

**Isles of Scilly**



**Methodist Church Circuit**

**IN TOUCH**

**February/March 2024**

## **Chair of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District:**

Revd. Loraine Mellor

### **Superintendent Minister:**

Revd. Carole Holmes

### **Local Preacher:**

Mr. Christopher Savill

### **Circuit Stewards:**

Mrs. Christine Savill

Mr. Mervyn Bird

Mrs Leigh Kendrick

**Circuit Treasurer:** Mr. Christopher Savill

**Gift Aid Secretary:** Mrs. Stephanie Bird

**Circuit Meeting Secretary:** Mrs. Heather Terry

### **Church Stewards:**

<b>St. Mary's:</b>	Mrs. Jean Duncan	Mr. Philip Lethbridge
	Mrs. Leigh Kendrick	Mrs. Sue Williams
	Mrs Trish Payne	

**St. Martin's:** Mrs. Barbara Jones

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

**Church Treasurer:** Mrs. Anthea Roberts

**Church Council Secretary:** c/o The Minister

**Hall Booking Secretary:** Mrs. Anne Gurr

### **Musicians:**

Mr. Philip Lethbridge  
Mr. Mervyn Bird

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

**Church Council Secretary:** Mrs. Jackie Perkins

**Church Treasurer:** Mr. Alan Terry

**Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs. Barbara James

## FROM THE MANSE.....

Dear Friends,

This February-March edition of InTouch will bring us into the spring season and the promise of, hopefully calmer days and more settled weather. At the time of writing in mid-January however, the islands are in the grip of yet another of the named storms. This is Isha, already the ninth storm to hit the UK this winter. Amber warnings are in place, with pleas issued by emergency services for good sense to guide the necessity of venturing outdoors. The accuracy of modern-day weather forecasting allows for preparatory measures to be made. Whilst never being able to predict outcomes fully, foresight and care may help limit the extent of damage.

Amongst the devotional resources that I find valuable is a short prayer received at the end of each day. Each prayer is just a few lines, very simple, yet poignant and relevant. Some of these prayers have been published in two books of the same name, #Niteblessings. Revd Malcolm Duncan is the author. Tonight's prayer (21 January 2024) specifically related to the storm threat reads:

*"May you remember that Christ's anchor holds when the storm is raging.  
Both metaphorically and literally, may those who fear the noise of raging seas and violent winds tonight be given peace, strength and wisdom.  
May God protect all who risk themselves to help others ..."*

Christian tradition gives us a great many hymns and songs that use storm language as metaphors for times of difficulty, bewilderment and sadness in our lives. Some of these hymns are "old favourites", retelling deep spiritual truths about the presence of God in all things.

*"the storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid  
But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?"  
(Hymns and Psalms 678)*

I'm reminded too of the hymn that carries the motto of our local Five Islands Academy, as well as that of the UK Boys' Brigade:

*"We have an anchor that keeps the soul,  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll"*  
(Hymns and Psalms 689)

On St Mary's, the congregation has recently learned a more modern song on the same theme. It's a favourite at the school, with one of those tunes that is difficult to forget ... The title, "My Lighthouse" makes it especially appropriate to Scilly:

*"you are the peace in my troubled sea"*

Now in the lectionary year of the Gospel according to Mark, we'll hear again this year in Sunday worship, the awe and wonder of the first disciples in response to the power and authority of Jesus over all that held and conveyed fear and terror for them. This included at least one storm at sea. These Gospels passages invite us to reflect on our own experiences of divine presence, comfort and strength, perhaps especially in our times of difficulty and distress.

Recognising the significant impact on our lives that 'stormy' times can bring, the Methodist District of which Scilly is part, has recently created a new role. Tracey Collins has been appointed as the District Well-Being Officer. As well as being available for confidential conversation, Tracey's role involves promoting good practice for self-care.

A selection of resources is available from the District website (<https://www.cornwallmethodists.org.uk/wellbeing>) and Tracey can be contacted on

[wellbeing@cornwallmethodists.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@cornwallmethodists.org.uk).

Caring for ourselves is essential if we are to extend care to others. We've recently explored this idea on Scilly as part of the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The focus text, the parable we call that of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) begins with Jesus commending his questioner for correctly quoting the core Law. "Love God, Love your neighbour, *as you love yourself*".

The Prayer Week material invited us to consider that loving ourselves is a prerequisite of loving others.

There's a fuller report of the activities and events of the Week of Prayer later in this edition of InTouch.

As always, it's my privilege to extend to you the prayers and best wishes of the Circuit,

In friendship and with love,

Carole

+++++

### **HIS PROMISE**

**A garden filled with flowers**  
and birds that sweetly sing  
**A new made tomb that couldn't hold**  
our Saviour Lord and King!  
**He rose again that we might live**  
with confidence and trust  
**Providing we believe in Him**  
and repent, that is a must  
**How wonderful! How privileged!**  
How thankful we should be  
**That our dear Lord has shown us**  
how He cares, for you and me  
**Some people do not want to know**  
that Christ was even born!  
**And treat His Word as fantasy**  
with laughter and with scorn  
**I only know that as the world**  
falls deeper into sin  
**One day the heavens will open wide**  
and then we shall see Him  
**He'll walk the garden filled with flowers**  
this time with angels singing  
**and we will join the heavenly throng**  
our praises ever giving

## **News from St. Martin's**

The decorations are down, the treats are almost eaten and we have settled into 2024 but the love, peace and hope manifested in that small, vulnerable baby born in Bethlehem is ever constant and present today.

Prior to Christmas our community enjoyed two carol services, one in each of our places of worship – how we love to sing the carols and listen to the familiar story of Jesus's birth.

As is tradition at the service in Chapel the school children read the lessons, they all read extremely well and there must have been some very proud parents present – it is a joy to see how willing and enthusiastic they all are.

Carole led our worship and we were pleased and grateful to have the Revd Perran Gay play the keyboard for us which certainly aids and adds to the singing! The ladies singing group on St. Martin's also joined us and sang a couple of carols which we all enjoyed and after the Blessing they lead us in "We wish you a merry Christmas" before we had a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The offering taken at the carol service this year was donated to the Air Ambulance appeal for another helicopter and the amount raised was £168.

Sadly, however two of our Community have spent several weeks (including Christmas) in Treliske hospital, one of them being the husband of our regular correspondent, an anxious time for all of them and our thoughts and prayers remain with them and their families.

St. Martin's was also saddened by the loss of Beryl Read, Beryl was a good friend to our Chapel leading worship for many years and always taking a keen interest in the happenings and the people at the Chapel – we will miss her. Some of us were pleased to be able to attend the service of celebration of her life on St. Mary's, a life dedicated to serving her Lord in so many ways.

We are also sorry to hear of the passing of Andy Brooks. Andy lived on St. Martin's for a short time. He was a regular when the Choral Society used to bring their concerts to the Chapel and many remember him from his time working as part of the team at St. Mary's harbour.

Therefore, we remember and pray for those who continue to miss loved ones and begin to adjust to life being different.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> a coffee morning was held in the Island Hall to raise funds for two charities helping to supply aid to the people of Gaza and amazingly just over £900 was raised. We thank those who organised it and pray the money can help relieve some suffering in that war torn land.

We will continue to worship on Friday afternoons (weather permitting!) as we journey towards Lent and Easter when Spring will have arrived and we can return to Sunday worship!

*Christine Savill*

+++++

### ***St Mary's Offerings***

The offerings in November amounted to £310.10

The offerings in December amounted to £323.82

The Christmas Day and the Candlelight Carol Services offerings raised £363.56 and the proceeds went to the charity **Action for Children**

### **The sermon**

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him some money now, will he let us go?"

+++++

The 'heart' in the biblical sense is not the inward life, but the whole man in relation to God. - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## **Beryl Read**

The chapel on St Mary's was full on the afternoon of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December as the community came together in thanksgiving for the life of Beryl Read. The funeral service had taken place the previous week on the mainland, and the service on Scilly was, as John wished, an upbeat service of celebration. We came together, giving thanks to God for Beryl's life, influence, commitment to the community, and for the Christian faith that defined and shaped her life.

Included in the service were tributes from members of Beryl's family and from a previous minister, recounting with gratitude Beryl's unwavering support and encouragement through the years.

The hymns chosen and music played were representative of the scope of Beryl's worshipping life. Traditional hymns, silver band music and modern choruses, ending up with Beryl's all-time favourite film clip, the final sequence from "Sister Act 2". Although essentially a comedy, the film ends with Whoopi Goldberg's character leading a choir in a jazzed-up version of a song that Beryl associated with the call to Christian service and discipleship, "I will follow him". There perhaps could have been no better way to end such a service of tribute and gratitude.

Born in Hinckley, Leicestershire, during the War years, Beryl began her Christian journey within the Salvation Army. She moved through the junior ranks into full uniform and joined the Songsters. Beryl remained rightly proud of her Salvation Army roots; she was always especially excited to connect with visitors to Scilly who were from that same denomination.

Beryl met John in Hinckley, and, despite John pledging to keep clear of the young woman who cut across his path on her bicycle, they were married on 5 November 1960. On 2 January 1962, they set out on the journey to the Isles of Scilly. With no Salvation Army in the islands, Beryl joined the Methodist chapel and threw herself into its life and activity.

She served the chapel in a multitude of ways, as a worship leader, children's and youth leader, church council secretary, circuit steward and, as an elected representative from the District Synod to the Conference, the highest level of decision-making body in Methodism.

Beryl's care of others found expression in her church roles as pastoral secretary and visitor. Even in the more recent months of her own illness, Beryl continued to 'phone members and friends of the chapel family, enquiring about their wellbeing and ensuring that everyone felt connected and cared for. Beryl's care extended especially to the successive ministers and their families who over the years have been stationed to Scilly. Revd Jeremy Dare's words of appreciation surely resonated with many.

For 43 of her 61 years on Scilly, Beryl worked as a healthcare assistant at the hospital. Recruited by Sister Collis, initially on a temporary basis, Beryl quickly demonstrated her worth, and her valuable contribution soon resulted in a permanent role. Many in the wider community bear testimony to the comfort and support they received from Beryl during her years working at the hospital. The parable of The Good Samaritan, read at the service was a fitting choice to match a life so marked by acts of kindness and compassion for others.

Beyond her work, in a voluntary capacity, Beryl has been involved with numerous charities, groups and organisations on Scilly. She was passionate always about opportunities for young people, an advocate of their best interests.

We continue to rejoice in Beryl's life and influence, her faith and faithfulness. And, in the phrase used in the Salvation Army, we celebrate in Christian hope that beyond death, Beryl is now "Promoted to Glory".

+++++

None but God can satisfy the longings of an immortal soul; that as the heart was made for Him, so He only can fill it.

*Richard Chenevix*

## **Looking to the Future - The Methodist Circuit on Scilly**

The coming months are going to bring some changes to the way the Methodist Church is structured as an organisation. Currently, the Isles of Scilly is part of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District. The District is overseen by the Chair, Revd Loraine Mellor, who is based in Truro.

As numbers (of buildings, congregation attendance, pastors, preachers, ministers ... ) decrease, the Methodist Church is altogether smaller as an organisation that once we were. Different roles are also needed for our changed and changing times. Some roles once held by volunteers have now, by necessity, complexity or workload, become roles that are contracted, appointed, paid roles. This applies to matters including governance, safeguarding, well-being, complaints and discipline, lay employment, property and finance. Across the UK, new patterns of ministry, administration and governance are being developed and implemented.

In the South-West, conversations were begun some years ago to explore closer working relationships between the current Districts. These conversations have culminated now in a formal proposal to merge our District with our nearest neighbouring District, Plymouth and Exeter. Every Circuit Meeting will need to vote on the proposal.

Locally on Scilly, we're facing complex challenges. As a Circuit, we must address pressing questions, perhaps most crucially whether our responsibility to maintain property is now beyond our means, both financially and in terms of human resources. Decisions to set a course for the future must be made imminently to ensure there is time for changes to be implemented before my appointed time comes to an end.

There is recognition from those in oversight on the mainland about the importance of ensuring a non-conformist worshipping presence on Scilly. It's significant that for many years the Methodist Church has been the worshipping home for folk of a wide range of backgrounds and traditions. As we plan for the future, we pray with urgency for vision, clarity and courage.

Revd Carole Holmes

## Andy Brooks

We continue to extend our love and prayerful condolences to Patti on the recent death of Andy Brooks. How our worshipping life has been enriched by the presence and example of Andy and Patti among us, modelling ecumenism at its finest, celebrating and bringing together the best of all Christian traditions.

It was an honour for me to be alongside Patti and to represent the Methodist congregation at Andy's funeral service at the Parish Church on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

A celebration of the gift of love, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's words of Sonnet 43 were so fitting a choice as part of Patti's tribute to Andy's life:

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.*

Revd Carole Holmes

+++++

No medicine is more valuable... none better suited to the cure of all our temporal ills than a friend to whom we may turn for consolation in time of trouble – and with whom we may share our happiness in time of joy.

*St Aelred of*

*Rievaulx*

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024**

"I beg you bear with one another in love" is the title of the World Day of Prayer service prepared by the Christian women of Palestine. This year the act of worship will take place in the **Anglican Parish Church on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 at 2.00pm**. Refreshments will be served in the Church pavilion afterwards.

For those in the Anglican and Methodist congregations who would like to have a part in the service or support in any way, there will be a planning meeting in the **Church Pavilion on Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm**.

All are most welcome to participate or just share in the act of worship. By joining in this world wide day of prayer we not only think of the people of Palestine, but also raise funds which are shared between many international charities.

*Heather Terry*

+++++

### **Lent Study Group**

With Easter early this year, Lent will soon be upon us.  
Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>.

There are plans to hold a study group on a Tuesday morning, beginning February 20<sup>th</sup>, maybe repeated in the evening.

Watch the local church notice boards for times and further information.

+++++

### **Windows**

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later:

"Computer's completely not working now."

## **Looking at God 'Lenten Valentines'**

This month (Feb) both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love!

Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD and that he was martyred on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

*What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing?  
Know it well, love was His meaning.*

## **THE PERFECT CHURCH**

If you should find the perfect church without one fault or smear  
For goodness sake don't join that church  
you'd spoil the atmosphere

If you should find the perfect church where all anxieties cease  
Then pass it by, lest joining it you spoil the masterpiece

If you should find the perfect church then don't you ever dare  
To tread upon such holy ground you'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists made of perfect men  
Let's cease on looking for that church  
and love the church we're in

Of course it's not the perfect church, that's simple to discern  
But you and I and all of us could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee the past in that unfruitful search  
To find at last where problems loom

### ***God proudly builds His church***

+++++

### **Why?**

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

## **STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS**

*Judges 7 1-9*

**The Lord said to Gideon “You have too many men”**

(Judges 7 v 2)

When my son was nearly three, I needed an operation that would require a month or more of recovery. Prior to the procedure, I imagined myself in bed while stacks of dirty dishes accumulated in the sink. I wasn't sure how I would take care of an active toddler and couldn't picture myself standing in front of the stove to cook our meals. I dreaded the impact my weakness would have on the rhythm of our lives.

God intentionally weakened Gideon's forces before his troops confronted the Midianites. Firstly, those who were afraid were allowed to leave - 22,000 men went home. (Judges 7 v 3). Then, of the 10,000 who remained, only those who scooped water into their hands to drink could stay. Just 300 men were left,, but this disadvantage prevented the Israelites from relying on themselves. (v5-6). They couldn't say, "My own strength has saved me" (v2)

Many of us experience times when we feel drained and powerless. When this happened to me, I realised how much I needed God. He encouraged me inwardly through His Spirit and outwardly through the helpfulness of friends and family. I had to let go of my independence for a while, but this taught me how to lean more fully on God.

Because HIS power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12 v 9), we can have hope when we can't meet our needs on our own.

Jennifer Benson Schuldt

*How have you experienced God's power made perfect in your weakness?*

*How could you help someone else who is experiencing weakness?*

**Dear God, help me to depend on You  
more and more each day**

*Taken from the 2023 April May June Our Daily Bread© 2023 by Our Daily Bread Ministries. All rights reserved*

## **The Methodist Church Inclusive Language Guide**

In a recent blog the Methodist Church says: 'We are proud of our Inclusive Language Guide. This helps the Church hold conversations without making assumptions or inadvertently causing upset'.

The Assistant Secretary to the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson, explains why words are important and how the guide affirms traditional terms such as husband and wife while allowing people to express themselves using the language that is right for them.

Words in general are powerful and important and, of course, human language is changing all the time. The Methodist Church, as part of our calling to be an inclusive Church, is paying attention to the language that we use and is encouraging everyone to be careful in the words used when we are talking with and about people. We should never use offensive, racist, sexist or homophobic language but also part of loving our neighbour is to consider how they might want to be addressed or described.

Those in the life of the Church who help prepare people for special events such as baptisms, funerals and marriages will want to use language that is inclusive and reflects for those involved the language that they would choose to use for themselves. So, as well as traditional language such as 'husband and wife' it might be appropriate to use words such as 'partner' or 'spouse'. This is not a discarding of particular terms but an opening up of our language in a way that reflects the gracious and inclusive nature of God's love.

As the world's understanding of each person's identity changes, the Church is learning more about what it means to be created in God's image – our language about God is limited by our human understanding – as that understanding grows, so does our knowledge of the God who created us. In our guide to inclusive language, we offer practical advice about how our language might be used in ways that do not exclude people, whatever their identity. We are called to love in the way that Christ loves, recognising, as St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, that in Christ Jesus we are all children of God in faith.

Here is a direct link to the guide:

[www.methodist.org.uk/media/31380/ilg-designed-update-december-2023.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/31380/ilg-designed-update-december-2023.pdf)

## **"THINE BE THE GLORY!"**

I have been asked to do a write-up on an Easter hymn, so I have chosen one that is a firm favourite of people of various different denominations.

"Thine be the glory" was originally written in French ("A Toi la gloire O Ressuscite".) by Edmund Louis Budry, a minister of the Swiss Eglise Evangelique du Canton de Vaud in 1884, and was translated into English by Richard Birch Hoyle in 1923. The hymn's popularity was cemented when it was included in the Methodist Hymnbook 1933.

Today it features in several popular hymnbooks including:-

*The New English Hymnal, Singing the Faith, The Church Hymnary & Mission Praise.*

The Tune, 'Maccabaeus', by George Frederick Handel, originally came from his Oratorio 'Joshua' about the Old testament hero who led the Israelites into the Promised Land, and Handel was so pleased with it, that he added the chorus to his other Oratorio 'Judas Maccabaeus' about another biblical hero who appears in the Apocrypha.

Handel reckoned that the tune would become more popular than some of his other favourites, and as it is sung with such gusto to this hymn by so many denominations in different lands, I reckon he was right.

If you wish to read the words, go to MHB 213 or H&P 212.

They are some of the most powerful words that you will ever read.

Philip Lethbridge.

+++++

There is a net of love by which you can catch souls.

*Mother Teresa*

## THE LAST ENEMY

And **He**, who each day  
Reveals a new masterpiece of sky  
And whose joy  
Can be seen in the eyelash of a child  
Who, when **He** hears of our smug indifference  
Can whisper an ocean into a lashing fury  
And talk tigers into padding roars

### **This is my God**

Whose breath is in the wings of eagles  
Whose power is etched in the crags of mountains  
It is **He** whom I will meet  
In whose presence I will find tulips and clouds  
kneeling martyrs and trees  
The whole vast praising of **His** endless creation  
And **He** will grant the uniqueness  
that eluded me,  
in my early bartering with Satan  
That day when **He** will erase the painful gasps of my ego  
And I will sink my face into the wonder of His glorylove  
And I will watch planets converse with sparrows  
On that day  
When death is finally dead

*Stewart Henderson*

## Sunday School Lesson

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

Jenny, a thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd be sick!"

+++++

Anyone can do their best, but we are helped by the spirit of God to do better than our best.

*Commissioner Catherine Bramwell-Booth*

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**January 18-25 2024**

Although often referred to as a 'Week', the national call to prayer runs Wednesday to Wednesday inclusive and is therefore more correctly an Octave.

This year on Scilly, there were opportunities to come together in all the dedicated religious buildings on St Mary's, exploring in different ways the words of Jesus in Luke 10:25-37. This passage is that known as the parable of the Good Samaritan. If we thought we were familiar with the story, the resources offered fresh insights and the opportunity to share with one another in conversation and reflection.

The material for this year was prepared by Christians in Burkina Faso, a country where to profess faith is risky, where pastors, priests and congregation members have been kidnapped and even killed.

Remarkably in this context, there is a growing solidarity between people of faith, a determination to find through prayer, a peaceful way forward for the whole nation. Our ongoing prayers are asked for the people, leaders and churches of Burkina Faso.

Revd Elizabeth, the Anglican Chaplain, encouraged us to think and worship in new ways, through two pop-up events over the weekend.

As Methodists, we took responsibility for heading up Creative Church on Saturday afternoon. Friendship bracelets, thinking of you cards, paper flowers, a collaborative banner, a friendship ring of people ... time to share conversation and to enjoy being together.

As Storm Isha approached, 'Wild Church' certainly lived up to its name on Sunday afternoon.

In the candlelight of Old Town Church, Revd Elizabeth led activities, readings and worship, inviting us to engage with God and to think about others through the 'wildness' of creation. New songs again featured, including these words of a chorus:

*"One blue sky above us  
One ocean lapping all our shore  
One earth so green and round  
Who could ask for more  
And because I love you  
I'll give it one more try  
To show my rainbow race  
It's too soon to die"*

Watch out for details of more Creativity and Wildness occasions in the coming months ....

+++++

A man may go to Heaven

without health  
without riches  
without honours  
without friends

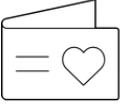
but he can never go there  
without the Lord Jesus Christ

+++++

### **Do what we can to help...**

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers." "Thank you," she said "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in kitchen....."

🎈🎈 Birthdays 🎈🎈



**Happy Birthday and God's blessings**  
to all who are celebrating their birthday in  
**February and March**



**God's army**

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly, "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"

Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

+++++

**AN IRISH PRAYER**

May love connect us  
Faith direct us  
and God protect us

May your troubles be less  
and your blessings be more  
and nothing but happiness  
comes through your door

For each petal on the shamrock  
This brings a wish your way  
Good health good luck and happiness  
For today and every day

## Editorial Team

Jean Duncan, Anne Gurr and Barbara James are the Editorial Team of In Touch. Articles for inclusion in this circuit magazine can be given or sent to them personally or emailed to [iosmethodist.mag@gmail.com](mailto:iosmethodist.mag@gmail.com)

Please support the Editors by contributing reflections, stories, news etc. We welcome articles from our mainland readers as well as from Scilly.

In Touch can also be read online at [www.scillymethodists.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk)

Thanks to [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk) for the use of their material.

The material in this magazine is from a variety of sources. The opinions and beliefs expressed in individual articles do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of The Methodist Church, the local editorial team or the Minister.

+++++

As Charity Trustees, the Circuit Meeting and Church Councils seek prayerfully to act responsibly and with all due care in utilising the resources over which we have stewardship.

In common with other charities, groups and individuals, we are increasingly aware that rising costs are having a major impact in all areas of life and work. Old buildings especially bring particular challenges of costly maintenance.

If you feel able to contribute financially to support the work of The Isles of Scilly Methodist Church, St Mary's Methodist Church or St Martin's Methodist Church, please contact The Minister for details of the various ways to do this.

The Manse, Church Street, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0JT or telephone 01720 422406.

## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The Isles of Scilly Methodist Circuit, St. Mary's Methodist Church and St. Martin's Methodist Church, care about your privacy and your trust is important to us.

Our Privacy Notice explains how local Churches, Circuits and Districts within the Methodist Church in Great Britain collect, use and protect your personnel information.

The Managing Trustees' Privacy Notice is published on the notice boards in the chapel buildings on St. Mary's and St. Martin's and is available to view online at:-

<https://www.t MCP.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice>

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



### **Prayer Requests**

As always, please do feel able to ask Revd. Carole if you would appreciate pastoral contact or the prayers of the Church.

## **Provisional Plan of Services**

(these arrangements are yet to be confirmed!  
please see local notice boards for confirmation of  
arrangements)

### **St Mary's Methodist Church Services**

Sun 4 Feb	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 11 Feb	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 18 Feb	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	Lent 1
		Holy Communion	
Sun 25 Feb	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	Lent 2
Sun 3 Mar	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	
Sun 10 Mar	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	Lent 3
Sun 17 Mar	10.30am	to be confirmed	Lent 4
Sun 24 Mar	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	Palm
Sun 31 Mar	10.30am	Revd Carole Holmes	Easter
		Holy Communion	

### **St Martin's Methodist Church Services**

Fri 2 Feb	2.30pm	At the Anglican Church	
		Candlemas	
Fri 9 Feb	2.45pm	Revd Carole Holmes	
Fri 16 Feb	2.45pm	Revd Carole Holmes	
		Holy Communion	
Fri 23 Feb	2.45pm	Revd Carole Holmes	
Fri 1 Mar	2.45pm	World Day of Prayer service	
		at the Chapel	
Fri 8 Mar	2.45pm	Revd Carole Holmes	
Fri 15 Mar	2.45pm	to be confirmed	
Fri 22 Mar	2.45pm	to be confirmed	
Sun 31 Mar	3pm	Revd Carole Holmes	Easter
		Holy Communion	