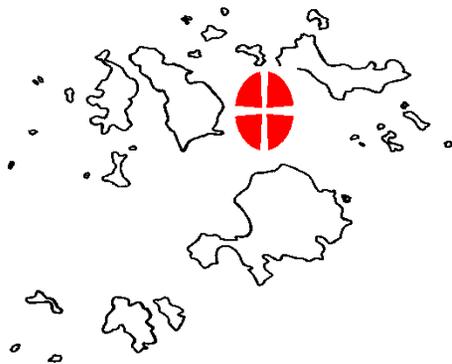


Isles of Scilly



In Touch



**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER
2015**

Chairman of the District

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Minister

Revd. Charles R. Gibbs 422406

Local Preachers

Barbara Hasler Len Michell

Gordon Bird

Christopher Savill

Circuit Stewards

Mrs Christine Savill 423563

Mr Mervyn Bird 423117

Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Mr Len Michell 422409

Circuit Treasurer Mr Christopher Savill 423563

Circuit Meeting Secretary

Church Stewards St. Mary's

Mrs Claire Jenkins Mrs June Lethbridge

Mr Philip Lethbridge Mrs Beryl Read

Mrs Sue Williams Mrs Leigh Kendrick

St. Martin's Mrs Barbara Jones

St. Mary's

Treasurer Mrs Sue Williams 422605

Church Council Secretary Mrs Beryl Read 422977

Property Secretary Mrs Anne Gurr 422224

Gift Aid Secretary Mrs Stephanie Bird 423117

Organist Mr Len Michell 422409

St. Martin's

Church Council Secretary Mrs Jackie Perkins

Church Treasurer Mr Alan Terry

Organist Mr Rodney Ashford 423109

Connexional Link Person Beryl Read 422977



Dear Friends, In the absence of the Rev. Charlie Gibbs who is on Sabbatical, John and I have been with you serving St. Mary's and St. Martin's Methodist Chapels and the wider community. Last

month's letter was written by my colleague Bishop Peter Stephens and soon Rev. Charlie will be back to write the next letter for the magazine so I'm providing the filling in the sandwich!

It's been a real joy and privilege to be here and to get to know you and enjoy your beautiful islands, as well as to worship God together and to serve others. While we've been here several friends from Cornwall have holidayed here as well and, while I think they've been helped to be more physically fit by walking (and, in my case, swimming!) there is one over-riding theme in what they say they experience here. It is the word "peace"- a peace which they feel is lost in the busyness of life on the mainland. While I do understand their feelings I'm very aware that they are on holiday, but that for you who live here life still has its busyness. It still has the same joys, sorrows, pressures and needs that are part of our human experience.

As I write there are still helicopters circling Tresco in the search for Josh. There are still horrendous images on the news of refugees fleeing and countless desperate about how they should act in response to this crisis. There are still people who are sick, anxious or bereaved. In the centre of beauty and outward peace we still struggle and ask questions. In every news broadcast we hear politicians making promises about what they are going to do if we follow their party to make everything perfect. Well! the leader I follow never promised me or any of his followers a trouble free, perfect life, but He did and does promise us "Peace"- a deep inner peace which isn't dependant on the external things of my life being perfect, but is dependant on trusting Him, and finding He is trustworthy.

In the Bible in St. John's Gospel Jesus says " Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John ch.14 v 27)

Like you I've known sorrow and joy, success and failure but since trusting Jesus I have felt His security and peace in everything. In the Methodist Church each year we issue a Prayer Handbook and this year's is entitled Pilgrims on a Journey and that is what we are, journeying together, supporting one another through Prayer, Bible reading and action. Bringing the peace of Jesus and the presence of God's love as we travel together.

I'm deeply grateful that my journey has brought me here, if only for a short while. John and I thank you for the warmth of your welcome, and your kindness while we've been with you. We look forward to being here again in October.

May God Bless You and give you His peace.

Jane



A special invitation indeed!

YOU ARE ALL INVITED ...

Beverley and Ian are pleased to invite the Scilly Methodist Circuit family to lunch with them in St Mary's Methodist Church Hall on Sunday 22 November 2015 from 1 o'clock to celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

RSVP to hodgson.piglet@blueyonder.co.uk, letting them know of any dietary restrictions.

We give thanks to you, Lord, for the many blessings you have given Ian and Beverly through their marriage. WE pray that they may never take one another for granted but continually be renewed by your grace; we offer their future to you to bless still more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rejoice! in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!

Hello again from St Martin's.

As a small community, we are truly blessed with the variety of preachers that visit us.

On Sunday August 23rd Chris Roles led our worship. Chris with wife Penny and family are frequent visitors to St. Martin's, and he recently became director of the charity Age International, having been involved previously with Y care and Action Aid. This was a 'family service', so the emphasis was on our more mature family members. Chris outlined his work which takes him around the world; more recently to the earthquake ravaged parts of Nepal and the Syrian refugee camps.

As well as directing aid to the appropriate areas, the charity works in practical ways such as planning the refugee camps so that the elderly can be located close enough to essential services to actually be able to access them.

We were also reminded of the value of the elderly in our communities - how we can benefit from their wisdom and experience, and of course, the need for mutual respect.

We give a warm welcome to Rev Jane Wilcock and husband John who are joining us whilst Rev Charlie is away.

One of Jane's first duties was to celebrate Harvest Festival with us.

The weather has been somewhat changeable, and many crops are late, but the Chapel was decorated with a lovely selection of fruit and vegetables - there were certainly plenty of runner beans!

As bishop Peter says in the Autumn 'In Touch' we come to give thanks not just for our own food growers (as so few of us are these days), but we remember all those who are involved in the production and transport of what we eat.

It is also a valuable reminder that many, such as the vast number of refugees, go without, when we have so much.

Jane is very positive in her Christian message and brings hope and a sense of enjoyment to our worship.

We were also joined by a former president of the Methodist

conference, Indergit Boghal, who gave the address at our short Monday service, when he was very complimentary about our little island community and used a Psalm to highlight the idea of 'The apple of your eye'. His interpretation being that when the ancients looked into someone's eye they saw a reflection of themselves which they thought was the soul of that person. Fruit for thought!

A big thank you goes to the ladies who so beautifully decorate the Chapel and organise the pasty supper, and to Chris and Chris who so ably conduct the auction of goods on Monday. It is perhaps the only place where a pot of pickled onions fetch £8, and grandparents outbid grandchildren for a grapefruit. There was also much sibling rivalry. Much fun was had by all and a grand total of £387.50 (+ the profit from the pasty supper) was made to help maintain our very special Chapel.

Val Thomas



Saturday Seekers

Saturday Seekers will be having their afternoons of Bible Based fun and activity at 2.00pm on October 17th and November 14th. We pray for all who come and all who help.

Open the Book

We shall be meeting at the Pavilion on Monday October 12th to read through the stories for 14th September (David , the Giant killer) and for Wednesday 21st October(The Wise King). If you would like to join this group who are invited into the School to lead assemblies you would be welcomed with open arms. We, like the people who lead Seekers are like farmers sowing seeds for the harvest. Please pray for us all as we ourselves pray, prepare and respond .

Invitation

Come, come to me and rest.

I see your weariness, your pain and your joy and long to give you rest. I see your busyness, trying to fit in time to sit quietly with me.

Come, come to me and rest.

I would love to know what you ache for, I invite you to come and meet with me in the silence.

Come, come to me and rest.

I always want you to know that you can cry out to me in pain, your own or those you love, and know that I will sustain you.

Come, come to me and rest.

I long for you to tell me all the joys and sorrows of the world and I will guide your thoughts into action which will alleviate them.

Come, come to me and rest.

I invite you to spend time with me in the quiet times so that you can live life in all its fullness in the busy ones.

Come, come to me, and rest.

Comfortable words which Christ says to all who truly turn to Him.

Come unto me, all that travail, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Remembrance Sunday

Parish Church 10.45 8th November

This year we will be meeting together at the Parish Church for this solemn day of remembrance and once again give thanks to God for the freedom that we enjoy in our land. Remembering with thanksgiving, all who have served in bringing about that peace and maintaining it. We have all been made aware of the terrible suffering endured by many refugees who have been forced to leave their homes and everything they possess. The answer to how the world will meet their need is one that concerns us all. It is easy to fall into despair but better to try and support those who can make a difference. We thank God for those who help us to make a difference.

Prayers God grant that the beauty and loveliness which surrounds me in this place may point me afresh to the wonder and glory of the Divine.



God grant that through the glimpses of peace and harmony which are vouchsafed to me here, I may apprehend more fully the serenity of spirit which is His intention for me and all mankind.

God grant that the purity of the sparkling waters which surround these blessed shores may teach me to drink afresh the Living Water which Christ extends to all the world.

God grant that because I have been privileged to know these days of relaxation and rest, I may return to my daily tasks with renewed courage and grateful heart. *By Marianne Mc Donald*

Dear Lord, Sometimes the world is a worrying place, so many problems, so much pain for so many. We feel overwhelmed and don't know which way to turn. Help us to turn the right way - to you Lord. Help us to hand over to you our worries, to exchange them for your peace in our hearts no matter what's going on all around, knowing that you walk with us through it all, today, tomorrow and forever. In Jesus' Name . *by Daphne Kitching*

HYMN: The story behind ... O God, our help in ages past

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure...

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) is often called the 'Father of English hymnody'. Certainly before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business. Watts was born in July 1674 in Southampton. (At the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs.) As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language (learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French). He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English. (At the age of five, when scolded for giggling in family prayers, it was because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, and instantly composed the line: 'There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!') Watts' literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with the congregational singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better. Though only 18, Watts accepted the challenge, and produced this, his first hymn – which was duly sung the following Sunday and is nearly always sung on Remembrance Day.

Extract from the Vice Presidents address to Conference 2015

A report about Ministry published years ago

read as below 'The Church expects that each one of us, young and old, will grow and develop in our Christian discipleship. This happens when we feel valued as individuals, our learning needs are addressed; our experience is acknowledged and we are enabled to reflect critically on it; we have the opportunity to learn from each other; we are asked to question our current assumptions and practice; we are expected to take responsibility for our own learning; we are able to use our existing gifts and talents.

It added: The Church is committed to providing an ethos and opportunities which enable the above to happen. Of course, this is what the Methodist Church, at its best, has been doing since its inception. It has been at the forefront of helping ordinary people to develop into extra-ordinary people. Miners, fishermen, shop assistants, housewives... learnt how to read, to speak in public, to get engaged in community affairs', trades unions, politics.... all through membership of the chapel and their class meetings. Knowing God's love, they felt valued as individuals; their learning needs were recognised and addressed, and so on through the principles'. "And although the report was written very much with formal training programmes in mind, it was also intended to cultivate an ethos of continuing learning and developing as disciples of Jesus who sought to play their part in God's mission. *Jill continued to illustrate her speech by using the ideas of postcards to illustrate her ministry.*

"I come now to my fourth and final postcard. This photo, taken by my daughter Joanna, shows one of her daughters at the seashore.

This picture does not show the end of the path, but a whole new beginning. A toddler with the whole world ahead of her, a vast horizon. Who knows what lies ahead?

"Behold, I show you a new thing", says the Lord, through the prophet Isaiah. "Do you not perceive it"? I think that is how I feel right now. I have my filled-in diary for the coming year, but don't really know what lies ahead. It looks immense, exciting, daunting. But my granddaughter feels secure because her mummy and daddy are right close by, and I am comforted and

supported by the love and prayers of so many people surrounding me like a great cloud of witnesses. And Jesus' promise: "I will be with you always, to the ends of the age".

How about you? Where do you find yourself on your journey? Will you too look with hope to the future?

And what about us, corporately, the people called Methodist? What exciting, but risky and costly, opportunities lie ahead for us as a discipleship movement?

We shall consider this more as Conference progresses. We as a church shall be challenged to look outside, go through the door, take to the path of risky and costly discipleship, leaving behind that which is familiar and secure, for the sake of the gospel.

And we shall take courage from the words of John Wesley, co-founder of the movement that came to be known as Methodism - "the best of all is, God is with us". "Words spoken shortly before dying and being raised to new life. Amen". *Jill Barber*

What is God calling us to do with our building, particularly the worship area? We know God is calling us, as ever, to reach out to our community but we need to know what the needs of our community are and whether changing the building would enable others to know God's care for everyone. We are a particular community and much of our ministry is surely with visitors. We know that everyday, people are leaving their accommodation at 10.00am and often have nowhere to go until their flight or until the boat leaves. We also know that, though provision is made for meeting together at the Memory Café or in established groups there are many who would value the opportunity to meet here in the centre of town. St. Mary's does not have a community centre, could we help to meet that need? **'Unless the Lord build the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city(our Islands) the watchmen(us) stand guard in vain'.....We shall not labour in vain or be put to shame by being God's people who long for others to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.**

Communication 2015

I am what is known by many as a 'Silver Surfer!' During my time working through studies to become a Local Preacher I have been able to access valuable information relating to every subject I have been given. It is certainly easier to use modern technology- my Kindle- to search through heavyweight commentaries than to handle them! (Did I once give a talk saying I didn't want one?!)

Mobile phones have become miniature computers and now such things as apps- ('**Apps** is an abbreviation for application. An **app** is a piece of software. It can run on the Internet, on your computer, or on your phone or other electronic device)can deliver to us daily encouragement on our journey of faith. The Methodist Church has a very good app where you can touch an icon (small picture relating to a particular piece of information) and be taken to up to date information including Bible study and Prayer, News and the Lectionary. Facebook is a well known site used by friends and organisations to communicate very recent news. You can become friends with anyone you choose. I recently became friends with Steve Wild our President. At first I was reluctant to do so as I thought he didn't want someone like me sharing his personal news, how silly that thought was, as once I requested his friendship I now have a daily update on what he is doing! How thrilling to hear about how God is blessing this year for him. Today he tells about a conversion made when he was travelling on the Underground. I also have Methodist Media on Facebook and this makes me feel very much a part of the Connexion.

I also use a site called Bible Gateway. This site provides a Verse for the day, recently the day's verse was so appropriate to my sermon on 'Blessings and guidelines for Christians' based on James' Letter, that I could use it at the end of the service. It was from Paul's letter to the Ephesians which reminded Christians then and reminds us now, that we are "built together upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself." He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. In union with him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his Spirit." I am thankful that through all the ages God has found ways to communicate with us, mainly through the words we hear but often through the words we read and now through the Internet. Thanks be to God.

Mary

November Services Please note that all services are subject to alteration as regards leaders or preachers and sometimes times. These are correct today!

St. Mary's

- Nov. 1st 11.00 a.m. Rev. Charlie Gibbs
4.00 p.m. Park House. Mary Ratcliffe
- Nov. 8th 10.50 Remembrance Service at the **Parish Church**
Preacher Rev. Charlie Gibbs.
6.00 p.m Gordon Bird
- Nov. 15th 9.15 a.m. Rev. Charlie Gibbs with Beryl Read
Worship Leader Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Mary Ratcliffe
6.00 p.m. Rev. Charlie Gibbs Holy Communion
- Nov. 22nd 9.15 a.m. Len Michell with Vicki Smith Worship
Leader
11.00 a.m. Rev. Charlie Gibbs Holy Communion
6.00 p.m. Barbara Hasler
- Nov. 29th 10.30 a.m. Mary Ratcliffe with Beryl Read Worship
Leader.
6.00 p.m. **Parish Church** Advent Service.

St. Martin's

- Nov. 1st 2.00 p.m. Rev Charlie Gibbs
- Nov. 8th Remembrance Service at Chapel 2.00p.m
Rev. Charlie Gibbs
- Nov. 15th 11.00.a.m. Len Michell
- Nov. 22nd 2.00 p.m. Rev Charlie Gibbs
- Nov 29th Rev Charlie Gibbs Holy Communion

Desert Island Discs.



If you were to be cast away on a desert island what eight short portions of the Bible would you take with you and why?

Mother Teresa – 65 years after foundation of the Missionaries of Charity

Mother Teresa – known officially as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta since her beatification in 2003 – was something of an icon. This month marks the 65th anniversary of her foundation of the Missionaries of Charity to look after people who had been abandoned by everyone else. She believed love by itself had no meaning and had to be put into action through service.

She was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in what is now Skopje, Macedonia, but was at the time part of the Ottoman empire. Her family was Albanian, originating in Kosovo. She died in 1997, within a week of one of her greatest admirers, Princess Diana.

When she was 18 she joined a group of nuns in Ireland, and took her religious vows in 1931. She moved to India originally as a teacher.

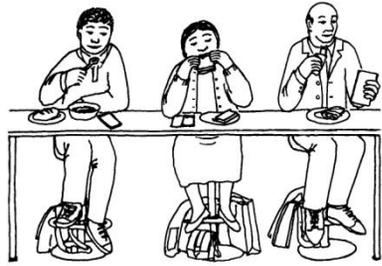
She usually wore a white Indian sari, with blue trimmings, out of respect for the traditional Indian dress but was regarded as a traditionalist, being against contraception, and when she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 she described abortion as "the greatest destroyer of peace today".

She attracted a great deal of criticism for this and for what some people considered was rough handling of the patients in her homes, as well as the lack of hygiene, and her acceptance of suffering.

In later years she travelled outside India, and in 1991 returned to her homeland to open a home in Tirana, Albania. The Missionaries of Charity now consists of over 4,500 religious sisters and is active in 133 countries.

Breakfast and Worship at 9.15.

What a pleasant surprise it was to arrive at the early service on the first Sunday in September to find breakfast was being shared.



The atmosphere in the hall was one of joy and this continued throughout the special service which followed. Thank God for Vicki Smith who had purchased a book called 'The All in Thing' This book gives service plans for worship when we're 'All-In' together.

The All-in Thing enables everyone of all ages to engage in worship together and everyone enjoyed this new style of service. The children were actively involved and so were the adults with various activity tables encouraging us to find different ways of finding rest in God. The services from this book from BIG Ministries are all themed and include a story, drama, activities and songs that perfectly enlarge on the theme. I look forward to the next one and so do the children who were present.

I am not sure how often this will happen but I think we were blown over by it. The Spirit certainly blessed us all. Mary

N.C.H. Action for Children

The strange weather we have had this summer has been good in one way----it has given us a big crop of rose hips! They are ripening over several weeks and there are, and will be, far more than I can cope with! They make a lovely syrup, jelly or jam and it would be sad to see them wasted! I shall also have blackberries.

Please let me know if you are at all interested to have some. Recipes for jelly and jam are with me if needed.

A small donation to our Methodist children's charity would be an added bonus.

Gwen Clarkson 423106.

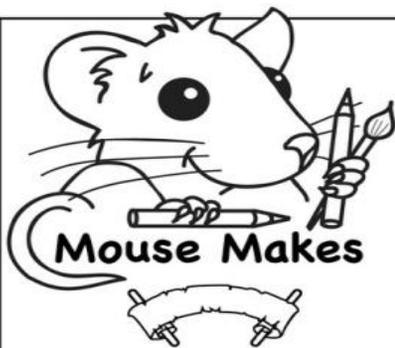
Methodist Prayer Handbook

The Prayer handbook for this year has the title 'Pilgrims on a Journey' It is a valuable resource and helps us to realise that we are part of a worldwide community of Christians. Prayers written by Christians of long ago are still as relevant to us as they were when they were first recorded and newly written prayers ask God's blessing on the Church today. Yes, we are pilgrims on a journey, we often feel we are at a crossroads and do not know which way to go. It is only through prayer, and the resulting action on our part that we can be used by God to bring others to know his love. We cannot just pray and expect miraculous things to happen. God needs you as he needs me to be pro-active in the way we reach out to others. We may be very satisfied with where we stand before God but cannot be satisfying to God if we do not reach out to others.



'John Wesley said that God raised up Methodists to be messengers, to challenge the Church and spread scriptural holiness throughout the land. The early Methodists were known for their enthusiasm, prayer and commitment to studying the Scriptures. Prayer is our essential sustenance for the journey; it is a nourishment that can be shared with fellow travellers. Using this handbook is like equipping ourselves with proper walking boots. Through prayer we travel together, shining light into dark places, rejoicing in signs of hope, listening to other voices, and changing and being changed'.

For those who have gone before us; for those who travel with us; for those whose journey intersects with ours for a while; for those who will come after us; for those whose footsteps have made a deep impression; for those whose presence was gently felt; for our contribution to the journey; for the continuing presence of Jesus, Emmanuel; and the assurance that God is always with us; Thanks be to God David Hinchcliffe, Channel Islands District Chair.



The Lord's teachings
are perfect.

*They give **strength**
to his people.*

The Lord's rules can
be **trusted**.

*They help even the
foolish become **wise**.*

The Lord's laws are **right**.
*They make people **happy**.*

The Lord's commands
are **good**.

*They show people the
right way to live.*

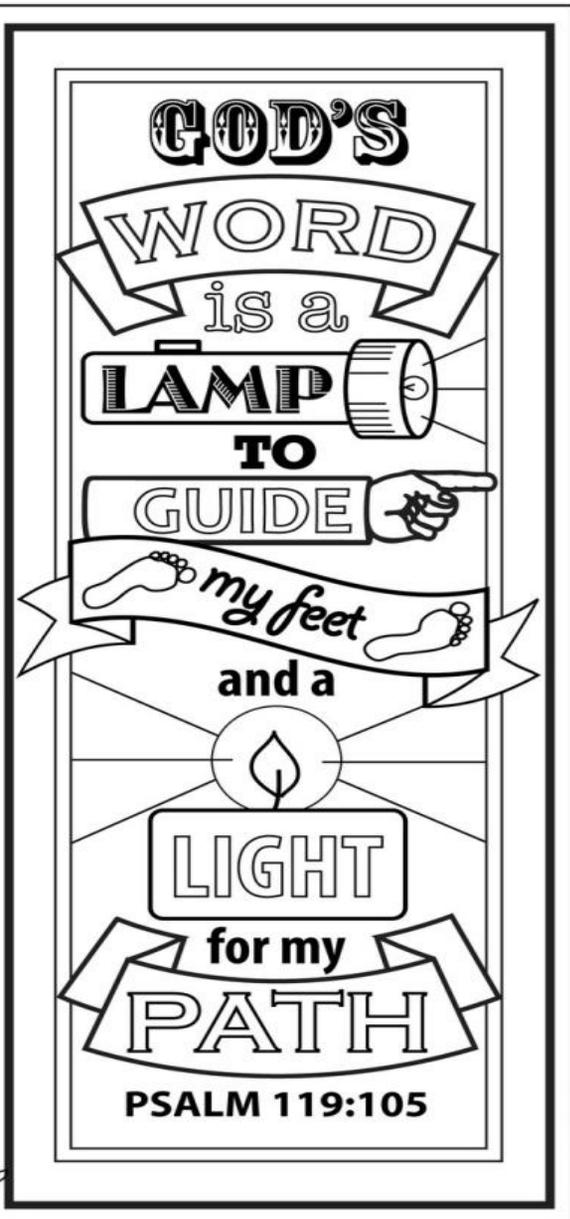


from Psalm 119:7--8

Do you have a favourite
bible verse? Write it here:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Colour in the illustrated bible verse,
cut out and use as a
bookmark in your bible.





Birthdays in October
Happy Birthday to you,
May God Bless you today and every day.

Rodney Ashford, Kathy Banfield, Sonia Crompton, Anne Farr, Joy Morris, Derek Perkins, Maria Tomlinson, Judi Williams, Megan Woodcock, Melanie Woodcock.

November Birthdays. Daniel and Jonathan Bird, Veronica Deane, Jean Goody, Julia Ottery, Aurelia Schwarz, Monica Taylor.

Birthdays are times for remembering past times but we are called to live in the present. Giving thanks for all that is past and with hope that is all to come. May the Lord pour rich blessings on us all.

Thanks today also to those who raise funds to enable us to maintain our Christian witness in Scilly. To June and her band of helpers who show slides of our beautiful islands to visitors; to those who raise funds from lunches- the last one in September raised £290. Members and dear friends (we know who you are!) work hard and we thank God for enabling them to be of service to visitors and members of the community through our church.

Thanks to www.parishpump.co.uk. for the use of their material.
www.scillymethodists.co.uk

Editorial team Anne Gurr e.anne.gurr@gmail.com

Val Parker martinandval.parker@gmail.com

Mary Ratcliffe maryratcliffe@live.com

We do publish the magazine on line at www.scillymethodists.co.uk

If you do read it online it saves us the cost of postage and the extra costs involved when we use the wrong envelopes. We apologize for the times when you have not only had to go to the Post Office to collect the magazine but pay extra for it. We are truly sorry.

PRAYER CHAIN

In the first instance please contact me, Mary Ratcliffe 423030 or Revd. Charles Gibbs 422406. I will then pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

Mervyn & Stephanie Bird **423117**
Sue Williams 422605
Merryn & Vicki Smith 423360

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

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

Beryl Read **422977**
Gwen Clarkson 423106

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

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

October Services

St. Mary's

Oct. 4th

- 9.15 a.m. All Age Worship Team
- 11.00 a.m. Len Michell
- 4.00 p.m. Park House Bishop Peter Stephens
- 6.00 p.m. Barbara Hasler

Oct. 11th

- 9.15 a.m. Mary Ratcliffe & Kim Watson -Worship Leader
- 11.00 a.m. Bishop Peter Stephens Holy Communion
- 6.00 p.m. Bishop Peter Stephens

Oct. 18th

- 9.15 a.m. Gordon Bird & Sonia Crompton - Worship Leader
- 11.00 a.m. Barbara Hasler
- 6.00 p.m. Rev. Jane Wilcock Holy Communion

Oct. 25th

- 10.30 a.m. Rev. Jane Wilcock & Mervyn Bird Worship Leader
Holy Communion
- 6.00pm Rev. Jane Wilcock

St. Martin's

Oct. 4th

- 11.00 a.m. Bishop Peter Stephens. Holy Communion

Oct. 11th

- 11.00 a.m. Len Michell

Oct 18th

- 11.00 a.m. Rev. Jane Wilcock

Oct. 25th

- 2.00.p.m./6.00.p.m. Rev Jane Wilcock Holy Communion