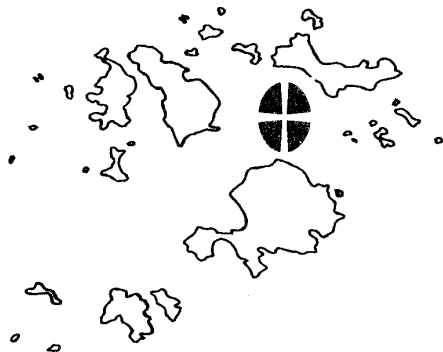


# Isles of Scilly



**Methodist Church Circuit**

# In Touch

October 2009

**Chairman of the District**  
Rev. Steven Wild M.A.

**Minister**  
Rev. 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**

**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 Mary and I come to the end of our first month here on the Isles of Scilly we take stock of where we are, how different things are going to be, and begin to rest in God's promise that in the power of His Holy Spirit we can be channels of His love to all who live on and visit these beautiful islands.

About 10 years ago or so Mary and I were in a Methodist Circuit that was "Divided!" The problem was that this large rural fenland circuit was divided by a river. This river had just one crossing point, sometimes you could see where you had to be on the other side of the river, but to get there meant a long journey along the banks to the only place where you could cross.

At the end of each Circuit meeting a great debate would take place as to where the next meeting should be, with those on different sides of the river hoping that they would not be the ones asked to make the long journey.

It has been said that God prepares us for that which may lay ahead, and I do believe this is true. Now looking back on my fenland ministry it seems so simple compared with the raging seas that divide the fine islands of St Martin's and St Mary's.

Whatever divisions we may face in our journey there is always a way to come together. For us who have received the Good News of the Gospel we know that this way is in Jesus. On the Cross of Cavalry He died that we may each be

forgiven for the mistakes we have made and make a fresh start in our daily lives today. No matter where we may live, even if we are divided by rivers and seas we are truly one in Him who loves us.

St Paul writes in his letter to the church of his day “ **Trust that in the Lord Jesus all divisions are healed, and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought!” (1 Corinthians 1:10)**

What a joy it is to be brothers and sisters in Christ, and what an example we can set to a world that is so often divided by hardened hearts and an unforgiving spirit!

May we continue to show those around us the real meaning of The Cross of Jesus, as in the power of His Holy Spirit we continue to love one another in his name.

I remain by the grace of God your minister and friend on these fine islands, may we be richly blessed in this autumnal month of October.

Charlie Gibbs



### **We are rivers- a prayer**

Lord, we are rivers running to thy sea,  
Our waves and ripples all derived from thee:  
A nothing we should have, a nothing be,  
Except for thee.

*From a prayer of Christina Rossetti 1830 – 1894, who was an invalid for most of her life, and also a prolific poet.*

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

Members on St.Martin's appreciated having their own Welcome Service for Revd. Charles Gibbs during the afternoon of August 27<sup>th</sup>, and were glad to greet him and Revd. Steven Wild. Some of us were at the full service at St.Mary's but evening boating is not the best for our older folk.

We would like to extend our thanks to all who supported the Harvest celebrations. Each year our little chapel looks and smells wonderful and we rejoice in God's creation and unfailing provision for our daily needs. At the Sunday evening service, Charlie reminded a good-sized congregation of the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. He spoke of the abundance of God's life giving spiritual water.

On the Monday evening we were joined by friends from St. Marys, local residents and visitors, for a brief act of worship before the auction and pasty supper. When the produce was amassed on the table before Christopher, it looked overwhelming for him as auctioneer. However, the Sunday School room was full of people ready to join in the spirit of things and bid for and purchase the veg, fruit fish and flowers; so we had a happy time fun time during the sale and refreshments. Alan as treasurer was very happy to bank £451 - 45 and this sum will go towards meeting our annual expenses. We are grateful for those who in any way helped us uphold our long-standing Harvest traditions, and more importantly give thanks for Our Lord's bounty.

As a church we continue to hold Barbara Clarke in our thoughts. After a long spell in hospital at Truro she has recently undergone major surgery. Our prayers are also with baby Graham and his parents Rosie and Ian.

Heather

## **News from St Mary's**

September has been a busy month on St Mary's with Harvest and Christenings.

Our Harvest Service was well attended with the Church as ever beautifully decorated. Many thanks go to all those who supported the Harvest Celebrations. At the morning service, Charlie's enthusiasm for his faith was inspiring and Gordon's address to the children will, I suspect, result in fewer volunteers if balloons are involved but I'm sure we will all remember his quote

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it Ps 24:1*

Gifts of produce were distributed to the various people who might appreciate them during the following week.

It was wonderful to see the church so full. It was a double event since we were also able to share in the Christening of Jake Martin. The service was a very happy occasion and we are pleased to welcome Jake. Jake was born February 2009. Congratulations to Claire and Lee.

The previous week saw the Christening of Jeremiah Roberts at the 9:15 service. Jeremiah was born last August to Anthea and Phil. We wish both families every blessing.

More good news is that both Flo Fairburn and Enid Bray are home from hospital and settled. Many thanks go to all those who have sent cards, prayed or visited during their recoveries.

Val Parker

## **News of a low tide**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September had a 0.5-m low tide. Up to 200 people gathered to walk across the islands from St Martins to Tresco to Bryher and Samson. I was going to St Martin's to preach along with all these walkers. First of all I was told the service would be short by 15 minutes, then shortly before I left the house Jackie to say that Terry said that the service could not be longer than 30 minutes so off came 1 of the hymns, another hymn was cut by 2 verses and the sermon would be reduced to 10 minutes. Weren't the congregations lucky?



*...if you have been affected by any  
of the issues raised in this sermon...*

## **New Daily Prayer List**

There is a new Daily Prayer List for members to collect at the Chapel for visitors here are some of the prayers for daily use.

**Today is a new day, Lord help us to live today in the simplicity of faith. Help us to trust you. Help us not to be obsessed with 'things'.**

**Today is a new day. Help me to use my gifts, my time, my life in the service of others, of the Church and You. Help me to focus on the fullness of the Kingdom and not on myself.**

*Loving God, we ask you to make us into people who show your love consistently to our families, friends and everyone we meet. Give us patience and kindness, help us to be happy with the truth and help us to believe, to have hope and to trust you in everything. Teach us not to be jealous, short-tempered, bear grudges or do wrong. Help us, throughout our lives, to continue to grow in maturity in Christ.*

**God calls us to serve,  
forgives us in Christ,  
and renews us by the Spirit**



*Pray without ceasing, Rejoice in the presence of God. Draw on God's strength; God's gracious love in Christ, enfolding peace, forgiveness for our sins. In stillness and in silence, pray; for silence too is prayer.*

If you have an urgent request for prayer please telephone Mary Ratcliffe on 423030 and Charles Gibbs on 422406 Mary will pass it on to other members of the Prayer Chain.

Mary Ratcliffe



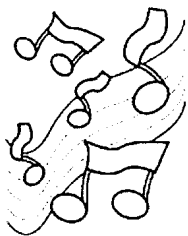
## **Word Search**

(John 1:1, Gen 1:1, Isaiah 55:11, Heb 4:12)

Life is a Word-search.  
Think John, chapter one.  
There will be distractions  
In the search,  
Interesting groups of letters,  
Many in the wrong order.  
Some even making sense,  
In their own way.  
Sometimes all is confusion,  
A jumble.  
The temptation is to give up.  
It's all too much of a puzzle.  
But those who search will find,  
And once found,  
The Word  
Makes sense of the search.  
Even if some round-the-edge words  
Remain a mystery,  
Once found,  
The main Word, the central Word  
Is the key that opens hearts.  
And the Word is,  
And will be,  
And even in the beginning, was.  
It has gone out and will not return empty,  
But living and active  
Will accomplish the purpose for which it was sent.  
The Word itself searches

So let us search,  
Oh, search the Word.

*Daphne Kitching*



## Visit of Polperro Choir

On the weekend of 10-11<sup>th</sup> October this choir will be performing here on the Isles of Scilly. This is the first visit of the choir which was formed in 1923 by Eva Cloke, a fisherman's wife and chapel organist at Polperro, together with Thomas Mark (The fishermen's Bishop), to sing at mainly Harvests of the sea services around the area. As their popularity grew, they travelled all over the county by charabanc, taking part in Sir Francis Drake's bi-centenary celebrations in the 1930s at Plymouth. Disbanded during the war, it was reformed in 1950 and has from that time spread its wings, having had only three conductors during the life of the choir (Eva, Jack Libby - a former choir member and the current incumbent, Phil Carrigan - a past Royal Marine bandsman).

The choir has travelled extensively, singing in Chatsworth House by special invitation of the Duke and Duchess, several times to Wales, Bedford, London and also to Quiberon in Brittany on three occasions at choir festivals. You may recall them performing twice on Songs of Praise and now they will be able to add St. Mary's and St. Martin's to their CV!

Saturday evening's concert will be in aid of the **The Fishermen's Mission** - the full title of which is **The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen**, a British charitable organisation founded in 1881 by Ebenezer Joseph Mather and run on Christian principles.

Around 13,000 men and women work in the UK's toughest and most dangerous peacetime occupation: deep-sea fishing. At sea, they face death and injury on a daily basis.

On land, many face insecurity and debt. And life for the with debt, inadequate pensions and scant savings meaning no respite from hardship once the fishing's over.

Time spent at sea away from family and friends (sometimes for days on end) makes it a lonely job that very few people can relate to. The Fishermen's Mission provides spiritual and practical support to fishermen, their families and those connected with the fishing industry 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The Mission plays an active role in alleviating poverty and despair by:

- providing emergency assistance to injured and shipwrecked fishermen
- offering financial, practical and emotional support, including bereavement counselling to the families of fishermen lost at sea
- providing a wide range of welfare services to active fishermen and their families, including home from home facilities in our Centres, debt counselling and help with medical care
- alleviating poverty amongst the elderly and infirm by identifying those in need, obtaining financial assistance and providing debt counselling and other forms of support
- combating loneliness amongst the elderly through a programme of home visits and group activities
- encouraging safety-consciousness amongst active fishermen, facilitating safety training and providing personal safety equipment

Although a Christian charity: the Mission is non-denominational, working with all churches whilst not being tied to any one church, and all fisherfolk are very welcome.

The Fishermen's Mission is an appropriate charity to benefit from the choir's performance as this choir was once known as the Polperro Fishermen's Choir, and the concert will be chaired by our own fisherman (William Thomas), who is the Local Hon. Agent for the RNMDSF). William & Tricia will be adding some of their own items in support of the choir.

So don't forget **SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 8pm at St.Mary's Methodist Chapel** and **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> at St.Martin's 2pm**

William Thomas

### **Feel sorry for their teachers....**

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

\*

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your maths on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do my multiplications without using a table.

\*

TEACHER: John, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

JOHN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

JOHN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

\*

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

\*

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

**Next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...**

Noah was a drunk  
Abraham was too old  
Isaac was a daydreamer  
Jacob was a liar  
Leah was ugly  
Joseph was abused  
Moses had a stuttering problem  
Gideon was afraid  
Samson had long hair and was a womanizer  
Rahab was a prostitute  
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young  
David had an affair and was a murderer  
Elijah was suicidal  
Isaiah preached naked  
Jonah ran from God  
Naomi was a widow  
Peter denied Christ (3 times!)  
The Disciples fell asleep while praying  
Martha worried about everything  
Mary Magdalene was the Samaritan woman who was divorced, more than once...  
Zaccheus was too small  
Paul was too religious  
Timothy had an ulcer... AND  
Lazarus was dead!

Now! No more excuses!  
God can use you to your full potential.  
Besides, you aren't the message, you are just the messenger...

## Action For Children



The end of August was a busy time for us in St Mary's Methodist Church in raising money for our children's charity. On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> we held a coffee morning in the Atlantic Hotel and the grand sum of £275 was raised. Our very grateful thanks go to Ann Mumford for making the arrangements for us. Although it was not a sunny day there were not a lot of visitors with us, but our friends in the local community were very supportive and we greatly appreciate their presence.

Similar weather dawned on August Bank Holiday Monday when we had our Book Stall on Holgates Green in partnership with Carreg Dhu Garden. The Lord God blessed us and the rain held off until the last half-hour of the afternoon. Our share of the proceeds came to £14.50, with another £10.00 in donations.

Several friends have Home Collecting boxes for the charity. The contents of two of them have recently amounted to £26.90, comprised of accumulations of small value coins only and so well worth collecting.

Gwen Clarkson

Representative Action For Children

## School

A little girl was struggling with her first term at school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

### **Gwennap Pit- a correction**

*The following e mail was received this month following an article in the August in Touch. I thought it would be of interest.*

Dear Val Parker,

We receive 'In Touch' each month - and enjoy reading it to keep up with news from the Isles.

Therefore I regret having to ask whether in the next issue you can make a correction for historic accuracy - which is probably not your fault. I suspect that you gained the information about Gwennap Pit, regarding which you have an article in the August issue, from Wikipedia - whose reliability I recall having read as being questionable. When trawling through the www. entries relating to Gwennap Pit - and you will find your article featured - I have found the error repeated over and over again!

The start date for Wesley preaching at Gwennap Pit was 1762 (on September 5 - which is the date of the diary entry you quote).

The remodelling of the Pit was only started in 1806. It was completed the following year in time for a preaching service on the Whit-Monday. The statement 'A Whit-Monday service has been held here every year since' is not accurate. A more accurate statement would be ' With the exception of a couple of years in the early 1820s, a Whit Monday Rally was held every year in the Pit until the change to the Spring Bank Holiday Monday in the 1960s - although sometimes rain drove the crowd into Carharrack Wesley Chapel or, more recently, into Redruth Methodist Church or Lanner Methodist Church.

All good wishes,

Ian Haile

## Happy Birthday to you

*Happy Birthday*



Birthday greetings this month go to Kathy Banfield, Myra Christopher, Ann Farr, Pippa Grossett, Jono Grossett, Sonia Crompton, Joy Morris, Maria Tomlinson, Judy Williams, Melanie Woodcock, Oscar Newrick and Megan Woodcock.

God's blessings to you all.

## Toothsome

When I had a job delivering lunches to elderly housebound people, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'


## 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 subscribes*



## Mouse Makes

Can you find the lost coin,  
the lamp  and the broom  
in the picture?

What else can you see? 

 THE LOST COIN   
Jesus told this story:

A woman who has 10 silver coins loses one of them, what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. When she finds it she calls her friends and neighbours together and says "I am so happy I found the coin I lost."

*Let us celebrate!"*

In the same way the angels of God celebrate over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:8-10



## **Diary Dates**

### **October**

#### **Regular events**

**Wednesdays** 2.00pm At Home

**Fridays** 7.30pm Fellowship

#### **Special events**

**Sat October 10th** evening Polperro Choir

**Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> afternoon** Polperro Choir at St Martins-

**14th October** Finance meeting 7.30pm

**15th October** Church Council meeting.



**17<sup>th</sup> October** Wedding of Jock MacDonald and Tamzine Pearce

#### **Calling young Methodists!**

The Methodist Youth Assembly meets from 13 to 15 November 2009 at Ushaw College Conference Centre, Durham. This exciting new event for 11-23 year olds will include arts, drama, sports, multimedia, speakers and a chance to be part of the decision-making process in the Methodist Church. To find out more, email [youthassembly@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:youthassembly@methodistchurch.org.uk)

## 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	423692
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

4 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	<i>Leader:</i> <b>Mervyn Bird</b>
	11:00 am	<i>Preacher:</i> <b>Len Michell</b>
	6:30 p.m.	<b>Revd. Charles Gibbs</b> <b>Barbara Hasler</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	<i>Leader:</i> <b>William Thomas</b>
	11:00am	<i>Preacher:</i> <b>Neil Didlick</b>
	6:30pm	<b>Barbara Hasler</b>  <b>Revd. Charles Gibbs</b>
18 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 am	<i>Leader:</i> <b>Beryl Read</b>
	11:00 am	<i>Preacher:</i> <b>Revd. Charles Gibbs</b>
	6:30pm	<b>Revd. Charles Gibbs</b> <b>Sacrament of Holy Communion</b> <b>Len Mitchell</b>
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<i>Leader:</i> <b>Beryl Read</b>
	6.30 pm	<i>Preacher:</i> <b>Neil Didlick</b>
		<b>Revd. Charles Gibbs</b> <b>Sacrament of Holy Communion</b>

### St Martin's

4 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	<b>Revd. Charles Gibbs</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	<b>Revd. Charles Gibbs/Len Michell</b>
18 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	<b>Barbara Hasler</b>
25 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	<b>Revd. Charles Gibbs</b> <b>Sacrament of Holy Communion</b>

### Park House

4<sup>th</sup> 4pm                      **Gordon Bird**