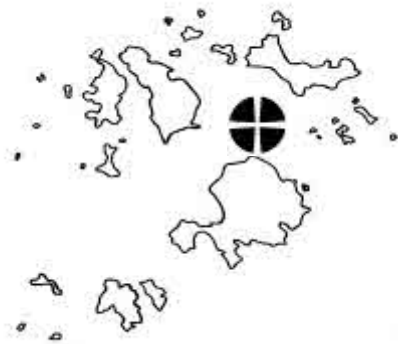


# Isles of Scilly



# In Touch

OCTOBER 2010

Methodist Church Circuit

### **Chairman of the District**

Revd. Steven Wild M.A.

### **Minister**

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs

### **Local Preachers**

Barbara Hasler    Len Michell

Neil Didlick        Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

### **Circuit Stewards**

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mr Len Michell 422409

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

**Circuit Treasurer** Mr Christopher Savill 423563

**Circuit Meeting Secretary** Mrs Rose Didlick

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

Mr Philip Lethbridge    Mrs Claire Jenkins

Mrs June Lethbridge    Mrs Sue Williams

Mrs Beryl Read

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

**St. Mary's** Mrs Sue Williams (422605)

**Treasurer**

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Beryl Read

**Property Secretary** Mrs Mary Ratcliffe

**Organist** Mr Len Michell 422409

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

**Church Council Secretary** Mrs Jackie Perkins

**Church Treasurer** Mr Alan Terry

**Organist** Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

**Connexional Link Person** Beryl Read 422977

**Gift Aid Secretary** Mrs Stephanie Bird (423117)



## **Some thoughts from St Mary's Manse**

As I sit to write this letter, on the radio I hear reports about the forthcoming visit of the Pope to Britain. It has been reported that concern has been expressed about the cost to the nation of this 'Official state visit'. As I write it looks as though this event is not going to be as well attended as past papal visits, with many Catholic Churches across Britain finding there is far less demand for tickets than expected, all of this very different to visits by past Popes which have seen vast crowds being present. Maybe this is just another reminder that today in Britain more and more people are finding they can live their lives without attending church or maybe even acknowledging the existence of God.

A few weeks ago I was speaking with a visitor to our church who commented that today we rarely hear a sermon about the consequence of 'Denying God' in our world today, and maybe it would be good for us all to just stop and think, and see how much things have changed in recent times.

Within what seems just a few years matters to do with faith and religion have changed a great deal here in Britain. Now, the great majority of parents no longer see any need to make sure that their children are brought up with a 'Christian trust in God'. In my ministry I have seen the number of children being brought to church for baptism drop sharply, and this is just the same here on Scilly.

About twenty years ago I remember having twenty or more Christenings a year in what was just a small Norfolk town. But now, there just like in many other places, the baptism

of children is no longer seen as the 'normal thing to do'

I expect we are all becoming aware that in many places the church is no longer seen in the light it once was. The media is sometimes quick to portray the church in a negative light. TV programmes now often seem to seek every opportunity to show the church and its leadership as a subject of ridicule, and we have seen something of this in the Island Parish programme, which was certainly less than generous in what it showed of the Methodist church on these islands.

Across Britain local Councils are abandoning prayers before the council meetings, will this ever happen on Scilly? In our newspapers we read of Christians being dismissed or suspended from the workplace because they have tried to say no to certain practices. Church members are reported as being prevented from serving on adoption panels or as marriage registrars because their Christian code of living means that they cannot sanction civil partnerships or homosexual adoption of children.... All these things show us clearly that much has changed!

When back in Norfolk recently I was told of how a scheme set up by local churches to house homeless young men was denied council funding because the word 'Christian' was used in the constitution of this excellent project, and this saddened me.

Here on Scilly we may think that these things 'will never happen here', but maybe we need to do all that we can to stand firm, and to always be prepared to stand up and be counted when the need arises.

The history of these islands has been, for many generations, one where the church has been a key part. We are here to serve this community, to be a sign of God's kingdom, and to show that the 'Christian Way' is still a way that can bring hope to the lives of those who trust in the ways of God.

My hope is that our church will be strengthened in the days to come, that we may truly be seen as channels of love and hope , and that the precious gift of faith in a God who has met us in Jesus will be passed on to the generations who will take our place here on these beautiful islands.

May we be thankful for the 'rich inheritance' of our Christian faith, may we never take this for granted, may we continue to uphold each other in prayer , and may our trust in God's ways and God's values be seen in our love of one another.

May the month of October be a time of reflection for us all, and as the Isles of Scilly finds rest after the busy summer season may we all make the time to thank God for His blessings.

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist minister on these fine islands.

*Charles Gibbs.*

### **Wishing you every Blessing**

We would like to wish William and Tricia Thomas every blessing when they return this month to St Ives.

William and Tricia moved over to the Islands thirteen years ago when William came to work for the council. They have been very involved in many Church activities, and entertained our visitors with their musical evenings which have also raised money for charity. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them happiness.



## **News from St Martins**

Firstly our thanks to Rev. Tony Pudner for taking the entire service on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was expecting to share the leadership of evening worship with the Vice-President of Conference.

Although it was disappointing that Rev. Attwood was unable to be here over the weekend, we are glad that recovery from sickness allowed Eunice and her husband to join the two congregations later in the week. Some St. Martins members were able to chat briefly after the performance of "Rock", and join her for a group photo in front of the pulpit, which has since been posted, together with those from St. Mary's, on the national Methodist Church website.

I'm sure all the people who watched "Rock" would want me to express our appreciation to all the singers and speakers for their effort and commitment in producing such a moving, enjoyable and memorable performance. We also thank you for taking the trouble to cross to St. Martins, and are only sorry that other events resulted in a smaller audience than otherwise might have been. Those who were in St. Martins Chapel on August 24<sup>th</sup>. will recall Rev. Attwoods closing words, when she focused on Jesus asking, "Simon Peter do you love me?", explaining how a similar question is one that we are all asked and is the essence of our faith.

True to tradition our Harvest celebrations were held over the first weekend of September. A mass of flowers (thanks to Churchtown Farm) were arranged on the Friday afternoon and other produce displayed on the Saturday. As

of shallots and onions) but runner beans rarely fail!! All growers know, crops vary year on year (2010 saw a lack). Whilst some arrange fruit and veg. Auntie Celia and Uncle Rodney always take on the polishing of our special oil lamps, before they too are decorated with sprigs of blackberries.

A good congregation gathered on Sunday evening to give praise and thanks for God's unbroken promise of seedtime and harvest. Not quite so many came along on the Monday for a short service, the auction of produce and a pasty supper. However those who did were generous in their bidding and £354 - 80 was raised throughout the evening. Our thanks to those who crossed with Charlie from St.Mary's. Each year we also receive a generous donation at this time which boosted that total. Mr. & Mrs. Wright are ex regular St.Martin's visitors who are no longer fit enough to make the journey, but they used to worship with us and thoroughly enjoyed the Harvest auctions. We give thanks for those for whom our little chapel remains a special place.

Unfortunately Daph was unable to be at Harvest this year, as she is away caring for her sister who has recently undergone surgery. Our thoughts are with Josie and her family and we trust that all will be well.

Heather

### **St Mary's Harvest**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September was Harvest for St Mary's Church. The Church was beautifully decorated, as ever, with island flowers and local produce. It was good to share a time of worship together as one church and many visitors joined us for the occasion. The produce was sorted after the prayer meeting on Monday and distributed locally.

## **Visit of Deacon Eunice Attwood Vice President of the Methodist Conference**

Towards the end of August we were treated to a visit by Deacon Eunice Attwood and her husband John. A recent trip to India had sadly left her unwell, delaying their journey to Scilly. It meant missing our St Mary's performance of 'The Rock' in the chapel, but they were able to come with us to St Martin's, thereby meeting our friends there, and helping to swell the audience. Next morning they joined us in the Manse for our Coffee Morning when Eunice enlightened me about her very busy Church life, focussed particularly on outreach to the wider community in Newcastle on Tyne. However she says that she loves preaching in her home church, Brunswick Methodist Church in the centre of the city.

The Rev. John Attwood has retired as a Methodist Minister and sadly suffers ill health. Still, he must undoubtedly be holding the fort at home judging from his wife's outside commitments. They have a grown up son, Ulai, who is studying anatomical and physical science in Dundee. When at home Eunice says she loves reading, walking and going to the cinema – rather rare occurrences I fear!

Two organisations in the area care for vulnerable youngsters, and Eunice is involved in both. SCARPIA helps children under 16 and KUMAS cares for asylum seekers aged 16-20. She is Chaplain to the Children's Society, mainly working in the city and to the John Lewis Department store. Furthermore she acts as a street pastor, 10pm till 4 am, visiting the nightclubs and talking to the prostitutes on the streets. Somehow she finds time to be a part-time tutor in the Methodist Wesley Study Centre in Durham! She is Vice-President of the Methodist Conference for the current year 2010-2011.



As a memorial of their visit we were given some lovely cards inscribed on a beautiful Celtic style background as follows:-

Send us out in the power  
Power of your spirit  
To live and work to  
Your praise and Glory  
Transforming love-Engaging faith

A memorable visitation--- sadly much too short!

Gwen Clarkson

*Editor's note: Gwen gave the card to me but the reproduction was not very good so we can only share the words.*

### **Whose fault is it, anyway?**

In a small town a businessman put in planning permission to build a nightclub complete with dancing girls. The local church started a vigorous campaign to block it from opening. The church launched a petition and held prayers in public. Work progressed, however, right up until the week before opening. Then one night a bolt of lightning strike hit the nightclub and it burned to the ground.

The church members were rather smug after that, until the nightclub owner sued them all - on the grounds that they were responsible for the fire. Loudly protesting their total non-involvement and innocence, the church members were all taken to court.

As the case began, the judge looked over the paperwork and observed: "I don't know how I'm going to decide this. It appears that we have a nightclub owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn't

## **Growing with Others**

General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was once invited to give 'a very short word' at a public gathering, so he stood up and preached a one word sermon: 'Others...'

That word, of course, sums up the whole ethos, direction and amazing impact of the ministry he led, but it also goes to the very heart of what it means to be Church. The New Testament writers, for instance, use the word 'saint' 62 times. In every case but one they use the plural form 'saints', and even the singular use of the word says 'greet every saint'.

In other words, the concept of a solitary Christian was as foreign to New Testament writers as it has been ever since in the writings of Christian Leaders. John Wesley once wrote, 'God knows nothing of solitary religion. No man ever went to heaven alone.' No wonder then that the whole story of the Church's growth is also very much the story of 'growing with others in order to serve others'.

Perhaps we all have a natural tendency to equate growth and success with the individual gifts of larger than life leaders, but the Booths and Wesleys of this world were only successful because they understood that in God's economy, growing with and through others is not just a good plan, but his only plan.

A story is told of the moment that Jesus returned to heaven and the angels asked him what was now planned to follow his amazing life, death and resurrection. Jesus replied that he'd left a small group of his disciples to spread the Gospel and grow his Church. When the angels asked 'What else?', he replied, 'There is nothing else', and the angels were stunned and amazed and awe-struck at the idea that a few weak and fallible human beings, living and working with each other, could actually give birth to a movement that in

time would grow the Church and change the world.

Perhaps you have a dream of growing something significant in your own church, community or organisation, or even simply in your own life. Whatever your vision for growth, be it personal or very public, make sure that a profound connection and commitment to 'others' and for 'others' is at the very heart of all your plans.

*Phil Potter is Director of Pioneer Ministry in Liverpool Diocese and the author of The Challenge of Change, BRF, £7.99. Details at: [www.brfonline.org.uk/9781841016047](http://www.brfonline.org.uk/9781841016047).*

## **Fellowship Evenings**

### **8:00pm Wednesdays Seagull Cottage**

Fellowship evenings will begin at my home Seagull Cottage on Wednesdays throughout the Autumn. I am planning to start at 8.00pm but if this time is not convenient please let me know. Come and enjoy meeting each other. We shall spend some of our time looking at what we think we know about prayer and the guidance we can find through God's word, but the emphasis will be on meeting together as Christians always have done and always will do to encourage each other and to invite our friends who yet do not know the peace we have in our hearts.

To God be all the Glory

Mary Ratcliffe

## **Latest news from UCDF**

The work of UCDF continues despite many difficulties caused by the economic recession.

The young people under the charity's care continue to thrive and, as they get older we see them gaining success in their studies – two have graduated from university and another four have completed their studies and are waiting to graduate; six are about to sit A-level exams and two their O-levels.

Once they have finished their courses the young people are having trouble finding good jobs. In Uganda it is often the case that bribes are required before good jobs can be found and, in the case of the girls, sometimes the employers demand sexual favours. This makes it very difficult for the youngsters who won't compromise their Christian upbringing. UCDF is helping them to set up their own businesses. The Fold, the house where those youngsters with no safe relatives stay, became increasingly dilapidated and the landlord refused to carry out repairs. UCDF purchased a plot of land and a new Fold has been built.

UCDF continues to support the Bulabakulu Children's Village and is helping them towards self-sufficiency – land has been cleared and crops of maize and sweet potato have been planted. Also, basic necessities such as food, water, mattresses, pots and pans and a new flue for the cooking stoves have been provided. A few years ago UCDF provided a well for a village in a rural part of Uganda where they had rescued four children and then a borehole was drilled when the well needed repair. This resulted in a huge improvement in people's health as well as water for crops and livestock. Money is now needed for the repair of the well.

Kate visits the village each time she goes to Uganda to check on the installations and the people. The area is mainly Muslim but many had converted to Christianity under the influence of UCDF's former field director, Henry Waswa. Over the last couple of years the villagers have been asking Kate for help in setting up a church. The eldest of the four rescued children

has now completed his pastoral studies and will soon graduate as a teacher. He is eager to take up the mission and share the good news of Jesus Christ with the villagers. We pray for success in this venture.

*I have put the full newsletter in the church for all to read. The handbell ringers and friends are planning a supper and musical entertainment later this autumn to raise money for UCDF. Please look out for further notices about this and come and help support the wonderful work that UCDF does.*  
Anne

Two spiders met in church. The first spider said: "I can't find anywhere quiet to live in this church. It's too noisy in the organ loft, it's not very peaceful in the choir stalls and if I settle in a nice dark corner under a pew it isn't long before someone comes along with a broom and sweeps me out." The second spider said: "You'd better come and join me in the offertory box. I haven't been disturbed for months."



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## **God's Gift of Forgiveness**

### COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

Motivated by love, God provided a way for our sins to be forgiven. He sent Jesus to be our Saviour; when we trust in His substitutionary sacrifice on our behalf, we receive His gift of forgiveness.

Before placing faith in Christ, we were dead in our sins and objects of divine wrath (Eph. 2:1-3). But our merciful heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus to redeem us. At the cross, the Saviour took our sins upon Himself and experienced God's fury for our sake. His death secured a pardon for us—there was nothing we could do to acquire God's acceptance. We are saved by grace—through faith in Christ and what He accomplished (Eph. 2:8-9). Our salvation is a free gift from the Father.

God's will is that we, as forgiven people, show mercy to those who wrong us—to the same degree that He forgave us in Christ. But the human tendency is to attach conditions when extending mercy. We think I will forgive you only if you apologize satisfactorily. Or, You must fix the problem before I will stop being angry. Or even, I expect you to make restitution before I will let this go. That is not what our Saviour did. Romans 5:8 expresses it this way: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Depending on how much hurt we've experienced, we may require time and healing before we can truly forgive. But we are to remember that showing mercy is God's will. We're called to pardon those who have caused us pain. Through reliance on God's Spirit, we can become like Jesus and forgive.

## **Important Notice**

### **Visit of Rev Steve Wild**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October

### **to the Isles of Scilly**

Rev Steve Wild will be preaching on 24<sup>th</sup> October

**St Martin's**  
**3:00pm**

**St Mary's Parish Church**  
**11:00 pm**

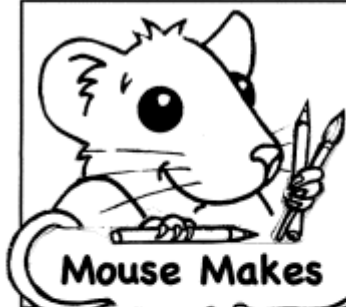
**St Mary's Methodist Church**

**9:15 am**

**6:00pm**

If you would like Steve to visit you at home during his visit to Scilly please let Charlie Gibbs know (422406)

We continue to uphold Steve in our prayers as he serves as the chairman of the Cornwall Methodist District.



## Mouse Makes

"O LORD my GOD how great you are!  
Lord, you have made many things!  
How wisely you made them all!  
The earth is filled with your creatures.

All of them depend on you to give  
them food when they need it.  
You give it to them, and they eat it;  
you provide food,  
and they are satisfied.

I will sing to the LORD all my life;  
as long as I live I will sing  
praises to my GOD."

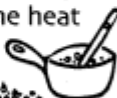
... from Psalm 104

*Although God provides  
food for all his creatures,  
it is fun to leave food out  
for the birds and then watch  
to see how many different  
birds come  
to feed.*



Spread unsalted  
crunchy peanut  
butter over and  
in between the  
spines of an  
open pine cone.  
Press wild bird  
seed into the  
sticky peanut  
butter then hang  
outside.

Buy a bag of wild bird seed from  
a pet shop. Ask an adult to help  
you to melt a block of lard in a  
saucepan over a low heat.  
Take the pan off the heat  
and stir in several  
handfuls of the  
bird seed.



Leave to cool a little until the lard  
mix is mouldable, then using your  
hands make into apple sized balls.

Leave to harden.

Wind string around

each ball and hang outside for the birds.







**Happy Birthday to you**  
**Birthday Greetings** this month go Rodney Ashford, Kathy Banfield, Myra Christopher, Sonia Crompton, Ann Farr, Jono Grossett, Joy Morris, Derek Perkins, Pippa Grossett, Maria Tomlinson, Judy Williams, and Melanie Woodcock

### **Seventh year in a row that Religious Studies A-Level grows in popularity**

This past summer's A-level results saw the seventh consecutive year-on-year increase in the number of students taking Religious Studies A-level, with a total increase of 47.3 per cent in the five years since 2004.

Church educationalists interpret the continued increase as further evidence that young people are interested in exploring religious perspectives on the big questions in life, and in studying how different moral and cultural frameworks shape people's understanding of the world around them.

The growing popularity of Religious Studies has been called one of post-16 education's 'best kept secrets'. As one clergyman said: "It's rather an inconvenient fact for those who seek to portray the world in purely secular terms, and who like to suggest that young people have no interest in religion."

*Editor- I found this article just after adding in Rev Charlie Gibbs letter and thought it may give further food for thought.*

## Diary Dates

**2<sup>nd</sup> October**                      **The Rock**  
**8<sup>th</sup> October 7:00pm Church Council Meeting**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Visit of Rev Steven Wild**

**24<sup>th</sup> October: Rev Wild preaching at**  
**9:15: St Mary's Methodist Church**  
**11:00: Parish Church**  
**3:00 pm: St Martin's**  
**6:00pm St Mary's**

### **Regular events**

**Monday**                                      **Prayer meeting**

**Wednesdays 2.00pm At Home at The Manse**

## Apples

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun had posted a note on the apple tray, "Take only ONE. God is watching." At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child's handwriting, was a sign, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples".

### **Editorial Team**

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*Any contributions will be gratefully received by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe*

## 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.

<b>Mervyn &amp; Stephanie Bird</b>	<b>423117</b>
Sue Williams	422605
Keith & Sam Grossett	422503
Merryn & Vicki Smith	423360

<b>Claire Jenkins</b>	<b>423546</b>
Neil & Rose Didlick	422838
Margaret Snowball	422896
Gordon & Fiona Bird	422550
Sonia Crompton	422854

<b>Barbara Hasler</b>	<b>422208</b>
Margaret Crane	422596
Len & Sylvia Michell	422409
Pamela Thomas	423115
June Lethbridge	422404

<b>William &amp; Tricia Thomas</b>	<b>423144</b>
Peter Laverock	422199
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.*

## OCTOBER NOTICES

### St. Mary's

3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15	Leader: Beryl Read Preacher: Rev. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
	11.00	Len Michell
	6pm	Revd. Charlie Gibbs
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15	Leader: Gordon Bird Preacher: Neil Didlick
	11.00	Leader: Rev Charles Gibbs
	6pm	William Thomas Harvest of the Sea
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Revd. Dr Stephen Dawes
	6pm	Leader: Revd. Charles Gibbs
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15	Leader: Beryl Read Preacher: Rev Steven Wild
	11.00	Rev Steven Wild      Parish Church
	6pm	Rev Steven Wild/ Rev Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	9.15	Leader: Beryl Read Preacher: Barbara Hasler
	11.00	Revd. Gordon Bird
	6pm	Mary Ratcliffe

### St. Martin's

3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:00	William Thomas Harvest of the Sea
10 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Leader: Revd. Charles Gibbs
17 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Revd. Dr Stephen Sacrament of Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Rev Steven Wild/ Rev Charlie Gibbs
31 <sup>st</sup>	11:00	Len Michell

### Park House

3 <sup>rd</sup>	4pm	Rev Charlie Gibbs
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