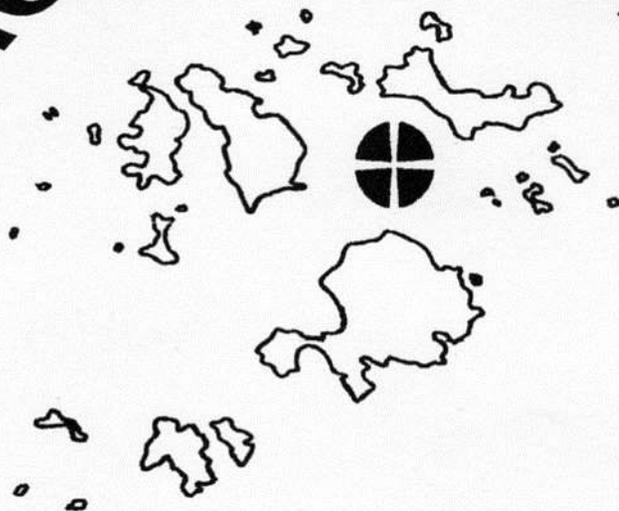


**Isles of Scilly**



**Methodist Church Circuit**

**IN TOUCH**

**JULY 2014**

## **Chairman of the District**

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

## **Minister**

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

## **Local Preachers**

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

## **Circuit Stewards**

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

**Circuit Treasurer** Mr Christopher Savill 423563

## **Circuit Meeting Secretary**

### **Church Stewards St. Mary's**

Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read

Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Leigh Kendrick

**St. Martin's** Mr Derek Perkins

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

**Treasurer** Mrs Sue Williams 422605

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Beryl Read 422977

**Property Secretary** Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

**Gift Aid Secretary** Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

**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

## **SOME SUMMERTIME THOUGHTS FROM THE ST. MARY'S MANSE**



I expect as you read this issue of "In Touch" that our beautiful islands will be full of visitors enjoying this unique island location, and we rejoice that we can again welcome friends from faraway places to worship with us in our chapels on St. Martin's and St. Mary's.

At the time this newsletter comes out I will not be on St. Mary's, but instead in the fine city of Birmingham where together with Steve Wild and our dear friend John Hogarth we will be representing the Cornwall District at the annual Methodist Conference which meets from 26th June until 3rd July. Sunday, 29th June is designated as 'Conference Sunday', so please do remember all who will be meeting to further the work and mission of our precious Methodist Church at this important meeting with representatives from all over the world. It has been a long time since I have been to Birmingham, but I have fond memories from my time in ministry there in the 1980's. I remember the people as being warm-hearted and friendly, and I expect there will be the opportunity for me to meet up with friends from long ago.

Over the past few months we have been welcoming special visitors from the mainland to find out more about the mission of our churches on the islands, and to connect us with the wider Methodist family. Our District Chairman, Steve Wild, was over in April to share with us some of the exciting things that are happening in the Cornwall District, and at our Friday evening meeting spoke of how new 'Fresh Expressions' of being church are proving to be key in sharing our faith with others. Also in April we were pleased to have our District Evangelists, John Hogarth and Chris Clark, with us. They shared in our Good Friday and Easter services, and John was able to attend and offer

guidance at our Circuit Meeting. These links with our Methodist Churches on the mainland are indeed of great value to us and to those who visit. Because our membership is so small, at times we need help and encouragement from others, and we rejoice in the very strong friendships we have with those on the mainland. While I was away in May, Linda Crossley, the President of M.W in B visited our islands, and we are grateful to Maria Tomlinson for providing Linda and her husband with accommodation. Linda was able to share with us at the Friday meeting on St. Mary's something about the national and world-wide work of Women in Methodism. Linda was also able to attend worship at our chapel on St. Martin's on the Sunday morning where she received a warm welcome. On the Sunday evening she was able to lead our prayers and later to speak with members and visitors at a meeting at the manse following our evening worship. Graeme Garden and his wife, Joan, were with us on the last weekend in May. Graeme is the 'National Advocate' for the M.P.W.L.T. which is a trust set up to support Methodist Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. Graeme spoke at our Friday evening meeting, and on the Sunday he led the worship on St. Martin's in the morning and on St. Mary's in the evening.

It seems to be the case now that our dear friend Professor Peter Stephens always makes an annual visit to our islands. Peter has made it quite clear that he will do all that he can to offer help and support to our island Methodists, and we are truly thankful for this. Peter, having been a past president of the Methodist Church, is a fount of wisdom and knowledge. He now lives in Penzance which means that he is close enough to come over and see us. Peter visited at the start of June, spoke at our Friday meeting on St. Mary's and led worship there on the Sunday morning, and was able to meet with friends on St. Martin's and lead worship there in the evening.

Last, but by no means least, we come to the Rev. H. Barrie Morris and his wife, Elizabeth. In June they were with us for a week which meant that Barrie was able to speak at our annual Circuit Service which this year was on St. Agnes. Barrie also spoke at our Friday Fellowship evening, and led our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders' study day. All of these visits tell us something of our work as a church on these islands, and I expect it is good from time to time to stop and reflect on all that we do.

This is very much what we read in the pages of John's Gospel when midway through Jesus' ministry, some of His followers ask Him the question, "What must we do to do the work that God requires?" These words are found in the sixth chapter of John's Gospel which is one of the longest chapters in the New Testament. The chapter starts with the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with five small loaves and two small fish, and it ends with Jesus being almost alone, with even His disciples being bewildered by what they had witnessed and heard. Indeed, John writes, "From that time on many of His followers turned their back on Him and no longer followed." Whenever I read this verse it reminds me of the way things are in so many places today, yes it seems that there are many who no longer see the need to follow Jesus.

Those who had witnessed Jesus feeding the 5,000, the following day get into boats to find Jesus on the other side of the lake. They clearly see Jesus as some kind of prophet or miracle worker and seek Him out to witness more, but when they find Him, they do not hear or see what they expect. They are certainly taken aback when he says to them, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs, but because you ate the loaves and had your fill." He then goes on to say, "Do not work for food that spoils, but instead for that which endures unto Life Eternal!"

The feeding of the 5,000 (which is recorded in each of the four Gospels) was a 'sign', a sign of God coming among us to meet our deepest needs, a sign of God's grace, God's power, and God's great love for His people, and a sign of how in Jesus, God our Father has come to sustain each of us with the 'Bread of Heaven' which will bring us Life Eternal.

The words spoken by Jesus to those who crossed the lake were certainly a challenge to them, and I expect that they are even more of a challenge to us today in the fast moving world in which we live.

We too, just like those who flocked to Jesus there in Capernaum, are aware of our material needs and the material needs of others, and we too, maybe, at times struggle to truly comprehend the mighty power of our Sovereign God. We look at this world and we see that great drive to find security in the material things of life, and so often our main priority in life is the material well-being of our families and those we care for. Yes, so often our time and our efforts are to this end and to this end alone. Maybe we too need to take heed of what Jesus says, and maybe we too need to be reminded of those things which spoil and fade away, and be reminded of those things of God which will endure for ever. Some have said that this is the greatest challenge that we face as the church in our nation today. So many of those around us have found hope, not in the things of God, but instead in the things of this world. In our striving for material security the things of God have been squeezed out, the church has become marginalised, and we know that so often the things of God seem very low down on the list of priorities of those around us. Yet the voice of God still is there for all who will stop and receive. Jesus still says, "I am the Bread of Life, and they who come to me will never hunger, and they who believe in me will never thirst!" We, the church of today, are still the custodians of this life-changing message of hope, and we are still those who are

called to give testimony as to how our precious Christian faith can bring us Eternal Life today. The great Apostle Paul wrote to a friend saying, "Our gain is to know God and to know contentment, for we brought nothing into this world and surely we will take nothing out except our contentment in knowing the Lord". So we give thanks to those who come to our islands to encourage us to trust in our Sovereign God, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us into knowing all that God requires. May those material things in our lives mean less, and may those things of God mean more, and may we each know Jesus as The Bread of Heaven, and in knowing Him receive the gift of Life Eternal today.

I remain by the Grace of God the Methodist minister on these remote yet beautiful islands for a while.

*Charlie Gibbs*

### **Methodist Prayer Handbook –**

**2014/15** The new edition of this excellent aid to daily Bible reading and praying is about to be published and will run from September to the end of August '15. The theme this year is 'Partners in Sacrifice'. I will be ordering one for myself again, and copies for anyone else in the Circuit who would like one. The price is £3.75 + postage, which reduces to £3.35 + postage if more than nine copies are ordered



at one time. If you would like one for yourself, please put your name on the list in the church entrance on St. Mary's or, in the case of friends on St. Martin's, phone me on 422409, by MONDAY AUGUST 11th so that the order can be sent in time for the start of the new year. I can thoroughly recommend it.

*Len Michell*

## News from St. Martin's

As we continue to enjoy some glorious summer weather, we are also reminded of the fragility of our Christian community on the island. With coughs and colds and folk taking their holidays our congregation has been somewhat reduced this month. Daphne has had a memorable cruise to the Norwegian Fjords with sister Josie, who has returned with her, so we welcome them back and hope with some special Scillonian air Josie will enjoy better health. We are delighted with our new Sunday School flooring and give a big thanks to Chris and Allan who laid it for us.

We have welcomed two visitors this month; Rev. Peter Stephens and Graham Garden who hastily reminded us, not of the "Goodies" fame but Advocate for L.P.W.T.

Over afternoon tea we were able to share thoughts with Rev. Peter on the plight of some Christians, and indeed other minority faiths, in Africa, where he has worked. We think and pray particularly for the people in NE Nigeria. It seems unbelievable to us living in such peace and security that over 200 girls can be abducted and seemingly just disappear.

It makes our support of young Ferruzi of Tanzania all the more meaningful.

We continue to welcome holiday makers to our precious Chapel.

*Val Thomas*

### **Laughter Lines;**

**Forgiveness:** Late for a meeting and unable to find parking, I pulled into a spot behind a church. It was only after I'd gotten out of the car that I spotted this sign: "No parking. Forgiveness is our business, but don't make it harder than it already is."

## **What is your Gift?**

We have just celebrated Pentecost, the remembrance of the day when the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples. This was also an assurance that Jesus, was now seated at the right hand of God the Father. The promised help had come and still comes to all who put their faith in Jesus Christ today. We only have to read the book of Acts to see how the disciples and others were given power to do miraculous things and surely we all want to be able to minister in a similar way.

No-one is ungifted by God and our gifts are to be used each day and will be given to meet our every need as we reach out to others with the love of Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit will continue to pour blessing into our hearts and we as a channel of God's blessing to the world will show it in our care for others in our community and elsewhere.

I have read that when we all use the gifts God has given the church can grow. We all long for that to happen, not just to fill seats, but to see people living lives in all their fullness.

This summer scones have been produced in great numbers for sale at garden gates. An example of the Spirit's prompting which enabled others to share their gifts and raise much needed funds.

*Mary*

**Love** does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction. *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

**Swim?** If a lot of swimming is so good for your shape, then why do the whales look the way they do?

## **Leaders of Worship/ Local Preachers' Study Day**

On Saturday, 14th June, through the kindness of Mary Ratcliffe, we met for our annual study day at her home under the leadership of Rev. Barrie Morris. During the day 3 Worship Leaders, 1 Local Preacher in training, 4 preachers (including Chris Savill who made it over from St. Martin's), our Minister, together with Barrie and his wife Elizabeth were present at least for some of the morning and afternoon sessions.

**The morning was centred** upon Acts 4: 23-47 with ideas from the magazine 'The Flame', starting with the opening statement, 'There is only one real problem in the Church of God these days, and that is the prayer life of the Church' – a challenging statement and one which might not come to mind automatically. When Barrie first asked us 'What is the problem with the life of the church today?' there were a number of suggestions usually beginning with the phrase 'A lack of .....

but we were soon led to realise that, just as in the early church, a strong prayer life both as individuals and as a group is an essential for the health and progress of any Church. **We only had** time in the morning to discuss 4 of the 7 statements put to us. Each one started with the words 'IN A PRAYING CHURCH ....':

1. ... there is a recognition of the supreme importance of prayer, and therefore there is a spontaneous desire.
2. ... the eyes of faith and expectancy are towards the Lord.
3. ... there is an overwhelming desire to obey the Lord's commission to evangelise the world.
4. ... there is faith to demand miracles.

**After lunch** we shared an extended Communion service which included a short reflection by Barrie. **Once again it was good** to share fellowship together outside of our agenda-led meetings, and to have Barrie's leadership and encouragement.

*Len Michell - Local Preachers' Secretary.*

## **Honeycomb.**

I have just received a copy of the Lay Witness Movement magazine which records their visit to Scilly. This was their last engagement after 38 years of service encouraging churches everywhere. They say they are ordinary people sharing the extraordinary love of God and we thank God that they enabled us, by their ministry, to do just that.

*I quote: " We came away feeling blessed ourselves, but also with strong conviction that God had moved among the people of both St. Mary's and St. Martin's. We look forward to hearing more about how this final Lay Witness Weekend has affected them as the weeks and months go by".*

It also contains an article from this magazine contributed by St. Martin's.

*Honeycomb is now on the sideboard in the Chapel for you to read.*  
*Mary*

## **Parables** (Mt 13: 1-51)

Secrets of the Kingdom Shared in stories,  
Stories of seeds and sowers, Merchants and mustard seeds,

Treasure and nets let down in the lake. Everyday stories,  
Eternal truths. Eyes and ears open, blessed to see and hear

The secrets only faith can access. Lord, grow our faith into  
understanding That speaks your kingdom message today,

New and fresh In the parables of our lives.

*By Daphne Kitching*

**Circuit Service on St Agnes** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June was blessed with glorious sunshine and St. Agnes was the place where members of St. Mary's met with members of St. Martin's to worship together in the Parish Church. We were thankful that we could worship in this newish church on an early Christian site at Periglis. The service was led by Sonya Crompton and Kim Watson, sadly Vicki Smith could not be with us as she was caring for Becky. (Thankfully she was well enough to go to School on the Monday) This was the first service led by our new worship leaders and they led it with confidence. Thank You! We are certainly being blessed in many ways as we pray for Revival on these islands. Rev Barrie Morris gave an inspiring sermon based on Hope both temporary and eternal. Later a picnic was enjoyed and a trek to Troy Town Farm and the Coastguards Tea Room was rewarded with the treat of an ice cream followed by a welcome cuppa.

*Mary*

### **Dust if you must**

**Dust** if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter,  
Bake a cake, or plant a seed,  
Ponder the difference between want and need.

**Dust** if you must, but there's not much time,  
with rivers to cross, and mountains to climb,  
Music to hear, and books to be read,  
Friends to cherish and a life to lead.

**Dust** if you must, but the world's out there,  
The sun in your eyes and the wind in your hair,  
A flurry of snow or a shower of rain,  
This day will not come back again.

**Dust** if you must, but bear this in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not kind,  
And when you go, as go you must  
You yourself will make more dust! *Anon.*

## **Cancer.**

Cancer is always in the news and few families are untouched by this disease. These words were penned by a father of a girl who died from cancer.

It reminds us that it cannot overcome the Lord's love for us.

**Cancer:***-It cannot cripple love; It cannot shatter hope; It cannot corrode faith; It cannot eat away peace; It cannot destroy confidence; It cannot kill friendship; It cannot shut out memories; It, cannot silence courage; It cannot invade the soul; It cannot reduce eternal life; It cannot quench the Spirit; It cannot lessen the power of the resurrection.*

## **The Resurrection Lord**

For days a friend of Jesus lay      Deep in his lonely tomb.

His body scarred by death's decay      His sisters deep in gloom

They called to Jesus as they cried "We needed you to save!"

He bid them roll the stone aside And called him from the grave!

"I am the Resurrection Lord," "I am the Life," he said

"He that believes upon my Word" "I'll raise him from the dead!"

"The keys of Death and Hell are mine" "If you believe in me

"Your light before all men shall shine" "You'll live eternally!"

*By Nigel Beeton*

## **Pentecost 2014**

A dinner was held in the hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate Shavuot, the Jewish Festival of the Wheat Harvest. This is the time when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers gathered in Jerusalem. Food was prepared in the Jewish tradition by the Wednesday House Group and served by them. Traditional readings were given, songs were sang and dances danced. It was a splendid evening and we look forward to similar evenings in the future.

## **Teddies from St. Mary's.**

Our teddy knitters here are making so many lovely bears that we shall be seeking some new outlets for them!. Any suggestions? Please make the teddies with traditionally coloured faces as these are more acceptable in the countries they are sent to. Recently we have received photo's of teddies with their children and these are displayed in the Hall and in the Manse.

Sadly Kate Rees, who takes the bears out to Uganda for the children supported by the Uganda Child Development Fund, is far from well - we send her our love – and will not be going away again until the New Year. The teddies now accumulating will need to go somewhere else in the world in the next few months. Many thanks to all those involved in any way in this lovely activity.

*Gwen Clarkson*

## **Holiday**

The holiday Club is in August from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> through to Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be a time of great teaching and joy. Gordon has organised it and many others will be helping to ensure its success. May God Bless this special work for primary aged children. All are welcome

## **Prayer meetings**

We give thanks for the gift of freedom to come together in freedom to pray together. Two prayer meetings are now held each week. On Mondays 2.15 p.m. at the Manse where we pray for the World, our Islands and its people, and one on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. at Seagull Cottage specifically for Revival on these islands. We have been blessed and encouraged by visitors joining us. Being a small community it is very special to hear wider news of faith on the mainland. Thank you for your prayers now that you are back at home.

On alternate Saturday evenings at 7.30 p.m. there is now an evening of praise and worship in the Hall. Another given opportunity to come together before the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and listen to His voice of love and direction.

## **Women in Britain Conference Treloyan November 2014**

We all enjoyed the visit of the President, Linda Crossley and her husband Eric, to our Islands. Following her visit it was decided next year to use the Easter Offering Service designed by Women in Britain, the collection from this to go will go to Missions Overseas.

The Conference is open to all women and will consist of two identical sessions These three day sessions will be from Monday to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> or from Wednesday to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> The theme is 'UNBUTTONING YOUR EARS'

Interested? Phone me 423030

**Salvation** is free, but discipleship costs everything we have.  
*Billy Graham*

The **character** which we find in the Beatitudes is, beyond all question, nothing less than our Lord's own character, put into words. It is the description set side by side with an example.  
*Billy Graham*

**Beauty** is the gift of God.

*Aristotle*

## **Action for Children**

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way, to our collections for our denomination's charity. Coppers given at the chapel entrance to St. Mary's are proving to be a worthwhile method of donation. At the end of the summer we will give a full account of all the money raised in several different ways.

For example, we now want to help the cause and our own environment by selling off some of the huge piles of books we have collected over the years!. Patti and Andy Brooks at Annet in Porthlow are kindly having a box of paperbacks on their outside table. Passers by are attracted to their lovely trays of scones and cakes being sold in aid of Methodist funds. A similar effort at the entrance to the Manse also features boxes of books for sale, behind on the lawn.

In addition we also have a small bookstand in the Methodist Hall. Any cash however small, is valuable, but also the movement of the books from my shed into a home, to be read, is especially appreciated!

To enlarge this possibility we are holding a Grand Booksale in the Hall on Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup> from 10.00a.m. until 3.30p.m. Please come and browse, have refreshments and hopefully buy something to read; very cheaply!

Action for Children needs your custom!

*Gwen Clarkson*

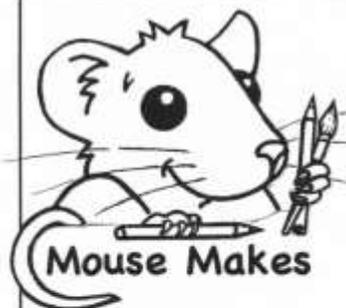
## **Family News.**

We give thanks for the safe arrival of Robin, a great-grandson for Dorothy Beedell. Dorothy has not been well recently and this new baby will certainly give her great joy.

Harriet and Sybil are now home but they remain in our prayers.

Our prayers are also for Margaret Jones, and her family. She is full of faith and always sends her love to everyone.

God loves and cares for us- let us love and care for others.



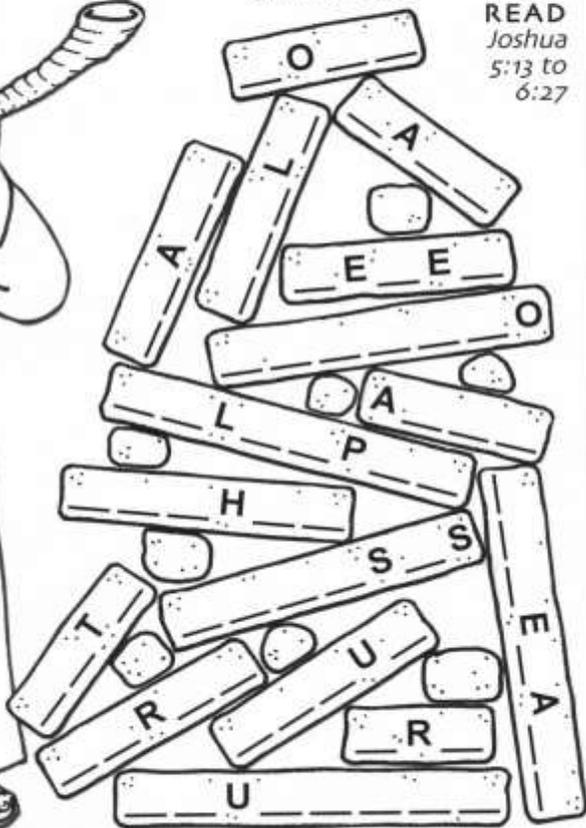
### THE FALL OF JERICO

Then the Lord said to Joshua

*"See I have delivered **Jericho** into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city **once** with all the armed men, do this for **six** days. On the **seventh** day march around **seven** times and when the trumpets blast the city will collapse"*

And Joshua did what the Lord had commanded.

READ  
Joshua  
5:13 to  
6:27



Can you find all these words in the rubble of Jericho?

JOSHUA • JERICO • CITY • WALLS • MARCH • ARK • SEVEN  
DAYS • PRIESTS • TRUMPETS • BLAST • ARMY • SHOUT • LORD  
COLLAPSE • COVENANT



Birthdays in July  
Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you.  
God Bless you and keep you  
and watch over you.

Barbara Anderson, Shannon Asten, Adele Bird, Joe Fairburn, Kenzie Ferguson, Ben Jenkins, Pam Manning, Rachael Mary, Christine Savill, Margaret Snowball, Pam Thomas, Val Thomas, Isobel Trenear.

*We hope we haven't missed your Birthday- our data base is out of date, please give the editor any changes.*

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Some material in this magazine was obtained from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). We thank them for providing material for magazine editors to us.

This is the Circuit magazine but it needs your contributions to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Please send to the editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to the Circuit website [www.scillymethodists.co.uk](http://www.scillymethodists.co.uk) and click on the link to the newsletter.

“In conclusion, my brothers fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise; things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable. Put into practice what you learnt and received from me, both from my words and from my actions and God who gives us peace will be with you” Paul letter to the Philippians Ch.4 v4-9

## 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  
Merryn & Vicki Smith            423360

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

**Barbara Hasler**                      **422208**  
Margaret Crane                    422596  
Len & Sylvia Michell               422409  
Pamela Thomas                    423115  
June Lethbridge                    422404

**Beryl Read**                              **422977**  
Gwen Clarkson                    423106

*For the Prayer Chain to be effective it is essential that requests are forwarded to the person in the column beneath your name, if that person is not available please ring the next person on the list.*

If anyone else would like to join in this special ministry please contact Mary Ratcliffe on 423030. We thank God that we can be channels of His grace.

## JULY SERVICES

### ST MARY'S

6th	10.00 am	All age Worship
	11.00 am	Rev C. Gibbs
	4.00pm	Park House Beryl Read
	8.00 pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs <i>Songs of Praise</i>
13th	9.15 am	Kim Watson & Mary Ratcliffe
	11.00 am	Rev Charlie Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i>
	8.00 pm	Len Michell
20th	9.15 am	Rev Charlie Gibbs and Beryl Read
	11.00 am	Mary Ratcliffe
	8.00 pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs Lifeboat Service
27th	9.15 am	Mervyn Bird & Len Michell
	11.00 am	Rev Charlie Gibbs
	8.00 pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs

### ST MARTIN'S

6th	6.00 pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs <i>Holy Communion</i>
13th	6.00 pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs
20th	11.00 am	Rev Charlie Gibbs
27th	11.00 am	Dudley Coates