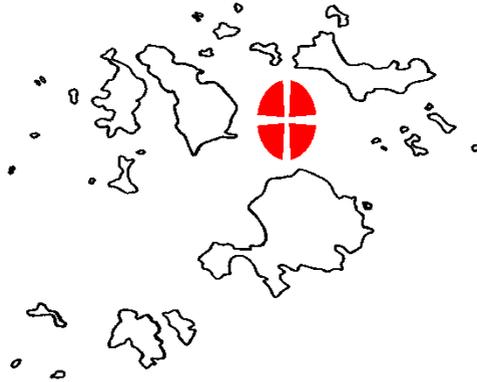


Isles of Scilly



In Touch

**Methodist Church Circuit 2011
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER**

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 Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams (422605)

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

On the 30th of this month the clocks go back, British Summer time officially ends, and winter will be not far off. October is the month when the busy season here on Scilly comes to an end, those who have been busy caring for our summer visitors look forward to a rest, and hopefully we will make the most of the quiet months ahead to stop, to think, and to take stock of where we are on our journey through life!

For us in the church being less busy hopefully will provide us with time to think about how our relationship with God has developed over the years. It is always a good discipline from time to time to stop and examine our faith. Has it grown over the last year? Are we aware of God working in our lives? Is our faith still alive and active?

Peter at the end of his second epistle writes '**Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!** These are challenging words written by a man who, at the end of his life, is able to look back and to see how his faith had grown and matured, despite the many setbacks and difficulties that he had to face in his sometimes turbulent life.

Peter was one of those disciples who was asked by Jesus at Caesarea Philippi 'Who do you say I am?' He gives what seems like the perfect answer 'You are the Christ! You are the promised one from God! You are the Son of the Most High God!'

It is at this point that Jesus tells Peter that he will be greatly blessed and that he will be the rock upon which the church will be built. But what do we find when we look at Peter's life? We find that he, just like us, makes mistakes and still gets things wrong. Despite the promised blessings, Peter, just like us, is seen to have a less than perfect faith and trust in God.

It is Peter who at the last meal with Jesus and the other disciples refuses to let Jesus wash his feet. Yes, Peter's faith was less than perfect. It is Peter who attempts to walk on water, but fails to have the faith to do it. It is Peter who is told by Jesus that his mind is on the things of men instead of the things of God; later on in the Garden of Gethsemane it is Peter who falls asleep having promised to keep watch; Peter is the disciple who later denies knowing Jesus, not once, but three times.

Yet despite the setbacks and despite the mistakes, Peter keeps his faith. In the Book of Acts we read how, on the day of Pentecost, Peter stands before the people and speaks with certainty about the mighty plan of God. It is Peter who becomes the leader of the very first Church, and it is Peter who at the end of his life writes to his friends in Jerusalem telling them of what he calls 'Our Precious Faith' and urges members there to trust in the promises of their Sovereign Lord.

So are we going to make time to stop and to look at our faith? If we do what can we expect to find? Can we like Peter look back and say that our faith has been a 'Precious Faith?' Have we understood more about the grace of God and of His provision in our lives and has the Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ given us hope in times of difficulty?

If our church is going to be effective in mission, we each need to stop and to look at our own discipleship. Have we grown in our faith? Has our understanding of being a follower of Jesus developed? Are we using the promised gift of His Holy Spirit in our church today?

On Friday evenings we are truly thankful that we have the freedom to meet together at our manse fellowships. Here we look at the great teaching that has been given to us in the scriptures; here we find the meaning in the history of God's people; here we find that God is speaking to us today, reminding us of His great promises which are the very foundations of our precious faith.

On 7th October we will be thinking together about what it may mean for us to be created in the image of God and the problems for good and evil. On 14th October we will be exploring how our relationship with God affects our relationship with others and our daily lives. On 21st October we will be thinking about God's promises, and the growth of civilisation. On 28th October we will be looking at some ancient examples of having faith and trust in God.

Moving on from this, and in many ways linked with it, is the matter of the seeking as a church to be all that the Lord would want us to be. What are the main priorities for us as His church on Scilly? In what ways can we show the care, the grace and the power of God in this island community? It was in May this year that I wrote a paper on Elder care on St Mary's. Care of those in old age has been a subject of great interest to me. Earlier in my ministry I served as Chaplain for Methodist Homes (MHA) at Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, a complex of sheltered housing with a nursing care option and a unit caring for those with dementia. Here I witnessed first-hand how Christian concern can make a very real difference in a community.

As many of you will know, in May this year I wrote a paper 'Thinking outside the Box' which has been widely distributed among the people of St Mary's. I set out a vision of how the Methodist Church might be able to help in a matter that is very much of the moment here on Scilly, as our Council seek a direction in improving care for the elderly here. Please ask for a copy if you haven't yet read it.

I was delighted when Peter Slee from the MHA in Bristol came to speak with us in August. Many turned out to hear about this important matter. It was very clear that Christian care can make a difference. My hope is that at our October church Council we will receive more thoughts about what it may mean for us to think outside the box. Mrs Beryl Read, our circuit MHA representative, is our link person and she will be pleased to provide you with the latest news about their work in Great Britain.

Seeking the direction for the Christian Church here on the Isles of Scilly is all part of our 'Growing in Grace' and 'Seeking to know more about the person of Jesus'. To this end we welcome to our islands this month The Anglican Bishop of Truro, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth, The Baptist Regional Leader from Exeter and the Methodist Chairman of the Cornwall District (10th -12th).

These church leaders will be visiting each of the off islands to meet with people, and there will be a service at the Methodist Chapel on St Martin's on the Monday afternoon. On Monday evening at 8pm there will be an "Any Questions" evening at St Mary's Town Hall, with further opportunities to meet with them on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please do make the most of this special visit since these leaders are here to help us to look at what we may do together in mission and to offer help to the Christian people of these islands.

Other visitors in October include Keith Dickson from the Deep-sea Fishermen's Mission In Newlyn, who will lead special harvest of the sea services on St Martin's and St Mary's on 9th October. Our 11 am service on that day on St Mary's will be held by Rev Peter Bolt from Devon. We look forward to these visitors being with us. They can be sure of a warm welcome and we rejoice in their contribution to helping us grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus and Saviour Christ.

Mary and I will be taking our annual holiday from 13th October, returning to Scilly on 27th. We will be going up to Norfolk to see friends and family. It will be good to see how they are growing in their faith too.

We give thanks for all that is past, rejoice in each day and look forward to all that is to come , trusting in our Sovereign Lord, and in the knowledge of the Good News of His Gospel which brings us peace for today and hope for tomorrow. May his rich blessings continue to be seen in our love of one another. I remain by the grace of God the Methodist minister on these fine islands for a while.

Charlie Gibbs

Mission through giving and growth through tithing

It was agreed at our Church council meeting and at our annual church meeting to take 1/10th of our weekly freewill offering and give it to other good causes at the end of each year. This is now in place for the year September 2011 to August 2012. At the first annual church meeting after this, we shall decide how to distribute these funds. We give thanks for this vision of how we should be good stewards of our God given gifts, and we continue to trust in God's provision in the days to come.

News from St Martins

Although Mr. Trevor Adams has been a regular leader of worship at St. Mary's Chapel, he only took his first service at St. Martins on August 28th. It was good to welcome him and his wife, and I'm sure everyone would be happy to hear his message again.

Traditionally the first weekend of September sees us celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving, and it was no different this year. The Chapel looked and smelt wonderful after members had set to work arranging pots of flowers and decorating. When facing the range of flowers, fruit, vegetables and shellfish, with all the varying colours, shapes and textures, it was not difficult to sing with sincerity and gratitude:

“Oh Lord of Heaven and earth and sea,
To thee all praise and glory be,
How shall we show our love to Thee,
Who givest all?”

Following the Monday evening service, Christopher did his usual grand job of auctioning the produce to willing bidders, who all enjoyed a hot drink and pasties at the end of the evening. £351 was raised for Chapel funds, and this good sum was further increased by a £250 donation from ex regular visitors, who purposely used to book their holiday to coincide with St. Martin's Chapel Harvest. Sadly they are no longer able to make the journey

We are appreciative of all the support we receive. A particular thank you to Charlie for leading both acts of worship and attending the auction, despite feeling rather under the weather. He was very surprised to learn on the Sunday evening that four members of his congregation had celebrated each Harvest at St. Martin's Chapel for well in excess of sixty years: Gladys Perkins and Rodney Ashford having lived on the Island all their lives and Daphne and Derek Perkins moving

from the mainland in their youth. I guess the same is true for a few members at St. Mary's. Such commitment and faithfulness is certainly something to be proud of.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all members of the community, and their families, who are facing medical anxieties. We are thinking especially of Chris Hensleigh and Jackie Perkins, who have recently travelled to the mainland to visit Chris's sister Pat. Pat, who has attended Chapel regularly during her long winter stays, is very unwell and in need of their support and comfort.

Lastly, we send our good wishes to Andrew Walder and Hannah Gill as they start their married life together this September. Several family members and St. Martins folk are travelling to Derbyshire, to share in the wedding celebrations towards the end of the month.

Heather Terry

Thousands watch Scilly Storm Video

A video posted on YouTube by Peter Laverock has now been seen by over three and half thousand people. The scenes of a storm, filmed from Tregarthen's Hotel car park, is set to worship song by Matt Redman, Did You Hear the Mountain's Tremble? Peter says 'I like the line in the song which goes "let salvation's waves crash on these shores again, and the tide of your great love come rushing in" That's my prayer.' You'll find the video by searching in www.youtube.com for the words St Mary's Quay storm March 2008

In Touch

If you would prefer to get your In Touch on-line rather than having a paper copy would you please contact Barbara James so that she can remove you from the label list.

Latest News from UCDF

The situation in Uganda is making things difficult for UCDF. There is a repressive regime, high inflation and drought in the east of the country which has led to food shortages in the rural areas, and high food prices in Kampala.

However, the work goes on. Young adults are being helped to set up their own businesses, the land that UCDF provided for the orphan village is now being cultivated by UCDF using local workers (which helps their families) and the surplus food will be sold. There is a need for a borehole there so the land can be irrigated, so funds will have to be raised for that. The Fold (where the young people live) is being extended so that more children can be rescued from neglect and abuse. The wells that UCDF has provided in rural areas have been overhauled and extended and, in one village, a little church is being built at the request of the villagers.

Finally, it is the end of an era for UCDF and the start of another. Kate Rees, who had the vision and the dedication to set up UCDF and keep it going, is going to retire shortly from active involvement and the baton is being passed to Ruth Rees (no relation). We thank God for Kate's work and wish her a happy retirement and we pray for Ruth as she takes up this commitment. The work of UCDF will continue!

A copy of the latest newsletter is on the notice board in the hall.

Anne

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.

Methodists face problems in Fiji

In an unprecedented crackdown on religious freedom, the Fijian government has banned all Methodist Church meetings except for Sunday worship. This includes house groups, women's prayer fellowship, choir practice, mid-week communion and youth fellowship, as well as the Church's governance meetings. All Methodist ministers are also forbidden from leaving the country for any meeting.

The Church is responding with prayer and fasting. The Methodist Church is the largest faith group in Fiji and the only group to receive this treatment by the Government.

"We are gravely concerned about how this situation is developing," said Michael King, World Church Relationships Team Leader for the Methodist Church in Britain. "Our brothers and sisters in Fiji are asking us to keep them in our prayers."

Finances

I have made a start on the end of year accounts. Until I get the last of the items in, I shall not know the final figures, but I have an idea that we are going to be short of funds for the coming winter. We have an obligation to find £8000 towards the Ministers stipend, plus all the usual bills for routine maintenance, repairs and utilities. Many of you will be aware that the `hearing loop` system has broken as has the amp. system for the `mics`; to replace these items may cost us up to £500 . This is a warning; I hope that I`m crying `wolf` - we`ll soon know!!

Sue Williams, Treasurer.

Good News!

In a world dominated by dreadful events, it is a great pleasure to be able to report on local actions that are welcoming and heartening.

As the one who sends 'In Touch' to friends of our fellowship who live away from Scilly I normally buy a great many 2nd class stamps every month..... but Praise the Lord, not for the next couple of issues! Generous donations of stamps and cash have been received with grateful thanks.

On Bank Holiday Monday we had our book stall for Action for Children. With the cookery books and those for children which we sell in the Methodist Hall, we shall shortly be sending the charity a cheque for over £35.00. With the most copies selling at only 5p and 10p each this is a valuable commitment!

We thank the Lord God for these examples of Christian care.

Gwen Clarkson

Shampoo

I don't know why I didn't realise this sooner. It's the shampoo we use in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning: "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY." No wonder I have been gaining weight. I am getting rid of the shampoo and am going to use dishwashing liquid instead. It's label reads: "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE." Problem solved.



...I've moved with the times - I've now got
a solar-powered radio microphone...

They still bear fruit in old age

Have you noticed that no matter how old certain people get, they never lose their attractiveness? It just moves from their face to their heart. Today, you get the impression that a person's usefulness ends at 65 or 70. What nonsense! What a waste of potential! Picasso produced some of his greatest works at 90. Rubenstein gave one of his greatest recitals at 89. Marjorie Stoneham Douglas, who's credited with saving the Florida Everglades, was still fighting for the cause at 100. Read your Bible: 'Moses was 120 years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated' (Deuteronomy 34:7) '... the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...(Job 42:12). Noah built the ark when he was 500, went into it for a while, came out and started the world all over again. 'It ain't over till God says it's over,' and if He 'ain't said so' live every moment He gives you to the fullest! 'The older the violin, the sweeter the tune', so pick up your bow and make some music. When someone told the 89-year-old poet Dorothy Duncan that she had lived a full life she replied sharply, 'Don't you dare 'past tense' me! If you're not too old to learn and you haven't outlived your enthusiasm, you can 'still bear fruit in old age'. It's up to you. If you can breathe, pray! If you can speak, encourage others! If you can recall, share your wisdom. Remember creation? It's wonderful what God can do in just one day. So give him all the days you have left.'

The above piece is an extract from 'The Word for Today' which a number of the congregation follow. Given the average age of the congregation, it seemed a good article to share. Let's celebrate the benefits of a long life and use the gifts that are brought.

Any Questions?

Monday 10th October 7pm

Come and ask your questions on the evening or send them before the 8th October to the Manse on St Mary's

On the Panel:

Rev Steven Wild, Methodist leader from Truro

The Right Rev Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro,

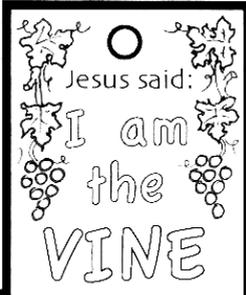
Rev Jez Brown, Regional Baptist from Plymouth

The Right Rev Christopher Bud, Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth

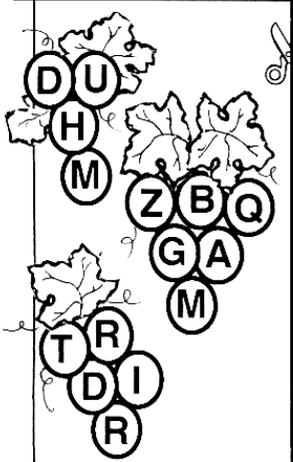
Town Hall at 7 pm
Question master : Mary Gibbs

A unique opportunity to put your questions to these much acclaimed church leaders on any subject of your choice during their 3 day visit to these islands

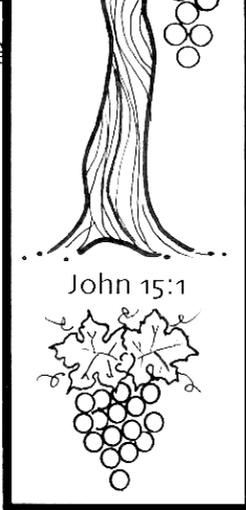
Ends at approximately 8:15 pm



Jesus said
"I am the
real vine, and
my Father is
the gardener.
He breaks off
every branch in me
that does not bear
fruit, and he prunes
every branch that
does bear fruit, so
that it will be



Change each letter on the grapes to the one after it in the alphabet then rearrange to find the words



clean and bear
more fruit...
...A branch cannot
bear fruit by itself;
it can do so only if
it remains in the
vine. In the same
way you cannot
bear fruit unless
you remain in me.
**I am the vine,
and you are the
branches.**
Those who remain
in me, and I in
them, will bear
much fruit; for you
can do nothing
without me."

John 15
verses 1-2,4-5

©c11

Diary Dates

OCTOBER

5th 7pm Church Council Meeting

10th -12th Visit of Rev Steven Wild - Methodist leader from Truro, The Right Rev Tim Thornton - Bishop of Truro, Rev Jez Brown - Regional Baptist from Plymouth and The Right Rev Christopher Bud - Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth

10th 7pm Any Questions in Town Hall

11th 8pm Meeting in St Mary's Chapel

Regular events

First Sunday 10am Children's Church

Monday Prayer meeting

Wednesdays 2.00pm At Home at The Manse

Happy Birthday to you

October Birthday Greetings go to Rodney Ashford, Kathy Banfield, Myra Christopher, Sonia Crompton, Ann Farr, Joy Morris, Derek Perkins, Maria Tomlinson, Judy Williams, and Melanie Woodcock, Megan Woodcock

November Birthday Greetings go to Daniel Bird, Jonathan Bird, Veronica Deane, Helen Crisp, Jean Goody, Julia Ottery, Aurelia Schwartz, Monica Taylor.

Editorial Team

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

OCTOBER SERVICES

St. Mary's

2 nd	10:00	Children's Church
	11:00	Len Mitchell
	8pm	Revd. Charlie Gibbs <i>Grace to a lukewarm people</i>
9 th	9.15	Leader: Neil Didlick Preacher: Revd. Charlie Gibbs
	11:00	Rev Bolt Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6pm	Keith Dickson <i>Harvest of the Sea</i>
16 th	9:15	Leader: Neil Didlick Preacher: Gordon Bird
	11:00	Barbara Hasler
	6pm	Mary Ratcliffe
23 th	10:30	Leader: Beryl Read Preacher: Len Mitchell
	6pm	Len Mitchell
	30 th	9.15
	11:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs <i>Can we deny the grace of God?</i>
	6pm	Revd. Charlie Gibbs <i>Jesus speaks of a better way</i> Sacrament of Holy Communion

St. Martin's

2 nd	11:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
9 th	6:00pm	Keith Dickson <i>Harvest of the Sea</i>
16 th	11:00	Len Mitchell
23 rd	11:00	Chris Savill
30 th	11:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs

Park House

2 nd	4pm	Barbara Hasler
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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**

Neil & Rose Didlick 422838

Margaret Snowball 422896

Gordon & Fiona Bird 422550

Sonia Crompton 422854

Barbara Hasler **422208**

Margaret Crane 422596

Len & Sylvia Michell 422409

Pamela Thomas 423115

June Lethbridge 422404

Beryl Read **422977**

Peter Laverock 423692

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

NOVEMBER SERVICES

St Mary's

6 th	10:00	Children's Church
	11:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
13 th	9:15	Leader: Gordon Bird Preacher: Neil Didlick
	10:50	Parish Church – United Remembrance Service
	6:00	John Hogarth
20 th	9:15	Leader: Beryl Read Preacher: Revd. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
	11:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs
	6:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
27 th	10:30	Leader: Neil Didlick Preacher: Gordon Bird
	6:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs Advent Songs of Praise

St Martin's

6 th	3:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs Sacrament of Holy Communion
13 th	3:00	United Remembrance Service
20 th	11:00	Barbara Hasler
27 th	11:00	Revd. Charlie Gibbs Advent Songs of Praise

Park House

6 th	4:00	Len Mitchell
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