



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

There is no greater love
than to lay down one's
life for one's friends.
You are my friends if you
do what I command.

John 15:13-14



**November
2015**
Newsletter

From the Minister



The Autumn is always a busy time in church life. There are so many things going on, and by the end of this month our Advent Market will signal that Christmas is once again just around the corner.

This November is a little more significant than usual, as it is the month during which the stationing process takes place: and what this means for you is that at some point someone will come and visit our church with views to becoming your new minister from 1 September next year. Unless you are a circuit steward or a member of our church leadership team then you probably won't even be aware that it is happening - but it is a pivotal time. If the stewards like the look of the visitor then they will issue a formal invitation for them to come here and serve as your new minister. If this person fails to impress, then no invitation will be issued, and the matching process begins again in the New Year. If the minister is issued with an invitation by the circuit, they may accept it or decline it: and in the latter case, again the process begins again in the New Year.

I'm sure that, whatever walk of life you come from, whatever career path you have followed, it's unlikely that you've ever encountered such an odd way of employing people. I suppose the closest comparison could be made to the armed forces, where you are also "stationed"; and all ministers are under discipline to God and to the Methodist Church. But in ministry one is not just randomly sent - there is necessarily a lot of consideration about matching the minister with the right gifts and talents to the right appointment. After all, the Church is very broad both theologically and culturally. And that's why there is such a lot of activity and prayer during November when it all takes place.

If you are not someone who would readily describe themselves as a "Methodist" (and to be honest, I'm one of those people too!) then you may not know that all Methodist ministers move at the same time of year - during August. So if you are up for stationing, as I am, you take delivery of a CD during October that lists all the available ministerial posts across the entire country (or "connexion", as Methodism calls it). With much apprehension Adele and myself go through this catalogue of jobs, nervously hoping there might be somewhere where I could be of value. Then you have to hope and pray that the appointment selected for you to visit is one of those that you liked the look of. It's all about matching, and in fact the



whole business is more like online dating than anything else. Circuits needing a new minister similarly flick through the bundle of ministers' personal profiles, and then the chief matchmakers (that's the chairmen of the Methodist Districts), all gather together from across the country for a massive long meeting, where they all fight over who's getting what (I'm sure it's a lot more spiritual than that, actually).

I often get asked if I can choose my appointment? Well no, the Chairman of District does it. But I can suggest a few that I like the look of. Similarly at this time there are ministers out there across the country who are looking at our church on paper and prayerfully considering whether it might be the place that God has for them to serve in.

And that's the point of it all, actually. We know that God has a plan: a plan for you as an individual, a plan for us as a church. So please pray that His will be done for us, and that a clear vision be given to all concerned in the stationing process.

Some people have asked me whether I can choose what part of the country I would like to serve in: and the answer is no I can't, none of us can. We could end up anywhere, so it's quite an adventure, this ministry lark. But for all of us, the Christian walk is a huge adventure, full of challenges and surprises. The Lord shakes us out of our cosy situations and stretches us into all sorts of different callings. The important thing to remember is that He knows much more about the plan for our lives than we would ever dare to dream ourselves. So the only way that you or I can find real fulfilment in this life is to trust Him - because His ways are not our ways, but His ways are the best.

*"Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."*

God bless

Ralph



Date of this month's Work Day

Saturday 14 November

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!



November Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Nov 1	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Family Service IGNITE
Nov 8	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - <i>Remembrance Sunday</i> Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
Nov 15	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion (<i>Shoe Boxes</i>) Rev Edgar Daniel
Nov 22	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Family Service Rev Ralph Ward
Nov 29	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Miss Judith Walker Dr Philip Walsh
Dec 6	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE

BITTAFORD

Nov 1	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Nov 8	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
Nov 15	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
Nov 22	10:30 am	Mr Tony Kirk
Nov 29	10:30 am	Mr Terry Milam
Dec 6	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 a double issue for December and January. If you would like to include anything in that Newsletter, please let me have the details by Tuesday 10 November 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



With more stalls than ever before you'll find unique crafts, glorious gift ideas and perfect presents!

Don't forget to take time to relax and unwind from the shopping and festive fun in the Café, serving scrumptious crepes and festive food and drink.

Ivybridge Methodist Church
Friday 27 November - 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Saturday 28 November - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm



TUESDAY LUNCHES

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Every Tuesday from 12:30 until 2:00 pm, delicious lunches are served in the Café area of the church. Whether you fancy a light lunch of sandwiches, jacket potato, something on toast, or a full hot meal and dessert, it will be prepared especially for YOU.

A drink comes free with our new MEAL DEAL. The friendly staff will wait on you and if you have special dietary needs we will do our best to accommodate you. Everyone is welcome - no need to book. We'd be delighted to see you.

The idea behind the lunches is that anyone can come along to meet a friend or make a new friend and have chance to chat together over an enjoyable meal, prepared by someone else, whether it is a two course hot meal, or something simpler.



I want to say a huge thank you to all those who were praying for me recently during my stay at Derriford Hospital for my operation. I want you all to know what a BLESSING it was to know that I had prayer backup. It was my first time staying in Derriford for surgery, and I was in pain before the event even with the painkillers. I was told I would need more after, but as I came too I felt numb - but no pain! As hours turned to days - no pain! I felt so good!

It's a bit noisy in the ward at night so instead of counting sheep I prayed - 'BLESS those who are praying for me Lord, bless them back.' It certainly got me to sleep! And I pray my requests were answered! Thank you again!

Next to come is radiotherapy - another chapter.

It reminds me of James 5:13-15: *"Is any of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise! Is anyone of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord!"*

Peter Stanford

Dear Father God

I don't find time enough for You
There's always something else to do
And yet I'm very well aware
Whenever I am free, You're there



At times of stress I've more to say,
When problems just won't go away
"Please help me, Lord, and guide me through -
I just can't manage without You!"

At happier times, when life's just great
I must admit, I hesitate
Distractions come throughout the day
And rarely do I stop to pray.

I sent an email recently
To my daughter, who lives far from me
"You're rather rude," I told her plain
"I'd love to talk, but you refrain"

"When you have needs, 'please ring', you say",
I respond quickly, right away,
But when I see you are on line,
It's "brb" - you don't have time.



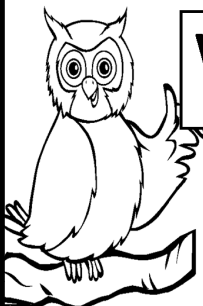
I've thought about that email since,
Who am I trying to convince?
My daughter's failings, I can see
Are duplicated, Lord, in me!

I'm rude, not to make the space
To give to you Your rightful place.
Like me with her, You surely hate
My failure to communicate.

Not just at times of need and strife
You long to feature in my life,
My joys and laughter want to share
As well as troubles, fears and cares.

No need for emails, texts or letters
Or phone calls - prayer is free and better!
Keep me from other things to do -
I need to spend more time with You.

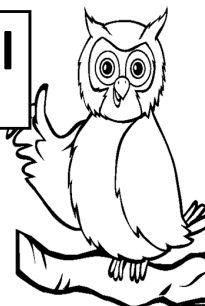




Wise and Wonderful

(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



Autumn programme 2015

November 6

Make and Play

Games, preparation of Christmas Shoe Boxes and stamps for RNIB

November 20

Rev Ralph Ward

December 4

Carols and Crafts, and mince pies of course!

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

David and Christine Moulder 892858



Ivybridge Youth for Christ Promise Auction

We would like to thank everyone who supported us with the Promise Auction held on Friday 2 October 2015 at Pennywell Farm. A good time was had by all and we raised much needed funds. If you would like further details please do not hesitate to contact me.



Kate Duckering

Chair IYFC



Discipleship Pathway

Understanding Healing

7 November 2015 in the Café at Central Hall

4:00 - 6:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 pm

The focus for this time together will be on physical healing. The afternoon session will provide teaching in preparation for the evening. The evening will include worship, some further teaching from the Bible, and opportunity for individual prayer

Afternoon - Physical Healing

- Healing miracles of Jesus
- Dealing with Difficulties
- Testimonies

Evening

- Worship
- Bible Focus
- Opportunity for conversation and prayer for healing
- Worship and Celebration

You are welcome to come along in the evening if you can't make the afternoon. Car parking is available in front of the church on a first come first served basis

Light refreshments (pasty or alternative, salad, drinks) will be available at about 6:00 pm. Please let us know if you would like to be included. Donations would be appreciated

More details:

01752 660997 or

pmchoffice@btconnect.com

Please let us know you're coming, so we can prepare materials

Bittaford Methodist Church
presents

An Advent Concert



Saturday 5 December 2015

at

7:30 pm

A

Seasonal Programme
of Music



For more information contact
Jutta (01752 698381),
Lindsay or Neil

Latest Foodbank news



Our Chair, Sue Johnson, has decided in view of her health problems, to resign with immediate effect but has kindly offered to carry on doing the paper work until we can find someone else to do this. Lydia Farmer has taken up a full-time post and therefore will not have time to fulfil all the admin and Wednesday roles that she carries at the moment, although she will continue to be a Trustee and support our committee.

This leaves Jutta and Val Marriott with our trusty band of volunteers, which is stretched at times, trying to maintain the level of service we offer at the moment.

So whilst considering the future of the Foodbank we want to share the situation the Foodbank is facing and what we need in order to continue to run as we are at present.

We are looking for:

Two new trustees: This would entail monthly meetings, being present on Wednesdays and helping with non-Wednesday food parcel packing and deliveries.

An Administrator who would be responsible for: keeping policies up to date entering stats on to the computer, drawing up the volunteer rotas and compiling the Quarterly Newsletters that get emailed out with them, maintaining volunteer records, training and associated admin.

If you feel able to consider taking on any of the above roles, know anybody else who may be interested, or would like more information about these roles, then please do get in touch.

We would very much like to continue to offer our services to the people of Ivybridge and the surrounding area as there is a small, but definite, need here for us. However, without these vital roles being filled, it will be very difficult for us to do so.

We are so grateful for all the support (in so many ways) that the Food Bank has been shown and offered and if anyone feels able to offer any help at this time please speak to Val Marriott or Jutta Berger.



NOEL AND TRICIA RICHARDS CONCERT

**Monday 16 November
at 7:30 pm**

**in the Discovery Cafe,
(next to Plymouth
Methodist Central Hall)**

A concert featuring songs and conversation about
love, life, friendship and faith from the writers of -
"All Heaven Declares", "By Your side",
"You laid aside Your Majesty", "He has Risen" and many more...

Tickets £10 (includes table snacks and Café open for purchase of drinks).

For more details and tickets contact

pmchoffice@btconnect.com or ring 01752 660997



**Suffering
Church
Action
Week**


barnabasfund
hope and aid for the persecuted church

From the 31 October to the 15 of November 2015 there are a series of events, as part of Barnabas Funds' Suffering Church Action Weeks, in various venues and on Wednesday 4 November they are coming here to IMC.

We are extremely pleased to have three experienced high level speakers on the tour - The Rev Canon Francis Omondi, Dr Jany Haddad and the Rev Dr Patrick Sookhdeo.

The Rev Canon Francis Omondi is from Northern Kenya and will be talking about the persecution of Christians in East Africa. Dr Jany Haddad is based in Syria and will be talking about the plight of Christians there from his own first-hand experience. Rev Dr Patrick Sookhdeo founded Barnabas Fund, a charity dedicated to the persecuted church, and his talks will focus on the challenge facing the church in the United Kingdom from Islam especially in the mid-week meetings.





STRUCK DOWN BUT UNCONQUERED

What we're doing for Suffering Church Action Week

<i>What</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>
<i>Barnabas Fund Speaking Tour Event</i>	Wednesday 4 November <i>19:00-21:00</i>	Ivybridge Methodist Church



**Suffering
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November 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.

Perhaps it's not too soon to say it now - Christmas is nearly here and we look forward to seeing you all at the Advent Market at the end of November. Following that we celebrate Jesus' coming amongst us with all our Christmas services and we look forward to seeing you at those too.



For November though we bring you the news we have gleaned.



In late September Dan Hodgson and Anthony Hill took off on their travels and we hope they have great time. They are planning to see a great deal of the world and will be back in 12 to 15 months' time.

Happy birthday to Carl Hoskins as he clocks up a significant birthday. Many happy returns Carl and hope you celebrate well.



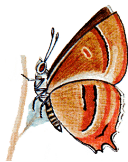
Many congratulations to Adam and Josie Godfrey who recently completed the Royal Parks Half Marathon and, as part of a family team, raised over £6,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Research. They ran in memory of Adam's Father who died of the disease. You did brilliantly guys and we hope the sore muscles are now well recovered.

Barry Jury has recently begun his life as a retired railway man - having served 44+ years. Barry we hope you enjoy the new found freedom and finding new things to do. We hope Aileen enjoys the new way of life too!



By the time this goes to print we hope Matt Bowker and Nic Courtney, who both had surgery in October, and are well on the way to full recovery. Although Nic's stay was unexpected and Matt's planned, a hospital stay is not the most pleasant experience and we do hope your results and well-being are very well worth the stay!!





Many will remember Nicky and Phil Lloyd who worshipped with us some years ago before they moved to East Devon and then to Yorkshire. We are sad to report that Phil died of Leukaemia in October after fighting the disease for a long time and send our love and deepest sympathies to Nicky at this time.



The United Nations World Toilet Day is Thursday 19 November 2015.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/toiletday/>

They claim we *“have a moral imperative to end open defecation and a duty to ensure women and girls are not at risk of assault and rape simply because they lack a sanitation facility”*. 2.5 billion people don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo. That's more than a third of the people on the planet.

Last year we supported Tear Fund's Toilet Twinning

<http://www.toilettwinning.org/>

Church families and our Circuit provided 25 families with a toilet (£60) and two schools with a toilet block (£240) each. Twinning a school block enables girls to spend a full day at school each and every day of the month.

You can, of course, go to the web sites directly but I will have twinning certificates in Church and at the Advent Market. Toilets are being provided in many countries and the certificates picture one already built - your money goes to future builds. Displaying your certificate may remind you how fortunate you are to have your sewage removed without a thought; it may encourage others to think such a strange gift might save a life from ill health or attack; you will be funding one family's well-being.

Two of the Church's eight toilets are twinned.

Vic Abbott

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
December/January Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Tuesday 10 November
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