.

**The Mighty God came down to earth
As a tiny babe
To give new life to each and all
To ransom and to save**

The service was led by Revd Michael Pullan. Revd. Canon Perran Gay gave the Christmas message, and prayers were led by Bishop Christopher Budd from Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Mince pies were then served in the Hall after the service.

This service is always a joyous happy occasion. Special thanks to all participants who took part in the celebration of the birth of our Lord. **Matthew 1v21** - And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**; for He shall save his people from their sins.

Thanks also to those who gave up their time to decorate the church and hall.

On Sunday 5th January the Methodist congregation joined the Anglican congregation at the Parish Church for a **united Epiphany Service** led by Revd. Canon Perran Gay and assisted by Revd. Eileen Martin. The address was given by Revd. Michael Pullan.

Our annual **United Covenant Service** was held on 12th January when our Anglican friends joined us. The service was led by Revd Michael Pullan and The Sermon was given by Revd Canon Perran Gay.

This is indeed a very special Service in which we celebrate all that God has done for us, and affirm that we give our lives and choices to God. It is also a time when Methodists and Anglicans join together to renew their Covenant. The Methodist Covenant Prayer "A Covenant with God" is about surrendering to God in love and joy.

CAMEO

During the winter months CAMEO will be held in the Wesley Room

on: **Tuesday 11th February 2020**

10.00 - 12.00

Coffee, tea, Cakes, Bring and buy, Traidcraft stall

Tuesday 10th March 2020

10.00 - 12.00

Coffee, tea, Cakes, Bring and Buy, Traidcraft stall

Come and keep in touch with friends at CAMEO
Proceeds will be given to a specific charity each month

The December CAMEO coffee morning raised £102.10 and proceeds went to the charity **Action for Children**
January 2020 CAMEO coffee morning raised £40 and proceeds went to the **Traidcraft Exchange Charity**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

As indicated in the last copy of In Touch, I write to confirm information about the global day of prayer.

On St. Marys, the service prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe will begin at **2.00pm at the Parish Church on Friday March 6th 2020**. There will be light refreshments afterwards.

A planning meeting to prepare for the worship, entitled "Rise Take Your Bed and Walk", will be held in the Anglican Pavilion on Friday February 21st 2020 at 2.00 pm.

All are welcome at the preparation meeting, but if you would rather just attend the service please join us. It would be lovely to see you.

Heather

GOOD NEWS - LESSONS FROM NATURE

In late autumn, early winter I did a lot of cutting back and pruning in my garden, Later, sitting back and looking at the results it was all a picture of life to me.

The words of the hymn came to me - "We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree - and wither and perish - but nought changeth Thee."

"We blossom and flourish" - what a wonderful picture this is - the beginning - the newness - whether of a tiny baby, or, the exquisite bud of a perfect rose - then, there is the unfolding - the colour and texture of the petals, the first smile of the child, the first faltering steps, the first tooth, the first intelligible words. The beauty that blossoms and flourishes into maturity, full of promise, fulfilment and enjoyment of life. All too soon comes the "wither and perish". I think the daffodils never last long enough. The bluebells and campions soon disappear from the hedgerows. As for the cherry blossom - it is no sooner out - then it is over!

The same is true of life - no sooner are the children born, then they are toddlers - and before we know where we are - they are grown up! Many people have sad, or, hard times which seem to last for ever, but, generally speaking - as one looks back - time flies by.

Now we come to a very comforting line of the verse, "but NOUGHT changeth Thee" - "In all the changing scenes of life - in trouble and in joy - the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ". NOTHING changes God - in a world of change, He remains the same.

He wants to be the anchor to which we tie our lives. Change will come for it is the very nature of life - but if we give over our lives to the guiding and keeping of the one true God, who has demonstrated His love for us by sending His son, Jesus Christ to be our Saviour from sin - we need not fear the future, it is in His hands.

Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter - and then RESURRECTION!
New life! The best is yet to be! Spring is on the way!

Pauline Jackson Cocking

TIME FOR A SMILE

What are Angels like:

Try asking school children that question, and you will get some imaginative replies! Like these.....

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter.
Sara aged 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who is a very good carpenter.
Jared, aged 8

All angels are girls because they have to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it.
Anthony, aged 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.
Kate, aged 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it.
Vicky, aged 8

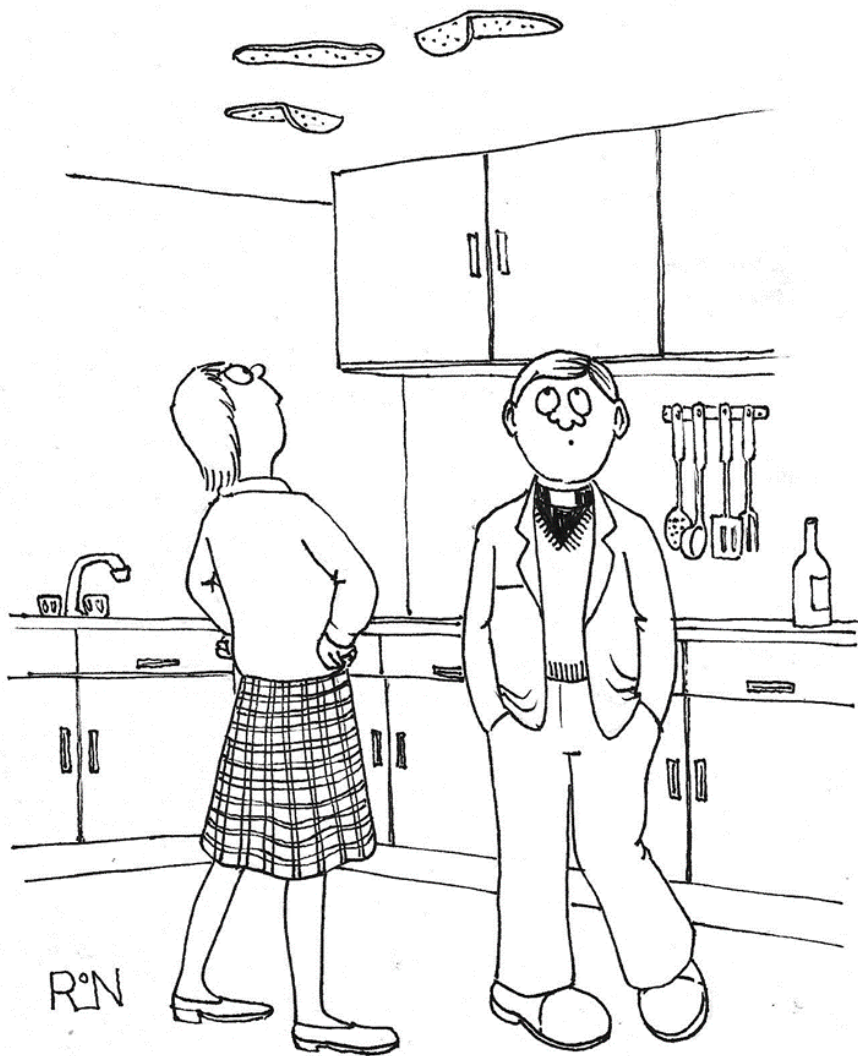
What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them.
Sarah, aged 7

Hymns for professionals:

Dentists:	Crown him with many crowns....
Contractors:	The Church's one foundation ...
Obstetricians:	Come labour on...
Golfers:	There is a green hill far away...
Politicians:	Standing on the Promises...
Librarians:	Let all mortal flesh keep silent...

Lot's Wife

The Sunday School Teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted "My mummy looked back once, while she was driving" he said "and she turned into a telephone pole".



"Pancake party?" said Simon,
"What Pancake Party?"

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:

O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,

visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,

I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This hymn (Mission Praise 59), was written by Frances Van Alstyne, better known to us as Fanny Crosby. She died in 1915 at the age of 95 - her long life radiated the 'blessed assurance' she enjoyed.

Fanny Crosby wrote about 9,000 hymns and, despite being blind from the age of three, devoted her life to serving the dropouts and drunks of New York's inner city missions; and to transposing the great spiritual truths into singable rhyme and melody. She demonstrated a confidence in Christ; had a stunning memory - her poems were composed and edited in her mind, then dictated. She only accepted two dollars for each composition - choosing to live simply. Fanny met Alexander Van Alstyne at a blind college and they married in 1858.

Most of her songs refer to seeing, watching and looking. She took Christ's command to watch and pray seriously; and once declared "My eyes of faith are vigilant. I remain alert and enthusiastic in the master's work, in view of His return. Among the many blessings that will bring will be peace and joy. His coming will give hearing to the deaf, healing to the lame and, not least, sight for the blind."

"Blessed Assurance" is based on Colossians 2 verses 2 and 3. And, as we sing "This is my story, this is my song..." May that be our experience.

Michael Pullan

L is for the life He gave
E is for eternal life in heaven with God the Father
N is for never losing faith
T is for trust that He will come again

A 40 day period of preparation for Easter. It corresponds to the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

Lent Lunches

You are invited to come and enjoy a simple lunch each Wednesday during Lent. The dates and venues are as follows:

The Methodist Church Hall
on **26th February, 4th and 11th March**

The Anglican Church Hall
on **18th and 25th March and 1st April**

12 noon - 1.30 pm

All proceeds to Christian Aid

The Lent Course Windows into the Psalms

The Lent Course this year, will be "**Windows into the Psalms**" and will take place

in the Methodist Church Hall
on Friday evenings at 7.30pm
on
28th February
6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March
3rd April

All welcome - Tea and coffee served

With Lent in mind: He who wants Lent to seem short should contract a debt to be repaid by Easter. *Italian Proverb*

Lent – a good time to deepen your prayer life

Lent is a time to take stock of ourselves spiritually. This includes setting aside extra time for prayer.

People have been praying since Adam had a grandson named Enosh. The Bible tells us (Genesis 4:26) that it was during his days when 'men began to call on the name of the Lord'. They have been doing it ever since.

People have had their prayers answered by God since Genesis, too. But if you want to read some beautiful prayers – and answers to them, browse through the Psalms. Again and again the psalmist writes: "the Lord heard my cry".

So – what do you need to bring to prayer? Just the tiniest amount of faith that God is even there.... Jesus assures us that even faith as big as a tiny mustard seed will be effective.

What gives you the right to come before Almighty God? Jesus does. The Bible is clear that "there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ". (1 Timothy 2:5)

The Bible makes clear that God does not stand on ceremony – in fact, He prefers our personal, spontaneous prayers. Jesus was very matter of fact about it: "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6)

The Bible assures us that prayer will bring us good things: "we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need". (Hebrews 4:16)

Above all, prayer must be made with a pure heart. "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18) That simply means that if you know you are doing something wrong, and intend to keep right on doing it, don't waste your time praying.

What can be the results of your prayers this Lent? Well, here are seven, for starters....

1. Joy and deep happiness. (John 16:24)
2. Relief from your worry, stress and tension (Philippians 4:6,7)
3. Wisdom and more mental clarity (James 1:5,6)
4. Protection and deliverance from temptations (Matthew 26:41)
5. An ability to share the Good News of Jesus to other people (Matthew 9:38)
6. Strength to persevere when you feel under spiritual attack (Ephesians 6:18)
7. A growing thankfulness to God who is worthy of all glory (Revelations 4:11)

Rev John Tyler

Editorial Team

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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 the 15th of the month.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website www.scillymethodists.co.uk and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed.

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



Birthdays

February: Barbara James, Jacky Pritchard, Beryl Read, Philip Roberts, Emily Smith, Kim Watson
March: Claire Jenkins, Len Michell, Simon Morris, Val Parker, Margaret Smith, Heather Terry

Children's Birthdays

February: Keith Guy, Jake Sandford, Ryan Thomas
March: Lilly Didlock, Ani Fallows, India Simmons

Congratulations to Beryl and to all those who can actually celebrate their very special birthday on 29th February.

Happy birthday and God's blessings to everyone

John 5 verse 24

**HEAR
John 1 v 12
BELIEVE AND RECEIVE**

SIN	+++++	CHRIST
MAN - DEATH	+ +	GOD - LIFE
	+++ S +++	
<i>ISAIAH 59V2</i>	+ CHRIST +	<i>JOHN 5V24</i> -HE WHO HEARS
SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD	+++ N +++	AND BELIEVES HAS ETERNAL LIFE
	+ +	
<i>ROMANS 3V23</i>	+ +	EPHESIANS 2V8-IT IS BY
ALL HAVE SINNED	+ +	GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN
	+ +	SAVED THROUGH FAITH
	+ +	
<i>ROMANS 6V23</i>	+ +	<i>ROMANS 6V23</i> - THE GIFT OF
THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH	+ +	GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN
	+ +	CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD
	+ +	
<i>HEBREWS 9V27</i>	+ +	<i>1 CORINTHIANS 15V3</i>
JUDGEMENT FOLLOWS	+ +	CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS
	+ +	CHRIST WAS RAISED FOR US
	+++++	<i>Jean</i>

St Mary's Offerings

The offerings in November amounted to £760.80
in December amounted to £905.50

The Christmas Day and The Candlelight Carol Services offerings raised £685 and the proceeds went to the charity **Action for Children**

God's Boxes

I have in my hand two boxes, which God gave me to hold
He said `put all your sorrows in the black box
and all your joys in the gold"
I heeded his words and in the two boxes both my joys
and sorrows I stored
But though the gold became heavier each day
the black was as light as before

With curiosity I opened the black I wanted to find out why
And I saw in the base of the box a hole, which my sorrows
had fallen out by
I showed the hole to God and mused
"I wonder where my sorrows could be?"
He smiled a gentle smile and said
"My child they are all here with me."

I asked God why He gave me the boxes,
why the gold and the black with the hole
"My child the gold is for you to count your blessings,
the black is for you to let go"

Poem by Arielle Perkins

Good to know that God takes care of our sorrows..... Jean

~~~~~

## **AN IRISH BLESSING**

*May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand*

God never said the Journey would be easy but He did say the Arrival  
would be worthwhile. Max Lucado

## **MARCH SERVICES**

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

|      |              |                                                                      |
|------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st  | 0915<br>1100 | Mr David Ward<br>Revd. Michael Pullan                                |
| 8th  | 0915<br>1100 | Revd. Michael Pullan<br>Revd. Michael Pullan - <i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 15th | 0915<br>1100 | Revd. Michael Pullan<br>Mrs Beryl Read                               |
| 22nd | 1100         | United Service at Parish Church<br>Mothering Sunday                  |
| 29th | 0915<br>1100 | Mr Gordon Bird<br>Stewards                                           |

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

|      |      |                                                     |
|------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1st  | 1100 | Songs of Praise                                     |
| 8th  | 1100 | Mrs Beryl Read                                      |
| 15th | 1500 | Revd. Michael Pullan - <i>Holy Communion</i>        |
| 22nd | 1500 | United Service at Parish Church<br>Mothering Sunday |
| 29th | 1100 | Mr Christopher Savill                               |

### **Park House**

|     |      |                      |
|-----|------|----------------------|
| 8th | 1600 | Revd. Michael Pullan |
|-----|------|----------------------|

## PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Rev Michael Pullan (422406) who will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

**Mervyn & Stephanie Bird**                      **423117**  
Sue Williams                                              422605

**Claire Jenkins**                                      **423546**  
Margaret Snowball                                      422896  
Gordon Bird                                              422550  
Sonia Crompton                                              422854

**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 Rev. Michael Pullan on 422406.*

*We thank God that we can be channels of His grace.*

## **FEBRUARY SERVICES**

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

|      |              |                                                                                 |
|------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd  | 0915<br>1100 | Revd. Michael Pullan - <i>Holy Communion</i><br>Revd. Michael Pullan            |
| 9th  | 0915<br>1100 | Mr David Ward<br>Revd. Michael Pullan/Revd. Paul Smith<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 16th | 0915<br>1100 | Mrs Beryl Read<br>Mr Gordon Bird                                                |
| 23rd | 0915<br>1100 | Revd. Canon Perran Gay<br>Stewards                                              |

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

|      |      |                                                                |
|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd  | 1100 | Mr Christopher Savill                                          |
| 9th  | 1500 | Revd. Michael Pullan/Revd. Paul Smith<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 16th | 1100 | Mr Len Michell                                                 |
| 23rd | 1100 | Mr Gordon Bird                                                 |

### **Park House**

|     |      |                      |
|-----|------|----------------------|
| 2nd | 1600 | Revd. Michael Pullan |
|-----|------|----------------------|