

Isles of Scilly



In Touch

Methodist Church Circuit

July 2012

Dear Friends,

July is here and we continue to welcome many visitors to our weekly worship on St Martin's and St Mary's. I often ask our visitors if they have been before, and usually the answer is yes. Some have been coming for thirty years or more, and there can be no doubt that these islands are very special to many. Our visitors love to be with us to worship, some remark on what a good congregation we have, to which I usually reply "Come back in the winter!"

It is certainly true that the numbers in worship, particularly on St Mary's, are greatly swelled in the summer, and it is good for us to hear news of church life on the mainland, and to welcome friends who are with us every year.

The total population of our island community is about the same size as a fairly small village on the mainland, and I expect that the number of people who worship on a Sunday is very similar to that in most villages. It is against this background that we meet to worship every Sunday. Each week we rejoice in the Good News of God's saving grace, we learn more from the reading of His word, and we share in that rich fellowship which is ours because of our common 'Precious Faith' in the victory won for us by Jesus.

Because we live on tiny islands some thirty miles off Land's End, it will always be difficult to resource our church. Any visiting preachers have a long and expensive journey before they can be with us. We cannot invite special musicians or worship leaders to come for the day, and especially in the winter months any talents we may need are made up of local people, those who live here, and those who are committed to upholding weekly worship both here on St Mary's and on St Martin's. The same is true of other give to support our mission and ministry, are all to be found from the small population who live here on our islands.

Because of the remote nature of our churches we cherish the fact that we are part of the world wide Methodist Church. We were reminded of this with the visit of Jill Baker, the president of 'Methodist Women in Britain' who had recently returned from her work on Ghana. Later this summer we will be welcoming our dear friend Vinaya Moses and his family, who although at present are serving in Britain, are from our Methodist Family in India.

The gracious visits of these good friends is crucial in us feeling part of a world- wide church, and is most helpful in us understanding more about the bigger picture of what it means for us to be followers of Jesus in the diverse and quick changing world of today.

At the end of the first week in July another good friend will be coming to remind us of our part in the world- wide church. The Rev. Professor Peter Stephens will be leading worship on 8th July. Professor Stephens has recently returned to Britain having served as Bishop of the Methodist Church in Gambia. He is truly a much loved leader in our world- wide church, a past president of the Methodist Conference, and a much acclaimed scholar. During his visit he will be visiting our Church on St Martin's, leading fellowship groups, and visiting the homes of our members. Make the most of this opportunity to hear the voice of a man who has a wealth of experience in the complex issues facing the church today.

Our links with the wider church will also be strengthened when Mary Gibbs goes to the Methodist conference during the first week in July. Mary was elected by Synod to be a representative during this annual meeting. When she returns she will give a full report of the meeting of the Methodist Church in Britain, to which leaders from across the world have been invited. All of these things remind us we are part of a much bigger picture, and that even we on these remote islands are called to take our part in

sharing the vision of what the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ can mean in the world today.

July is certainly a month to look forward to, especially as later in the month we welcome the return of John and Krenulla Moorman for their second visit to the islands. As you will remember John and Krenulla are much loved opera singers who now live in Norfolk. They have kindly offered to put on two concerts to help raise funds for our Methodist mission on both St Mary's and St Martin's. They will also be singing at a Special Queen's Jubilee Songs of Praise at 6 pm on St Martin's on 22nd July and then later at the evening worship on St Mary's. John as well as being a fine singer is also a Methodist Local Preacher in Norfolk.

Clearly we are in for a busy time in the month of July, and sometimes in the life of any church there will be busy times, but being busy does not always mean we are in tune with God. Jesus certainly remarked on this when he was among the people of Galilee. He looked on and saw how busy they were with their rituals, their traditions and their religious ceremonies. They were busy doing religious things, they were busy saying religious things, but so often they were denying the grace of God in their lives and in their dealings with others.

On one occasion Jesus looked at all of this going on and quoted to them some words from the prophet Isaiah "*These people honour me with their lips But their hearts are far from me!*" *These words are* certainly a challenge to us all, and prompt us to ask the questions: Is the love of our Gracious God seen in our lives? Are His ways of justice, mercy and forgiveness seen on the life of our Church? What is it that keeps us busy today?

When we are busy we can so easily be tempted to see our Father God and church life just in terms of religious

observance and our traditions, instead of being truly liberated by the Good News of the Gospel. It is indeed often very easy for us to stumble in our search for truly knowing God, and maybe there is greater peril than for us to be busy being the church instead of truly living out the ways and values of His Kingdom. I wonder how often are we just like those people in Galilee whom Jesus spoke to, who despite their piety were simply out of step with the Saving Grace of their Sovereign God.

The Gospel proclaims that our deepest needs will never be met by us being busy with the things of church, but they will always be met by us receiving love and forgiveness from our God of Grace. That which we cannot do has been done for us by Jesus. He gave himself for the sins of the world upon the Cross of Calvary, and now in the mighty power of His Holy Spirit He prompts us today to follow Him in the love and in the service of others

Through the mission of our church on these remote islands Jesus today proclaims the mighty plan of God! Through us His church, all can hear of the promised coming of His Kingdom, and of how all may take their place in the family of God by receiving His grace and mercy today.

We may be a tiny community when compared to others, but we are proud to be part of the world- wide Methodist Church. Our rich inheritance will be celebrated on the first Sunday in July when our much loved preacher, Len Michell leads us in worship at 11 am for our chapel anniversary. We give thanks for all that is past, and we trust in the Lord for all that is to come, and we pray that we will feed on His living word and in so doing live gracious lives in His service

I remain by the grace of God, your Methodist minister on these fine islands for a while. Every blessing to you all.

Charles R Gibbs

News from St. Martins

Since writing the notes for the May edition of In Touch, Charlie and the small band of Local Preachers have kept the weekly services going and we are appreciative of that. Most weeks we have been able to welcome a few visitors, some of whom had St. Martins connections. Maggie Ashford has been home to keep an eye on her dad following his recent op, and some of Gladys's cousins and their families have been staying. We are glad that Uncle Rodney is recovering well.

As with other communities across the Islands, nation and world, Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was marked and celebrated with enthusiasm on St. Martins. A flotilla of thirty craft ranging in size and design from a wind surfer to the Voyager, followed the gigs Dolphin and Dauntless from Tean Sound to Higher Town Par. Plenty of bunting and flags were in evidence and the sound of hooters and laughter added to a jolly atmosphere and spectacle.

On arrival at Higher Town people secured their boats and then moved to Pool Green to join those who had not been part of the flotilla but had watched it arrive. Many were dressed to reflect the 1950's and pop music of the era played in the background. Whilst the tea ladies set to work laying out a mouth watering spread, others organised fun races and activities for the youngsters. During this time people also took a keen interest in the display of enlarged photos that Chris and Chris had prepared, showing past Jubilee and Coronation celebrations on St. Martins. The Coronation pictures posed some identification problems, as most were in fancy dress and those of us who were around at the time have aged a tad since then!!

After a buffet tea the meal was completed with a piece of

Jubilee cake. Chris Hensleigh had drawn on her skills to create four iced fruit cakes with a Royal theme. A splendid occasion ended with the Island's young people planting a donated tree behind the new waiting room at Higher Town quay.

I think it worth recording that St. Martins folk made a conscious decision that their celebrations would be inclusive of resident holidaymakers and would not be a fund raising event. From the comments I heard, I know that these two elements of the occasion were appreciated by the many visitors, and what a positive welcoming message was portrayed thereby. So a big thank you to those who initiated, took responsibility, purchased, cooked (400 catered for) organised and cleared up.

Our Saviour calls us to serve, and in her Jubilee speech to both Houses of Parliament Her Majesty said " It is my sincere hope that my Diamond Jubilee will be an opportunity for people to come together in a spirit of neighbourliness and celebration of their own communities." The members of St. Martins Chapel and others would not have been found wanting by their Lord or monarch on June 5th 2012.

Finally congratulations to Jackie on her recent special birthday. Jackie took responsibility for "feeding the four hundred" at Jubilee, but not single handedly!!

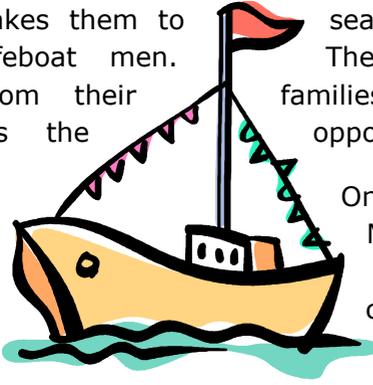
Heather Terry

Bowls

A small boy stunned his parents when he began to empty his pockets of coins. Finally his mother asked him where he had got all that money. "At church," the boy replied nonchalantly. "They have bowls of it."

Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday is one of our more recent days of remembrance. Each year, on the second Sunday in July, we think of those whose livelihood takes them to sea – sailors, deep sea fishermen and lifeboat men. Their work is often dangerous, keeping them from their families for long periods, and Sea Sunday gives us the opportunity to remember them with gratitude.



One of the organisations set up to help is Mission to Seamen which has centres in ports all over the world. All races and creeds are welcomed by them and given support and counselling – or simply the chance to have a rest, a cup of tea and a chat. On the wall of many of their chapels is this Seaman’s Psalm:

The Lord is my Pilot, I shall not drift. He lighteth me across dark waters; He steereth me in the deep channels. He keepeth my log. He guideth me by the star of holiness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I sail through the tempests and thunders of life, I shall dread no danger, for Thou art with me. Thou preparest a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity. Thou anointest the waves with oil, my ship rideth calmly. Surely sunlight and starlight shall follow me all the days of my voyaging and I shall rest in the port of the Lord for ever.

With thanks to Trinity Methodist Church, Royton.

Two Olympians to look out for....

“The games of the XXX Olympiad in 2012 are awarded to the city of London”. Those words spoken by Jaques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Association, in Singapore on 6 July 2005 were life-changing for many people. And now after all the preparation, the games are upon us. The new facilities are ready. The East End of London has been transformed. The tickets have been sold. For most of us the Olympics will never again be held in our country in our life-time.

So whether you are fortunate enough to be going to the Olympics in person or just watching on TV – here are two Olympians to look out for.

Allyson Felix (200 metres, possibly 400 metres and probably both relays)

Allyson Felix, an American, has won the World Championship 200 metres title three times but came second in the event in the 2004 and 2008 Olympics. She says of 2012: “I've had eight years to think about missing out on gold. Words can't express what 2012 means to me. Motivated is an understatement.”

Her relationship with Jesus Christ is at the centre of everything she does. “I can't imagine my life without knowing Jesus. I can't imagine just waking up and going through my life without him. He is my life and that's what I live for. To me, the Gospel message is Jesus being our saviour and dying on the cross for us and we don't have to be lost, that we can come to him and he can save us and we can follow him and have a purpose in life”.

Christian Taylor (Men's Triple Jump)

The men's triple jump could be one of the highlights of 2012. Phillips Idowu of the UK is the local hero and silver medalist at the 2008 Olympics. Phillips' main rival will be Christian Taylor – an American picked by Jonathan Edwards as the most likely to break Jonathan's own world record. Christian won the 2011 World Championship.

Christian lives up to his name: "I am a very strong believer in the Lord. When you have his strength and have him on your side, you can't lose. People may say, you did not do as well in that competition but the thing is, no matter what, I am still winning. The power and the strength that you have in Christ is a special thing."

Torch Relay Prayers

Loving God,

As this torch travels our nation,
preparing us to celebrate the skill and determination of
those competing in the Olympic and Paralympic Games,
strengthen us to love you and serve our neighbour
with all the skill and determination you give us,
through Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

As this light travels our nation,
may your light, O God, shine in the hearts of all
who gather to celebrate the energy, skill and dedication of
others.

Send your Holy Spirit
to light up our lives
and set our hearts on fire with love for you;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

The moment of truth *by Tim Lenton*

The walls around the upper room
seemed safe enough:
proof against doubt and undisturbed
so Thomas cheerily declined to see what was not there:
no rumour-monger he –
no knocker-down of solid stone

Outrageous then that walls should part like mist,
should disappoint,
should make his faith a mockery
What was there left to say?
Admit what he had felt impossible?
Deny reality?

He felt the frailness of the flesh:
holes in the argument he thought he'd nailed,
blood rushing to his head
He said the only thing he could:
My Lord, my God

10,000 grant to Methodist Church in storm-battered Fiji

A solidarity grant of £10,000 has been sent to the Methodist Church in Fiji, which has been helping communities affected by flooding after a tropical storm hit the islands in April. At least seven people lost their lives and the livelihoods and homes of thousands have been destroyed. You can donate to the World Mission Fund online, or by sending cheques made payable to 'Methodist Church World Mission Fund' to Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

JOHN AND KREULLA MOORMAN

The much acclaimed opera singers

With a wonderful evening of Music

Songs from the musicals!
Well known Opera items!

FRIDAY 20TH JULY

7:30

At

ST MARY'S METHODIST CHURCH

and

WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY

7:30

At

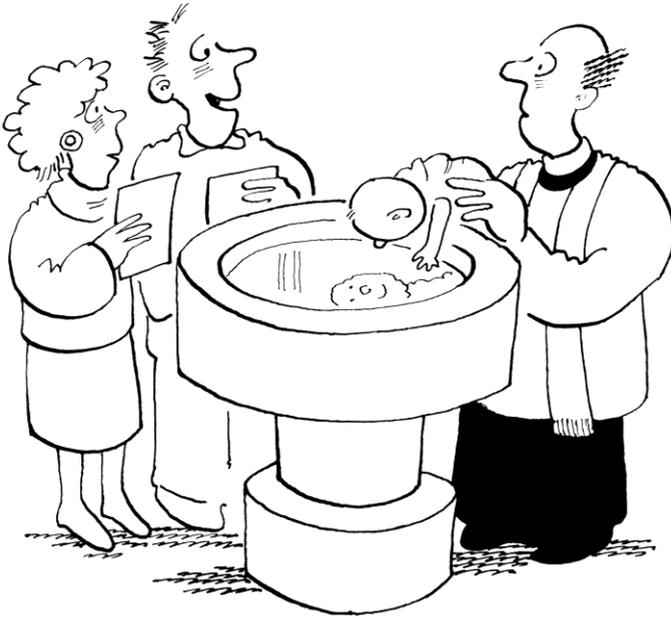
ST MARTIN'S METHODIST CHURCH

Admission is free but there is a collection for Church Funds



Please also note **JOHN AND KREULLA** will be guest singers at the

**JUBILEE SONGS OF PRAISE ON ST MARTIN'S
SUNDAY 22ND JULY AT 6 PM**



'Narcissus' - please...

Methodist News :Methodist app reborn: now available free for all devices

A brand new app from the Methodist Church in Britain is now available on all mobile devices. The app offers users a daily Bible study, as well as all the latest news, audio and video from the Church. Features include: daily Bible studies, featuring a different author each week; the latest news stories; topical podcasts; resources for Christian discipleship; information about the latest campaigns and the Church's involvement in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



15th July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days after that.

It all began when he was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.



During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he has been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Editor's note:

Let's hope after June that we have no rain on July 15th this year!

Birthday Greetings this month go to

Happy Birthday to you!

Birthday Greetings for July to

Joe Fairburn, who will be 95 ,
Christine Savill, Barbara
Anderson, Val Thomas, Adele
Bird, Shannon Aston, Benjamin
Jenkins, Pam Manning, Margaret
Snowball, Pam Thomas, Isobel



God's blessings to you all.

If we haven't included your name, and you have a birthday this month, please feel included in our best wishes and prayers.

Kids' wisdom

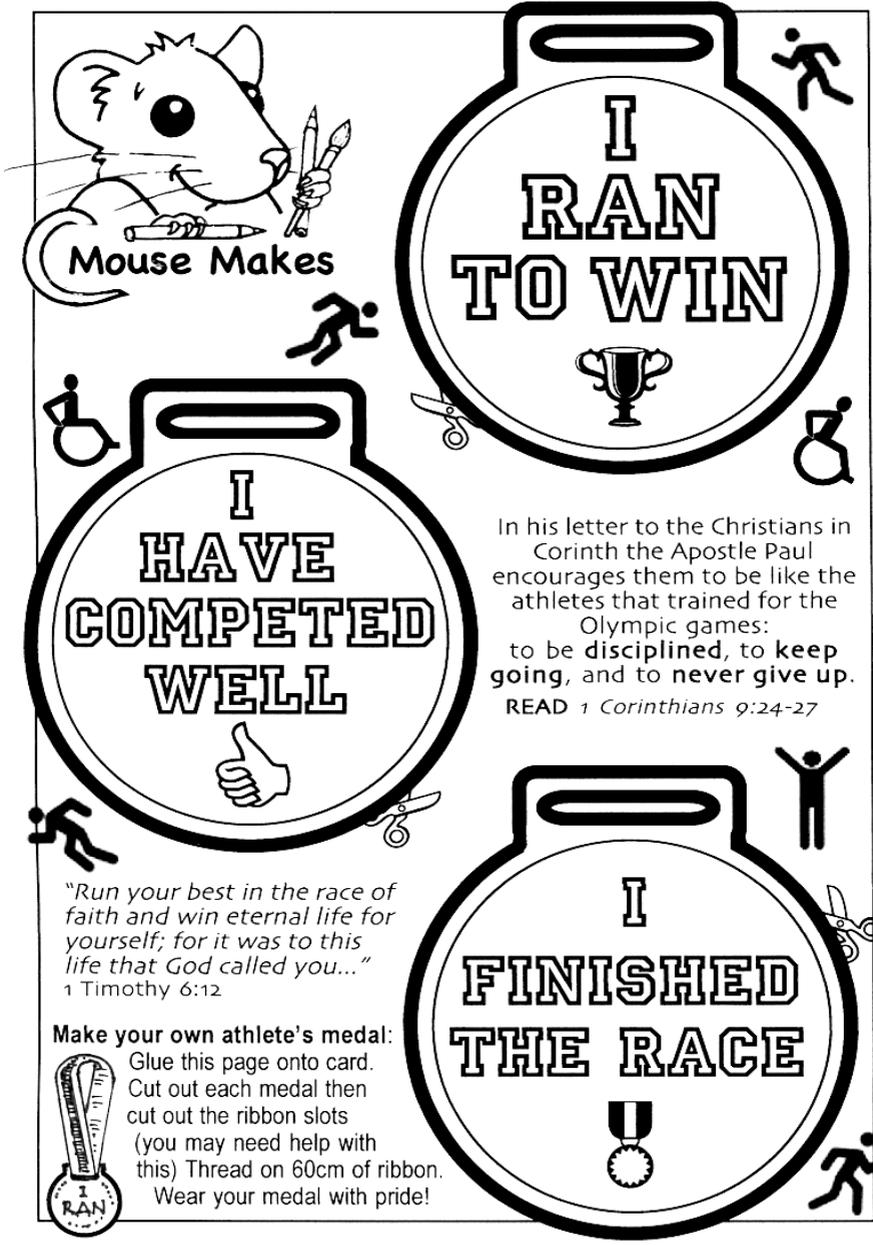
In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java.

Preacher

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mum, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and talk, than to have to sit and listen



Mouse Makes

I
RAN
TO WIN

I
HAVE
COMPETED
WELL

I
FINISHED
THE RACE

In his letter to the Christians in Corinth the Apostle Paul encourages them to be like the athletes that trained for the Olympic games: to be **disciplined**, to **keep going**, and to **never give up**.
 READ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

"Run your best in the race of faith and win eternal life for yourself; for it was to this life that God called you..."
 1 Timothy 6:12

Make your own athlete's medal:
 Glue this page onto card.
 Cut out each medal then cut out the ribbon slots (you may need help with this) Thread on 60cm of ribbon.
 Wear your medal with pride!



Jul12

Diary Dates

July

10th :Fellowship evening on St Mary's with Rev Professor Stephens

20th :Concert by John and Krenulla Moorman at St Mary's Chapel at 7:30

23rd :Concert by John and Krenulla Moorman at St Mary's Chapel at 7:30on Brhyer

25th : Concert by John and Krenulla Moorman at St Martin's Chapel at 7:30

Wednesdays: At Home afternoon in the Manse

Mondays : Prayer meeting

August

10th – 17th visit of Rev Andrew Bell

10th Rev Andrew Bell leading the fellowship group

17th – 20th visit of Rev Vinaya Moses

17th Rev Vinaya Moses leading the fellowship group

Andrew Bell will be pleased to visit you at home.

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

Action for Children

Jamie Lee is the fundraising officer for Action for Children in Devon and Cornwall, the Methodist founded children's charity. He was due to visit the islands from Friday 8th June until Monday 11th June, travelling on the Scillonian.

Jamie was hoping to speak at the Friday evening fellowship meeting. On Sunday he was looking forward to being at the 9:15 worship on St Mary's and then going over to St Martin's to speak at their 11 o'clock service. He was then to come back to St Mary's for the 8 pm evening worship. Sadly he learnt the day before coming that the Scillonian had been cancelled on the Friday due to very high seas and strong winds. Jamie decided to postpone his visit until October to make the most of his time here.

His talk to Friday Fellowship was replaced by my explanation of fifty years of support for the National Children's Home. Family artefacts and photographs illustrated our connection, activated by the adoption of our daughter Sharon via the charity.

Our circuit here was expecting to hand over to the Jamie Lee a cheque for £40.00 raised from the two pences laid by many outside the chapel over previous months and from the collecting boxes of local friends. Some of the coins were very dirty, and dear Heather Terry has been trying to clean them up, with difficulty! With the collection continuing we ask our local supporters to put their tuppences in boxes in order to keep them clean. We shall continue to rely on visitors to put down theirs outside the chapel. It is amazing how they mount up to a very worthwhile contribution.

Gwen Clarkson
Action for Children Representative

JULY NOTICES

St. Mary's

- 1st 9:15 Children's Church
11:00 Len Mitchell Chapel Anniversary
- Park House 16:00 Mary Ratcliffe
20:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
- 8th 9.15 Leader : Davis Pender
Preacher: Neil Didlick
11.00 Preacher: Revd. Prof. Peter Stephens
20:00 Revd. Prof. Peter Stephens
- 15th 10.30 Leader: Mervyn Bird
Preacher: Neil Didlick
20:00 Mary Ratcliffe
- 22nd 9.15 Leader: : Neil Didlick
Preacher: Revd. Charles Gibbs
11.00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
Sacrament of Holy Communion
20:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
- 29th 9.15 Leader: Mary Ratcliffe
Preacher: Mervyn Bird
11.00 Barbara Hasler
20:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
Lifeboat service

St. Martin's

- 1st 11:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 8th 11:00 Barbara Hasler
- 15th 11:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
- 22nd 18:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs
Jubilee Songs of Praise
- 29th 11:00 Revd. Charles Gibbs