

Isles of Scilly



Methodist Church Circuit

IN TOUCH

October/November 2019

Chairman of the District:

Revd. Stephen Wild M.A.

Superintendent Minister:

Revd. Michael Pullan B.Ed. B.D.

422406

Local Preachers:

Mr. Len Michell

422409

Mr. Gordon Bird

422550

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:

Mrs. Claire Jenkins

Mrs. Leigh Kendrick

Mr. Philip Lethbridge

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

Organists:

Mr. Len Michell

422409

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

Thoughts from the Manse

Dear Friends,

'Thinking is the best way to travel' Lyrics of a song from the 1960's – forgive the pun but it set me thinking.

Paul wrote to Roman Christians (Chapter 12:2) 'don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so you may discern what is God's will?' Hopefully as Christians and nonconformists we appreciate this and recognise we need the help of God's spirit.

Centuries earlier Isaiah wrote 'those of steadfast mind, you keep a peace because they trust in you (Isaiah 26:3). Revd. David Windwood once spoke on the former using a modern translation, 'Don't let the world squeeze you into its mould' and I guess for all generations this rings true (keeping up with the Joneses etc. - whatever that means for everyone).

In recent years publicity regarding mental health issues across the age groups has been to the fore. There are many complex issues relating to mental health, including personal attitudes, the depravity of humanity toward fellow humans, traumatic experiences and many more – haven't we all said more than once 'I can't get my mind round it' which can cover many different things. I have heard of the phrase 'mind over matter'

'Imagineering' is a phrase I read about, which suggests that we seek (with God's help) to focus our minds more on God and his transcendent power and all that he can do to allow them to see many different and difficult issues in that context – a combination perhaps of 'I will not cease from mental strife' and 'seeking first this kingdom' and allowing His spirit to grant us that peace and renew our minds.

Michael.

The weekly CAMEO (Come and meet each other) coffee mornings have now finished for the summer months. During the winter months CAMEO will be held in the Wesley Room on:-

2019 Nov 19th
 Dec 10th

2020 Jan 14th
 Feb 11th
 Mar 10th

Proceeds will be given to a specific charity each month. Do come along - it is a great way to meet friends and those visiting the Islands.

News from St Martin's

We have enjoyed a variety of special services and visiting ministers since the last time of writing. We have also welcomed several visitors.

Back in July we held our Sea Sunday service, traditionally led by our own Chris Savill. A retiring collection raised £143 for the Mission to Seafarers.

We were delighted to meet with Revd. Dr Barbara Glasson, the President of the Methodist Conference, when she came to Chapel and shared her inspirational story with us, followed by a tour of the Island's new observatory with one of its founding members, Val Thomas.

Whilst Revd. Pullan was away on holiday we warmly welcomed Revd. Tony Pudner who kindly took the three services when he was here on holiday.

In the first one he introduced long-time friend Kath who shared her experiences as a head teacher, and gave us such an insight into city challenges facing young people. Her theme was to find the best in all people.

It was also a joy to have Wendy at the organ and we thank both her and Tony for so selflessly giving us of their time. An inspiration to us all.

We continue to be blessed with local preachers, and a relief when Len also plays the organ for us. However, it must be said that we really appreciate Chris's endeavours with the computer accompaniments!

Our Harvest festival, as usual was held on the first Sunday in September. The Chapel was beautifully decorated with a variety of Island produce. Revd. Michael reminded us that it

was exactly a year since he joined us, when his first service was the Harvest Festival. It is thus timely to thank him for all his care and support.

The coffee morning that took place the next day when the produce was sold, and much cake was enjoyed, raised £380.00.

Our Island Food festival is held this week and we are reminded of 'All good gifts around us, are sent from Heaven above, Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, For all his love.'

Val Thomas

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Gwen Holland

On 2nd September members of the Methodist Church and friends from the wider community gathered for a Thanksgiving service to remember **Gwen Holland (nee Boase)** who died recently in Chester. Gwen was a true Scillonian and sister to June (Lethbridge).

Like her mother and sister, Gwen was a singer and had a great love of music.

With Thanks

Jacky would like to thank everyone who has been so kind over the last month while she has been out of action with her injury.

We would all like to say how good it is to see her back on her feet and mending well.

News from St Mary's

The last two months have been a busy time on St Mary's. In August we hosted a visit to the circuit by the Revd. Dr Barbara Glasson, the newly appointed President of the Methodist Conference, and Rev Stephen Wild. The following day a number of Methodist friends from Cornwall travelled over from Penzance on 'Scillonian III'. Unfortunately the sailing was not the best so we were very pleased to see the number of Cornish friends who braved the elements to join us for the day. A service was held in front of St Mary's Methodist Church and was followed by a lunch provided by both St Mary's and St Martin's Methodist friends. It was a very enjoyable visit.

Sadly, early September saw the passing of a true Christian gentleman. Kenneth Jackson Cocking, who celebrated his 99th birthday in June, was a beacon of light to us all. His Christian example will be much missed by all who knew him. His funeral was held at St Mary's Methodist Church on Tuesday 10th September. The service was taken jointly by the Revd. Michael Pullan, the Revd. Jane Willcock and Canon Perran Gay who gave the address. Many of the family travelled over from Cornwall for the service.

Our annual Harvest Festival was a joint service with our Anglican friends and was on 15th September. It was very well attended. The Church looked beautiful and thanks go to all who donated produce or decorated. The Harvest Gifts were delivered to some 24 residents of St Mary's and to the Hospital and Park House.

On the following Friday evening we shared an enjoyable harvest supper with our Anglican friends who provided

the hot savoury dishes whilst the Methodists provided the puddings. We were given a talk by Fiona Maybrey about her recent visit to the Philippians as part of the Christian Aid 'Island to Island Appeal'. This appeal was launched last year and there has been a pledge by our Island Churches to donate £5,000.00 over three years.

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It is with sadness that I say a fond farewell to the Islands. Part of me will probably always be here. If all goes according to plan we will be leaving on September 27th so this is my last 'In Touch'. Martin and I arrived in October 2006 to look after my Mum, Flo Fairburn, and then my Dad, Joe Fairburn.

My connection with the Islands spans many years from our first family holiday here in 1968 to Mum and Dad moving here in 1977 and then us moving here in 2006. Both Mum and Dad were very active and modest about their support for the Church with Dad serving as Circuit Treasurer, Treasurer for St Mary's and then dealing with Gift Aid. Mum was always there helping with the Holiday Club, providing coffee and tea after the slide shows to raise funds for the Methodist Mission.

Martin has been supportive of the Property Committee on St Mary's; painting walls, putting up candles for the Candlelit Service and generally being willing to fix any odd jobs.

I have been part of the editorial team for this magazine since 2007. Jean Duncan will be taking over from me. With an ever growing number of grandchildren, all on the mainland, we feel that the time has come to rejoin them.

God is faithful

This October I will be speaking at the 83rd anniversary of the Methodist Chapel where I grew up. It is a privilege and an honour to return to the place where I came to know Christ some 50 years ago, and to encourage the folks who have served faithfully in this little mining village over many years.

I have it in mind to speak to them about the faithfulness of God, the fact that God has never let us down and never will. That is the rock on which our Christian witness rests – the utter reliability of God. Like a good preacher there are three things I want to say:

God IS faithful. It is His nature to remain the same and not to change. This is why we can rely on Him and His promises, and believe that His purposes will come to pass. He will never change His mind or renege on His word. Over the years this is one of the most reassuring things we come to know about our God.

God HAS BEEN faithful. A backward glance is more than simple nostalgia. It enables us to see the many times when God demonstrated His love and power towards us. Our history (both personally and as communities) confirms to us that God has never let us down or failed us. It is worth telling some of the stories in our shared experience to remind us of this. Memories reinforce our faith for the future. We must not live in the past, but we must learn from it.

God WILL BE faithful. The nature of God and our experience of His ways provides the basis for our trust when looking to the future. What He has promised will come to pass; what He has started will be completed. When times are uncertain and the future unknown, this is the bedrock of our faith. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China, translated Mark 11:22 as 'Hold the faithfulness of God.' It is not our faith that matters as much as the faithfulness of God. That is the ground of our hope.

By the Rev Tony Horsfall of Charis Training.

Preacher Man

One day I was in Manchester, quite close to Albert Square,

I listened to a Preacher Man, with people gathered there
'Repent' he said, 'confess your sins, because the end is near.'

'He's right,' I thought, then off I went and had a glass of beer.

I went to bed, and woke up in the middle of the night,
That Preacher Man, I thought ... maybe he could be right.
I'll go to Church next Sunday and confess my every sin,
Cause if there is a Heaven, then believe me, I want in.
Next Sunday came, the weather, 'twas the nicest day by far,

Such a shame to waste it, so I went and washed the car.
I'll go the Sunday after, His forgiveness I will seek,
I'm sure the Lord Almighty will wait another week.

Next Sunday came, I did some work that simply 'could not wait'.

This went on for weeks and months, and finally a year, Forgot about the Preacher Man, and lost my sense of fear.

The Sunday after, just the same, so was I tempting fate? Always something else to do, so Sundays came and went,

And, sad to say, I must admit, were always badly spent. But one day I was walking when there came an Almighty wind,

It filled me with such terror, I remembered I had sinned. A great big tree came crashing down, it hit me on the head, I floated ever upwards, and I realized I was dead. I thought about the Preacher Man, 'Oh dear, is it too late?'

'Indeed it is' St. Peter said, as he firmly shut the gate. Immediately I fell backwards, down towards a great abyss.

To my horror I could see the leaping flames were lit, 'Oh help me, someone save me from the awful fiery pit.' Then bump, I found I had landed... upon the bedroom floor,

With great relief I realized 'twas a nightmare, nothing more.

Did I go to Church next Sunday? You bet your life I did.

Contribution from Rev Michael Pullan.

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The wages of sin is death. So, repent before payday.

Kenneth Jackson Cocking

Kenneth was called Home to Glory on 2nd September 2019 aged 99 years.

The Thanksgiving and Funeral service for Kenneth was held at St. Mary's Methodist Church on 10th September and was conducted by Revd. Michael Pullan, Revd. Jane Willcock and the Chaplain of the Isles, Revd. Canon Perran Gay. The interment was at Old Town Churchyard.

Pauline is so grateful for the loving sympathy and kindness extended to her and the family from everyone at the Church.

Opting out

There are 100 members in our church,
 But 30 are frail and elderly.
That leaves 70 to do all the work,
 But 18 are young people at college.
That leaves 52 to do all the work.
 But 14 are tired businessmen,
So that leaves 38 to do all the work.
 But 16 are busy wives with jobs and children,
That leaves 22 to do all the work.
 But a further 10 have most important outside
interests,
That leaves 12 to do all the work,
 But 5 live too far away to come regularly,
So that leaves 7 to do all the work.
 And 5 say they've already done their bit for the
church.
That leaves you and me,
 And I'm exhausted.
 Good luck to you!

Members and friends gathered together recently to say 'farewell' to Val and Martin Parker as they move to the mainland to be near family.

We are indebted to them both for the work they have so faithfully carried out in the Methodist Church here on St. Mary's and in the wider community.

We will remember Val for her fantastic flower arrangements and her hard work as one of the editors of the 'In Touch' magazine, together with her baking skills and willingness to help, whatever the occasion.

Martin has been a brilliant handyman and we thank him for the many hours he has worked quietly in the background to help keep the Church/Manse buildings up to scratch.

Most of all we will miss their love and fellowship.

We wish them both every blessing in the next phase of their life journey and pray that God will be with them every step of the way.

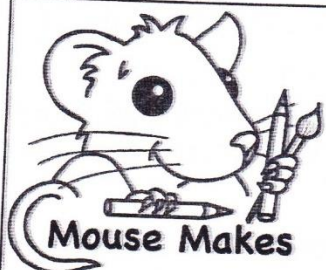
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We are delighted to welcome Jean Duncan as one of the editors of 'In Touch' magazine. A daunting task but a rewarding one! I am sure that Jean will be a valued member of the team.

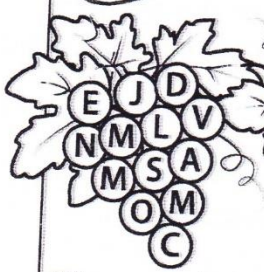
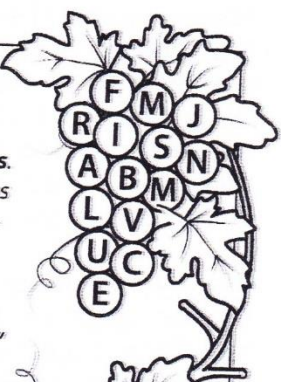
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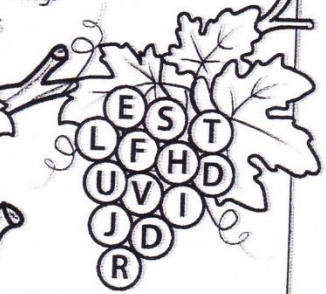
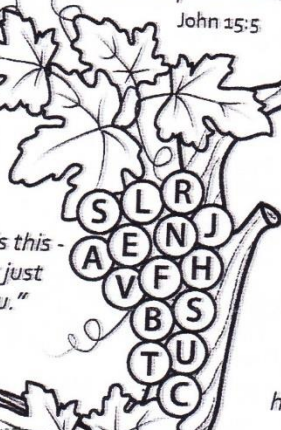
Any contributions will be gratefully received. The magazine uses material from the Parish Pump, a resource for editors to which we subscribe



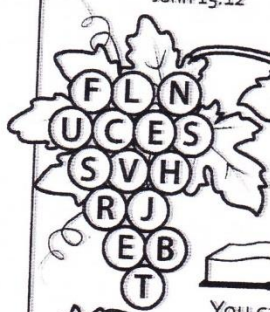
THE TRUE VINE
Jesus said:
"I am the **vine**;
you are the **branches**.
The one who remains
in me - and I in him -
bears much **fruit**,
because apart
from me you can
accomplish nothing."
John 15:5



"My **commandment** is this -
to love one another just
as I have loved you."
John 15:12



"No one has greater
love than this -
that one lays down
his life for his friends."
John 15:13



You can read
Jesus' teaching on
The True Vine in:
John 15:1-17

How many other
words can you make from:
THE TRUE VINE

Each of the word
in **bold** on this page
is hidden in the
bunches of grapes.
Can you work
out which bunch
each word is in?



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Unfolding a Rose

It is only a tiny rosebud
A flower of God's design
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine
The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I
God opens the flower so sweetly,
When in my hands they die.
If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?
So I'll trust in Him for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to him for his guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.
The pathway that lies before me,
Only my Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust him to unfold the moments
Just as He unfolds the rose

Birthday Greetings

October

Kathy Banfield, Sonia Crompton, Anne Farr,
Jono Grossett, Pippa Grossett, Joy Morris,
Derek Perkins, Maria Tomlinson, Judi
Williams, Megan Woodcock, Melanie
Woodcock.

November: Daniel Bird, Jonathan Bird, Veronica Deane, Helen
Crisp, Jean Goody, Julia Ottery, Aurelia Schwartz, Monica Taylor.

God's blessings to you all.

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### **Be Sociable**

If you can continue a healthy social life during middle age and onwards, you might be able to prevent the onset of dementia.

It has been found that people of 60 or over who see family and friends almost every day have a 12 per cent lower risk of developing the disease. According to the research done at University College London (UCL), frequent social contact builds cognitive reserve, or greater brain resilience, against the damage that occurs in neuro-degeneration.

As one scientist explains, "Dementia is a major global health challenge, with one million people expected to have the condition in the UK by 2021. But we also know that one in three cases are potentially preventable."



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*"So really, it is very easy to understand  
how Brexit will affect our parish..."*



## PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Revd. Michael Pullan (422406) who will pass on the prayer request to the first name in each of the groups.

**Mervyn & Stephanie Bird 423117**

Sue Williams 422605

**Claire Jenkins 423546**

Margaret Snowball 422896

Gordon Bird 422550

Sonia Crompton 422854

**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 Revd. Michael Pullan on 422406.*

*We thank God that we can be channels of his grace.*

## **November Services**

### **St. Mary's**

3<sup>rd</sup> 0915 Revd. Michael Pullan – Holy Communion  
1100 Revd. Michael Pullan

**10<sup>th</sup> 1045 Remembrance at Parish Church**  
Revd. Canon Perran Gay/Revd. S. Wild/Revd. M. Pullan

17<sup>th</sup> 0915 Revd. Canon Perran Gay  
1100 Revd. Michael Pullan – Holy Communion

24<sup>th</sup> 0915 Mrs. J. Ward  
1100 Mr. G. Bird

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 1100 Mr . L. Michell

**10<sup>th</sup> 1500 Remembrance at Parish Church**  
Revd. Canon Perran Gay/Revd. S. Wild/Revd. M. Pullan

17<sup>th</sup> 1100 Mr. C. Savill

24<sup>th</sup> 1100 Revd. Michael Pullan – Holy Communion

### **Park House**

3<sup>rd</sup> 1600 Revd. Michael Pullan

## **October Services**

### **St. Mary's**

|                  |              |                                                               |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 0915<br>1100 | Revd. Michael Pullan<br>Revd. Michael Pullan – Holy Communion |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 0915<br>1100 | Mr. G. Bird<br>Revd. Michael Pullan                           |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 0915<br>1100 | Mrs. B. Read<br>Stewards                                      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | 0915<br>1100 | Mr. D. Ward<br>Mrs. B. Read                                   |

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

|                  |      |                                       |
|------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 1100 | Mr. C. Savill                         |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 1500 | Revd. Michael Pullan – Holy Communion |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 1100 | Mr. G. Bird                           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | 1100 | TBA                                   |

### **Park House**

|                 |      |                      |
|-----------------|------|----------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | 1600 | Revd. Michael Pullan |
|-----------------|------|----------------------|