



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



This is real love - not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:10

February 2016
Newsletter



From the Minister

I don't know about you, but January always seems to be the slowest month. It contained five Sundays this year, making it feel as though an extra week had been added to it, but even without that, January seems to drag by. Perhaps it's something to do with the weather, perhaps it's the challenge of a new year. Because there's a part of each one of us which feels that, having safely concluded 2015, we really can't be bothered to do it all over again in 2016.

Yet "do it" we must, because life does not stand still; and if we don't engage with it, it will pass us by. And so we find ourselves confronted by the spiritual challenge of Lent, the 40 day period leading up to Easter.

If January crawls by like a snail, this year at least February accelerates like a Ferrari. That's because Easter Sunday falls really early this year (on 27 March in fact), which means that Ash Wednesday is as early as 10 February. So whilst we're still apparently picking bits of tinsel out of our hair after Christmas, we find ourselves starting this year's Lent Course. And I'm here to tell you about it.

Over the past few years at our church we have engaged with Lent as a whole church study experience, which has proved very popular with many people in our fellowship. So this year we are once again running a five week course for Housegroups with themed preaching on each of the Sundays, and I really hope that you will join us in this adventure. If you normally attend, lead or host a Housegroup, can I urge you to meet weekly during the period of the course, even if your group normally meets fortnightly. If this is impractical then do the weeks that you can - you can still be a part of the experience, but it's best to engage fully so that you don't miss anything.

If you don't currently attend a Housegroup, can I urge you to join one (or even start one!) for the Lent period. You may disband after Easter, or you may actually find that being together in a small group is such fun that you want to continue. This has certainly been my experience.

This year's course will be on the subject of "Personal Evangelism", which was requested by our fellowship. There will be five weekly study sessions as follows:

- Session 1: What is evangelism, and why should I do it?
- Session 2: Lifestyle evangelism



- Session 3: Servant evangelism
- Session 4: Friendship evangelism
- Session 5: In the world but not of the world

All of the study notes will be supplied to Housegroup leaders either by email from Helen Maddaford, or by picking up a paper copy at church. It's not necessary for every individual to have a copy, as the course is based around guided discussion and Bible study. Material for Week 1 will be available from Ash Wednesday, 10 February, and subsequent weeks' material will be made available on a weekly basis as the course progresses. This is deliberate because I value your feedback and I like to adapt the material as we move through the course, so as to address any issues or spiritual direction that we seem to be taking. After all, it is the Holy Spirit who is actually leading us and shaping our learning, so we need to be flexible.

One final point: because Easter is so early this year, Ash Wednesday falls during the week prior to the school half term holiday. Some people go away in half term, and I too am leading a kids holiday club at Yealmpton that week. So the plan is for the Lent Course to begin in Housegroups a week later, during the week commencing Monday 22 February. The first of the themed Sunday messages will begin on the following Sunday, 28 February. This means that the final study week will be during Holy Week, and the final message at the morning service on Easter Sunday.

Evangelism is one of those topics that some people are very wary of. I have met many people who like to describe their relationship with Jesus as a "private, personal faith" - which, to be honest, I think sounds a bit of a cop out. The context in which people make this statement implies that it is an internal phenomenon, which we don't talk about with others or practise in company. And it is true that the Lord has reached out to each one of us individually with the offer of forgiveness and salvation. In His grace He has given us freedom, and this means that it is our personal decision to repent, and our personal resolve to follow Jesus. But nowhere in scripture, nor in the practise of Christianity over 2,000 years, do we find people living out their faith in isolation. Even those who withdrew from society and founded monastic communities still did so in fellowship with one another. Our faith is our personal treasured possession, yet it is something that we cannot help but share with others. If it's true that it is "no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20), then in actual fact we won't be able to prevent ourselves from sharing our faith: in the things that we say and do, and the way we lead our life. Come with me and discover how amazing it is to live well for Jesus in 2016, emboldened and freed by His love.

God bless, *Ralph*



February Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Feb 7	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE
Feb 14	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
Feb 21	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Edgar Daniel - Family Service Prayer Service led by Gill Cowsill
Feb 28	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Kate Konrad
Mar 6	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mothering Sunday Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE
Mar 13	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Ralph Ward - Communion

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Feb 7	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Feb 14	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs
Feb 21	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
Feb 28	10:30 am	Mr Tony Kirk
Mar 6	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Mar 13	10:30 am	Mr Keith Angilley

*The speakers have been taken from Circuit Plan
and are correct to the best of the Editor's knowledge.*

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the March Newsletter, please let me have the details by Wednesday 10 February in any of the following ways
(Please note my change of email address):-



- ♥ send it by email to ***contact@jennyhansford.co.uk***
- ♥ ring me on ***01752 894634***
- ♥ hand it to me at church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "H" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at ***10 MacAndrew Walk, Ivybridge***

Jenny Hansford

Thanksgiving Service for the late Esme Squire



We would like to thank the members of IMC for their warm welcome and generous hospitality at the Thanksgiving Service for Phillip's mother, Esme.

The wonderful tea provided following the service was a real blessing and the whole afternoon enabled the family to pay their final respects to Esme in a friendly environment. It was a great comfort at this difficult time.

Thank you very much

Phillip & Julie Squire

ADVANCE NOTICE

Women's World Day of Prayer -
Friday 4 March at The Priory

Prepared by the women of Cuba and themed -
"Receive Children, receive me"





February News

If you have anything you would like included in the Church News please let Judy Jago know at church, or ring her on 894829.

Welcome to Family News - it seems a long time since I wrote the last one and as often happens at this time of year, we have to have a bit of a catch up because things were missed in the December round up!

During December Maureen Scoble retired from her long Nursing career to enjoy some of the many things she has planned for many years. Maureen we send you our very best wishes as you step out into new adventures, and hope you don't miss work too much.



Heather Pope celebrated a significant birthday during the month and we hope your celebrations were just what you wanted. Congratulations Heather.

Two more decade birthdays to celebrate too - Lucy Reid and Katie Phillips celebrated their 30th birthdays in December - we hope a great time was had by all and a good year for you both is to come! Many happy returns.



After deciding it was time to move out of Flete House, Daphne Bennet felt she needed to be nearer her family so has moved to Sidmouth. We understand she is still looking for the right place to move into but is very settled in her new environment. We send our love and prayers for a happy future Daphne.

Congratulations to Grandparents Jean and Malcolm Lewis on the arrival of Charlotte - a sister for Arabella. We also send our congratulations to the proud parents - David and Fleur.



Also we say welcome to the first of our expected new babies. Jacob Luscombe arrived early just before Christmas and we send our love and congratulations to Vicky, Warwick and Isaac as they are settling in to being a family of four. Isaac certainly seems to love having a little brother and we wish Vicky and Warwick sleep, joy and fun as you



go on into 2016 with your new family. We also send best wishes to the proud grandparents, Victor and Geraldine.

Welcome also to Jo and Ian Godfrey's new additions - Wilbur Jay Amos and Sasha May Nakako who were born early in the new year. Many congratulations to you both and we send love and prayers for the twins' continued well being. We would like to send sleep to you too if



it were possible - but, alas that's not to be at the moment! We hope Ozzy and Arlo continue to enjoy their new brother and sister and you have great time with your new shaped family. As you might imagine there are some pretty excited Grandparents too, and Val, Reg and Christine are around to help and admire during the next few months!



Caroline Hodgson and family said farewell to Dan as he set off with a friend on his travels in early January to Bali (I guess someone has to do it!!), Australia and New Zealand. Dan, we pray all goes smoothly and you have great time - especially when you meet up with Matt in Australia. Travel safely and enjoy every minute!!

Many congratulations to Meg Gentle who had a wonderful Christmas present on hearing that she had gained a Distinction in her Grade 8 Singing Exam. It's a magnificent achievement Meg and we look forward to hearing where this may take you! A HUGE well done!



Three families are celebrating engagements, which is always lovely news. Rebecca Turner became engaged to Keiran Steel; and Hannah White became engaged to James Butterworth-Smith - both in December; and last month Lucy Reid got engaged to Peter Binks.

Many congratulations to you all, and we hope wedding preparations go smoothly and joyfully.

Some sad news - Wendy Ascroft's Mum Iris, who many of us knew for so long, died peacefully in Beaconville at the age of 88. It was unexpected but, as Wendy said - Iris had lived a good life and now deserves her peace. We send our love and sympathy to Wendy, Stephen and all the family.



The XLP Experience Gap Year



In September this year we had the privilege of welcoming 11 new gap year students to the XLP family. Ben, Bethany, Dan, Eliza, Emily, Hannah, Jocelyn, Matt, Nicole, Ruth and Sam all joined us in September to begin their year serving the communities they have been placed in. And Michael loved his gap year with XLP so much in 2014-15 that he decided to come back for round 2!

They are a wonderful team full of fun, passion, creativity and love for the work that they're doing with young people. If you're on Instagram or Twitter and would like to keep up with what they're up to then you can by following [@xlpgapyear!](#)

"I would recommend the XLP Gap Year to everyone. If you want to work with the most incredible young people and experience an organisation full of passion, integrity and love, then this is the place for you" - Jocelyn

Do you know a future XLP gap year student?

XLP's Experience gap year is an exciting and dynamic gap year programme run by XLP in partnership with local churches, serving some of London's most diverse, challenging and inspirational communities.

Aimed at those who are 18 or over, 'Experience' provides an opportunity for our gap year students to put their faith into action in one of the most multicultural cities in the world – it will change their life and the lives of the young people they meet.

Our students receive a combination of youth work and theology training and join XLP's teams on the ground running schools and community work in the inner-city including detached youth work, arts and sports activities, church youth work, lessons and assemblies, mentoring and summer camps, an overseas trip and much more...

This unique gap year is designed to challenge our students to deepen their relationship with God and with people. If you know someone who may be interested then please forward this their way!



"I'm having such a great time on the Experience Gap Year! The team are such lovely, supportive people and it's a real privilege to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of young people in London" - Sam

Apply today!

Applications to join XLP's 'Experience' Gap Year 2016-17 are open! Please get in touch at experience@xlp.org.uk if you would like to apply to join us next September!

**MOOSICAL FUN FOR 0-5 YEAR OLDS
IVYBRIDGE METHODIST HALL
TUESDAY's 10:15 - 11:00 am
£4 per CHILD £2 per SIBLING**

**To book call Nicky on 07971 870565
or email nicky@moo-music.co.uk**



www.moo-music.co.uk



We all enjoyed the Advent Ring over the Christmas period. The Girls' Brigade made this for us with the help of their leaders - Chrissie and Sara.

Also a big thank you for the lovely festive Christmas cards. Once again I was able to send them all over England and locally to visitors who had attended our church services in 2015.

The older members of our church also enjoyed a card with their pastoral Christmas gift.

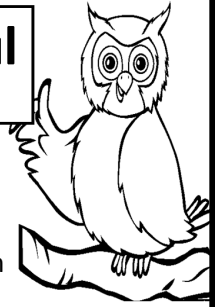
Pat Watson



Wise and Wonderful

(because that is what we are)

Fellowship for "third-agers", all are welcome. We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.
Meetings are on Fridays, 2.30 - 4:00 pm



Spring programme 2016

February 5

"Songs and Stories"

Memories, stories and favourite music

February 19

Scenes of Israel with Joan Bulman

March 4

St Luke's Hospice
with a member of their team of speakers

March 18

"The Good Life" DVD, ice-cream and popcorn

The summer programme will run
from April 8 until July 15.

We look forward to seeing you.

Please contact one of us for more information:

Valerie Marriott 893614

Sara Bromage 894198

Judy Jago 894829

Sue Pengilley 896444



Discipleship Pathway

Understanding Healing

Saturday 20 February in the Café at Central Hall

4:00 - 6:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 pm

The focus for this time together will be on physical healing. The afternoon session will provide teaching in preparation for the evening. The evening will include worship, some further teaching from the Bible, and opportunity for individual prayer

Afternoon - Physical Healing

- Healing miracles of Jesus
- Dealing with Difficulties
- Testimonies

Evening

- Worship
- Bible Focus
- Opportunity for conversation and prayer for healing
- Worship and Celebration

You are welcome to come along in the evening if you can't make the afternoon. Car parking is available in front of the church on a first come first served basis

Light refreshments (pasty or alternative, salad, drinks) will be available at about 6:00 pm. Please let us know if you would like to be included. Donations would be appreciated

More details:

01752 660997 or

pmchoffice@btconnect.com

Please let us know you're coming, so we can prepare materials

Church Contacts



Minister:

Rev Ralph Ward Tel: 01752 651424
email: ralphward@talktalk.net

Senior Steward:

Mrs Helen Martin Tel: 01752 698054

Room Bookings:

Chris and Kate Crouch Tel: 01752 894273

House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Youth Work:

Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the

March Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Wednesday 10 February

at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634

email: contact@jennyhansford.co.uk



*Please note the change
of email address!*



Visit our website at

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website
you can do so at mrmerrit@icloud.com