

Isles of Scilly



In Touch

February 2010
Methodist Church Circuit

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Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs

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Barbara Hasler Len Michell
Neil Didlick Gordon Bird
Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 423563
Mr Mervyn Bird 423117
Mr Len Michell 422409
Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs Rose Didlick

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Claire Jenkins
Mrs June Lethbridge Mrs Sue Williams
Mrs Beryl Read

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's Mrs Sue Williams (422605)

Treasurer

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read

Property Secretary Mrs Mary Ratcliffe

Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)

Some thoughts from St Mary's Manse



As I sit in my warm and comfortable study writing this letter in mid January, we are in the midst of some chilly weather, even here on the mild Isles of Scilly. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have to be out and about in all weathers: Our Boatmen, Our Medical Team, Our Farmers, Our Postmen and Island Carriers, Our Milkmen, those at our tiny Airport, and those other essential workers who

we rely upon to care for those in our remote island community.

For most it seems that the Isles of Scilly is a fine place to live, but how do we make judgements about our community? Is it how we care for the vulnerable, those who live alone, the elderly, and those with special needs?

I was delighted recently to be invited by our Island Council to attend a meeting to look at how we may improve our care for the elderly here on Scilly. Surely how we care for the elderly will be an important aspect of our thoughts when we come to make judgements about where we live?

At the other end of life maybe we are judged by how we care for the children and young people who will be the Scillonians of tomorrow. We are thankful for our schools, for future visions of making yet more improvements in education, and for those who work with children and young people out of school hours. Again I am delighted to be invited into our school bases, to lead assemblies and to

offer support for the hard- working teachers and staff. In January there will be the first meeting at our Island Council Offices of SACRE (The Isles of Scilly Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education). We do indeed rejoice that even today in this high-tech and fast moving world that we have grasped how religion still has a crucial part to play in our community.

How then do we judge our common life here on Scilly? Is it by our attendance at church and chapel, for during our summer months we rejoice as visitors join us in worship, but maybe the winter months remind us that there are still many who do not see the need of weekly worship and of how important this has been in our island community over many generations here on these fine islands. My Prayer is this....

***Lord God, strengthen your Church we pray, that we may serve and care for one another, that the young and the old will be valued, and that the vulnerable will find hope upon their journey. Grant this we pray as we seek to follow the way of Jesus and live out our Christian faith in acts of Human Kindness
Amen***

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist Minister for these fine Islands for a while.

Charles R Gibbs.

News from St.Martin's

Although strong winds resulted in the cancellation of Neil's planned service in early December, sea conditions did not prevent the Rev. Charlie Gibbs from conducting our Carol Service on December 20th. or from attending the Anglican Carol Service the previous week. Also the spell of calm weather allowed some St. Martins members to attend the joint Covenant Service for the first time in three years.

Our Carol Service followed the long established pattern of children reading most of the lessons and we thank them for their willing and able participation. It was good to welcome families and many others from the wider Island community, as together we shared in the wondrous story of our Saviour's Nativity and sang the familiar carols with gusto.

On the Saturday evening prior to the Carol Service, the Christmas Tree Party was held in the Reading Room. Just like on St. Marys, the Duchy had provided a huge tree this year, so the gifts left underneath for needy children looked less significant in comparison, but I'm sure Jackie dispatched just as many as usual to the mainland. There was a pleasing attendance of children who enjoyed a variety of games, before the arrival of Father Christmas with his supply of balloons, crackers and tangerines. If the children enjoyed themselves, I believe the watching grown ups had a good time too, taking pleasure from witnessing youngsters having fun! After supper the evening was rounded off with games and quizzes for the adults. Donations for Action for Children totaled £95.

Christmas, very much a family time, saw some of our members visiting their children on the mainland, whilst others welcomed them home to Scilly. Chris Hensleigh,

Daph and Derek were joined by their sisters, who always worship with us. The freezing conditions delayed Celia's and Rodney's return from Norfolk by a week, but we are glad to have them home again now.

Charlie has been making good use of the Medical Launch each Wednesday, using the time when a doctor is conducting surgery to visit one home on St.Martin's. Once a month he has stayed overnight and held a Fellowship Meeting.

Heather

Lent – a good time to pray

Lent is traditionally a time when Christians take stock of themselves spiritually. They set aside extra time for prayer. So there you are, tentatively wanting to pray... Here are some helpful things to remember as you settle down to it:

People have been praying since Adam had a grandson named Enosh. At least the Bible tells us in 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 been 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 Tim 2:5).

The Bible makes clear that god does not stand on ceremony

- he wants our personal, spontaneous prayers. Jesus was very matter of fact about it: 'When you pray, go into you're- He wants our personal, spontaneous prayers. Jesus was 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.

Finally, 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 (Revelation 4:11)

Action For children

As in previous years the collections at the Christmas Concert and Services were all donated for Action For Children, raising an interim total of £651.60 to be somewhat increased by Gift Aid declarations in due course.

Very many thanks to all who contributed in any way to this magnificent response from these Islands to the Methodist charity's valuable work with children and young people. The need in S.W England is certainly being met!

Gwen Clarkson, Representative Action For Children

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Memory is what tells a man his wedding anniversary was yesterday.

Word Search

February is the month of Love. On Valentine's Day we celebrate our earthly love for one another, with hearts and romantic cards and roses and presents and expensive meals in restaurants. But February also marks the beginning of Lent, when we recall Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil. The Church has used Lent as a time for prayer and fasting and taking stock of ourselves spiritually. We want to be prepared for the greatest show of Divine Love ever – Good Friday.

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Words

Valentine hugs kiss rose hearts
 boyfriend girlfriend romance present restaurant
 Jesus love prayer lent
 fasting temptation divine wilderness
 devil bread stone
 worship repentance angels



Do We Have as Much Sense as God Gave Geese?

Ever wondered why geese fly in a V formation? As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going much quicker and easier because they are travelling on the thrust of each other.

When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone, it quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

When the lead bird tires, it rotates back into formation to take advantage of the bird immediately in front of it.

It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese people are interdependent on each others skills, capabilities and unique arrangement of gifts, talents, or resources.

The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those in front to keep up their speed. We need to make sure our

honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and to encourage the heart and core values of others) is the honking we seek.

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

If we have as much sense as God gave the goose, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Author unknown but reprinted from the Wesley Herald, Methodist Church magazine Gibraltar. Kindly sent by Mary Dolding.

Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord!

You are invited to join brothers and sisters around the world to celebrate the Woman's World Day of Prayer 2010. We shall be gathering in the Star of the Sea Catholic Church on the Strand at 2.00pm on Friday 5th March to praise and pray together. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Cameroon.

Tea and Biscuits will be served afterwards.

At Home Afternoons

What people say about ...

The St Mary's

At Home Afternoons

We look forward to being with friends, chatting and playing games every Wednesday

It is good to get out in the middle of the week and be with others

There is always a warm welcome, a cup of tea and a lift to and from the meeting if I need it

It is good company! It makes me feel years younger...It is good to know that someone cares!

If you would like to come and join us on Wednesday afternoons just come along to the manse in Church Street. We meet from 2pm- 4pm.

If you need transport ring Rev Charlie Gibbs on 422406

For more details ring either Claire Jenkins on 423546
Or Mary Leathers on 423236

Curiosity

A teacher was finishing a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity.

"After all," she declared, "Where would we be today," she asked, "if no one had ever been curious?"

One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. "In the Garden of Eden?"



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

In Touch

Our Methodist newsletter here in the Isles of Scilly, called "IN TOUCH" does in indeed keep us in touch with friends, many of them not living in the islands. They may have strong family connections or have lived here in times past or been with us while on holiday and retain an interest in our doings. Every edition is sent away to more than 60 such destinations and we consider that to be part of our Methodist outreach. Three copies go to friend on the continent of Europe, Sabine Pfeffer, Uli Spielle, and Mrs. Mary Dolding.

Sabine from Reutlingen in Germany has been a summer visitor, Uli has worked here during college vacations and come to our Wednesday House Group. She has been studying in Switzerland and is now on a two year theology course. It has been good to hear from them with their seasonal greetings to us all and with their stories.

For a long time a third copy has been sent to Mary in Gibraltar. She recently sent a copy of her Methodist magazine with contents we wish to share with our readers. We value contributions from the wider world for it is good for us to hear from our friends in churches elsewhere.

Gwen Clarkson.

Congratulations

By the time this goes out I'm sure everyone will already know but we would still like to send our love and congratulations to Beth and Matt on the safe arrival of baby Joseph.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

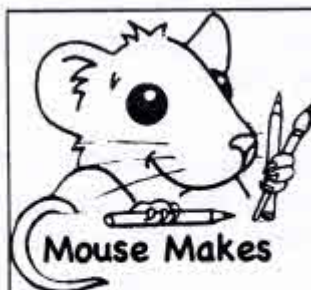
In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40.

Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.





The Apostle Paul said:

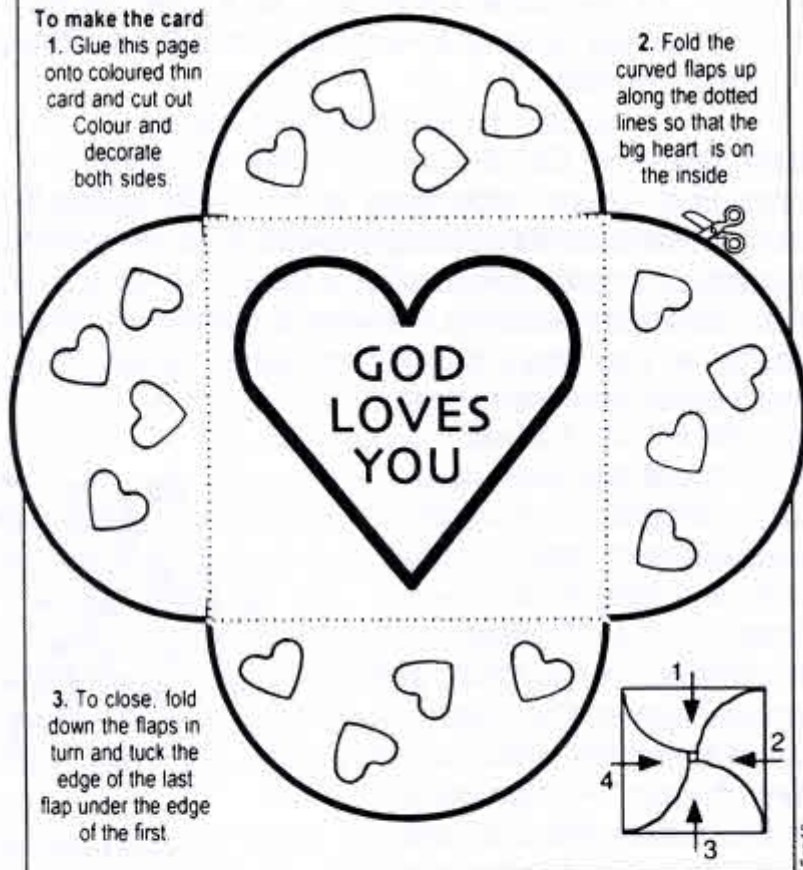
*"I am convinced that **nothing** can ever separate us from **God's love**. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow, not even the powers of hell can separate us from **God's love**."*

Romans 8:38-39

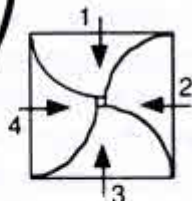
To make the card

1. Glue this page onto coloured thin card and cut out. Colour and decorate both sides.

2. Fold the curved flaps up along the dotted lines so that the big heart is on the inside.



3. To close, fold down the flaps in turn and tuck the edge of the last flap under the edge of the first.



Feb 10

Happy Birthday to you

Happy Birthday



Birthday greetings this month go to Barbara James, Jacky Pritchard, Philip Roberts, Beryl Read, Keith Guy, Emily Smith and Jake Sandford.

God's blessings to you all.

Getting through today

So far today, God, I've done all right.

I haven't gossiped,
haven't lost my temper,
haven't been greedy, grumpy,
nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent.

I'm really glad about that.

But in a few minutes, God,

I'm going to get out of bed...

and from then on I'm going to need your help!

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Any contributions will be gratefully received by 15th of the month. The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe.

Diary Dates

February

Regular events

Wednesdays 2.00pm At Home

Fridays 7.30pm Fellowship

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Answers to Wordsearch (page 7)



PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030 or Revd. Charles Gibbs 422406. I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird 423117

Sue Williams 422605

Keith & Sam Grossett 422503

Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

Claire Jenkins 423546

Neil & Rose Ddlick 422838

Margaret Snowball 422896

Gordon & Fiona Bird 422550

Sonia Crompton 422854

Barbara Hasler 422208

Margaret Crane 422596

Len & Sylvia Michell 422409

Pamela Thomas 423115

June Lethbridge 422404

William & Tricia Thomas 423144

Peter Laverock 423692

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.

FEBRUARY NOTICES

St Mary's

7 th Park House	10:30am	Leader: Mervyn Bird Preacher: Revd. Charles Gibbs
	4:00p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Park House Revd. Charles Gibbs Revd. Charles Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
14 th	9:15am	Leader: William Thomas Preacher: Neil Didlick
	11:00am 6:30pm	Worship at the Parish Church Barbara Hasler
21 st	9:15 am	Leader: Gordon Bird Preacher: Barbara Hasler
	11:00 am	Revd. Charles Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs
28 th	9:15am	Leader: Neil Didlick Preacher: Revd. Charles Gibbs
	11:00	Barbara Hasler
	6.30 pm	Hymns and readings for the season of Lent led by Revd. Charlie Gibbs

St Martin's

7 th	11.00am	Chris Savill
14 th	3.00pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs
21 st	11.00am	Len Michell
28 th	3.00pm	Revd. Charles Gibbs