

Isles of Scilly



# In Touch

SEPTEMBER 2012



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

As I write my thoughts for the month of September I am very much in the hope that we will have, what is described by some, as an 'Indian Summer' as we approach the season of Autumn. The summer is said to have been the wettest on record, and when it rained on St Swithin's day on the 15<sup>th</sup> July many of us expected the legend of 40 days of rain to be true. On Scilly we all know what a difference good weather can make, indeed it is a sad sight to see our summer visitors dressed in water-proofs trying to make the most of their holidays on these remote yet beautiful islands.

Throughout the summer we have welcomed special Methodist friends to bring news of our wider church to our islands. We were greatly blessed by the visit of the Rev Professor Peter Stephens who visited homes, lead worship, and told us news of the Methodist Church in Gambia where he had been Presiding Bishop before his return to Britain. last month Rev Vinaya Moses from the Methodist Church in South India reminded us of what it is like to be a disciple of Jesus in a place very different to Scilly. These visitors have enjoyed fellowship with us, and were truly thankful for the very warm welcome they received from our church.

This month we welcome Lucille Rowse who is secretary for local preachers in the Cornwall District. Lucille will be leading a fellowship evening on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, a study day on St Martin's on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> and leading worship on St Mary's on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

In November Chris Clark and John Hogarth, who are both evangelists from Cornwall, will be making a return visit to Scilly and again leading fellowship and worship. In addition to all this we are delighted that Mike King the newly elected Vice-President of the Methodist Conference will be visiting our islands in the New Year, more details to follow.

This Methodist Circuit is by far the smallest in the British Methodist Conference with a membership of just over sixty in total. Because of this input from the wider church is of great importance to us, for not only do these friends remind us of our part in a bigger picture, but they also offer to us help and support in our mission on these tiny islands.

Being small in some ways is a wonderful thing, it enables us to truly know one another, it brings about a feeling of close fellowship, particularly in the winter months when there are no summer visitors to boost our numbers in worship, and it makes us truly aware of our responsibilities to one another. However it faces us with great challenges.

Because of the geography and the nature of where we live we will always find it harder than some to resource the ongoing work of our church. We may at times wish we had folks with certain gifts and skills to fill posts and further our work, but being a tiny island community will always mean that there will be fewer to call on in our times of need. This is, of course, very evident in providing financial support that is needed to continue serving this island community.

Income from visitors has for a very long time been crucial in helping to balance the books here on the Isles of Scilly, indeed on St Martin's we are truly thankful for those who visit the fine exhibition of island photographs and give so generously. For many years the weekly slide shows on St Mary's that are much loved by our visitors, have provided the church with a very welcome income over the summer months, and each year June Lethbridge and her team of helpers set out to ensure that new images of our islands can be enjoyed.

However, especially on St Mary's we now find that our income is far less than the costs we face in maintaining our mission and ministry. This has been brought about in part by the urgent repairs and renewals to our chapel and hall, which although bringing our building into good shape has taken all the reserves we once had. The result is that we now face a serious financial problem, that needs to be addressed at the present time. In order for us to address this urgent need we are holding a Gift Day at the Manse on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. On that day I will be there to receive your gifts, and to offer refreshment, please put this date in your diary and help to make this a very special day for our church. If you cannot come please send your gift by post to The Minister, St Mary's Manse, Isles of Scilly TR21 OJT.

A letter of thanks will be sent to all who send donations by post.

Most months of this year this magazine is produced by our small but very dedicated editorial team. Each month 200 copies are printed, of which 60 copies are sent to friends on the mainland. (It is also read online by many) From time to time we receive letters of thanks for this magazine, and we delight in the fact that so many friends support our church in this way.

Each month I look forward to writing my contribution to In Touch, and firmly believe that letter writing is a good way of bringing us together as fellow disciples. Some have said that the age of letter writing may well become lost. Now instead of writing a letter an email or a text will be rushed off, no doubt often in the hope of receiving an instant reply, reminding us that maybe we are living in an age where haste is the order of the day.

Whenever we sit down to write a letter we will have an object in view, and this is certainly the case in the letters found in the New Testament which traditionally have been called 'Epistles'. Recently I have been looking again at the letters of John found towards the end of our Bibles, three short letters that certainly address issues that are very much relevant to our church today. In the first of these letters John writes to believers in Asia Minor which is modern day Turkey, and as we read his words the purpose of his writing becomes clear.

Firstly he writes to enrich their fellowship, and to encourage them in their support of one another, he can see their need for unity in mission, and he understands that, just like us today, they need to be confident in their precious Christian faith, even in times of difficulty. As we read this powerful letter we find that John's purpose is to promote love amongst members of the church, which will bring them hope in whatever circumstances they may face, and he reminds them that this love will be found as each of them receives the sacrificial love of God which lies at the heart of the Gospel.

Secondly John writes to bring his friends joy. An inner joy to John is the sign of our faith in Jesus. The Son of God, who is sent to bring us light into, what can sometimes be, a world of darkness. To John, Joy is the hallmark of Christian living, and he longs that his readers will know this gift of joy in their lives and the life of the church.

To John, joy is the result of truly knowing and receiving the love of God, and this joy is made complete as together believers encourage one another to live a life of faith.

These things then are the very purpose of John's writing. he lays before them the truth about Jesus, he calls his readers to be totally committed in their trust in all that God has done, and he reminds them how the gospel message has the power to bring lasting joy, that they may be able to face whatever is before them with confidence.

We may be the smallest of circuits in British Methodism, but we are part of the worldwide Methodist Church, and we are at one with all and every church that knows Jesus Christ as Lord. Our faith in the sending of God's Son has the power to unite us with all who over the years have received and believed in the name of Jesus, and this surely is why we celebrate this joy in our weekly worship, and in our daily walk of faith as we take up our cross and follow.

If you are one of our many mainland readers we look forward to receiving a letter of encouragement from you. We would love to hear news of your church, and we will pray for you as you pray for our mission on the remote yet beautiful Isles of Scilly.

May we be encouraged to be even more confident in our faith, may this be seen in our joy, may it be seen in each and every act of worship, and may it especially be seen in our sacrificial love of one another.

I remain, by the grace of God, the Methodist minister of those who seek to love and serve all who live on these islands.

*Charles R. Gibbs*

## **Thanks**

It was a great delight to go into our Prayer Room/ Vestry to see a beautiful lace cross above the table. Thanks to Anne Gurr for creating this very special gift. It takes many hours of work and

is a beautiful expression of her love in Christ for everyone who may use the room.

## **Church Gift Day – Saturday 15th September**

We will be celebrating the abundance of God's provision in our lives at our Harvest Thanksgiving on the morning of Sunday 16th September, and again that evening at our special Harvest Songs of Praise.

We give thanks to all who give week by week to provide for the ministry and the mission of our church, and we now look forward to the opportunity to make a special gift at our annual church gift day, which this year is on our harvest weekend on Saturday 15th September. On this day our minister will be in the Manse from 10am until 7.30pm to receive your gifts, to greet you and to offer refreshments. Please put this date in your diary and help to make this a very special day for our church.

The Methodist church is pleased to be an important part of this island community. The people of these islands look to us in times of need and in times of celebration. Local people over many generations have been married in our chapel, have had their children baptized, and have looked to us for the funerals of their loved ones. Our minister and members of our church visit the homes of the sick and the elderly; we work closely with our island school and young people, and seek to offer care to all in need. We offer a warm welcome to those who visit our islands, and love to have them with us at Sunday worship.

This year our weekly offerings have not met the costs of maintaining our ministry, mission and buildings. Because of this we ask you to give generously so that we may further the good work of our church among the people of these islands.

If you cannot come to the Manse on September 15th, please send your gift by post to: The Minister, The Manse, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly TR21 0JT. We give thanks for all that is past, and we continue to trust in God for all that is to come.

*Charles R. Gibbs*

Methodist minister

**Congratulations** to Joe Fairburn and thanks to God for his contribution to our Methodist Church here in the islands. Serving as Chapel Treasurer for many years and still collecting the offering Sunday by Sunday.

Joe is 95 years young, and was born in Harrogate before moving around the country in his work for the Civil Service.

He served in the Second World War in the Middle East and was in hospital in Jerusalem for several weeks, unfortunately meaning that he saw nothing else of this important city.

In 1946 he married dear Flo, they met at a Youth Club and after many years of work and Christian service on the mainland came to Scilly. They hadn't planned to come and live here but they met up with some friends, who were so ecstatic about their visit to the islands that they soon came to see it for themselves, ending up buying Kistvaen and running it as a guest house!

This they did until 1991 when they moved to Trench Lane.

Joe, together with Flo, have been an important part of the work of Christ in this place. Helping with the Voluntary Car Service, Meals on Wheels- sometimes delivering them on foot- and serving the community through Rotary and Inner Wheel .

Now Joe takes it easy with the new family dog Rosie who takes him for walks!

We pray that he will remain in good health. He is indeed fortunate in having Val and Martin living with him. May God bless them all.

*Mary Ratcliffe*

## News from St Martin's

As is usual during the Summer season, St. Martins folk have been pleased to welcome those who choose to spend their holidays on Scilly. We trust that they all return home feeling refreshed and uplifted by the magnificence of Our Lord's creation, so apparent here in the Islands. May those of us privileged to witness such beauty on a daily basis remember to give thanks and never take our environment for granted.

John and Krenulla Moorman were guests at the evening service on July 22nd and they returned to St. Martins again the following Wednesday, to entertain at a well supported concert. Sue Murray accompanied John and Krenulla through a varied programme which included songs from popular musicals. Our members appreciated the gift of £80, taken from the total donations at their concert.

By the time this September edition of In Touch is circulated, Gladys and Derek Perkins will have celebrated their sixty fifth wedding anniversary. Family members are coming from the mainland to join those who live on St. Martins, to mark the occasion on August 19th. We all extend sincere congratulations to Gladys and Derek, and trust they will thoroughly enjoy being surrounded by their family at such a special time.



In conclusion, perhaps I could remind everyone that Harvest will be celebrated at

St. Martins Chapel on the first Sunday and Monday in September. All are welcome at our worship and sale of produce with a pasty supper.

## **Hawker's Legacy**

The origins of our modern Harvest Festival began in September 1842 when the Rev Robert Stephen Hawker, vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall, invited his parishioners "to gather together on the first Sunday of the next month and there receive the bread of the new corn" (In the Sacrament)

This gimmick, for so it seemed, drew a large congregation who were surprised to find their church decorated with fruit and flowers for what was the first Harvest Festival. Soon other churches followed the example and the practice of having a Harvest Thanksgiving became nationwide.

Yet Hawker was probably the strangest vicar to have served the church. Brought up in Stratton, close to Bude, he was the most mischievous boy in the village, painting the local doctor's horse to resemble a zebra and sending an undertaker to measure up two spinsters whom he thought had been paying too much attention to his guardian.

The pranks continued at boarding school, from where he ran away singing "Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing'. A family financial crisis almost ended his university education but he solved this himself by proposing and being accepted by his godmother.

Contrary to all expectations the marriage was a happy one, but even on honeymoon Hawker couldn't resist another joke.

With an oilskin round his legs and seaweed round his shoulders, he waded out into Bude bay and sat on a rock. As he started singing, holidaymakers couldn't believe their eyes- a genuine mermaid.

Hawker carried on with this until he was too hoarse to continue, but not before he sang the National Anthem as he slid into the water.

His eccentric ways shocked the villagers. One parishioner, said of him "Lovely gent he was, he had cats in the pulpit, wore a jersey and his sea boots.' whilst another wrote in

her diary ` Mr Hawker our vicar is slightly cracked, but he's a clever old soul.

It was this young lady, Miss Kuczski, who became his second wife. For the wedding, the groom was dressed in a claret coat, hip length wading boots, blue knitted jersey, crimson gloves and a red handkerchief tied round his head. Despite the difference in their ages- he was 40 years older than her- their marriage was a very happy and fruitful one, producing three children.

When he died in 1875, Hawker was remembered not only for introducing the Harvest Festival, but also for being one of the first to wear a cassock and starting the collection of offertories during church services.

He is best known as the writer of [The Song of the Western Men](#) with its chorus line of And shall Trelawny die? Here's twenty thousand Cornish men will know the reason why!, which he published anonymously in 1825.

Hawker was regarded as a deeply compassionate person giving Christian burials to shipwrecked seamen washed up on the shores of the parish, and was often the first to reach the cliffs when there was a shipwreck. Prior to this, the bodies of shipwrecked sailors were often either buried on the beach where they were found or left to the sea.

He built a small hut, that is known as [Hawker's Hut](#), from driftwood on the cliffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, He spent many hours there writing his poems and letters. This driftwood hut is now the smallest property in the [National Trust](#) portfolio.

*My thanks to Gwen for supplying this hilarious account of Parson Hawker. Other details were found on the web. Mary Ratcliffe.*

**Praying for a lost generation** Your parents might have been Christians, in which case there is a reasonable possibility that your grandparents were, too. For many families in the UK this solid history of Christian belief and practice could go back many generations. But going forward – is it the same? Probably not. Society is changing fast. One feature of the current age is a rapid reduction in the number of young people continuing in the Christian faith. In many families, this represents the first break away from Christianity for several generations. What are we going to do about it? If your child was being kept hostage by some evil gang you wouldn't rest until your child is safely restored. But today, we have a generation of children who have been wooed away by the secular spirit of the age, and are being held fast, away from everything Christian. The great writer, C S Lewis, had no doubt who was behind this: Screwtape, as he called the evil one. Yet we feel powerless, or even disinclined, to do anything.

There will be many reasons why our children are leaving the church. Church can seem boring and irrelevant, especially if the older generation is unwilling to embrace the change needed to relate to young people. Perhaps children note the nominal and ineffective nature of our own faith, concluding that there is no evidence of any spiritual power in our lives. So it is really Christianity that they are rejecting - or a watered-down, ineffectual church?

At least, we can pray for them. But, as Billy Graham says, "Prayer is not the least you can do for someone, prayer is the MOST you can do for someone." He also says, "Prayer is the mightiest force in the world."

So this autumn, let's not forget the young people who belong to our church's families, whether they profess any faith or not. Let's pray for each and every one of them, for their protection and for their welfare. They are preparing to enter a highly complex, highly troubled society, and need our love and support.

It is a great relief for me, as the representative for Action for Children, that Heather Terry has taken over the task of dealing with donations etc.

This has already proved to be a great blessing for she has given me a list of all the amounts raised in the past few months, by various means, as follows:- Home collecting boxes , held by several members £33.95

Bookstall in Manse, with cards, £5.95. Copper collection 2p and 1p, mainly from around the chapel £43.67.

On July 8<sup>th</sup> designated as Action for Children Sunday and envelopes were distributed resulting in the grand total of £127.00. Praise the Lord. So with grateful thanks a grand total of £210 was given.

Please keep you contributions coming, however small! Even the pennies and tuppences mount up to make a worthwhile difference to the lives of children in sad circumstances here in Great Britain.

*Gwen Clarkson*



Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

10.30a.m. A Celebration of God's Harvest  
led by Beryl Read and the Revd. Charlie Gibbs

8.00p.m. A Special Harvest Songs of Praise  
With all our best loved Harvest Hymns.  
Be sure not to miss this very special celebration

Refreshments are served after all services.

## **"Be not weary in well doing."**

What you are doing is not only worth while, it is the most wonderful and most glorious thing in the world, it is 'well doing'. You are standing for truth, you are standing for the Christ, you are standing for the kingdom of light against the kingdom of darkness.

I know there is not much to show, but that does not matter. You are there; you are not the sun, perhaps, but you are a little match, and thank God for the light of a match where there is nothing but gloom and despair and darkness.

"Be not weary in well doing" You are standing for everything that is noble and true and beautiful and right and holy in a world of shame and darkness and vileness and foulness. Hold on to 'well doing'. "In due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

D.M Lloyd Jones 'The Christian Warfare'

## **Teddies for Uganda**

We recently dispatched another box of knitted teddies with their bags around them to go to children in in Uganda, via the charity UCDF. We have received a letter of thanks from Kate Rees in Wales who arranges their delivery. She has included four photo's of the children holding their teddies, which will be on show in the hall, Our grateful thanks to the dear ladies here who knit the bears and to those who make the bags they sit in! *Gwen Clarkson.*

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Suppers.**

The Church's Harvest Supper will be on Friday 21st September in the Parish Church Hall- time to be announced.

St Martins. Monday 3rd September at 6pm A service followed by sale of produce.

## **What is a Methodist?**

The Methodist Church is the modern day outworking of a movement started by the followers of John Wesley. As we look at the church today we can see many strands and it is easy to get the impression that there is division of thoughts and ideas, and lack of cohesion within it. I suggest that there is still much within it that follows the intentions and hope of its founder, and unites us in a common and worthy cause.

I would say first and foremost a Methodist is an evangelical and an evangelist. By evangelical I understand one who believes in the 'gospel' good news from the Greek root eu- good and angelion' message' of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, in the need for a personal conversion, and in the supreme authority of the Bible as the word of God.

By evangelist I understand one impelled to spread this 'gospel' not only in obedience to the words of Jesus but as an expression of the work of the Holy Spirit in his or her life.

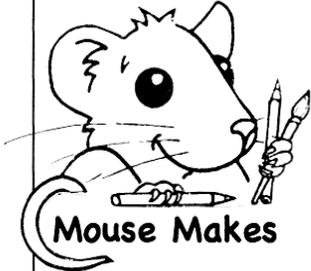
These to me are the two pillars on which Methodism stands.

When John Wesley started what became known as the 'holy club' he propounded four points which even today are relevant to all. These are "All need to be saved; All may be saved; All may know themselves saved; All may be saved to the uttermost."

The first of these points, "All need to be saved" is embodied in Paul's well known injunction in Romans 3:23 "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" and Paul's subsequent reminder of the effect of that sin in the first part of Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death".

The second point, "That all may be saved" embodies as the second part of Romans 6:23 "but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" and that other well known verse John 3:16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life".

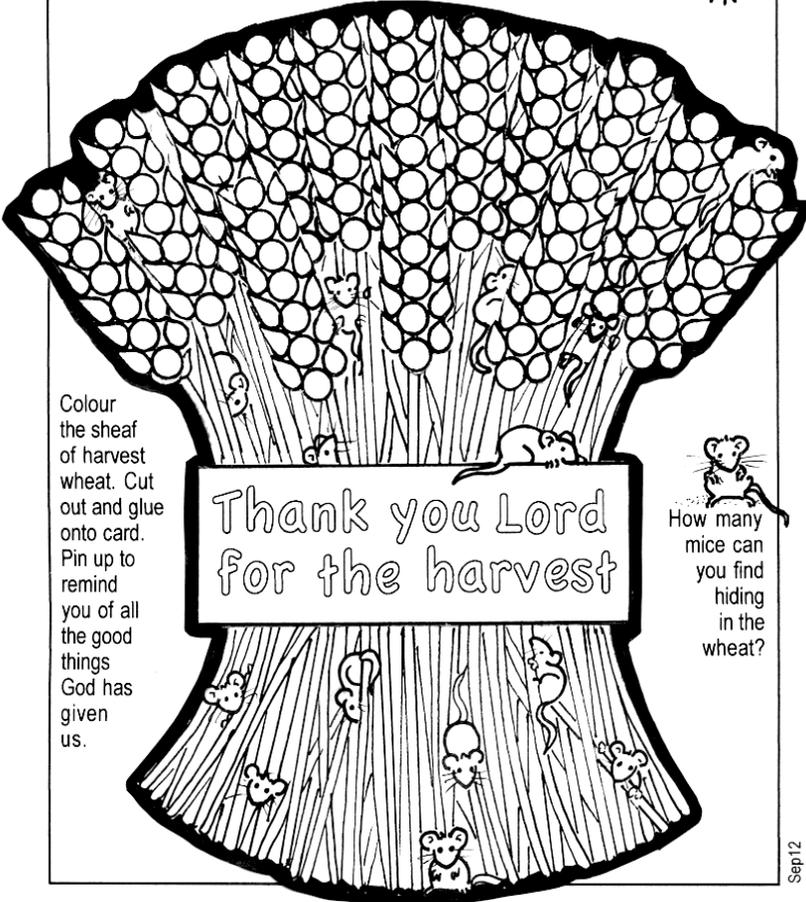
The third point, "All may know themselves to be saved" talks about the assurance experienced by everyone who commits their life to Jesus and is filled with the Holy Spirit. The final point, "All may be saved to the uttermost" speaks of Wesley's belief in the ability of the Holy Spirit to enable the believer to attain, if only at the moment of confession, that absolute state of grace which comes from knowing the complete forgiveness of sin.



All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above:  
then thank the Lord,  
**O thank the Lord**  
for all his love.



*"The land has yielded its harvest:  
God, our own God,  
has blessed us."  
Psalm 67:6*



Colour  
the sheaf  
of harvest  
wheat. Cut  
out and glue  
onto card.  
Pin up to  
remind  
you of all  
the good  
things  
God has  
given  
us.

How many  
mice can  
you find  
hiding  
in the  
wheat?

Sep12

## Friday Fellowship

A full programme of fellowship and study evenings has been arranged beginning on 29<sup>th</sup> September with the speaker being Lucille Rowse who is the Local Preachers Secretary. The meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October will be led by Rev Charlie Gibbs based on Revelation 3 14-22 'Judgement upon a lukewarm people'.

Barbara Hasler leads the study on 12<sup>th</sup> October followed by Len Michell on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Keith Dickson from the Fishermen's Mission in Newlyn leads us on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Latest News from UCDF** We have recently had a letter from Kate Rees of UCDF giving us an update on recent happenings. Ruth Rees has resigned as Director and Kate has 'picked up the mantle' once again. She says that having had a year's break she feels refreshed and able to rise to the challenge with the help and support of the committee.

Kate went to Uganda this summer with the chairman of UCDF and found everything very encouraging. She was told by a Council leader in a rural part of the country that, since UCDF provided a well and borehole there, deaths from cholera and typhoid are things of the past.

In Kampala she caught up with the progress of many of the young people that UCDF has helped. Most are doing very well in their chosen careers and Kate plans to return to Uganda in January for the graduation of two of the young people. One is realizing his dream of becoming a vet and the other is getting a degree in chemistry.

We continue to pray for Kate and for the work of UCDF in providing help for the people of Uganda.

Anne Gurr



## Birthdays in September

Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you.  
God Bless you and keep you  
and watch over you.

Patti Brooks, Angela Jenkins, Lois Morris, Mary Ratcliffe, Vicki Smith, Sue Williams. I think we may have some people not on our list. If you are one of them please tell Gwen. Our prayer and good wishes are also for you.

### **Harvest Festival**

Gifts of fruit flowers and vegetables for a traditional display will be gratefully received on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September and also at the 10.30 service on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Helpers please to decorate the Chapel on Saturday afternoon 15<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm**

### **Thank you.**

The smell of furniture wax was wonderful when I last went into the chapel, the pews were smooth and looking good – still not very comfortable but you can't have everything!

Thank you to those who polished all the woodwork this summer and to all those keep the chapel and the hall clean, tidy and attractive. Thank you also to those who serve coffee and wash up and those who arrange the flowers. Many people are involved in this quiet ministry of care for our buildings and we pray God's blessing on their lives. Mary

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Some material in this magazine was obtained from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). We thank them for providing material for use in our magazine

## **SERVICES**

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

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

10.00am Children's' Church  
11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs Holy Communion  
4.00pm Park House Barbara Hasler  
8.00pm Len Michell

#### **9<sup>th</sup> September**

9.15am Neil Didlick & Rev Charlie Gibbs  
Holy Communion  
11.00am Trevor Adams  
8.00pm Rev.Charlie Gibbs

#### **16<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.30 Harvest Festival**  
Beryl Read & Rev.Charlie Gibbs  
8.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise  
Rev.Charlie Gibbs

#### **23rd September**

9.15am Barbara Hasler & Beryl Read  
11.00am Rev.Charlie Gibbs  
8.00pm Rev. Charlie Gibbs  
Holy Communion

#### **30<sup>th</sup> September**

9.15am Neil Didlick & Rev Charlie Gibbs  
11.00 am Len Michell  
8.00 pm Rev Charlie Gibbs

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

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

6.00pm Revd. Charlie Gibbs **Harvest Festival**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> September**

11.00am Christopher Savill

#### **16<sup>th</sup> September**

11.00pm Trevor Adams

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> September**

6pm Rev.Charlie Gibbs

#### **30<sup>th</sup> September**

11.00 am Rev Charlie Gibbs