



**IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH**

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



May 2016

Newsletter

From the Minister



This month we celebrate one of the big three Christian festivals, Pentecost. It falls traditionally fifty days after Easter, and marks the original Day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2, when the Spirit descended so dramatically upon the apostles. It's the beginning of the whole story of the Christian Church, so Pentecost is also popularly recognised as the birthday of the global Church.

In our church, of course, we are not the sort of people who like to leave things in the past. It's not enough for us to celebrate historical events, far away enough in history to have lost any sense of relevance. So the question is, if the Spirit first fell upon the faithful at Pentecost 2 millennia ago, is He still here, and if so, then *what does He actually do?*

The Bible is quite clear that the Holy Spirit is active in our world. The book of Acts, which sometimes goes by the longer title of "The Acts of the Apostles," could just as accurately be called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles." After the apostolic age, there have been some changes - the Spirit does not inspire further Scripture, for example - but He continues to do His work in the world.

First, the Holy Spirit does many things in the lives of believers. He is the believers' Helper (John 14:26). He indwells believers and seals them until the day of redemption - this indicates that the Holy Spirit's presence in the believer is irreversible. He guards and guarantees the salvation of the ones He indwells (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). The Holy Spirit assists believers in prayer (Jude 1:20) and "intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27).

The Holy Spirit regenerates and renews the believer (Titus 3:5). At the moment of salvation, the Spirit baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ (Romans 6:3). Believers receive the new birth by the power of the Spirit (John 3:5-8). The Spirit comforts believers with fellowship and joy as they go through a hostile world (1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14). The Spirit, in His mighty power, fills believers with "all joy and peace" as they trust the Lord, causing believers to "overflow with hope" (Romans 15:13).

Sanctification is another work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. The Spirit sets Himself against the desires of the flesh and leads the believer into



righteousness (Galatians 5:16-18). The works of the flesh become less evident, and the fruit of the Spirit becomes more evident (Galatians 5:19-26). Believers are commanded to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:8), which means they are to yield themselves to the Spirit’s full control.

The Holy Spirit is also a gift-giver. *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them”* (1 Corinthians 12:4). The spiritual gifts that believers possess are given by the Holy Spirit as He determines in His wisdom (verse 11)

The Holy Spirit also does work among unbelievers. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8, ESV). The Spirit testifies of Christ (John 15:26), pointing people to the Lord. Currently, the Holy Spirit is also restraining sin and combatting “the secret power of lawlessness” in the world. This action keeps the rise of the Antichrist at bay (2 Thessalonians 2:6-10).

The Holy Spirit has one other important role, and that is to give believers wisdom by which we can understand God. *“The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God”* (1 Corinthians 2:10-11). Since we have been given the amazing gift of God’s Spirit inside ourselves, we can comprehend the thoughts of God, as revealed in the Scripture. The Spirit helps us understand. This is wisdom from God, rather than wisdom from man. No amount of human knowledge can ever replace the Holy Spirit’s teaching (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).

This Pentecost, let’s invite the Spirit into our hearts anew, that we may become more and more the possession of God, and less and less the possession of the world.

God bless,
Ralph

This month’s Work Day is on Saturday 14 May.

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!**





May Worship

IVYBRIDGE

May 1	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion Rev Ralph Ward
May 8	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward IGNITE with Communion
May 15	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Family Service Prayer Service led by Gill Cowsill
May 22	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Jeff Stephenson United Service at Ridgeway (see page 15)
May 29	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Mrs Di Smart
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

BITTAFORD

May 1	10:30 am	Mrs Val Marriott
May 8	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
May 15	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
May 22	10:30 am	Mr Don Reeby
May 29	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs
June 5	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
June 12	10:30 am	Mr John Pointon

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

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the June Newsletter, please let me have the details by Tuesday 10 May 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



We would like to thank Rev Ralph Ward for the wonderful service he did for the late Peter Davis, and for all the love, prayers and kindness that has been shown to us by you all at this difficult time.

Thank you so very much, and may God bless you all.

Marilyn and family

RNIB Ivybridge Transcription Centre

RNIB in Ivybridge are seeking some new volunteer readers to record books and magazines in their purpose-built studios. The centre provides a request service to enable blind and partially sighted people throughout England, Scotland and Northern Ireland to enjoy listening to a range of information on CD and we require some more people to help us fulfil this service. We ask for just 1.5 hours per week, a good recording voice and a willingness to be flexible in what you read.

If you are interested and would like to come for an audition please ring 01752 690092 or speak to me at church. Many thanks.

Gill Cowsill



Praying for Cambodia

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of Cambodian Communities out of Crisis and your interest in our Children of Cambodia project.

People sometimes ask me, "What's it like in Cambodia now," and I usually reply, "How long have you got?". Others ask, "Cambodia? Is that in South America?"



Starting this month, I would like to give you one fact about Cambodia and ask you to pray for one need. God loves the people of Cambodia and sent His Son to die for the Khmer people and other ethnic groups who live there. I believe He is compassionate towards them particularly because of what they suffered 40 years ago and the way this affects the present generation. He invites us to join in with His mission to make disciples of Cambodian people and to bless their country with righteousness and peace. One of the ways we can do that is by praying for them.

Fact: Cambodia is a tropical country in South-East Asia (bordering Thailand, Laos and Vietnam) with a hot and humid climate. Half the year it rains a lot and half the year it hardly rains at all. Between March and May is the hottest time with temperatures in the low forties Celsius.

Pray: Cambodia is suffering from the effects of El Niño. The last couple of months have been particularly hot. Almost all provinces are now experiencing drought. By the time you read this, some inhabitants of Ratanak Kiri province, where 70% of the population rely on streams, will be close to running out of water to drink. Deforestation has caused streams to dry up and fertiliser used in rubber plantations has polluted water supplies. Hydroelectric dams in China and Laos have diminished the flow of water in the Mekong River, which flows through Cambodia.

Please pray. I have personal experience of prayer changing a rainfall pattern in Cambodia in a small way. It works!

Elijah was a man **with a nature like ours**, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit. (James 5: 17-18)

Myers Cooper

IMC DRAMA GROUP

I am planning to start a drama group here at IMC. If anyone is interested in being part of this group in any way, or would like more information please contact me on 01752 698525 or 07837 330831, or email me at rands.dudley@btinternet.com I would love to hear from you. Thank you.

Sandra Dudley



Pastoral Visiting Information



Many will not know that the Church Membership and Community Roll is looked after by a valued team of 38 Pastoral Visitors who deliver your newsletters and hope to keep in touch with you.

To further support the Pastoral Visitors an evening is planned for the **7 June 2016 at 7:30 - 9:00 pm** in the Church where we will hear about latest issues we need to think about, some

safeguarding matters and learn about a new course for PV's that will run in the Autumn.

SO - if you are a Pastoral Visitor please do put the date in your diary and we'd love you to join us. Refreshments provided.

Higher Power

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times, but there is a Higher Power. Can anyone tell me what it is?"

One child blurter out, "Aces!"



Mission Aviation Fellowship

News to Share

From News to Share April 2016



Betty and Becki: MAF women pilots across the generations

Both Mother's Day and International Woman's Day take place this month. As we celebrate the mothers and women in our lives, let's take a look at two of MAF's finest women pilots.

Betty Greene is something of a legendary figure in MAF's history. Stuart King, one of MAF's founders and the subject of a recent radio interview with Christian broadcaster TWR, talked of Betty as 'a wonderful Christian lady ... a superlative pilot, wise, well skilled and experienced.'

She also helped to found MAF back in its earliest days, flying with Stuart and his young family in Sudan for over two years. Betty caught the flying bug young and spent the majority of her adult life serving with MAF. Her contribution to the Christian aviation charity's development was tremendous.

In his interview, Stuart mentioned how he would love it if Betty Greene's legacy inspired a new generation of female Christian pilots to take flight.

An important link in the chain of emergency healthcare

One woman already using her aviation gifts in this way is Becki Dillingham. MAF Pilot Becki has been flying to support Mercy Ships' life-saving healthcare work. As she says on her blog, "The ship's Medical Capacity Team



has been using MAF's Cessna 182 aircraft to visit hospitals in 16 different regions. They will visit each one twice while the ship is here in Madagascar. Having finished their initial training in all 16 regions, I am now flying them around the country to have follow-up visits and do some training with the hospital staff, and equip them with lifeboxes.

"A lifebox pulse oximeter," she explains, "clips onto your finger during surgery and raises an alarm if the oxygen level in your blood drops - warning the doctors to take action before it's too late. In many hospitals, you are more likely to die from unsafe surgery than the condition or disease that you've got."

The supply of lifeboxes will dramatically reduce the risk to women - the main beneficiaries of surgery in Madagascar.

It's hard to imagine any more strategic use of a Christian pilot in a country that lacks many basic healthcare services. And it's all down to effective partnership.

For Becki to be there at the right place at the right time is no accident. It has required flight surveys, ground assessments and years of relationship building, not to mention generous prayer partners and supporters to generate a sustainable flight programme. It's not unlike the process that occurred in the days when Stuart King and Betty Greene flew across the big skies of Sudan in the 1950s.

Betty's legacy - as well as Becki's - will hopefully encourage women to take to the skies and embrace the thrilling opportunities available for serving difficult-to-reach people in life-transforming ways, in Jesus' name.

Surely this is good news for a world where so many people lack basic rights and services - not least women.

Find out more about life in the skies with MAF, visit Becki's blog at www.maf-uk.org/dillingham

A photo of Becki, Matt and Bethan can be seen on the MAF Notice Board between the glass doors at the entrance to IMC.





May 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.



As sometimes occurs these days, we missed an important event from last months newsletter - Maureen and Bruce's 40th wedding anniversary. Many ,many congratulations to you both, we hope all your celebrations went well and that you enjoyed your day. We send love and prayers for blessed years to come.

Congratulations too to Sheila Courtney who celebrates a significant birthday in May. Happy birthday Sheila and many happy returns. Have wonderful day and celebrate well!



Many congratulations to Katie Phillips and Tom Lynes as they marry in Staverton Church on 8 May. We send our very best wishes for a wonderful day for you both, and of course for sunshine! Chris and Chrissy have a busy time this year as they also look forward to their son Peter's wedding in July! We wish you strength, patience and peace in all the arrangements you have to do.

Callum Hill, Pippa and Christian's son, is currently out in South Africa with Soul 61 supporting the work of an orphanage. It's always great to hear what our young people are up to so we can remember them in our prayers. Callum, we send love and prayers from us all and pray the work is fulfilling and enabling. We look forward to hearing more when you return home.



A warm welcome to Margaret Blackhurst, Gill Cowsill's Mum, who has just moved to Brook Road from Salcombe, and who is also celebrating her



90th birthday in the middle of May. Many congratulations Margaret and we hope you have a lovely time celebrating with the family.

There are some poorly people around at the moment and we especially ask your prayers for Jenny Light who is in Mount Gould hospital following a stroke in mid April. She is improving slowly but as with all strokes there is a long journey ahead.



Please also pray for those seeking employment and those whose families are dealing with long term illness.



Farewell Party for Ralph and Adele

There will be a party to say
farewell to Ralph and Adele on
Saturday 16 July.

The time and venue are yet to be
confirmed, but in the meantime,
please put this date in your diary!

60/60 Walk

Thank you to everyone who sponsored us on our walk over Easter. Between us we raised over £700 and we very much appreciate all your donations, prayers and support.

Despite the weather we both had a wonderful time.

Thank you.

Madeline and Sara



Footprints in the Sand



One night I dreamed and dream.

I was walking the beach with my Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand and to my surprise, I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints.

I realised that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

“Lord, you told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I needed You most, You leave me.”

He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you never, ever during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you.”

Ten Ways to Love

- Listen without interrupting (Proverbs 18)
- Speak without accusing (James 1:19)
- Give without sparing (Proverbs 21:26)
- Pray without ceasing (Colossians 1:9)
- Answer without arguing (Proverbs 17:1)
- Share without pretending (Ephesians 4:15)
- Enjoy without complaint (Philippians 2:14)
- Trust without wavering (Corinthians 13:7)
- Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3:13)
- Promise without forgetting (Proverbs 13:12)



Bittaford Methodist Church

Future Events



14 May 7:30 pm

Concert featuring
Yealampton Community Gospel Choir

11 June 7:30 pm

Concert

23 July

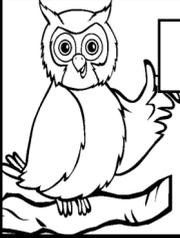
Garden Party

18 September

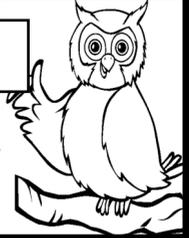
Songs of Praise
Soup and rolls and Cream Tea



Please save these dates in your diary
more details to follow



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

6 May

A Portion of Trouble! with John Hladkij

20 May

Cream Tea: please book your seat!
Leaving IMC at 2:30 pm

3 June

Rev Ralph Ward talks about his visit to Kisumu, Kenya

17 June

A Foreign Tour with Deborah Southon

1 July

The Mystery Treasure Hunt
with Brian and Christine Treharne

15 July

“What the papers say ...”

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

**christian
aid
week**

15-21 MAY

With Christian Aid Week commencing on 15 May, we find ourselves to be short of collectors for certain roads in Ivybridge. We would really appreciate any help you could give us with this so that we can have all these areas covered.

If you would be able to help us in any way, please contact us on 01752 893147.

The sooner you are able to contact us the more roads there will be for you to make your choice from. Thank you.

Sandra and Paul Morgan

Making friends with dogs

Do you need any helping walking your dog? Our son Toby is very scared of dogs, and we would like to find some super gentle, friendly dogs that we can help walk and play with on a regular basis. If Toby can build a relationship with some dogs he will be less scared. We could only take them on short walks, as the children are only 2 and 4.

Please get in touch if we can come and play with your dog!

Thanks,

Sophie

(07730 475958, s_r_phillips@hotmail.co.uk)

PS. If you see Toby at church, please don't talk to him about this!



United Service at Ridgeway

On 22 May at 6:30 pm there will be a United Service at Ridgeway Methodist Church where Paul Jones (of Manfred Mann fame) and his wife Fiona, will be sharing their testimony and leading worship (no Manfred Mann songs though!!) Entry is free, but donations will be welcome to cover running costs.

More details will be announced in church.

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

June Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Tuesday 10 May
at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634

email: contact@jennyhansford.co.uk



Visit our website at

www.ivybridgethodistchurch.co.uk

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website