



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



July/August 2016
Newsletter

From the Minister



"There is a time for everything, and a **season** for every activity under the heavens", says Ecclesiastes 3:1. And so it is for me, because as you read this I am entering my final few weeks as your minister.

Many people have asked me why I have decided to move on after five years in this appointment, but the simple truth is that the vision that the Lord gave me for my ministry in this place has run its course and come to an end. The season for my ministry amongst you is complete - a new vision and a new season is beginning, both for our church here, and also for Adele and myself. The Holy Spirit is constantly moving, and in order for me to keep in step with the Spirit I must go where He sends me, and only linger for as long as He compels me to.

In our church life, we try to constantly seek and discern the direction that the Spirit is leading us in our fellowship and witness - the book of Exodus teaches us that we are a pilgrim people, constantly on the move, following where the Spirit leads us. In this narrative God's direction can be clearly seen, as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. In some ways we wish that He would make our direction so obvious to all of us today. But despite the visible direction marker, God taught the Israelites that they had to trust and rely on Him on a daily basis, never looking too far ahead in their own strength, but trusting in Him for His purpose and provision. Every day He brought them food in the form of manna, but it was only sufficient for one day at a time.

This is how God calls us to be in these times. As Christians we are warned not to get too comfortable or settled, but to listen out for the Spirit and follow where He leads. His grace is sufficient for us, whether we are in want or in plenty (Philippians 4:12); and our joy comes in obediently following and serving, even if He leads us through challenging or difficult times (Nehemiah 8:10). Jesus tells us not to worry, but to seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness, and everything we need will be added to us as well (Matthew 6). I love the way that Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in John 3:8 - "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." We can either discern and follow or be left behind.



As you can see (and as I'm sure you've experienced in your Christian walk) this description of the Spirit suggests that it's easy to miss His presence and direction if we are not listening or discerning carefully. Week by week we meet in church, in housegroups and on our own to learn more about God, to draw closer to Him, and to become progressively more spiritually alert so that we can live effectively in relationship with Him.

On a personal level I prayed and agonised with the Lord for months about whether I should stay here in South Devon, or whether He was calling me to move on. The irony is that in many ways both Adele and myself would love to remain here for longer: it's been amazing to have fellowship with such a special group of people, who have been so kind and loving to us. We have seen people come to faith in Jesus, and I have been privileged to play a role in the key pivotal moments in the lives of some of you - when you were baptised, on your wedding day, and even when you were saying goodbye to someone you loved dearly. It has been a massive privilege to teach you more about Jesus and lead our fellowship in the direction that He has laid before us. Ordained ministry is not a career, it's a calling. The wonderful secret about life is that you only find its true meaning when you give up trying to please yourself, and seek instead to share in the lives of others.

For me to remain here would have been great, but it would have been because we feel comfortable here. God loves to disturb the comfortable, and to lead us into new challenges. So He made it plain that we must uproot again (Ecc 3:2b) and move to our next challenge, which happens to be in East Grinstead, W Sussex. I could tell you the story of how this appointment came to be, but it's a long one and might not be particularly relevant to you. Suffice it to say that it was very clear when we visited the church that this was the place that the Lord had prepared for us. I feel sure that there will be big challenges for me there, and much work to be done. But if I stay here then I am ignoring God's will for me, so I must go.

I know what you're thinking, "This is all very well for you, Ralph, but what about us? What about the churches you leave behind?" It's true that we now face a year of interregnum, with no minister. "God may have a new vision for you, Ralph, but what about the vision for our church?" This year it is as important as ever to trust in the Lord. He has a plan for His church here - you are His treasured possession. I know of churches that were left for a period without a minister, and that time turned out to be the most fruitful and productive that they can remember. I believe that the Lord could very well have this same plan for you. My prayer is that you treat your leadership



team, the church stewards, with as much love and respect as you have afforded to me: so that they may be anointed by the Spirit with wisdom and discernment to lead our church through the coming year. My other prayer (and I know it will be yours also) is that in the stationing process that commences once again this Autumn, the Lord has already prepared His choice of church leader for you. And that minister, whoever they are, will take you somewhere new and amazing with the Lord from next year.

When we visited East Grinstead we took a walk around the town and popped into the local swimming pool to suss it out. We told the receptionist that we were moving in from South Devon next year and she replied, "Why on earth would you want to come from there to live here?" Why indeed! This is a beautiful place which we have really enjoyed living in. I will never forget walking and mountain biking on the Moor, the beaches, the stunning coastline scenery, the gorgeous little towns and places where we've spent happy hours: like Salcombe, Totnes, Noss Mayo, and of course our favourite, Hope Cove where I've had so many adventures on my boat - where we once encountered a whole school of dolphins that swam around us close enough to touch! Man, it's going to be hard to leave all that. Adele has found great fulfilment working as a staff nurse at Derriford, and made some good friends there. We will be leaving our youngest daughter Phoebe in Plymouth, where she too has started a new and wonderful life working at the National Marine Aquarium, where she has made lots of lovely friends.

But it's weird: last week I was on leave and we went over to stay for a few days in the New Forest, close to where we used to live and work in my previous appointment. We ate at our old favourite Indian restaurant (it was every bit as good as it used to be, and the waiters still recognized us!). We hung out in all our old haunts, even going to have a sneaky peek at our old manse in Verwood. But beautiful as it was, there was something missing - something massive. Without the people, without a role to play, without a vision to pursue, it meant nothing. We were just tourists, we didn't belong there.

And that's what will truly remain with us once we have moved on to Sussex. Even the delights of beautiful Devon mean nothing compared to the warmth, love and friendships we have found here with you. You've been amazing, thank you so much. We'll really miss you.

God bless

Ralph

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the September Newsletter, please let me have the details by Wednesday 10 August in any of the following ways:-

♥ 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**



I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer, whatever the weather. I pray that you will have opportunity for rest and recuperation as you travel to various places for your holidays.

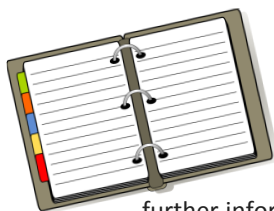
God bless,

Jenny Hansford

Cleaner/Caretaker and Bookings Secretary

For some time Chris and Kate Crouch have managed our bookings and Church cleaning. They now wish to move on from this and so we are seeking:-

1. A cleaner/caretaker working nine hours per week. Currently this is a self-employed position.



2. A voluntary bookings co-ordinator to take, make and manage all bookings within the church.



As stated above these roles can be combined or be done separately. We would be pleased to give further information to anyone interested in exploring this further. Prior to appointment any applicant would have to have completed a DBS check.

In the first instance please call Val Marriott on 01752 893614 for a job description or further information.



July/August Worship

IVYBRIDGE

July 3	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion Rev Ralph Ward
July 10	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Jeff Stephenson IGNITE with Communion
July 17	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Prayer Service led by Gill Cowsill
July 24	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Philip Walsh Rev Ralph Ward
July 31	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Family Service - Communion Rev David Youngs
Aug 7	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Edgar Daniel - Communion Taizé
Aug 14	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade - Family Service
Aug 21	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mrs Hannah de Bourcier Songs of Praise
Aug 28	10:30 am	Mr Paul Courtney - Family Service

BITTAFORD

July 3	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
July 10	10:30 am	Mrs Gillian Mills
July 17	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
July 24	10:30 am	Mr Keith Angilley
July 31	10:30 am	Mrs Di Smart
Aug 7	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Aug 14	2:30 pm	Rev Terry Higgins
Aug 21	10:30 am	Mr Tony Kirk
Aug 28	10:30 am	Mrs Lilian Sharp

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

Local Houses of Prayer



Ffald-y
Brenin

Local Houses of Prayer (LHOP's) are an initiative flowing out from the move of God at Ffald-y-Brenin as described in the best-selling book "The Grace Outpouring". Typically commencing with 2-3 people they adopt a small local area for Jesus, worship and pray for the breaking in of the Kingdom of God and play their part in its release through their life and witness with the aid of the Caleb Questions. Local Houses of Prayer are prayer-based and thoroughly missional.

The vision of a Local House of Prayer is: 'To see the kingdom come and God's will be done on this particular area of earth, as in heaven.'

Local House of Prayer Training:
Saturday 17 September 2016,
10:00 am - 3:00pm
Ivybridge Methodist Church

We are having a Local House of Prayer training day on 17 September 2016. Do let us know if you would be interested in joining us for this. The purpose of these training days is to explore together some of the Key Principles of a Local House of Prayer, enabling you to start a Local House of Prayer in your area/community.

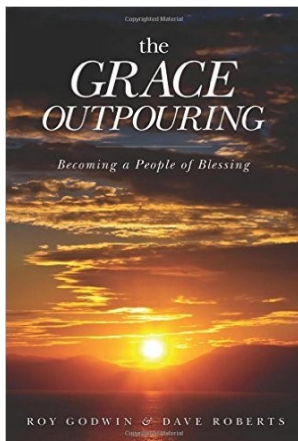
Whether you are interested in finding out more about Local Houses of Prayer or just wanting to bless and pray more for your local area you would be welcome to join us!

For more information contact:

Gill Cowsill:

gill.cowsill@btinternet.com

Tel 07836687985





Dear Friends,

We continue our series of discovering one fact each month about Cambodia and identifying one need for which we can pray.

Fact: Just before the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975 there were perhaps 10,000 Christians in Cambodia. By the end of 1978 when the Khmer Rouge regime ended only 200 had survived. Today the number of Christians has grown to about 200,000.

Need: A thousand-fold growth in the size of the Cambodian church sounds a bit like the book of Acts, but much of the growth occurred between 1990 and 2000. Since then, the growth rate has probably tailed off. The Cambodian Church now faces a number of challenges:

Some churches have been provided with plentiful resources (buildings, musical instruments, sound equipment, pastors' salaries) by organisations from outside the country and may have become dependent on these. Others, particularly in rural areas, have no assets and just meet under a tree or in the leader's house.

Among those who had become Christians in refugee camps and returned to Cambodia in the 1990s were many who zealously took the gospel into out-of-the way places including areas still



under Khmer Rouge control. Many churches were planted, but this grass-roots movement seems to have tailed off. Mission Kampuchea 2021 (mk2021.org) is seeking to rekindle this mission with the goal 'to see a group of Jesus' disciples in every village throughout Cambodia by 2021, whose changed lives make their communities a better place for all to live.'

Every church is supposed to register with the government. With the authorities becoming increasingly fearful of something akin to the 'Arab Spring' taking place in Cambodia, unregistered groups are likely to encounter restrictions. On 1 June, police officers broke up a regular, informal gathering of 50 Christians in Ratanakiri province because they had not sought permission from authorities to meet.

Please pray: for the Cambodian church to thrive, grow and hold on to its first love; for MK2021 to mobilise a fresh church planting movement; for deliverance from spirits of division, competition and seeking after status; for protection from persecution.

Myers Cooper



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME **DIAMOND CHALLENGE 2016**

2016 is the 60th Anniversary of The Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. People are being encouraged to take on a challenge and raise funds for the scheme.

As I gained the D of E Gold Award in 1975 I have decided to support the challenge by walking the 96 miles of the West Highland Way in Scotland in eight consecutive days in September, accompanied by my husband Nigel, and Chris and Chrissie Phillips. Although I am quite an experienced walker I have never before walked continuously for 8 days so this will be my challenge. My aim is to raise as much as possible to support this worthy cause which does so much to encourage young people to try new activities and help others in the community. Please support me through my Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/joy_whysept or I have a sponsor sheet.

Thank you,

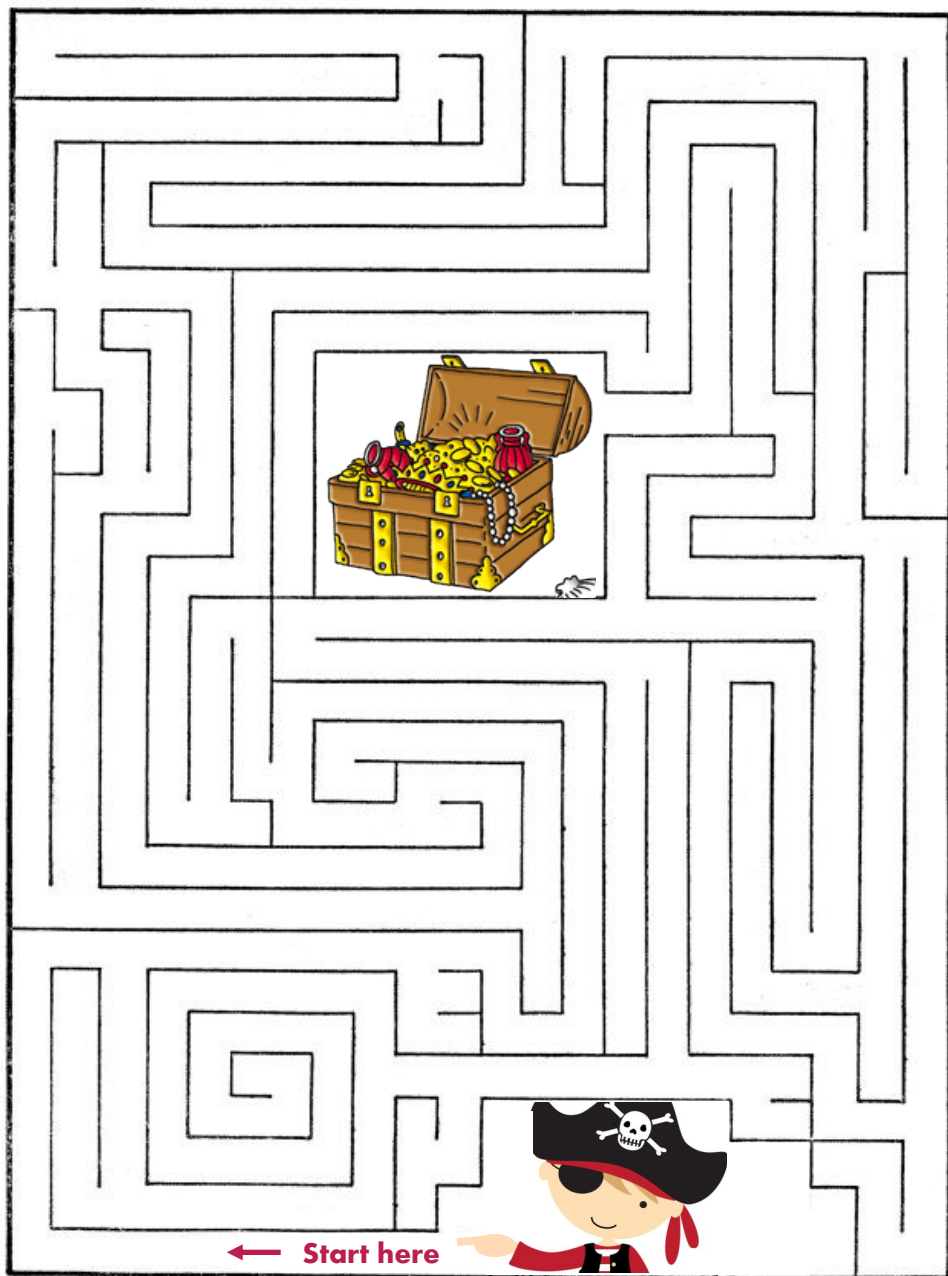
Joy Phillips

Children's Summer Activity Pages

Colour
me in



**Join the pirate crew and hunt for
the buried treasure**





I've been surprised at a couple of items recently in the Daily mail (or "Daily Wail" as Corli calls it, as it is normally full of sad or bad news!) Some weeks ago there was an article entitled 'Singing changes your Brain'. It described how singing (even with poor singing voices!) improves people,

lowering stress and relieving anxiety. We know as we worship the Lord our hearts are lifted in praise together. We are enjoined to "make a joyful noise to the Lord". So let us give it some wellie!

The other item was entitled, 'Women who go to church are less likely to die early'. Harvard University had conducted a 16 year study of Christian women compared to women who never went to church. The more the Christians attended, the longer the women lived! Regular attenders had 33% longer lives! The report concluded, 'Part of the benefit seems to be attending religious services increases social support, discourages smoking, decreases depression and helps people develop a more optimistic or hopeful outlook on life.'

We know as Christians there is a lot more to it than that!! We know the truth of the Scriptures, such as Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV):

*Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and His understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

To think it took 16 years for the academics at Harvard to find the truth we all know and enjoy!

Peter Stanford

Bittaford Methodist Church

Garden Party

**Saturday 23 July
2:00-6:00 pm**



**Bouncy Castle
Barbecue**

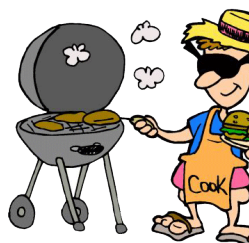


Face Painting

Cream Teas

Homemade Produce

Live music



Entrance FREE!





July/August 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.



Again we are delighted to welcome a very new person to IMC - Ezra Huw Bale was born weighing 9lbs 9oz on the 22 May. It has been lovely to see him in Church and behaving so beautifully - even the music seems not to disturb his sleep! We send warmest congratulations to Simeon and Rebecca and pray you all enjoy this very special time together.

Congratulations too to Alice Fox and Matt Ash as they announced their engagement recently. It's great news and we wish you every blessing as you plan your future together.



More congratulations - this time to Amy Wigmore on her marriage to Aaron Walters. You seem to have had a wonderful day for your celebrations and we send love and best wishes for many years of happiness together.

Weddings are definitely the thing for the Phillips family this summer and we send warmest wishes and our prayers as Peter marries his fiancée Laura at Upton Cross in mid Devon on 2 July. We hope the sun shines all day and that you have a wonderful celebration and many years of happiness together.



Very happy birthday to David Bithell who celebrates a significant birthday in August - the festivities have begun with family times together and we hope you have a wonderful time in all your celebrations David.

As we've said, this is a year of decade celebrations, and both Chris and Chrissy Phillips and Malcolm and Rachel French celebrate their 40th wedding anniversaries in July and we send many congratulations and good wishes for the future. Jo and Ian Godfrey have notched up 10 years in July and we wish them many blessing for the future. Happy Anniversary to you all.



On a sadder note, we said farewell to Bill Blackett recently as he moved to Saffron Waldon to be near his daughter and her family. Bill has been a stalwart of this Church for well over 45 years, holding most of the roles at some point and more latterly, a valued member of the Property Team. Bill we wish you every blessing as you settle into your new life and pray you will find a new spiritual home soon.



Please remember all those struggling with family issues, health concerns and those in our residential homes so that all may know they are thought of and receive God's strength for all they are dealing with.

Farewell Party for Ralph and Adele

at

Ivybridge Rugby Club

on

Saturday 16 July

from 6:00 - 11:00 pm

There will be a barbecue at 7:00 pm

Bouncy castle 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Live music 8:00 - 11:00 pm

Come for all or part of the evening
and join in the fun.



CONTACT the elderly

Would you be willing to help out with transporting an older person or two to a tea party in Ivybridge once a month?

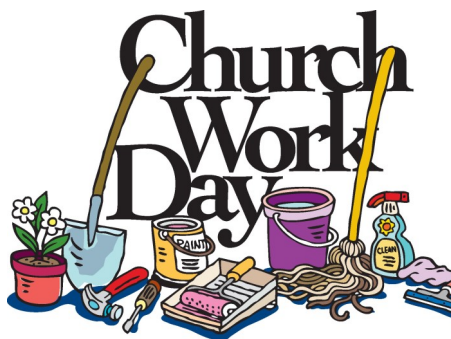
“Contact the Elderly” is a national charity set up to alleviate loneliness in elderly people. The Sunday afternoon tea parties become a lifeline of friendship and are eagerly looked forward to. You may not be aware, but we have our own branch in Ivybridge!

Voluntary drivers pick people up from their own home and take them to a volunteer host's home for a tea party, where they can chat, pick up on the news and enjoy tea in a comfortable environment. They are taken back home a couple of hours later.

You may even feel you could become a voluntary host and open your home for a tea party just once a year.

If you would like to become involved, or would like more details please ring **Christine Treharne** on **892460** or Email: treharne2@gmail.com

Thankyou.



Dates of the next Work Days

9 July

(This month's main task is to clear the weeds etc from the Church frontage)

August - Holidays!

10 September

9 October

If you can spare a couple of hours we'll be pleased to see you from 9:30 am onwards. Help us keep our Church building clean, tidy and welcoming for all its users.

Delicious coffee and cakes from “Wesleys”



Wise and Wonderful

We are an open fellowship: everyone is welcome
We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.
Meetings are on Fridays, from 2:30 - 4:00 pm
with a charge of £1 each time



Summer 2016

1 July

The Mystery Treasure Hunt
with Brian and Christine Treharne

15 July

“What the papers say ...”

We will start the Autumn programme on 9 September with a Harvest celebration. Other dates are 23 September, 7 October, 4 November (Shoe Box day!), 18 November and 2 December.

Please note that there is only one meeting in October.

Details will be available soon, and will appear in the September newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you.

Please contact one of us for more information:

Val Marriott 893614

Sara Bromage 894198

Judy Jago 894829

Sue Pengilley 896444

David and Christine Moulder 892858



The final total collected for this year's
Christian Aid was -

£5,500

We want to thank all of you who participated in collecting for this very worthwhile cause. God bless

Paul and Sandra Morgan



10 Year Appeal - £10 for 10 years

Ivybridge YFC leads five secondary school aged clubs, four primary school clubs, a detached outreach to young people at a local skate park and oversees the Plymouth area youth worship event called The Net. For the future, we have invitations to lead assemblies at local primary schools from this September and we need your support to make the most of these opportunities.

Would you like to invest in the furthering of God's Kingdom amongst young people in the area?

Could you commit to £10 a month support for Ivybridge YFC?

Could you commit to increasing your current level of support by £10 extra per month?

We are looking for 100 people to pledge £10 a month to celebrate our 10 year anniversary...

£10 can buy many things:

- ♥ 5 large scrapbooks for children at FOG Club to keep their colourings in.
- ♥ 4 canvas boards for Shine Clubs to produce artwork on.
- ♥ 1 resource book full of youth work games and activities.
- ♥ 3 bags of Giant Marshmallows for the young people at Wired to toast over a fire pit.
- ♥ 2 weeks' worth of juice for our youth groups.

We'd be grateful if you would prayerfully consider this request. Obviously any amount would be welcome! To support Ivybridge YFC you can obtain a standing order form by emailing ivybridge@yfc.co.uk or organise directly with your bank. Bank details are as follows:

Ivybridge Youth For Christ - Reliance Bank Ltd:
Account No: **00209692** - Sort Code: **60-01-73**

Thank you.

Tuesday Lunches will produce a

Harvest Special

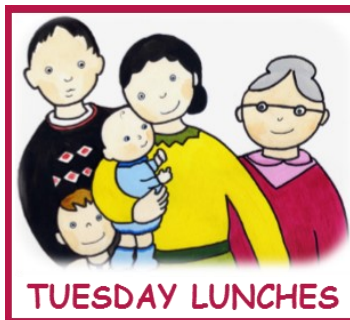
on **Tuesday 11 October at 12:30 pm**

The menu will include

Salmon Mousse

Roast Pork

Autumn Pudding



Booking necessary, please, before 30 September

via lunch teams on Tuesdays or Sundays,
or phone Mercy on 893812.

Bittaford Methodist Church



18 September

Songs of Praise - Soup and rolls and Cream Tea

Evening Services



For those who attend the evening service you will be aware that coffee/tea and biscuits/cakes are always available after the service, provided by a very small band of volunteers. Some people have been on this rota since the beginning, possibly more than 15 years. The rota is about to shrink even further so it has been decided to give the coffee and cakes a break from July.

There is always coffee, tea and biscuits in the Concourse Kitchen if someone wants to make a cuppa. In the New year this can be reviewed and if it is felt evening refreshments have really been missed perhaps a new rota could be put together.

Church Contacts



Minister:

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

Senior Stewards:

Mrs Sara Bromage Tel: 01752 894198
Christian Hill Tel: 01752 896660

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
September Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by

Wednesday 10 August
at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634
email: contact@jennyhansford.co.uk



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