

Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

June/July 2021

Chairman of the District: Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Superintendent Minister:

Revd. Michael Pullan B.Ed., B.D. 422406

Local Preachers:

Mr Len Michell-(*not taking services this quarter*) 422409

Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Stewards:

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer: Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

Circuit Meeting Secretary: Mrs Heather Terry 422329

Church Stewards:

St. Mary's Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs Jean Duncan
Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Leigh Kendrick
Mrs Sue Williams

St. Martin's Mrs Barbara Jones

St. Mary's

Treasurer: Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary: Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Hall Booking Secretary: Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

Organist: Mr Len Michell 422409

Deputy Organist: Mr Philip Lethbridge 422404

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary: Mrs Jackie Perkins 422814

Church Treasurer: Mr Alan Terry 422329

Connexional Link Person: Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Barbara James 422674

From the Manse

Dear Friends

Questions, Questions, Questions – they are very much part of life for us all. Asking them in school or college or beyond is part of life's learning.



There are radio and TV programmes based on them: Any Questions, Question Time, Twenty Questions, Prime minister's Question Time etc.

The lyrics of a Moody Blues song 'Question' include 'Why do we never get an answer when we're knocking at the door?'

Questions need Answers (generally) – it may not always be what we want to hear or come as quickly as we would like, but answers are important.

Jesus asked questions of a number of people/groups as part of His earthly ministry:

- A) a man at the pool of Bethesda
'Do you want to get well?' (John 5; 1-18)
- B) blind Bartimaeus
'What do you want me to do for you?' (Mark 10; 46-52)
- C) to Mary Magdalene
'Who is it you are looking for?' (John 20; 1-18)
- D) to His disciples
'Do you understand what I have done for you?' (John 13; 1-17)
- E) to Simon Peter
'Do you love me?' (3 times!) (John 21; 15-19)
- F) to a man born blind He healed
'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' (John 9; 35-41)
- G) to Saul of Tarsus
'Why do you persecute me?' (Acts 9; 1-9)
- H) to the Pharisees
'Why does this generation ask for a sign?' – then many more questions, concluding with
'Do you not yet understand?' (Mark 8; 11-13)

Though asked to individuals or a group (and recorded in Scripture) they readily apply to us individually or as a group today

- do you want to get well?
- what do you want me to do for you?
- who is it you are looking for?

- do you understand what I have done for you?
- do you love me?
- do you believe in the Son of Man?
- why do you persecute me?
- why does this generation ask for a sign?
- do you not understand?

We may identify with one, several or all of these questions and can say (as in the whole of life) there is always something more to learn about Jesus and from Jesus. He is with us every day as we journey with Him and we can hopefully say 'He is the answer to my/our every need'. He is a friend indeed!

Let's never stop asking questions and thinking/responding to those Jesus may ask of us

- will you do this for me?
- will you be this for me?

Michael

~~~~~

### **Do you need a new pain killer?**

Do you ever take pain killers? If so, do you take one for your shoulder, and another one for you knee? Of course not. Once the painkiller enters your bloodstream, it goes everywhere, soothing and damping down the pain, and hitting all the right spots.

God works a bit like that on the pain in our lives. He has a prescription for ALL the problem areas of our lives. Most of us carry emotional scars, or a burden, or some heartache, around with us. It may be the trauma of loss, or it may be anxiety for our family. It may be uncertainty over our jobs, and our futures.

Whatever it is, God offers us a prescription to help the pain. The psalmist writes: " 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble' (Psalm 46:1). Jesus added: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28).

This kind of help is real and immediate and there for the asking. We don't have to put up with our dis-ease and struggle alone. God, our heavenly Father, is only a prayer away. Not just twice a day, after meals, but whenever we need him.

## **News from St Martin's**

The days are longer, we are easing out of 'lockdown', our visitors are able to return, including friends and family, so we can now together, more comfortably appreciate God's wonderful universe. Boats are appearing in the Par, and The Observatory will also be open again to enhance such enjoyment!

We have been able to revert to Worship on Sunday's now that St Mary's Boating has resumed, though some of Michael's trips have been rough to say the least!

We have welcomed our first visitors who have joined our congregation - namely Wendy and Rosemary (and spouses) who are descendants of John Gibson who instigated the building of our Chapel!

One of the chapel Windows is dedicated to their parents. Their mother was Bertha Howard nee Christopher, sister of Gladys Perkins' father Ernie.

There were 10 in the family and 'Uncle Wilfred' was one of our local preachers, often played the organ and ran the Sunday School - when I was there we were about 12 children! How times have changed ...

Another island family - the Goddards have just welcomed a new addition to their family - a son born to Laura, daughter of Karen and a greatgrandson for Edna - congratulations to all.

We all hope that if everyone takes heed of Government advice we can look forward to 'summer Suns glowing' and we can return to some form of normality.

*Val Thomas*

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Christian Aid

The Lenten appeal for Christian Aid realised £268.

Many thanks to all who supported it.

Details of the Christian Aid Week/Fund for Human Need appeal will be in the next In Touch.

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We are looking for a volunteer church member to attend Synod at Truro Methodist Church on Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested please contact the Minister.

## World Day of Prayer 2021

In order to avoid a clash with the Anglican Church Flower Festival, it has been decided to change the dates for the planning meeting and World Day of Prayer service. During a year when it has been difficult to hold anything, it would be a shame for two things to be happening at similar times. Revd Canon Gay and I had been communicating about the World Day of Prayer, but when one of my emails was lost in the 'ether' an overlap of dates was the result.

The planning meeting will now be held in the Methodist Chapel on **Monday June 28th at 2pm**, not Tuesday June 22nd. The service, prepared by the women of Vanuatu, will be held in the Chapel on **Friday July 9th at 2pm**, not Friday July 2nd.

I very much hope that those of you who are interested in participating in the service can come along to the planning meeting and others will join us on July 9th to share worship. All are most welcome. Please can I remind you that donations taken at World Day of Prayer services are the organisation's only source of income to support a wide range of charities. With cancellations, postponements and Zoom services in 2021 we trust that the level of giving will not have diminished.

Thank you  
*Heather*

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Notice Bloomers

Mrs Thomas wishes to thank all church members who so kindly assisted in the death of her husband.

Children are normally collected during the offertory hymn.

Tuesday at 4.00pm there will be an ice cream social. Ladies giving milk should come early.

Will visitors please note that the box marked 'For the sick' is solely for monetary contributions.

The regular Monday night choir practice of this church will be held on Tuesday night instead of Friday.

Good News Unchanging Saviour

It is a Sunday morning and I have just listened to the service on the radio. It was wonderful, brought tears to my eyes. The message of the Good News – old but ever new!

The Bible tells us 'God has spoken to us by His son, Jesus', whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature. 'He upholds the universe by the word of His power'. (Hebrews 1: vs. 2 and 3).

As if that isn't enough, I am reminded of my then future Father-in-law at our Holy Communion service, he would often stand to read from Revelation 1: v.5 – 'To Him who loves us' – he would then pause and look up and say – 'still loves us' – then 'has freed us from our sins by His blood'.

What a magnificent message – what do we need more! We have a God who loves us and is waiting for us to come to Him in repentance, asking for His forgiveness, trusting Him, growing in faith, knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ has fully paid the price for our redemption. As the hymn says, *All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him*. Joseph Hart lived from 1712-1768 but he 'had the tink of it' as the Welsh say. It is just as true today in 2021!

With me, lean your weight on God and His word. In Psalm 119: v.105 I read 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path'. Amen, and Amen.

Pauline Jackson Cocking

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### **For sale**

An estate agent's board outside a redundant church:

FOR SALE.

Suitable for conversion.

### **On a church notice board:**

Visitors welcome.

Members expected.

## **The Small Beatitudes**

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are they who know how to relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously; they will be valued most by those about them.

Happy are you if you can take things seriously and face serious things calmly; you will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown; you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking; they will avoid many blunders.

Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile, even when people interrupt, contradict you or tread on your toes; the gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Above all, blessed are you who recognize the Lord in all whom you meet; the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.

*Joseph Folliet (1903-1972)*

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He comes where He is welcomed

The innkeeper made his stable available,

Jesus was born there.

Mary and Martha made their home available,

Jesus resided there.

The merchant made his upper room available,

Jesus supped there.

The wealthy man made his tomb available,

Jesus was buried there.

The believers make their hearts available,

Jesus lives there.

Old and alone and needing help...

An old Italian priest lived alone. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was so hard. A member of his church, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. So the old priest wrote a letter to his parishioner and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. I remember you in my prayers.
Fr Louis

A few days later he received a letter from his parishioner.

Dear Fr Louis, whatever you do, don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Thanks for your prayers.
Vinnie

At 4 am the next morning, the local police arrived and dug up the entire area, without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old priest and left. That same day the old priest received another letter.

Dear Fr Louis, You can go ahead and plant your tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.
Vinnie

~~~~~

## Good to know

The little word of love,  
the right time and place  
Will be blessed by God above,  
and watered by His grace.  
*Author unknown*

## **The story behind the hymn: 'Lord, for the years'**

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

*Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...*

*By Timothy Dudley Smith*

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: 'I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!'

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, for his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 95th birthday this month. She does indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

And so indeed the 'extra' verse added for the Queen has also held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

~~~~~

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

In Touch can be read on line. Just go to our Circuit website www.scillymethodists.co.uk and click on the link to the newsletter. Back numbers of In Touch can also be accessed. If you would prefer to read In Touch in this way please let us know and we can save the cost of a paper copy.

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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 use.

## **The God of Little Things**

You are the God of little things,  
You made the sheen of swallows' wings.  
You taught the skylarks how to fly,  
High in the soft blue summer sky.  
You are God, Lord over all,  
And you know when the sparrows fall.  
Your creatures Lord are in your care,  
You even count my every hair.  
You know my every thought and deed,  
My every prayer, my every need.  
For God who made the earth and sea,  
Made everything including me.  
Our God who put the stars in place,  
And set the world to spin in space.  
You listen when your children call,  
Our God who cares when sparrows fall.  
The great and mighty King of Kings  
Is also God of little things.

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Prayer for encouragement in June

Father,

At this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you – and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement.

Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to be en-couraged!
In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

When the sermons clash with the music...

There was a feud between the minister and the choir director of a church. The first trouble came when the minister preached on 'Dedicating Yourselves to Service', and the choir director chose to sing: 'I Shall Not Be Moved'.

Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the minister put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on 'Giving'. Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn: 'Jesus Paid It All'.

By this time, the minister was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on 'The Sin of Gossiping'. And sure enough, the choir director selected: 'I Love To Tell The Story'

By now, there was no turning back. The following Sunday the minister told the congregation that unless something changed, he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the choir director led them in: 'Why Not Tonight'?

Truthfully, no one was surprised when the minister resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The choir director could not resist: 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'.

Birthdays

We wish the following a very happy birthday and hope they are able to celebrate with more freedom once restrictions are lifted.



June

Rose Didlick, Sophie Jenkins, June Lethbridge, Philip Lethbridge, Steve Manning, Janis Nightingale, Tony Nightingale, Iona Perkins, Jacky Perkins, Tianna Rose, Christopher Savill, Hallie Shave, Tricia Thomas, Gillian Treenear.

July

Barbara Anderson, Shannon Aston, Adele Bird, Kenzie Ferguson, Benjamin Jenkins, Pam Manning, Rachel Mary, Archie Sandford, Christine Savill, Margaret Snowball, Pam Thomas, Val Thomas, Isobel Treenear, Melanie Woodcock.

A Short Course in Human Relations

The six most important words – *'I admit I made a mistake'*

The five most important words – *'You did a good job'*

The four most important words – *'What is your opinion?'*

The three most important words – *'If you please'*

The two most important words – *'Thank you'*

The one most important word – *'We'*

The least important word – *'I'*

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## **Some Sunday School children's responses**

The first book of the Bible is Guinness in which Adam and Eve were created from an apple.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

The seventh Commandment is: Thou shalt not admit adultery.

The people who followed Jesus were called the 13 decibels.

One of the opossums was St Matthew.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

Paul preached acrimony which is another name for marriage.

A Christian should have only one wife, which is called monotony.

## **Longest Day of the Year**

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol* + *stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

*While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.*

### **A Canticle for Brother Sun**

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,  
Especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.  
He is lovely and radiant and grand;  
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

*St Francis of Assisi*

### **God in All**

He inspires all,  
He gives life to all,  
He dominates all,  
He supports all.  
He lights the light of the sun.  
He furnishes the light of the night.  
He has made springs in dry land.  
He is the God of heaven and earth,  
of sea and rivers,  
of sun, moon and stars,  
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,  
the God above heaven,  
and in heaven,  
and under heaven.

*A prayer of St Patrick*

## **Rubbing Together .....**

### **Church Chuckles**

Don't let worry kill you ..... let the Church help.

Thursday night ..... Pot luck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

For those of you who have children and don't know it we have a nursery downstairs.

This being Easter Sunday we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement on Saturday.

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be 'What is hell'. Come early and listen to our choir practice.

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Lo, I am with you always

Wide fields of corn along the valleys spread;
The rain and dew mature the swelling vine;
I see the Lord in multiplying bread;
I see Him turning water into wine;
I see Him working all the works divine
He wrought when Salem-ward His steps were led;
The self-same miracles around Him shine;
He feeds the famished; He revives the dead;
He pours the flood of light on darkened eyes;
He chases tears, diseases, fiends away;
His throne is raised upon these orient skies;
His footstool is the pave whereon we pray....

From a poem by John Charles Earle (1749 - 1818)

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, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun 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 had 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. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

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### **I am only one**

I am only one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do,

And what I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

*Ano*

## **JULY SERVICES**

### **St Mary's**

|             |                |                                             |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>4th</b>  | <b>10.30am</b> | Rev Michael Pullan                          |
| <b>11th</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | Rev Michael Pullan                          |
| <b>18th</b> | <b>11.00am</b> | Parish Church                               |
| <b>25th</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | Rev Michael Pullan<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
|             | <b>8.00pm</b>  | Lifeboat Service                            |

### **St Martin's**

|             |                |                                             |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>4th</b>  | <b>11.00am</b> | Christopher Savill                          |
| <b>11th</b> | <b>6.00pm</b>  | Rev Michael Pullan                          |
| <b>18th</b> | <b>6.00pm</b>  | Rev Michael Pullan<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
| <b>25th</b> | <b>3.00pm</b>  | Rev Michael Pullan                          |

### **The Last Word**

Visiting one of his parishioners one afternoon, the Minister knocked at the door but had no reply. He was somewhat annoyed because he could hear footsteps and knew that the mother and the family must have been there. He left his visiting card and wrote on it Revelation 3, v.20 *'Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come to him'*.

The next Sunday as the parish members filed out of the church, the woman who had refused to answer the door greeted the Minister and handed him a card with Genesis 3, v.10 written on it. *'I heard the sound of thee in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself'*.

She had been having a shower.

## JUNE SERVICES

### St Mary's

|             |                |                                             |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>6th</b>  | <b>10.30am</b> | Beryl Read                                  |
| <b>13th</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | Rev Michael Pullan                          |
| <b>20th</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | Rev Michael Pullan<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
| <b>27th</b> | <b>10.30am</b> | Stewards                                    |

### St Martin's

|             |                |                                             |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>6th</b>  | <b>11.00am</b> | Christopher Savill                          |
| <b>13th</b> | <b>6.00pm</b>  | Rev Michael Pullan<br><i>Holy Communion</i> |
| <b>20th</b> | <b>11.00am</b> | Songs of Praise                             |
| <b>27th</b> | <b>11.00am</b> | Rev Michael Pullan                          |

### Park House

No services this month.