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**23rd November 2011: Rev'd Jeanette Richardson, Minister,
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Good things come in small packages

Christmas is coming and the time of writing cards, and sending gifts is upon us. This year, with money a little shorter than usual, and the family a little larger, the gifts will have to be smaller. I feel sad that I can't give as much, but the fact is small things can make a tremendous difference.

Last year we visited Porthcurno and discovered that for a hundred years this little valley, on the southeast tip of Cornwall, had been the centre for international cable communications. Nearby, in Poldhu, Marconi had developed the use of wireless. Eventually the two methods of communicating with the world became one company 'Cable and Wireless'. Right up until 1993 people from all over the world came to this small place to be trained in the most up-to-date techniques in communication.

November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent, a time when the Church prepares for the coming of Jesus. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, one of the smaller towns in the area, but a place that is now famous throughout the world.

Sometimes we feel that small things are of no value. Experience tells us that small does not mean insignificant. The small things we do make a difference not only to those nearest to us but can also bring about change on a much wider scale.

As you prepare for Christmas, remember that your small contribution will make a difference, and be filled with joy and peace.