



# IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

**Sharing Life**  
*Sharing Faith*



**July 2015**  
**Newsletter**

## ***From the Minister***



Integrity is a key word for a Christian. Living a life of integrity is a powerful witness to the presence of the Lord Jesus in our lives – people come to Jesus through experiencing the integrity of others. And on a personal level: if we resist our temptations to cut corners, be economical with the truth, place our own interests above others - this lifestyle brings great peace and fulfilment. It is only possible in relationship with Jesus:

if we try to live a life of integrity in our own strength, Satan will make every effort to ensure that we fail.

Yet in our normal daily lives it can become really difficult to follow the Christian path – Jesus tells us that it is a narrow road. Even the strongest and most mature Christians struggle with temptation from time to time, and sometimes we give in to those areas in which we are weak. When we do, remember that “Love covers over a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). So even when we feel we have let the Lord down, through repentance there is always a way to be restored.

Temptation creeps in subtly: it convinces us that it’s okay, it doesn’t matter, no-one is getting hurt. Temptation will flatter our pride, and feed our appetites, both of lust and of greed.

Once, when I lived in Lincoln, there were some gales which blew a few slates off the roof of my house. I contacted the insurance company, and a man came round to fix them. He took me to one side and said: “Look, the price of fixing the slates is £550, right? But this is an insurance job, so I’ll put in a quote for £1,000, and we’ll share the difference, how’s that?” He said it in the sort of way that implied that he made this suggestion to most of his clients, but I was appalled by the suggestion. It was like I could feel the Lord watching me, waiting for my response. I told him I couldn’t do that, and he looked at me like I was mad. “Fair enough” he eventually said. To him maybe I was a weirdo, but I had retained my integrity.

My first appointment as a minister was in Lancashire. One of my churches was a big Victorian building, full of pews. The congregation was very proud of the fact that it looked exactly as it had when it was first opened 100 years ago. When they installed radiators they made sure that they were all concealed behind pews or panels so as not to interfere with the appearance of the building. It was an awful place, frankly.



Anyway, the large clock that had been fixed to the front of the gallery had been ticking away for 100 years, a constant reminder to the preacher not to overrun on his or her sermon, as it loomed large in the centre of the field of vision as they stood in the huge pulpit. One day it broke down, and was beyond economic repair, so the church council decided to replace it. Inevitably they wanted to purchase a clock that looked as similar to the original as possible, and this was going to cost money. I remember the church council meeting when the property secretary proposed the purchase of the new clock, and the sharp intake of thrifty Lancastrian breath around the room as the price was announced. Someone suggested that in order to meet the cost we tell the insurance company that the original clock had been stolen, so that we could buy a new one with the insurance money. (By the way, if such a claim sounds unlikely to be successful, you have to bear in mind that this town was a rough place, and thefts regularly took place in the church. Everything that was not nailed down had been stolen over the years, including the communion trays and glasses. I had known people sneak into church during the morning service and steal all the coats off the pegs, until we started locking ourselves in!)

I was horrified by this suggestion that we use a fraudulent insurance claim to purchase a new clock, especially since I resented the thing anyway. Its placing in the room meant that no one else could see the time except me and the choir who sat throughout the service in a choir stall directly behind my head in the gallery, elevated and aloof. They looked more like a jury than a group of singers, especially because they would frequently pass judgement on the quality of my preaching, choice of hymns and my general appearance (am I starting to sound bitter?).

But this plan for clock replacement met, to my great surprise, with universal agreement amongst the members of the church council. Someone seconded the decision and everyone's hand went up in approval. "Hang on," I said, "this is not how Christians act. If you must have a clock, just have a cheaper one that we can afford to buy".

Brows were furrowed and comments made about the importance of keeping the character of the church intact. I felt like saying, "What, in case King George decides to visit?" What I did say was, "We will not be making a claim on the insurance. Not as long as I am your minister." No more was said, and we moved on to other business.

The insurance claim went in anyway. The expensive historical looking clock was installed. Never a word more was mentioned to me. At that point I knew



it was out of my hands, and that the Lord would judge the situation. But at least they knew where I stood. And that's important. If you live a life of Christian integrity, folks, you will not always end up being "the winner". Sometimes you will appear to be "the loser". But your conscience will be clear and your heart right before God. And that's much more important.

God bless

*Ralph*



## Ladies In Faith and Fellowship Together

Event	Time/date	Information
Ladies' House Group	Wed 1 July	Lady of Patience
Bring & Share Prayer Breakfast	Sat 4 July 9:30 am	Faith and Fellowship For Ladies
Singles Social - Mount Edgecombe	Sat 4 July 12 noon - meet @ IMC for lifts	We will be linking with other singles for a picnic and walk around Mount Edgecombe. Bring money for the ferry and lunch

Prayer Breakfast meets on the first Saturday of every month at IMC and is open to all ladies; please come along from 9:30 am

House Group meet at 21 Bedford Grove on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm

Social events are open to all single people - men and women - and are a good opportunity to network with like-minded Christians.

For more details please contact Julia Johnston: 01752 657901



# July Worship

## **IVYBRIDGE**

July 5	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Mrs Gillian Higgins
July 12	10:30 am 6:30pm	Mr Jeff Stephenson Mrs Gillian Mills
July 19	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion Mrs Val Marriott
July 26	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mrs Val Marriott Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
Aug 2	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Miss Judith Walker Taizé
Aug 9	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion No service

## **BITTAFORD**

July 5	10:30 am	Miss Sue Bolt
July 12	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
July 19	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
July 26	10:30 am	Mr Terry Milam
Aug 2	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Aug 9	10:30 am	Mrs Ann Cullum

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

## ***From the Editor ...***

Our next Newsletter will be in August and if you would like to include anything in that Newsletter, please let me have the details by Friday 10 July in any of the following ways -

- ♥ send it by email to ***jenny.bucknall@gmail.com***
- ♥ ring me on ***01752 894634***
- ♥ hand it to me at church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "B" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at ***10 MacAndrew Walk, Ivybridge***



***Jenny Bucknall***

## **CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**



Our Congregational Representatives  
are as follows;

David Bithell,  
Barry Jury,  
Kate and Robin Duckering,  
Caroline Hodgson,  
Dave Rowe,  
and Alison White

The role of the Congregational Representatives is to act as a link between the Church members/congregation and to pass on your thoughts both positive and negative, or possibly even concerns, regarding Church life, be it about worship, the services, etc or any other topic regarding the life of the Church which you would like brought to the Church Council.

The Church Council meets every four months in January, May and September and naturally we would like to hear from any member of the congregation who wishes to pass on their thoughts as indicated above. Please speak to us on a Sunday morning if that is good for you. We are a loving Church family and we would prefer you to be open with us rather than harbouring or dwelling on anything that may concern you. Anything you do say to us will of course be treated with the utmost confidentiality and only discussed within the Church Council meetings. A copy of the minutes of each Church Council meeting will be posted on the notice board in the Concourse, but will not include any matters of a confidential nature.

# giftaid it

Making donations go further

Giving your offering through the Gift Aid Scheme is a great way of boosting the money IMC needs to carry out its work. For every £1 that is given a further 25p can be reclaimed from HMRC.

There are a few conditions that need to be met:-

- A Gift Aid Declaration should be completed by you
- You must pay income tax at least equal to the basic rate of tax reclaimed

Tax paid can include:-

- Tax deducted from employment
- Deducted at source from savings interest
- Deducted from state pension or private pension
- Tax paid on investments or rental income
- Tax credits on UK dividends
- Capital Gains Tax on gains

If you want to work out if you have paid enough tax you only have to divide your total offering by 4. For example, if your offering is £100 you will need to have paid £25 in tax.

If you do not already give your offering through the Gift Aid Scheme but now would like to think about using this Scheme please contact me for further information.

*Stewart Edward,*  
Gift Aid Secretary

***Rebecca Ion and Richard Arnold  
are getting married!***

on  
Saturday 18 July  
12:00 mid-day  
at

Ivybridge Methodist Church

Rebecca would love to have her friends and church family come and help celebrate, so please join us for their service above.





A Church moving forward is one that builds on a foundation of prayer. Throughout the week many groups are meeting regularly to focus on prayer for the life of our Church. In addition to the prayer time shared within the various Housegroups, you may be interested to learn that:

Thursday - 6:00 am: A group meets each week to pray for the forthcoming Sunday services, the life of the Church and particular events and pastoral situations.

Friday evening: All Street Pastor activity is underpinned by the Prayer Pastors who meet in the upstairs room to pray into situations in the town highlighted by the Street Pastors, to bless the town and pray for our community. Over the last year a different square of the map of the town has been prayed over including blessing the streets in that square and services such as churches, shops, schools, health centres and recreation facilities as well as the people involved – teachers, health workers, police, etc.

LIFT (Ladies in Faith and Fellowship Together) hold Prayer Breakfasts for women to share fellowship and prayer. Originally set-up as a one off, it received a calling to be a regular event as women said that it was an answer to their prayer to build women's fellowship in Ivybridge. Women from all over Ivybridge (and Plymouth) come to share food and chat, "it's like free therapy" one lady commented! LIFT meet on the first Saturday of every month at 9:30 am and has reached out to a wide range of requests which are shared through the group and prayed as the Spirit leads.

The Healing on the Streets Team (HOTS) go out onto the streets of Ivybridge to bring prayer ministry to anyone in the town who seeks inner or physical healing.

The Church Prayer Team feel it is a privilege to pray with anyone for blessing, issues, healing, direction or in a spirit of thankfulness after the service each





Sunday. There is also a prayer request box in the Concourse if you would like something prayed through.

And finally there is a prayer chain whereby people can ring a number with a prayer request and the issue will be prayed into by Christians in the prayer chain.

So lots of prayer already happens! Any of the above groups would be delighted if you would like to join them! To highlight the need for prayer even more join with us in celebrating the National Prayer Weekend in September. More details will follow but please put in your diaries 25-27 September.

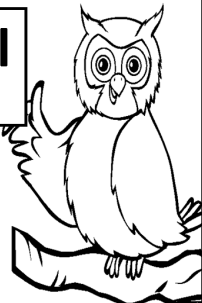




## Wise and Wonderful

(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



### Summer programme 2015

**10 July** - “Four old ladies in the Himalayas”

This is our last meeting before the summer break, and we’d like to wish you all a wonderful summer. Our Autumn Sessions start on Friday 11 September and we look forward to seeing you again then.

Please contact one of us for more information:

Valerie Marriott 893614

Sara Bromage 894198

Judy Jago 894829

Sue Pengilley

David and Christine Moulder 892858



# July 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 your news spot - please keep letting us know your news as we can't do it without you!!

It seems to be the year of significant wedding anniversaries. This month we send warmest congratulations to two couples who actually celebrated in June - Sarah and Paul Wigmore have notched up 30 years; and Jenny and Tony Merriman 40 years. We hope and pray you had good celebrations and we send love and blessings for the years to come.



Still on the wedding theme - Jenny and Tony's daughter Rachel married Ben in early June, and I gather it was a wonderful day. Congratulations to the newlyweds.

This month Rebecca Ion, Fiona and David's youngest daughter, will marry Richard Arnold here at IMC ,and we hope that your preparations continue to go smoothly and that lots of sunny, dry weather can be arranged! We pray that your life as Mr and Mrs will be very blessed and you have much joy in your new future together,



By now most of the GCSE's, AS and A levels will be over and we hope that all concerned can now relax a bit, and we continue to pray for you all as you await results and for many the beginning of the next phase of life.

Anna Davis is about to move from the far north of Scotland (Wick) as she has gained a position at a secondary school in Dumfries. Still in the far north to some of us but significantly nearer to her family in Lancashire and bit nearer for Linnie and Roy. Anna we wish you every success in your new role.





Kim Gentle is still on the high seas as I write this, but will soon be home with all the photos and stories of her many adventures. Hopefully we can catch up with her before life gets too busy with the new job.

Hannah White is now back from Vanuatu and ready to start her new job at Musgrove Park Hospital. We send very best wishes to Kim, Hannah, and Chris Rowe, as they all embark on the next stage of their careers in Medicine.



Many, many congratulations to Alison White on receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional service to the NHS and all those in her care. All those who know Alison will be aware of her 110% approach to her job and her young people, and we share in her delight that it is recognised by so many people.



### **The Smarts are on the move!**

Rev Jo Smart has finished her training for ministry in the Methodist Church (where did that time go?) and will be taking up her new position as Probationary Minister in Launceston in September. She and Andi will be moving to their new home in Cornwall next month.

Andi and Jo have been a huge part of our church for many years, and we are going to miss them both very much, but they're not moving too far away (less than an hour's journey) so we hope that we will still see something of them every now and again!

We know that God has amazing plans for them and that they will be a huge blessing to the churches in Launceston - Jo as minister and Andi as "Vicar's wife", and we say goodbye with sadness but God's blessing.

Jo's Welcome Service will be held on Friday 28 August at 7:00 pm at Coads Green Methodist Church, Coads Green, Launceston, PL15 7LU. I'm sure many of us would love to be there to support Jo and Andi at the beginning of their exciting new journey. Everyone is welcome.

# Can you help fund our Youth Work?



Christian union for



EVERY THURSDAY **ROOM M107**



We're coming to the end of the three years of funding from the Methodist Circuit and District that has helped IMC to fund our youth work program and specifically our Youth Worker, Phil. It's now up to us as a church to ensure we can continue and even grow this amazing work in our local area. The show must go on ...

Thanks to regular individual giving to the Youth Vision Trust (YVT) and contributions from other local churches that Phil works in, we can already cover 70% of our current costs going forward, leaving an annual shortfall of approximately £5,000. Sounds like an easy target, and it should be. It's less than £1 a week for every member of the church but why stop there, if we can exceed the target we'll create the means for growth!

So please consider whether you could support our youth work through a one off donation, or regular Standing Order to the Youth Vision Trust for however much you can afford. For those who bank online please use the account details below ,and if you are a tax payer please ensure you have completed and signed a Gift Aid declaration to make your donation go even further.

Standing order forms, for those who prefer to visit their branch, as well as Gift Aid declarations and envelopes for one off donations, are available in the Concourse or from Andy Phillips, YVT Treasurer.

The YVT exists separately to the main church finances, specifically to fund Youth work. Even if you give regularly to the Church via standing order or Sunday morning collection you may want to consider a separate donation to the YVT

*Account Details for Standing Orders*

*Ivybridge Methodist Church Youth Vision Account  
Ivybridge Branch, Lloyds Bank Plc, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT  
Account no. : 02202262  
Sort Code: 30 94 58*



## Dates of the next Work Days

July 11th

August No Work Day

Please come along from 9:30 am onwards and help to keep our Church building clean, tidy and welcoming for all its users.

**Delicious coffee and cakes from “Wesleys” and free lunch for all helpers!**

# **Bittaford Methodist Church Family**



## **Garden Party**

**July 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 5pm**

**Bouncy Castle**

**Snow Cones**

**Cream Teas**

**Barbecue**

**Craft Stalls**

**Live music from The Meltones and  
South Hams Singers**





# SUMMER Wordsearch

Find the 18 words listed below that are hidden in this grid. The words can be from left to right, right to left, up, down or diagonal.

The solution will be in next month's newsletter.



b	n	w	t	h	o	l	i	d	a	y	c
b	u	c	k	e	t	s	l	e	h	s	
o	f	a	m	i	l	y	p	w	o	g	w
a	j	a	d	c	n	d	h	a	t	x	i
t	s	r	t	e	y	e	n	k	d	v	m
q	c	i	n	c	i	p	m	a	i	e	m
t	l	n	e	r	s	u	a	e	s	b	i
b	u	t	t	e	r	f	l	y	p	h	n
g	l	d	r	a	c	t	s	o	p	o	g
c	i	s	u	m	u	d	r	i	n	k	r

boat

hat

sand

bucket

holiday

sea

butterfly

icecream

shells

drink

music

spade

family

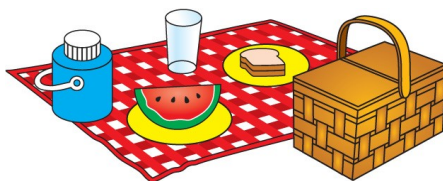
picnic

swimming

fun

postcard

tent



# Church Contacts



## Minister:

Rev Ralph Ward Tel: 01752 651424  
email: [ralphward@talktalk.net](mailto: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

## August Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

**Friday 10 July**

**at the latest please.**

Tel: 01752 894634

email: [jenny.bucknall@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.bucknall@gmail.com)



Visit our website at

**[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk)**

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website  
you can do so at [mrmerit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerit@icloud.com)

**Please note the change  
of email address!**