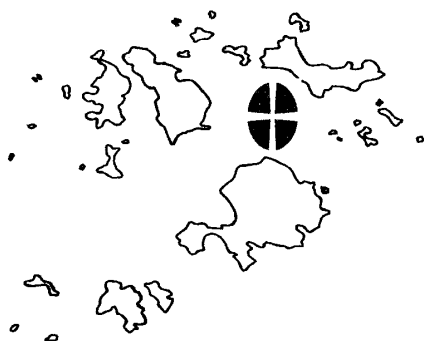


Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

In Touch

July 2009

Chairman of the District

Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Dr. David Easton Ph.D., M.A., B.Ed.

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Neil Didlick Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 422888

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mr Neil Didlick 422838

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 422888

Circuit Meeting Secretary Mrs Rose Didlick

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Claire Jenkins

Mrs June Lethbridge Mrs Sue Williams

Mrs Mary Ratcliffe Mr William Thomas

St. Martin's Mr Derek Perkins

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mr Len Michell

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 (01720 422977)

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

The summer is hurrying along. This is the last month I shall be spending on Scilly, although I will be writing the letter for the August edition.

At the moment I am in the midst of de-cluttering. It's amazing how much 'stuff' you can accumulate in seven years. Of course some of it is items I didn't get rid of last time I moved. When you look at an article of clothing or household equipment, which you haven't used for seven years, nor for the eight years before that, then you seriously have to ask yourself if you need it!

My problem is that I'm not very good at getting rid of things. I think I inherited this tendency from my mother who uses tea towels, for example, until they could be recycled as panes of glass. I thought of her when I looked at some of mine the other day.

I've always found that moving house like this is a challenge to my lifestyle. Why, when Jesus says, 'take no thought for tomorrow. . .', do I feel I need so much? Have I become dependent on too many 'things'? Is it all a sort of security blanket? What are the bare essentials I could/ought to live with? I don't have any easy answers to these questions, but I think I should consider them, and moving house is as good a time as any.

I also think that considering the teaching of Christ in the midst of packing, is a reminder that our faith should touch every area of our lives. It's not just about the 'Sunday bits' or the 'spiritual bits' – it's also about the 'taking stuff to the charity shop or dump bits'.

How far does your faith and the teaching of Jesus inform and shape your everyday life? Surely it should.

Every blessing,
David.



News from St Martin's

Since last submitting our news a couple of months back, our thoughts have been with Barbara Clarke (from Glenmoor Gift Ship), who is now in West Cornwall Hospital having spent a number of weeks at Treliske. Also, Gladys Perkins has been unwell, experiencing pain and mobility difficulties. We ask God's healing power for everyone facing medical problems and His strength for all who support them.

Like David, several of our regular congregation took holidays in May, so it has been doubly good to welcome those taking a break on St.Martin's.

During her twenty years of marriage to Kenny and in the three years since his death, Lin Goddard has worshipped with us whenever possible. However, she has now sold "Plains" to live permanently in West Cornwall with John. We thank them both for a lovely lunchtime farewell on May 31st, when almost all St.Martin's residents and others, chatted and took light refreshments on the hotel lawn in glorious sunshine. Fortunately for David the 2.00pm tripper boat landed at Lower Town, so he was easily able to join us, as Lin and John had wanted. Later we gathered for an evening service, Lin and John attending for the last time with some who came because they were soon to leave the island. Our good wishes for their future life together go with Lin and John as they prepare to settle in Praa Sands.

As I write these notes, I am very conscious that the July edition of In Touch will be the last with David as our minister. Everyone within the Circuit and wider community will have their own personal memories of his ministry, and the initiatives he has introduced on all islands. The Walking Nativity and Water Aid walk on St. Mary's and roving Circuit Service, have taken the Christian message beyond the two chapels and have been appreciated by those touched by the occasions. Similarly his services on Tresco, Bryher and St. Agnes have been welcomed by those off islanders. Thank you David for this and of course your work on St. Martin's since 2002. Your pastoral work within the community will be remembered with special gratitude.

Heather

Editor: With the ending of the school year, many of us face big changes ahead later this summer or autumn. With this in mind....

First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do. Epictetus

I was trained from the beginning to work, to save, and to give. –
John D Rockefeller, Jr.

Childlike in simplicity

Forgive us, Lord, that as we grow to maturity, our faith is blighted with doubts, withered with worry, tainted with sophistication. We pray that you will make us like children again in faith – not childish, but childlike in the simplicity of a faith that is willing to trust you even though we cannot see what tomorrow will bring.

Peter Marshall emigrated to the United States from Scotland, trained as a Presbyterian minister, and in 1947 was made chaplain to the United States Senate.

MONEY MATTERS – from Len Michell. Church Treasurer

GIFT DAY 2009. Although the total was less than in 2008, much generosity was shown by a number of chapel friends who gave £660. To this can be added a further £150 in respect of the tax refund on those amounts which were gift-aided, making a much appreciated boost to the chapel funds of £810.

CORNWALL DISTRICT VISIT: About 140 came on the Scillonian on 1st June for which refreshments were provided. They were very pleased with the welcome St. Mary's Methodists gave them and voluntary contributions netted approximately £180 for chapel funds after expenses of £240 have been paid. Once again, a big 'thank you' to all who contributed; our Cornwall friends and our home team of organisers, providers of food, and helpers.

SITUATION VACANT – w.e.f. 1st SEPTEMBER 2009: At the Church Council in November 2007 I said I would be giving up the position of Church Treasurer at the end of August 2009, and at subsequent Church Council's have reminded members of my intention. I am aware that by the time this newsletter comes out there will only be about 2 months left before I leave office. So far I have not heard of anyone expressing any interest in succeeding me, and that is why I am reminding our local readers that time is getting short and the matter becoming more serious.

PLEASE – if anyone wants to know what is involved, is willing to get instruction, is interested in getting together perhaps with one or two others to share the duties, do contact me. The work is not complicated once the mechanics are understood, but it does need a lot of commitment, and is a worthwhile expression of doing the Lord's work. I will complete the final accounts for the year ending 31st August, but will cease to carry out the day-to-day financial operations from that date. I do not want Mr. Gibbs to start his ministry on Scilly with a Church Council lacking someone at the financial helm. Friends, talk among yourselves, consider having a go, and see me.

Editor's Comment- Many thanks should go to Len for all his hard work as treasurer. Having spoken to past treasurers I know that it is a weekly job that largely goes unseen.

Carers

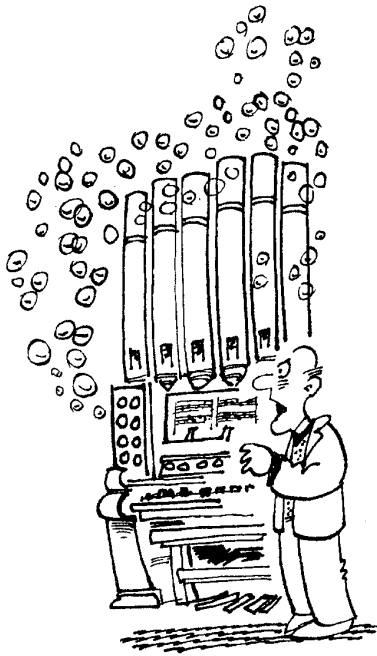
Are you caring for an older relative?

The care of the old is a vocation as delicate and difficult as the care of the young. James Douglas

Children

Are the school holidays proving a strain?

Children are a great comfort in your old age... and they help you to reach it faster, too!



For the last time! - Which member of the Junior Choir put bubble mixture in the organ-blower?!

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing; others judge us by what we have done. – Longfellow

From the Rev Michael Burgess, looking at great works of music.

'The trumpet will sound...and we shall be changed':

George Frideric Handel

'He is the master of us all.' In those words Haydn praised the music of George Frideric Handel. They were echoed by Mozart, who said of him, 'He understands effects better than any of us – when he chooses, he strikes like a thunderbolt,' and Beethoven in conversation about Handel in 1824 said, 'I would uncover my head and kneel down at his tomb.'

Some thirty years later Leigh Hunt wrote, 'Handel was the Jupiter of music...his hallelujahs open the heavens. He utters the word 'Wonderful' as if all their trumpets spoke together. And then, when he comes to earth, to make love amidst nymphs and shepherds (for the beauties of all religions find room in his breast), his strains drop milk and honey, and his love is the youthfulness of the Golden Age.' In this year, the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, many of us would say 'Amen' to those resounding judgements.

Handel was born in 1685 in Lutheran Germany, the son of Dorothea and George, who was an eminent surgeon in Halle. His first instrument was the organ and he gained a prestigious appointment at the cathedral in that city while still in his teens. That musical training provided the foundation for later life – in performing, where he showed great skill at the keyboard, and in composition, where he excelled in instrumental, vocal and orchestral works. His first stage work, 'Almira' was produced at Hamburg, but from Germany he moved to Italy for five years, before settling in London.

During his time in Italy he gained the patronage of three cardinals and composed a glorious setting of the psalm 'Dixit Dominus' when just 22 years old. It was an important time for Handel as he worked with Scarlatti, the founder of the Neapolitan school of opera. His own works moved from a heavy Germanic style to the lighter, brighter world of Italian opera. He composed a vast number of them, both in Italy and when he moved to England

We see the genius of Handel when he is able to transcend poor libretti and muddled plots to create music that has been performed and loved ever since. 'Sosarme' is one of his weakest operas dramatically, but inspired arias and melodies that seemed to have flowed effortlessly from his pen and imagination. He raises the spirits and expresses the whole gamut of human emotions in these works. In 'Giulio Cesare' there is a wonderful moment when Mount Parnassus opens to reveal Cleopatra, who sings a beautiful seductive air. But for many his most famous aria will be his Largo, 'Ombra mai fu'. As Handel's Largo, it is played regularly at church and social occasions. The aria is far from religious: Serse, a strange character, has fallen in love with a plane tree and gives thanks for the shade it provides on a hot day. Somehow the music has taken on a life of its own, over and beyond that original setting.

It is there that Handel's greatness lies. In the midst of composing this array of operas, he still found time to visit the continent, searching for singers and keeping up to date with musical developments there. At home he also composed orchestral works, including the Water Music, which became as popular as his operas and was played in taverns and grand houses alike. Next month we shall look at how Handel moved from opera to oratorio, but here we rejoice in a composer, who in his lifetime travelled far beyond the boundaries of country and religion to create music that has continued to speak to the heart.

Editor: Summer is also the time of concerts and plays...

Classical music: The kind you "keep on hoping will turn into a tune."
Kin Hubbard

Music – the only universal tongue. Anon

Sleep is an excellent way of listening to an opera. James Stephens
Give me a laundry list and I will set it to music. – Gioacchino Antonio
Rossini

Wishing you well

As David prepares to leave us and begin his ministry in Wales, here are some memories and thoughts of his time with us contributed by a variety of members of the congregation.

Like most members of our congregation, I shall be very sad when David has to leave us.

He was so kind to me and my family when my husband died. He came over to the West Cornwall Hospital for a special private service in the Hospital Chapel and later conducted the internment of the ashes at Old Town. He is just as kind to everyone.

His sermons are always challenging but with humour and great sincerity. To me, he is the personification of true Christianity.

I can only hope he will be happy in Wales and be as much loved there as he has been here. Our loss is their gain.

'On a lighter note, David reminds one of the Queen-- with a severe expression, but a smile that lights up his face, and shows his wicked sense of humour.'

Of course the memory that would hit my top 5 would probably be of David singing YMCA in the Christmas concert.

'David's ministry, on these Islands, has done what we have all been discussing at every group meeting. Namely, how to show the love of Jesus in these Islands. By being 'Out there' he has done just that.'

Christmas time- The Walking Nativity- a new event to Scilly which packed the Church every time bringing the message of Christmas to the community. The candles, carols and tableau brought the nativity scene to life.

David will be remembered in school for his organised anarchy with a Christian message in assembly.

What I shall remember most about David are his excellent sermons. He has proved to us over and over again that one does not have to be verbose to get one's point across. He also is brilliant in his use of visual aids to help get his message across - I shall never forget (and I don't suppose the children who took part will either) his use of an empty Easter egg box to illustrate the puzzlement and disappointment felt by the disciples on finding the empty tomb on the first Easter Day!

Talking of Summer there are some memorable Dash and Dip tales of David as a waiter complete with tray of drinks diving into the warm and inviting waters or was it as an dice?...

David has also been a keen walker taking Christianity onto the streets. In 2005 there was the 'Pray without Ceasing' event which ended with a walk around Peninis. In 2007 David organised the Water Aid Walk carrying a bucket of water from the Desalination plant into Hugh Town. He also contributed to the Walk Scilly week with walks following the history of the Churches on Scilly.

'In case it hasn't been noticed by everyone, there have been a number of occasions when Hymns on the subject of the service have been in short supply, and loose copies of appropriate, if unfamiliar, hymns have been handed out. These have all been written by David himself, to be sung to well-known tunes. He should be encouraged to publish them for wider use in other Churches.'

We wish David every blessing as he begins his ministry in Wales. Aberystwyth is a beautiful part of Wales. We will all I'm sure be praying for him and for the Revd. Charles Gibbs and his wife Mary as they move.

Contributions from Sybil Gandy, Sam Grossett, Anne Gurr, Val Parker and others.

Methodist Conference 2009

The Methodist Conference meets annually in June or July, hosted by a different district or group of districts each year. This year the Methodist Conference will be held in Wolverhampton at the Civic Hall, 2nd-9th July. The Conference is the body that agrees policy for the Methodist Church.

The first ever conference met in 1744 under John Wesley. He gathered together all the assistants to confer together about "what to teach, how to teach and what to do, i.e. how to regulate our doctrine and practice"

The contemporary Conference is a gathering of representatives from each Methodist district, along with some who have been elected by the Conference and some ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Conference.

We should remember them in our prayers at this time that God will guide their decisions and discussions.

Holiday Club 2009

Monday August 3rd – Friday August 7th

9:30 -11:30

The Building Club

Open to all primary-aged children
50p per session

Each year over the school summer holidays, a holiday club is run for primary children. It is always well attended both by local children and those on holiday. It takes a lot of hard work and needs many adult helpers- from help with refreshments to leading sessions or assisting with craft sessions. It is hugely enjoyed by everyone involved, so the hard work is fun too! If you could help in any way please come along to the meeting or contact Sonia Crompton. Meeting is on 7th July at 7 pm.

Action for Children

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 25th, St Mary's Rotary Club held a superb Family Fun Day on Holgates Green. The weather was by no means wonderful but the event was well supported. We are very grateful to the Rotary Club for helping us to have a second-hand book and bric-a-brac stall in the middle of their tented activities. Our position meant that we did good business and raised an unprecedented sum of £390.00. This was shared between us, Action for Children, and the Rotary Club's designated charity The Precious Lives appeal raising the finance to build a hospice for children in Cornwall.

Very many thanks to my helpers with transporting the heavy boxes of books etc and with manning the stall and to the Rotarians for their co-operation.

Sunday July 12th is Action for Children Sunday. If you would like to support this look out for the envelopes and bookmarks
Gwen Clarkson - Action for Children Representative

One to smile about

A group of Methodist Ministers had gone on retreat to an estate in Scotland, and they agreed, from the outset, that they would have a walk every day regardless of the weather.

On the first morning, the rain was coming down in buckets, but they resolved to keep to their agreement and have a walk anyway. So they toggled-up in waterproofs and wellies and started out to walk the boundary of the estate.

All went well until they got halfway round, when they came to what was usually a small burn (stream) which had been swollen to a raging torrent by the incessant rain. The only way across, was by a very rickety bridge, and they all looked at it very doubtfully, wondering who would be first to attempt to cross it, when, as one started towards it, a Gilly came running up shouting "Stop! Stop!

The leader of the group said "it's alright, we are a group of Methodist Ministers on retreat at the estate" to which the Gilly replied "I dinna ken whether you're Methodist Ministers or no', but if ye try crossin' here, ye'll a' be Baptists.

Back to Church Sunday - 27th September 2009

Churchgoers around world are set personally to invite more than half a million people to services on Back to Church Sunday. The event will be one of the largest co-ordinated ecumenical evangelism events staged across Britain.

Christians across the UK and further afield are encouraged to invite someone they know who used to attend church to come back on 27 September 2009.

Methodist President the Revd Stephen Poxon, said "This is a wonderful initiative and I encourage all of our Methodist Churches to be involved. We must also give thought and time to how we continue the warmth of welcome every Sunday of the year so those coming among us will want to stay to find friendship and deepening faith." Back to Church Sunday was originally an initiative of the Church of England

Heaven

Heaven is not reached at a single bound;
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round.
Josiah Gilbert Holland

Wordsearch About St. Swithun

St Swithun was the Bishop of Winchester until his death in 862 and he is still the patron of city's Cathedral. Famously known to be the rain-bearing saint, on his deathbed Swithun requested that he be buried outside so that the rain could fall on him. Nine years later, however, it was decided that his remains should be moved indoors, at which time a period of incessant rain fell. It was felt that this bad weather was Swithun showing his displeasure at the move. Now, legend has it that the weather on St Swithun's day will predict the forecast for the forty days and nights which follow. It's St Swithun's day on the 15th July, not because that is the date of his birth or death, but because that was the date his remains were removed. His most famous miracle was said to be the restoration of a woman's basket of broken eggs, which had been maliciously broken. Surprisingly, Swithun is remembered more for his apples than his eggs, with many growers believing that if it rains on St Swithun's

day, he is christening the apples on the branches, and those will be the fruits, which fully ripen.

Below are the words hidden in the grid. You can find them spelt forwards, backwards, straight, across or diagonal. Good luck!

Winchester	Raindrops	Downpour	St Swithun
Apples	Storm	Umbrella	Grey
Eggs	Patron	Puddles	Wet
Clouds	Anorak	Weather	Torrent
Drizzle	Shower	Cathedral	Wellington Boots

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a s a t t t d s h r a a e o i w t r t
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d w t l l r e r n b t t r t d d p l p e
c l l r e p h a u s l u u i a p o w a n
i o l o t s t i u p s e h t e o d m e u

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Birthday greetings this month go to Joe and Flo Fairburn, who between them will have 186 years, Christine Savill, Barbara Anderson, Val Thomas, Adele Bird, Shannon Aston, Denzle Ferguson, Benjamin Jenkins, Pam Manning, Margaret Snowball, Pam Thomas, Isobel Trenear
God's blessings to you all.

Gwen is still collecting birthdays so if we haven't included your name, and you have a birthday this month, please feel included in our best wishes and prayers.

Wonder

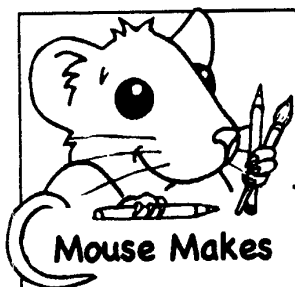
When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.

Joseph Addison

Editorial Team

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Val Parker martinandval.parker@virgin.net
Any contributions will be gratefully received

Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers! – William Culbertson



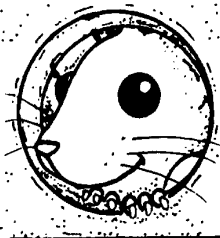
Mouse Makes

If you make a **promise**
do you keep it?
GOD always keeps his
promises!

"The **LORD** your **GOD**
has given you all the
good things that he
promised. Every
promise he made has
been kept, not one
has failed."

Joshua 23:14

God helps you



"**GOD** is our shelter and
strength, always ready
to help in times of
trouble" *Psalm 46:1*

Cut out and keep these cards to
remind you of God's promises.

God hears you



"The **LORD** is near to all who call on
him" *Psalm 145:18*

God knows what you need



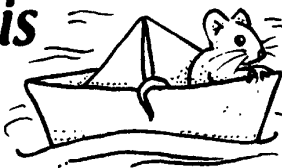
"Your **FATHER** knows what you need
before you ask **HIM**" *Matthew 6:8*

God cares for you



"Leave all your worries
with **HIM** because he
cares for you" *1 Peter 5:7*

God is with you



"Be strong and courageous... for the
LORD your God will be with you
wherever you go" *Joshua 1:9*

Diary Dates

June

28th Circuit Service and Outing to Bryher

July

7th Meeting about Holiday Club

14th Possible visit by Revd. Steven Wild, Chair of the Cornwall Methodist District

19th 11.00 a.m. David's final service on St. Martin's

26th 10.30 a.m. David's final service on St. Mary's
8.00 p.m. Lifeboat Service on Holgates Green

27th 4.30 p.m. David sails on Scillonian III (pray for a smooth crossing!)

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wierrrlrornrwrneracg
rassmgcecldrntdmwshw
rscwepzlenuipkhrroet
tbwewellingtonbootsst
rupcsiaarpsgunttnetl
ekuinortapwereeszder
asatttdshrraaeo iwtrt
notrhredgensoe yterol
niglohushgnaoplhdbe
ottzontorrentodlrhl
hoadrilalegwonsso snds
arutiuccrpopdhiwcto a
zpurzddrhsheso imuaae
sspezedrccsssoesrselc
dwfllrernbtttrtd dplpe
cllrephausluuiapowan
iolots tiupsehteodmeu

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030 or Revd. Dr. David Easton 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 Didlick	422838
Jenny Nightingale	422125
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
Myra Christopher	422639

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.

JULY NOTICES

St Mary's

5 th	9:15am	<i>Leader:</i> Mervyn Bird
	11:00 am	<i>Preacher:</i> Revd. David Easton
	8:00 p.m.	Revd. David Easton Barbara Hasler
12 th	9:15am	<i>Leader:</i> Beryl Read
		<i>Preacher:</i> Revd. David Easton
	11:00am	Revd. David Easton
		Sacrament of Holy Communion
	8:00pm	Revd. David Easton
19 th	9:15 am	<i>Leader:</i> William Thomas
	11:00 am	<i>Preacher:</i> Neil Didlick
	8:00pm	Barbara Hasler Len Mitchell
26 th	10.30am	Revd. David Easton
	6.30/8:00 pm	LIFEBOAT SERVICE

St Martin's

5 th	3:00pm	Revd. David Easton
12 th	3.00pm	Revd. David Easton
		Sacrament of Holy Communion
19 th	11.00am	Revd. David Easton
26 th	11:00am	Chris Savill