

Isles of Scilly



In Touch

JUNE 2012

## Some thoughts from St. Mary's Manse



The Month of June used to be called 'Blooming June!' I don't know whether June will be 'Blooming' this year, but when we next meet Mrs Lethbridge we can ask her!

The month of June certainly is a special month, it is the month with the longest days of daylight, and it is a month when we welcome many visitors, many of whom are old friends, to our beautiful islands.

The first Sunday in June (3<sup>rd</sup>) is Trinity Sunday that some described as the very highlight of the Christian Year. It is the Sunday that we rejoice in our precious Christian faith which reminds us of God's grace to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we will be celebrating this blessing in our worship.

At St. Martin's we will be worshipping in the evening at 6pm, and on St Mary's at 11.00am, and at both of these services we will be thanking God for giving us His 'Spirit of Truth'. This gift from our loving God will also be celebrated at our special Trinity Sunday Songs of Praise on St Mary's at 8.00pm.

Later on in the month on the 17<sup>th</sup> we are holding a special service in the evening to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, our much loved Queen, be sure not to miss this unique event at 8.00pm. At the end of the month( 24<sup>th</sup>) our friends from St Martin's will be joining on St Mary's for a special act of outdoor worship at 11.00am at Carrig Dhu Gardens led by Len Michell and myself, hopefully if the weather is fine this will be followed by a picnic.

We do indeed have much to be thankful for in the month of June, and for those of us with a Christian faith our focus on being thankful, and joyfully celebrating that which is good, will always be seen as a crucial part of our lives together as fellow disciples of Jesus in our world today. This joy in being together in worship and in fellowship is I believe one of the very hallmarks of our Methodist Church here on the Isles of

Scilly, and we give thanks that during the summer months we can share these good things with those who will be visiting us and with us share our weekly worship.

The Apostle Paul had much to say about celebrating and giving thanks for that which is good in his many letters to his friends in the churches of his day, and his enthusiasm for caring for one another and loving one another is clearly seen in his letter to his friends at a church in a place called Colossae. In this letter Paul lists many of the good things that are the hallmarks of the Christian life. He speaks of showing compassion for others, he stresses the importance of kindness, he urges his friends to show humility in their dealings with others, and reminds us all of our need of gentleness and patience.

Paul writes to encourage, to teach, and to remind his friends of their precious Christian faith, and the joy of being part of God's church in the place where they are living. Paul is quite convinced that it is possible to live 'Christ-Like lives, he reminds his friends that it is all important that they continue to grow in faith, and that in all circumstances they continue to trust in the grace of God to bless and to heal. Some have said that these words of Paul, from the third chapter of his letter to the Colossians, are of crucial importance to any follower, or to any church, that seeks to honour God and live a 'Holy Life' today

Thoughts such as these are always a great challenge to us all. Is God's grace seen in our lives; do we see the 'Sacrificial Life of Christ' reflected in our lives and in the mission of the church; and are we today full of thanksgiving for the saving power of the Gospel? In this letter written all those years ago Paul speaks of what it means to bear with one another and to forgive past grievances, and he speaks of how God's love offers the gift of unity to all who will receive it today. He reminds us that despite our mistakes, and our shortcomings, we are still a people who are called

and loved by God, and that even in times of difficulty we can be inspired by God's grace to show compassion and kindness.

Paul speaks of 'humility' as being one of the keys to us living Christ-Like lives, this he says is a great virtue, and that true humility enables us to seek God's will on our journey through life. Humility is a gift of the Spirit, it is a quality that has been taught and encouraged throughout the history of the church, but as we so often reminded, humility is rarely seen as a virtue in our world today.

Paul speaks of lives being changed by our encounter with Jesus, he speaks of how the Holy Spirit makes it possible to live Holy and Christ-Like lives, and Paul says that this should be seen in our patience and in our bearing with one another.

We all know that at times this can be a very difficult path for us to follow, we know that we are living in a world that so often denies the power of the Gospel, and we know that this can be true even here on the beautiful Isles of Scilly. So often we are tempted to retaliate or fight back in the face of conflict, and that often we take the easy path and remain stubborn and lack patience with those who seem out of step with our ideas and our passions.

Yet, despite all of these things, Paul still insists that our ways and our values must always be the ways and the values of our loving and forgiving God. Paul reminds us of the barriers that have been broken down by the Cross of Jesus and the Gospel, and he says that the only way for us to be church is for us to follow Jesus and for us to live Christ-like and sacrificial lives. Yes, as we set out to be Church on these beautiful islands we must in all circumstances show meekness, humility, and gentleness, and that those things must be the very hallmarks of our church.

Despite our mistakes and despite our slowness to receive the help of the Holy Spirit we are still God's people. We are a people who are restored and forgiven by the love, and by the power of our Sovereign God, and we have been called to be the very channels of God's grace in this world today. As followers of Jesus we have not been set aside for a life of privilege, instead we have been called to a life of service, and to a life of devotion to the things of God, yes each one of us has been called to take up our cross and to follow. God's kindness demands that we are kind and generous in our dealings with others, the sacrifice of Jesus demands that we live sacrificial lives, and this should be seen by showing humility, and sharing God's grace in our world today.

What Paul is saying is certainly a great challenge to us all. We find that those things which the world finds impossible become possible with God, and that forgiveness becomes a reality, and that past grievances which have divided and damaged can now be healed.

I end this letter by just thanking our team who produce and distribute this magazine each month. We know that many both here on Scilly and on the mainland, look forward to our monthly 'In Touch'. This magazine is very much part of our mission as a church, and your contributions are always welcome, if you have an item that you think would be of interest please do pass it on to one of our very able editors, whose details you will find at the end of this edition. We make no charge for the magazine, but we always welcome gifts towards the printing and distribution\*, and hopefully together we can continue to use this to share with others what it is like to be people of faith here.

For the time being, I remain by the grace of God the Methodist minister on these beautiful yet remote islands!

May the blessings, and graciousness of our loving God continue to be seen in our love for one another.

*Charlie Gibbs*

**Facebook and Prayer** Please do look at our new page on Facebook .

### **St Mary's Methodist Church, Isles of Scilly.**

Facebook is a social networking website launched in February 2004 and is a valuable tool to tell others of our activities. Thanks to Rose for setting up the page and taking some super photos for it particularly of the Gig Weekend and the Children's Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Vicky and Merryn had prepared the service which was continuing in looking at Heroes of the Bible. Vicky told the story of Esther which was accompanied by lively video clips with actions. Beautiful crowns were created with Sonia's help. All in all a very inspiring time.

Please give thanks for this work and pray for the young people on the islands, and our way forward. It has been suggested that we pray particularly for this work on a Thursday evening.

On Monday afternoons at 2.15 at the Manse, prayers are offered for the needs of the world, our island community and those known to us in need of our prayer. It is a precious time and we rejoice in Jesus's promise that "when two or three are gathered in my name I am there with them".

Matthew 18 v 20

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

Although we have no particular news from St Martin's this month but I am sure that they would appreciate another mention of the Photographic Exhibition in their hall, attached to the Church. It is a fine Exhibition and shows life on St Martin's through the years. So for visitors and locals it is a real visitor attraction not to be missed.

Photo's showing visits by the Royal Family are of particular interest this Jubilee Year.

**A Confession- not to be read quickly but prayerfully.**

Sorry Lord

for the shabbiness of my LIVING

for the shoddiness of my WORKING

for the shallowness of my PRAYING

for the selfishness of my GIVING

for the fickleness of my FEELING

for the faithlessness of my SPEAKING

for the dullness of my HEARING

for the grudgingness of my SHARING

for the slothfulness of my THINKING

for the slowness of my SERVING

for the coldness of my LOVING.

Lord forgive.

from Celtic daily Light Compiled by Ray Simpson and published  
by Kevin Mayhew

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

**From "Everyday with Jesus"** published by Campaign for World Revival

He did not come to bring good news;

He is the GOOD NEWS

He did not come to show us the way;

He is the WAY.

He did not just point to the truth;

He is the TRUTH.

He did not come to talk about life;

He is the LIFE.

Moses pointed to the law.

Mohammed pointed to the Qur'an.

Confucius to the Analects.

Buddha to the Noble Eightfold path.

Jesus, however, pointed to Himself... "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28)

Christian Faith is about God's search for man. This is good news.

(Hebrews 1:2-3)... "He has spoken to us by His Son whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe."

Christianity has its creeds but it is not a creed.

It has doctrines but is not a doctrine.

It has its rites and ceremonies, but is not an institution.

At its centre is a PERSON **Christianity is CHRIST.** In biology, he was born without normal conception. In chemistry, he turned water to wine.

In physics, he disproved the law of gravity when he walked on water. In economics, he fed 5,000 with two fishes and five loaves of bread. In medicine, he cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.

In history, he is the beginning and the end.

In government, he is the Prince of Peace.

In religion, no one comes to the Father except through him.

Jesus is Lord. Of all things.



## **Congratulations and love to Emma Roberts**

I was delighted to visit our oldest reader on May 16<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of her 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Emma was one of 12 children of Richard Thompson's family. She was born at Bay View Terrace, which was built by her Father, who was also a carpenter and undertaker.

Her brothers were fishermen who later became the first people to take visitors to the Off Islands.

She has never lived away from the Islands - only to move to St Agnes when she left school at thirteen years of age, but then only for a short time returning to work on St Mary's before she married Frank (Tuff) Roberts and to live at Blue Carn Cottage which was a flower farm. (Ennis her sister in law is the young girl pictured at Castle Ennor in Jessie Mothersole's famous book.) She never expected to run a Guest House but her sister once had too many guests and so asked her for help. Many people returned year on year to this family home for their holidays and during the war servicemen were billeted in her home.

On Wednesday flowers arrived from previous guests along with a beautiful arrangement from the Chapel.

Emma has experienced the ups and downs of life and her faith must have been tested when her husband had a dreadful accident which necessitated a long stay on the mainland, leaving her young son, also named Frank, in the care of others.

Frank also contracted Tetanus and was only the second known person at that time to survive. I was particularly interested to hear of the great care, despite being crippled with Arthritis, given by Doctor Addison. He must have been a very special man indeed.

She is the oldest Scillonian- the Grand Old Lady of Old Town! To most of us she is Jeremiah's Great Gran and Philip's Gran! She told me how she always loved being in the kitchen at Chapel events but others tell me how she was always busy at fundraising events, spending time throughout the year collecting objects for sale.

What a delightful time I spent with Emma, a very sparkly 99 years young.

I enjoyed tea and cake served by Anthea and Jeremiah. He arrived with beautiful balloons in Emma's favourite colours. May God's blessings continue to surround her.

*Emma would like to express her thanks for the flowers from the Chapel, all her cards and especially her visitors.*

*Mary Ratcliffe*

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.

Amen.

*Reinhold Niebuhr*

## **More than Gold – Christians respond to the Olympics**

Did you know that the Church of England has its own Olympics Co-ordinator? He is Canon Duncan Green, who is also seconded to LOCOG as Head of Multi Faith Chaplaincy Services. For the past five years, Duncan's role has included advising the organising committee on faith matters and recruiting and managing 193 multi-faith chaplains to serve 23,500 athletes and officials, 26,000 reporters and broadcasters and 200,000 staff and volunteers. Canon Duncan Green also supports and resources officers in the dioceses working to promote the mission and outreach opportunities afforded by the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Many churches are taking inspiration from the Olympics to focus on prayer. In advance of 'sailing event fortnight' (29 July to 12 August), local churches organised a 13-mile run on 28 April from Dorchester to Easton on Portland, praying for God to touch each neighbourhood passed through. Also, the Olympic Torch route in the South East will get an early run through on 17-22 June by a group of clergy planning a prayer pilgrimage on their motorbikes. The clergy, all from the Diocese of Chichester, plan to engage with their communities in a fresh way and visit as many churches as possible along the route.

One example of Event hospitality will be the Bedouin Tents during 'sailing event fortnight' (29 July to 12 August) in Weymouth which will provide a welcome of hospitality where visitors will enjoy the comfort of an interior filled with soft furnishings, rag rugs, cushions and bunting whilst soft gentle music is played. They will be offered water, foot and hand massage, listening ears, and prayer.

## **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.

Hospitality is a gift many of us can recognise and one which we shall have the grace to use during our offering of Cream teas to visitors this summer.

Mary

## **Acts 2**

Too early for wine but not for fire;  
Outside our neighbours speak a different language; they cannot hear us.

It takes fire to translate, to make things clear  
It is never too early for tongues of fire

by Tim Lenton

## **Women in Britain Conference Treloyan November 2012**

We all enjoyed the visit of the President, Jill Baker, to our Islands, now we have the opportunity to be inspired by her in our particular calling as women of the Methodist Church worldwide.

Jill will be leading the conference and she is very much looking forward to being with us. The Conference this year will be extended to three day sessions from Monday to Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and from Wednesday to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>

Last year I was fortunate to get a place thanks to a kindly visitor and it was certainly a very encouraging and special time spent with others who love the Lord.

Treloyan Manor St. Ives is in a beautiful location overlooking the estuary and there is a pleasant walk into St Ives, past the Hewer's house.

**If you would like to join me I do need to know as soon as possible if and when you would like to go.**

Mary Ratcliffe telephone 423030

## **Treasury Notes**

We give thanks that £802 was raised on the Quay during Gig weekend. This would not have been possible without the willing bakers and sandwich makers who provided the food to sell, so a big Thank You to them.

Thanks also to Claire and Sue for ordering and organising the day.

We are also pleased to receive money from the Truro Gig Club who hire the hall for the weekend, though this does involve extra work again for Sue, who soon made sure it was clean and sparkling again.

## **Miscellaneous musings on life**

The contented man is never poor, the discontented never rich.  
George Eliot

Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of pleasures; costs nothing and conveys much. Erastus Wiman

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 11.00am** Rev. Charlie Gibbs  
Trinity Sunday John 16:12-15 The Spirit of Truth  
**The preaching of the word and Holy Communion.**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 11.00 am** Rev. Charlie Gibbs  
Philippians 4:4-9 The testimony of faith in Christ!

**8.00pm** John 13. Can we deny the grace of God?

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am** Rev. Charlie Gibbs  
Mark 4:26-29 Can we stop the coming of the Kingdom?



**8.00pm Songs of praise for the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth** with Bible readings by Philip Lethbridge and led by Rev Charlie Gibbs. Organist Len Michell.

St Mary's Methodist Church, celebrating God's love for this world, and the Diamond Jubilee of our much loved Queen.

A very warm welcome to all with refreshments served after each act of worship

"As I have studied the Scriptures things I may have known intellectually for years, have come alive to me by the Holy Spirit"  
Billy Graham

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am Rev. Charlie Gibbs and Len Michell Circuit Service at Carrig Dhu followed by Picnic**

### **Food and Fellowship.**

During the summer we are providing Cream Teas on 13<sup>th</sup> June; 18<sup>th</sup> July; 15<sup>th</sup> August and Lunch on the 12<sup>th</sup> September Please come and help to serve these and make our visitors welcome.



## Jubilee Street Party June 5<sup>th</sup> 5-7.00pm

The Party will be held on the Strand on Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup> for children under the age of 12 and grown ups who are over 75. Everyone is invited but only these age groups will be seated. Approx.60 tables will stretch from the Dairy to the Scillonian Club! **Tray bake cakes are needed** and these to be delivered to the Parish Church Hall please.

A competition for four themed cupcakes will be part of the Fun Day activities and these will be displayed and judged during the afternoon. A Raffle is being organised by the Rotary Club proceeds from this will be given to the Air Ambulance Trust.



### Birthdays in June

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday to you.

God Bless you and keep you  
and watch over you.

Rose Didlick, Kenneth Jackson Cocking, June Lethbridge, Philip Lethbridge, Steve Manning, Janis Nightingale, Tony Nightingale, Iona Perkins, Jacky Perkins, Tianna Rose, Christopher Savill, Hallie Shave, Gillian Trenear

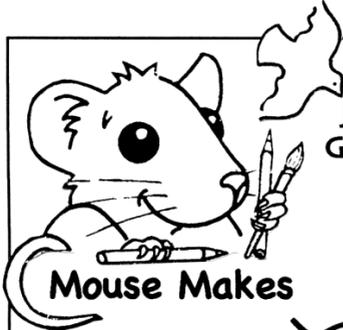
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**Mouse Makes**

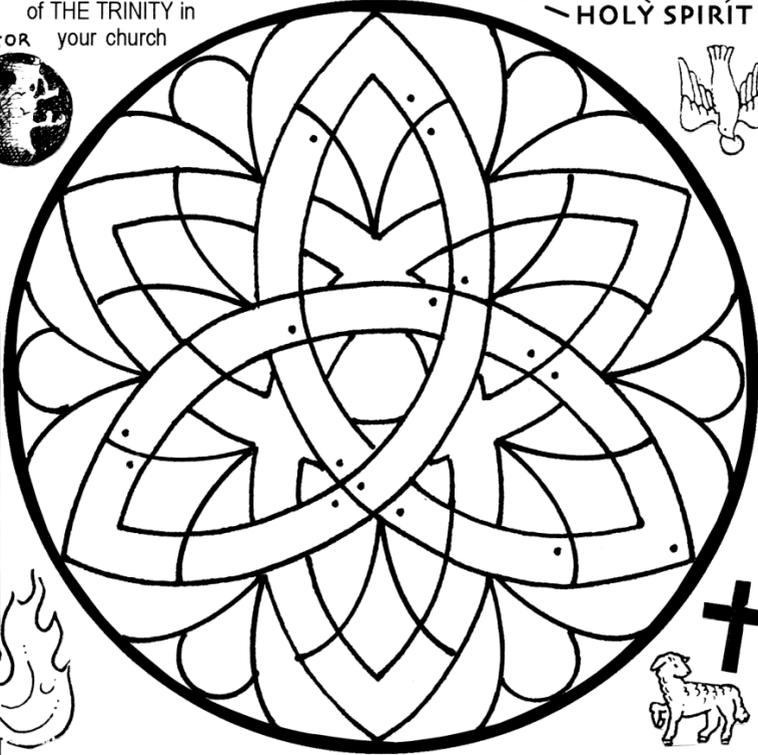
"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS** Christ and the *love* of **GOD** and the *fellowship* of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you"

2 Corinthians 13 verse 13

The Bible teaches us that **GOD** is three persons in one:

**GOD** = **FATHER**  
 = **SON (JESUS)**  
 = **HOLY SPIRIT**

Look out for symbols of **THE TRINITY** in your church



Christians have symbol to picture **THE TRINITY**.  
 Find out what it is by colouring in **BLACK** all the shapes with a dot  in them.  
 Then colour all the other shapes with bright colours like a stained glass window.

Jun12

## **An Exceptional Life.**

Dr John Stott who died last year spent his life helping ordinary people understand their faith. through his preaching , teaching and writing. He came to faith at Rugby School after hearing a sermon by Rev Eric Nash, who challenged his listeners to seek Jesus. Later he pointed him to the following passage -

Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Many years later he described the impact this verse had upon him as follows:

"Here, then, is the crucial question which we have been leading up to. *Have we ever opened our door to Christ? Have we ever invited him in?* This was exactly the question which I needed to have put to me. For, intellectually speaking, I had believed in Jesus all my life, on the other side of the door. I had regularly struggled to say my prayers through the key-hole. I had even pushed pennies under the door in a vain attempt to pacify him. I had been baptized, yes and confirmed as well. I went to church, read my Bible, had high ideals, and tried to be good and do good. But all the time, often without realising it, I was holding Christ at arm's length, and keeping him outside. I knew that to open the door might have momentous consequences. I am profoundly grateful to him for enabling me to open the door. Looking back now, over more than fifty years, I realise that that simple step has changed the entire direction, course and quality of my life.

Dr John loved bird watching and wrote and illustrated the book "The Birds our Teachers Essays in Orni- theology ( published by Candle) expanding on Martin Luther's exhortation from the "Sermon on the Mount: Let the little birds be your teachers.

Chapters include. The Feeding of Ravens: Faith; The Value of Sparrows: Self- esteem; The Drinking of Pigeons: Gratitude; The Song of Larks:Love

A proverb from Ghana from Gratitude.

'Even the chicken, when it drinks lifts it head to thank God for the water'

We thank God for the beauty of His created world and his inspired word, and those who teach and preach.

## SERVICES

### St. Mary's

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> June**

10.00am Children's' Church  
11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs Holy Communion  
4.00pm Park House Gordon Bird  
8.00pm Rev.Charlie Gibbs  
Songs of Praise for Trinity Sunday

#### **10<sup>th</sup> June**

9.15am Neil Didlick & Len Michell  
11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs  
8.00pm Rev.Charlie Gibbs

#### **17<sup>th</sup> June**

9.15am Beryl Read & Rev.Charlie Gibbs  
Holy Communion  
11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs  
8.00pm Songs of Praise for the Jubilee  
Rev.Charlie Gibbs & Philip Lethbridge

#### **24<sup>th</sup> June Circuit Service at Carrig Dhu**

11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs & Len Michell  
8.00pm Rev. Charlie Gibbs  
Holy Communion

### St. Martin's

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> June**

3.00/6pm Revd. Charlie Gibbs  
Holy Communion

#### **10<sup>th</sup> June**

11.00am Christopher Savill

#### **17<sup>th</sup> June**

11.00pm Neil Didlick

#### **24<sup>th</sup> June Circuit Service at Carrig Dhu**

11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs & Len Michell