

on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him

Psalm 103:13

# June 2016 Newsletter

#### From the Minister



As you've learned over the last five years that I have been ministering here, I am very keen on music. In fact, the only things that I am more passionate about in life than music are my wife and children, and the Lord Jesus.

My musical tastes are very wide-ranging: I spent the whole of my childhood and teenage years listening purely to classical music, and I developed a particular

fondness for medieval and Renaissance music, which I still listen to sometimes but is very niche indeed and tends to leave most people mystified. But then in about 1977, as a young adult, I'm afraid punk rock came along and just blew me away: then it was the turn of heavy metal in the early 1980s, and alongside this sonic revolution I had discovered synthesizers, which were brand new technology at the time and of enormous fascination to a piano player like me. I was one of those 16 year olds who used to stay behind after school to mess around with the piano in the music room - except that rather than sit playing nice pieces from books, I would improvise nonsense for hours, and take the panels off the thing to experiment with bashing the open strings with drum sticks, then record it and play it backwards, that sort of thing.

So early synthesizers seemed to me to be beyond exciting. It wasn't just about pressing keys, it was about twiddling knobs as well, to produce other-worldly sounds that not only filled me with fascination, but annoyed the neighbours too. Double result!

So I've enjoyed contemporary rock and pop music ever since. I was a pro musician for years before becoming a minister, but even after that time the music has never left me, the Lord has just channelled and developed it more and more into youth ministry, children's ministry and then worship ministry. I'm still writing new worship songs as many of you know, and it's interesting to see how they go down when we try them in church.

Music is such a subjective thing, you see. Certain songs that form the soundtrack to your life, which stir your emotions when you hear them and fill you with joy - well, to another person they are the worst racket they have ever heard. I once heard Jeremy Clarkson describe modern pop music as being "the sound of teenagers banging garden furniture together". You may feel the same.

We once took my grandma out for lunch in a pub dining room, and faintly in the background there was music playing. My gran became aware of the

sound and asked what it was. "It's Whitney Houston, Gran." we told her. "Oh," she remarked, "well to me it sounds like somebody *grinding nutmeg*".

So when I feel prompted by the Spirit to write a new worship song, it's a long process. It's one thing to have a tune arrive in your head, and even to delve into God's Word to try and find some good scripture to use as the lyrics, but also one has to consider the "style" of the song. Will it work best as a noisy rock song, or as a folk song? Should it be in 6/8 or 4/4? Eventually, after weeks of tinkering, I might roll it out one Sunday morning to see how it goes.

Some don't go well at all. One song which I wrote on sabbatical (and was my total favourite!), never made it past band practise at Ivybridge. Others have gone "okay" in services, but I've felt no need to reprise them (maybe they'll work better in my next appointment). But the great thrill comes when we try one in church, and I observe two things which mean everything to me: people closing their eyes and lifting their voices to God in praise, and then sometimes just to put the seal on it, I see hands shooting up into the air on the choruses. For any writer, that is the greatest and most humbling feeling of all - I've helped someone to worship Jesus. Wow!

Now we all have our own favourite and least favourite musical genres, don't we? And some styles simply don't work in church - you couldn't really use hard house or extreme metal in worship, could you. But there is one other genre of music that I try to avoid at all costs, both in worship and in my own personal listening; yet it is massively popular across the world. I speak of course, of Country Music. Yep, the Nashville variety. I can't stand it. Terrible. Please God, in heaven don't let there be country music!

So when someone at church suggested to me that I should have a listen to a particular song which they thought I would like, I was horrified to learn that it was a modern country and western song. My wife came in the room with her phone to play me the track on Youtube, and I was like a small boy about to see the dentist. The awful slide guitar, the twanging acoustic, the thick Southern US accent of the singer ... urghhh! And yet because I had no choice in the matter, I stuck with it and by the end I was in tears. The words were amazing - they really spoke to me as a bloke, because it is such a blokey song about someone wanting to go to the pub with Jesus, and the questions he would tentatively ask in his search for faith. We're never likely to sing it in church because it isn't a worship song, and it's full of doubt and searching, but I've reproduced the lyrics on the next page. See if they mean as much to you on a simple level as they meant to me. Oh, and by the way, it's called "Beer with Jesus" by Thomas Rhett, if you want to look it up on YouTube or even buy it, as I did.

God bless, Ralph

#### "Beer With Jesus"

If I could have a beer with Jesus Heaven knows I'd sip it nice and slow I'd try to pick a place that ain't too crowded Or gladly go wherever He wants to go

You can bet I'd order up a couple tall ones Tell the waitress put 'em on my tab I'd be sure to let Him do the talkin' Careful when I got the chance to ask

Tell me, how'd You turn the other cheek To save a sorry soul like me Do You hear the prayers I send What happens when life ends And when You think you're comin' back again I'd tell everyone, but no one would believe it If I could have a beer with Jesus

If I could have a beer with Jesus I'd put my whole paycheck in that jukebox And I'd fill it up with nothing but the good stuff Sit somewhere we couldn't see a clock

Ask Him how'd You turn the other cheek To save a sorry soul like me Have You been there from the start How'd You change a sinner's heart And is heaven really just beyond the stars I'd tell everyone, but no one would believe it If I could have a beer with Jesus

Now He can probably only stay, for just a couple rounds But I hope and pray He's stayin' till we shut the whole place down Ask Him how'd You turn the other cheek To save a sorry soul like me What's on the other side? Is mom and daddy alright? And if it ain't no trouble tell them I said "Hi" I'd tell everyone but no one would believe it If I could have a beer with Jesus I'd tell everyone but no one would believe it If I could have a beer with Jesus

Thomas Rhett

### From the Editor ...

Please note that the next edition of the newsletter will be a double issue for July and August. If you would like to include anything in this Newsletter, please let me have the details by Friday 10 June 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

### Jenny Hansford







# June Worship

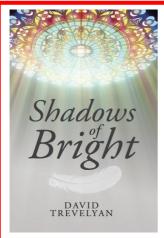
# **IVYBRIDGE**

June 5	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
June 12	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Miss Judith Walker Mrs Brenda Youngs
June 19	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mrs Val Mariott Prayer Service led by Gill Cowsill
June 26	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ken Bromage Rev Edgar Daniel
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

## **BITTAFORD**

June 5	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
June 12	10:30 am	Mr John Pointon
June 19	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
June 26	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
July 3	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
July 10	10:30 am	Mrs Gillian Mills

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



### Shadows of Bright By David Trevelyan (aka Jeff Stephenson)

Those of you who enjoyed my first book, 'Feathers in the Dust', might be interested to know that the sequel has just been published. I had the basic idea for 'Shadows of Bright' about three years ago while praying, but it took a while for me to get going properly, and I have written most of it since last November. It is set twenty years after the first book and is more overtly Christian in some of its content. The description on the back is:

'Twenty years after joining St Julian's Hospice, Dr David Trevelyan faces a crisis of conviction with the opening of an assisted dying centre within its grounds. But then something extraordinary happens that has repercussions for him, the hospice and further afield. The evolving story, linked to events at a mission hospital in Africa almost fifty years before, encompasses the satirical, the supernatural and the surreal, and provides a backdrop to an exploration of moral courage, dignity in dying, and Christian faith.'

The book will be available to order on-line from Amazon (both paperback and Kindle versions). I have some paperback copies, and anyone who is not versed in on-line purchasing could get one from me.

#### Local House of Prayer Training Day - Saturday 17 September

On 17 September a representative from the Ffald-y-Brenin Retreat Centre in Wales is coming to IMC to lead a day's training. For anyone who has read '*The Grace Outpouring*' by Roy Godwin (if you haven't I recommend it!) then you will be familiar with the concept of praying/blessing your community, and this

training day will be an excellent opportunity to learn more.

Please save the date. More information to follow but expect to have to book well in advance.

More information from gill.cowsill@btinternet.com





### 'Colours of the Day'

I thought I would write a few lines about the new piece of art on our church wall.

I had the image of a coloured swirl in my head for about a year before I began. It was likened at the time to the whirly-gig of chaos going on around me in the world. I often found myself reading news articles and worrying about the destruction, injustice and inhumanity I saw

portrayed there. The reports from Christian sources reporting on the signs for the end of the age and the predicted devastation that was unleashing. Add to that the normal everyday busyness – busy busy busy – lurching from one anxiety to the next – worry becoming at times overwhelming.

I then had call to prepare a talk about Daniel and Belshazzar's Feast. I realised that in the midst of all the chaos, in all its colours, is God.

I began to realise that I need to be still in the chaos sometimes to be aware of God. That I need to allow the turmoil around to tumble without my attention and concentrate on being 'still', of listening to God, of reminding myself that God knows all that will happen and yet is still in control. It is all planned, fought for and won in the name, life and death of Jesus.

I wonder how people without knowledge of God visualise their lives? The stream of busyness that constantly requires their attention. I guess they never stop long enough to think about it? Maybe the lack of a central peace keeps them moving – busy – busy – busy – their fulfilment in their achievements.

It is no accident that the words 'That I am God' are hard to see in the darker colours of the image. In our darkest moments it can be hard to see God clearly, but be assured He is there through the bright times and the dark.

As I sit and focus on God I can remember as Ecclesiastes said 'it is all vapour'. God has it all in hand. A plan from beginning to end – amidst the chaos He is 'still', sturdy, a rock, never changing.

I know God's plan includes me. If I hold fast to Jesus, and let the world spin around me, I can gain a new perspective on the important things of life. Jesus loves me, died so that I might be able to be at peace knowing my future is secure whatever happens on this earth. He calls me to respond by loving others and in my stillness bring others to know that He is God. Maybe the image will help?

In the stillness with God I can know that trusting in Jesus is all I need do. Allowing the Holy Spirit to gently guide me through the colours of life. Keeping my eyes focused on the centre, enabling me to cope.

Without Jesus I would spin off and be thrown about in the random colours of the world but with Him I can be still and make some sense of the busy, colourful, eccentric world in which I live.

He tells us in Psalm 46:10 to take time, then to "Be still and know that I am God" ... can you?



The little congregation at Bittaford Methodist Church would like to thank everyone who has supported the concerts in April and May, which between them have raised over £400. Thanks to Neil Bailey for the energy that he and friends and family put into them and their varied and talented performances. Also great thanks to

Angie Brimblecombe and the Yeamlpton Gospel Choir for their fun performance. I think all the choir really enjoyed it as an evening out together. Due to this fundraising the survival of worship at Bittaford is guaranteed for a few more months.

Neil and Jutta have arranged other events over the next few months (see page 19) and we hope you will be able to support one or more of these. We look forward to seeing some of you there! Thank you.

**Summer time** is coming, and our friends who lead the children's groups through the year are in need of a break!

There will be Family Services on three Summer Sundays, but we need teams to run one-off activities on the other dates. One team is booked in already, but we need volunteers to join for two more Sundays. If you would like to lend a hand, and are free on 7 or 21 August, please drop a note for me in the M pigeon hole. Thanks.

Chrístíne Moulder



### Cambodia: Legacy of Genocide

Continuing series in this of presenting one fact about Cambodia and for need one which this vou can prav. month let's consider what was happening in Cambodia in the 1970s.

**Fact:** Between 1975 and 1979, a quarter of Cambodia's population died as a result of starvation, disease or murder. Why?

An extreme communist regime won a civil war in April 1975. They emptied the cities forcibly and put the entire population to work in the paddy fields. They abolished schools, hospitals, money and religion. This was 'Year Zero'. They proceeded to exterminate all people that they considered to be incompatible with their new system in which everyone was a peasant: officers of the defeated army, police officers, the wealthy, people who wore glasses (a sign of learning), Buddhist monks, Christians. Whole families including babies were executed brutally. Children were taught to betray their parents. The regime overworked and underfed the population and mismanaged agricultural production. There was no medical care.

Need: This all happened 40 years ago. Why does it matter today?

Cambodia's infrastructure is still recovering from decay, neglect and lack of investment. A system of theoretical equality has been replaced by one of privilege and corruption, where a few people get very rich and the majority of the poor stay poor. The generation that lived through genocide still bears emotional scars. Everyone lost family members. Many witnessed acts of brutality and some live with the guilt of perpetrating them. A spirit of mistrust pervades society. Principles of honesty and fairness were sacrificed in the fight to survive and have not been recovered.

**Please pray** for the healing of the nation and its people. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower churches and individual Christians to think and live differently. May those who are still embittered or traumatised find new life in an encounter with the Lord Jesus, who endured even greater suffering than theirs. May the gospel message of hope and abundant life permeate Cambodian society and reach the darkest places and hardest hearts.

### Myers Cooper

### First Aid Kits and Accident Report Forms



Please note that there are three First Aid Kits on the church premises - in the Café and Concourse kitchens, and also on the wall between the Café glass doors and toilet area door.

In the Café Kitchen the First Aid Kit and the Accident Report Forms are in a cupboard on the left hand side of the kitchen as you enter it (look for the First Aid sign above).

In the Concourse kitchen the First Aid Kit is in the left hand cupboard above the sink (look for the First Aid sign above).

The Accident Report Forms should always be completed if there is an accident anywhere at the Church. Completed forms should be put in Pigeonhole 'P' for Chris Phillips' attention. If it is a serious incident he must be advised as soon as possible so that immediate action can be taken if required. He can be contacted on 892125.

### **Bethel Ministry School**

As some of you will know, I have been at a ministry school in Northern California for nine months of my gap year, attached to Bethel Church. It has been an extraordinary time of community, teaching, growth and falling more in love with God. I have experienced so much and have been learning many new things.



If you would like to hear more about my time there then I would be delighted to share at any house group meetings or other gatherings, so please get in touch!

## Ben Stephenson

Home: 01752 690990 Mobile: 07599 059495



# **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.

Meg Gentle looks set to have a busy and fun-filled summer as she is travelling to Canada to be a sailing instructor at Camp Canada. Meg leaves for Ontario in mid June for a welcome break form Uni life, and we hope you have a fantastic time Meg.





Many, many congratulations go to Joyce and Brian Elliott as they celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June. This is a tremendous achievement and we hope you have some memorable celebrations. Joyce and Brian met through their common love of Brass bands, and Brian's involvement

in the brass band world goes back 60 years as well.

Significant birthdays are a common theme this year and this month love, congratulations and very happy birthday wishes go to Kirsten Knowles and Diana England. We hope you celebrate well and don't feel any older at all.





Diana has also been exhibiting her wonderful photographs at the Watermark last month to raise awareness of, and funds for, Breast Cancer Research.

It was wonderful to see Ellie and Rebecca baptised last month as they committed their lives to Jesus, and to share their joy.





If it's May, it's Ten Tors and once again there were young people from the church involved.

Congratulations go to Matthew Norton (Elis and Helen's son) and Tom Reeves (Kate and Mark's son) who successfully completed 45 and 35 miles respectively.

As in the last several years Nigel Phillips has trained, supported and encouraged the College Teams and it is a real pleasure to be able to acknowledge all the time and energy he gives to the young people and Ten Tors.

During May one of our more elderly members, Cecil Downing, went to live at Kingsacre Residential Home in Ermington. Cecil, please know we are thinking of you and will remember you in our prayers.





It's lovely to know that Jo Gentle is coming back to the South West having been successful in obtaining a post at Mill Ford School in Plymouth. Jo we hope all goes well and the move goes smoothly. Congratulations!

More teaching moves and congratulations. Anna Davis has recently obtained a permanent position in a school close to Dumfries. Anna we wish you every success as you settle in and hope all goes well with the job as well as with your house move.





A change of lifestyle lies in wait for Joy Phillips and Reg Marriott as they both retired at the end of May. We wish you both a happy and fulfilled time and hope you have fun finding and doing all those things you thought you might do when you and enough time!!

Chris Gentle is also having a change and leaving teaching after many years. Chris we know you will enjoy all the space and wish you a happy "retirement" enabling you to pick up new things. Lots more walks for Henry!!



Christian Hill is about to embark on a new way of life too as he looks to move into new fields. Christian we wish you every success as you search for the next adventure in life and pray God will be very close in all that thinking and decision making.

Jenny Light is still in Skylark Ward at Mount Gould and attacking all the rehabilitation tasks with gusto. She hopes to be home in a few weeks when arrangements can be made.





There are still many in our fellowship struggling with illness, long term problems and anxieties and we would ask you to pay even though we may not know names. God knows and loves them and as we pray He will be there with them.

#### Devon & Cornwall CDFB invites you to

# COME AND JOIN THE DANCE

# Saturday 11 June

10:30 am to 3:00 pm at Ivybridge Methodist Church

We will be dancing in worship to the Lord in various different styles, revisiting some previous dances, and trying out some new.

Bring flat fastening shoes and comfy clothing. Also bring lunch. Drinks and biscuits provided.

### £8 members

### plus £2 daily membership for non-CDFB

Cheques payable to CDFB Devon & Cornwall Send to Louise Grindrod, 88 Yeolland Park, Ivybridge, PL21 0YP Please include your phone number

### Pay car park opposite side of Church

### Bring a dance to share and teach if you can.

Enquiries Gilly 01752 311659

The CDFB is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee, Number 5466472 and as a charity, Number 1115037. Registered office: Sunset Hallows, 21 Admirals Close, Watchet, Somerset, TA23 0QD



The name Open Doors is well known to many church members in regard to the work this charity has being doing over the last 60 years. Our church has now decided to join with Open Doors in the work they do in helping persecuted Christians throughout the world. We are going to do this by firstly giving £50.00 per month from Church funds. We know that many members of the church already support Open Doors in their own names, and should you want to donate yourself please let one of the Stewards or our treasurer, Andrew Lawrie, know.

The question on some people's minds will be, "Who are Open Doors and how do they help?" Set up by Brother Andrew, Open Doors has worked with churches and local partners to "strengthen what remains" (Revelation 3:2) providing Bibles, Christian literature, training, livelihood skills and advocacy.

This is not about maintenance. It is not about keeping the church going, just so believers can continue to hold meetings. It's about keeping the Light of the world shining in some of the darkest places on earth.

In the words of Brother Andrew, "The work of the church is not survival. She exists to fulfil the Great Commission. Her work is making disciples of all nations."

The witness of Christians in these places means their families; their communities – even their nations – have the opportunity to encounter the living Jesus Christ. And the amazing fact is that in Syria, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, throughout the world, the persecuted church is not merely surviving, it is living and growing.

It is a very different lifestyle where your faith, in a country that actively targets Christians, makes simply everyday life extremely difficult. You are excluded from society, unable to have a job at risk of being stoned, burnt or killed. Home groups/Bible studies are not allowed, churches burnt to the ground.

How can we assist and stand with our persecuted family? By praying regularly as a whole church, and engaging with emergency appeals.

As a church we will dedicating a Sunday Service at least once a year, and updates on the work of Open Doors will be included in the Newsletter.



This year a group of 22 of us went to Spring Harvest just before Easter and we all had a brilliant time.

The theme was "Game Changers", which was centred on creating space to encounter God in order to equip us to engage in our world and change for the good of all; transforming communities in the name of Jesus. The key foci were two of the greatest game changers of all - Moses and the Holy Spirit. All this, coupled with top Christian entertainment in the late night programme, was enough to re-energise even the most weary soul (but probably also wore out our physical bodies!!).

If you don't know what Spring Harvest is, it is the largest Christian event in Europe. For two "weeks" they take over two Butlin's sites (Minehead and Skegness) and we go to Minehead, simply because it is closer. There are activities from 7:30 in the morning to almost midnight; but you couldn't do it all without collapsing from exhaustion!

There is an extensive children's and youth programme catering for all ages, and for the adults there is something for everyone: from rousing worship in the Skyline with 3,500 others, to quiet contemplative zones for you to meet with God in a gentle, peaceful way; from Bible teaching with thousands of others, to more intimate venues where you can discuss the day's text with the experts face-to-face; from highly academic tracts to sports events (our 5-a-side team didn't do so well this year, but have reached the semi-finals in the past!); concerts from world famous opera singers to the latest and greatest Christian rock bands; and, of course, there is plenty of opportunity to spend quality fellowship time with the others in the group and/or your family (all the Butlin's facilities are available for your use including the fun-fair and the swimming pool [with three massive flumes] – both of which are free; and Minehead beach is very close at hand).

We will be organising another group to go next year, when the theme will be "One for All".

We are those who believe in Jesus, and His prayer was that we would be one. We want to be one for a purpose. We want to be one for all. We are different and opinionated but we are destined for the same place. We are dreaming of the days when we stand together because we are strong together, we serve together, we see further together, we are sent together to build one glorious kingdom with one glorious King.

Join us at Spring Harvest 2017 and together let's face the challenge of being one, talking honestly and openly about what it means to be God's people, making a priority of His purposes, knowing how to disagree, and seeing what co-operation can create as we witness to God's world.

At the time of going to press we have not decided which "week" we will go - it will be either Week 1 (4–8 April) or Week 2 (8–13 April); either way you will be back for the Good Friday (14 April) celebrations at church.

If you would like to know more, see a brochure, understand the different cost options, or just generally quiz us about what on earth Spring Harvest is and why we all come back so spiritually recharged and fired up for God's work in this place, then please come and chat to us (or Miles and Madeline Allen, or Paul and Nici Courtney) or visit <u>www.springharvest.org</u>.

Spring Harvest is always very popular (and there are fewer weeks next year), so to give ourselves the best chance of getting the accommodation we want, we will book on the day the booking lines open; this year this is 15 June. So, whilst next Easter may seem a long way away, you might want to decide if you want to go fairly soon!!

If you do want to go, simply let us know and we will take care of all the booking administration for you (though sadly not the cost!!).

Dave and Nícky Rowe





# 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

<u>3 June</u>

Rev Ralph Ward talks about his visit to Kisumu, Kenya

<u>17 June</u>

A Foreign Tour with Deborah Southon

### <u>1 July</u>

The Mystery Treasure Hunt with Brian and Christine Treharne

### <u>15 July</u>

"What the papers say ..."

The Autumn programme will start on 9 September

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



### **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 9 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.

# 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 July/August Newsletter please get them to the Editor by <u>Friday 10 June</u> 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 <u>mrmerrit@icloud.com</u>