



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



June 2015
Newsletter



From the Minister

Churches sometimes have a reputation for not wanting anything changed about the appearance of the building. We get used to the same fixtures and fittings in the same places, and it disturbs us greatly if things get moved (or worse, removed!). Pews are the classic example, and I often say a little prayer of thanksgiving that the pews in our church were removed under the pastoral charge of a former minister, and I haven't had to bear the anguish of trying to get it done myself.

I once visited a church on the Isle of Wight to do a gig there on a Saturday night, and the room was ideal. Nice slightly raked floor, completely free of any seating, and perfect for the crowd of dancing punters that we subsequently attracted. However, I did notice that there were some rather fresh looking marks on the wooden floor where clearly there had been pews until quite recently. I asked one of the stewards about this, and he told me that until the day before the concert the church had been full of Victorian pews, but the stewards, observing that this didn't look very rock'n'roll, had taken an executive decision and removed them all under cover of darkness. I asked him what the reaction of the congregation had been to this, and he said, "They don't know about it yet – they'll find out at the service tomorrow morning!" Slightly alarmed that my visit had prompted such a drastic change to the layout of the church, I commented that if they didn't like it (which was pretty much definite), then maybe he might find himself putting them all back in again. "Not a chance," he said with a grin, "We've sold them all!"

It isn't just churches that get challenging makeovers, the same applies to pubs. I've recently started returning to my favourite local place, Hope Cove, where my boat is kept, and over the Winter months the Hope and Anchor pub in the cove has undergone a refurb so massive that you can now hardly recognise the place. And even I, lover of change, have mixed feelings. Sure, it looks fantastic - but the old quaint bits have gone, like the open log fireplace and the squidgy sofas. Instead it's all shiny, smart and new. You feel a bit wrong going in there with sandy feet.

But at least the management has stopped short of the practice of having things written on the walls by sign-writers, extolling the virtues of eating and drinking. I've always found that a bit much, especially when they do it in Latin (like "*Veni, vini, vici*"). To have a proper experience of things written on the walls in pubs, you should venture into the gents (or the ladies, depending on your gender), where you may find a selection of wall writings



that have been placed there voluntarily, and in all probability, without permission. I don't need to regale you with examples - you know the sort of thing to expect. But sometimes you come across something profound and poetic.

The one that sticks in my mind was something I came across years ago. I've long since forgotten the pub, or in what town or village it was situated: I can't remember the people I was out with that night. But I can remember the graffiti in the gents, which went as follows:

"To be is to do" – Socrates

"To do is to be" – Jean-Paul Sartre

"Do Be Do Be Do" – Frank Sinatra

Yes, it's mildly amusing, but crucially it's also a bit clever. In addition to "Old Blue Eyes" it name-checks two well known classical philosophers, and I was interested enough to go home and look up the sayings because I was curious to think about how true they are, especially given that they seem to contradict each other. And there's a big question in there that I'd like to roll out to you this month - is life more about what you do, or who you are?

Think about it, what defines you as a person? Are you confident and contented enough to allow yourself to be defined by simply "being"? If so, I guess you might be inclined to say to people, "This is me, take it or leave it".

Or are you the opposite, where you feel that the person you are is determined by the things that you achieve? I have to confess that I am inclined to be this type of person, and I am tempted to keep doing things in order to win self-respect as well as respect from others. As a preacher, I always feel that I am only as good as my last sermon.

In the Bible there is a classic example of being versus doing. Jesus regularly stayed at the home of two sisters, Mary and Martha. Martha is a practical character, always busy - Mary just sits at the feet of Jesus and chats with him. Jesus makes it very clear that we should find time to simply "be". It's important that we learn to be content with the person that we are.

As the apostle Paul puts it in Philippians 4:

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

God bless

Ralph



June Worship

IVYBRIDGE

June 7	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE
June 14	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
June 21	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mrs Val Mariott Rev Paul Rees
June 28	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Phil Walsh Rev Edgar Daniel
July 5	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Mrs Gillian Higgins
July 12	10:30 am 6:30pm	To be announced Mrs Gillian Mills

BITTAFORD

June 7	10:30 pm	Rev David Youngs - Communion
June 14	10:30 am	Mrs Ann Cullum
June 21	10:30 am	Mr Don Reeby,
June 28	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
July 5	10:30 am	Miss Sue Bolt
July 12	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion

*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 July and if you would like to include anything in that Newsletter, please let me have the details by Wednesday 10 June 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

Bittaford Methodist Church presents **Summer Concert Series**

13 June - Porthpyra Singers



Tickets

Adults £5 Children by Donation

All Concerts start 7:30 pm

**Tickets available from Ivybridge Methodist Church
or Jutta on 01752 698381**



June 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 - not a lot of news this month - as ever we look to you to help us by letting us know your news!



Congratulations!

The Hladkij family have had a busy time. Firstly congratulations to Sara on her re-election to the Town Council. Sara takes a very full part in the Council's life and no doubt this won't change much at all.

Congratulations too to son James on his marriage last Bank Holiday weekend in London. We send our love and prayers to you both for many years of happiness together.



This is the big month for Louise Grindrod and Daniel Ricketts as both are climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for Compassion. Training has been underway for some time and we guess you are as fit as you ever will be now!! We send you both off with our love and many prayers for weather, well being and hopes that it is fun as well. Travel safely and we look forward to hearing from you on your return.

Many congratulations to Roy and Linnie Davis as they celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. We hope the celebrations go well and you have lovely day.



One big birthday we missed last month - Lindsey Reid's Mum, Beryl Norman, celebrated her 90th birthday on 22 May and from the photographs it looks as though the celebrations went really well. Many congratulations Beryl and hope the year to come is full of joy.



Dates of the next Work Days

June 6th -

(Please note this is 1st Saturday in June)

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!



Table Top Sale

for Louise's Trek up Kilimanjaro in aid of Compassion
on

Saturday 13th June

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

In The Church Hall at IMC

This is another fund raising event that will take place in the Church Hall while Wesley's is on.

I will have a table of things to sell, and if anyone has things they would like to sell they can hire a table for £5.

The proceeds for the hire of the table will go to Compassion.

The proceeds from the items you sell will be yours.

Louise



NEW CHURCH BANNER

In 2014 we both celebrated our 60th birthdays and felt we wanted to mark the occasion with some sort of challenge or project. Having ruled out running a marathon or even the 10k, we came upon our inspiration during one of our walking weekends. At Abbotsbury Church we saw a patchwork which sowed the seeds for the banner that now hangs in IMC.

Our friendship has grown through Church activities, walking, pilates etc, and we began to think about all the things we could include. It would have to be 60 squares to be relevant and after listing all the church events, festivals and community activities that take place in our church building we realised how varied the range is and we

would not struggle to fill all 60 panels.

Last summer we “went public” to ask for volunteers to take on the task of representing each activity and event. We were encouraged by an enthusiastic response so we put forward a deadline of December to collect all the panels so we could begin the task of putting it all together in the New Year. A good number were returned by Christmas, however it was necessary to extend the deadline ... and extend the deadline ... until eventually we gathered all the designs.

We spent several weeks sewing all the panels together and putting the finishing touches. It was then that we called upon Nigel's expertise to secure the hanging to the wall so we are very grateful to him and to Chris for encouraging us with bad jokes!

There is a key nearby to refer to if you are uncertain about the origin of any of the panels.

We are sincerely grateful to all who contributed both with the production and encouragement, so to you all we say a big thank you.

Joy and Chrissie



Ladies In Faith and Fellowship Together

Event	Time/date	Information
No House Group	Wed 3 June	<i>'When Faith gets Shaken' - Patrick Regan @ IMC</i>
Bring & Share Prayer Breakfast	Sat 6 June 9:30 am	Faith and Fellowship for Ladies
Singles Lunch	Sat 6 June 12:30 pm - meet @ IMC for lifts	Mutley Baptist Church
Ladies' House Group	Wed 10, 17, 24 June & 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

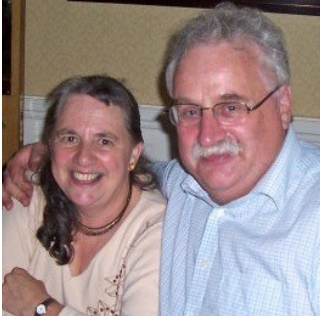
Prayer Breakfast meets on the first Saturday of every month at IMC
and is open to all ladies; please come along from 9:30 am

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

Getting to know you!



Tony and Jenny Merriman

We moved to Ivybridge from Tunbridge Wells last October when we retired. Formerly Tony was a Solicitor and Jenny a Teacher, teaching under 5's with special needs. We came here because of the Moors, the sea and Ivybridge Methodist Church!! We have often holidayed in this area, and my sister lives near Tavistock. We are settling in well - despite living in a building site - we are extending the house to get a study and a bigger kitchen.

We will have been married 40 years in July of this year.

We have 4 children, 1 boy and 3 girls. We also have a daughter we fostered when she was younger, she has lived with us from time to time since, and remains part of our family. Our son lives in Dorking and works in London as a web designer. Our eldest daughter lives in Greenwich where she is a social worker. Our middle daughter lives in Chester, she is part of a team from Trent Vineyard who have planted a Vineyard Church in Chester. She currently works for Chester Uni and is getting married in June. Our youngest daughter is a trainee church youth worker in Church Stretton. Our Foster daughter lives in Tonbridge and has 2 children, a boy and a girl.

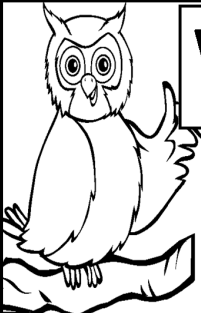
Since coming to Ivybridge we have tried to integrate into the community, Tony who has a Hotel Chef qualification loves to cook and has joined the Chewsdays team. He also helps with the Youth Work and looks after the church website. Jenny runs the Brownie Pack that meets at the Church. We are both Street Pastors, having begun that role in Tunbridge Wells. We are also helping with the Bridge Project. Jenny walks our two dogs regularly.

Jenny has been a Christian for many years. She does not remember a time when God was not part of her life. Her relationship with Him has changed over the years, but she knows He has always been there for her. Tony was brought up in the Catholic Church and had experienced the Holy Spirit as a child in Catholic school although was not aware of it at the time. When we were first together we took part in a Know Jesus course (run by Colin Urquhart the course was similar to today's Alpha) and this cemented Tony's belief in God and clarified many issues for him including the experiences he



had had as a child in school. As well as attending church regularly we continue to attend Faith Camp in Peterborough most years which is run by the church Colin subsequently formed; we have been attending the camp for about 30 years. All four of our own children have developed their own faith over the years, we are sure the camp played a significant part in that development. We continue to pray for and witness to our foster daughter and her family.

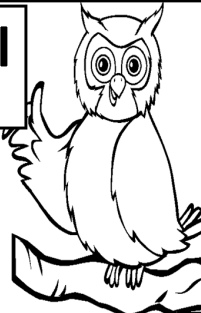
We love this area and the community and especially the church family we are in and hope we remain there for a long time to come.



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
with a charge of £1 each time



Summer programme 2015

12 June
Shaun the Sheep invites you for films and popcorn.

26 June
Annual Cream Tea at Hannah's, Seale Hayne

10 July
“Four old ladies in the Himalayas”

Please contact one of us for more information:

Valerie Marriott 893614
Sara Bromage 894198
Judy Jago 894829
Sue Pengilley
David and Christine Moulder 892858

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

July Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Wednesday 10 June

at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634

email: jenny.bucknall@gmail.com



Visit our website at

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

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

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