

sharing Life Sharing Faith

You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.

Psalm 65:11

New Year ... Same Jesus

September 2015
Vewsletter

From the Minister



The New Year starts here! Forget 1 January, September is really where it all starts. The schools are back, the children are out from under your feet all day, the family have been and gone, your Summer holidays are probably well and truly over. I hope you've had the opportunity to chill out a bit during the Summer months, but now our church life engages again for the Autumn, and there are great things coming up for us to enjoy and experience together as a fellowship.

If you've been on holiday for a fortnight from work, you'll know how difficult it is to re-engage with your job in the first few days back. There seems to be a mountain of stuff to catch up on, and there's a discipline in getting re-motivated and "up to speed", particularly if you're fortunate enough to have been lying on a beach somewhere for the past two weeks unwinding. It can be quite stressful. My mother-in-law came to visit us during August; and she recalls the experience, as a child growing up in south-east London, of going each year with her extended family on holiday to Whitsands Bay. As the holiday grew nearer they would all become increasingly excited at the prospect of going to sunny Cornwall, but the sting in the tail came when they reached the last day of their holiday, and had to start packing their cases to go home. My mother-in-law described this as an awful feeling, knowing that the fun was over for another year and they would have to return to the smoky city and the hardships that awaited them.

So as Christians, do we ever feel the same about re-engaging with our church life after the holiday period? If you hold office in the church, whatever your role, do you resume your ministry with trepidation, wondering what the Lord will be requiring of you this year? Our faith is our most precious possession, but we need to work at it to develop and mature as Christians, and to ensure that we remain in step with the Spirit. Is the task of living and walking for Jesus for another year filling you with eagerness, or trepidation?

Well here's some good news, and I can take no credit for it. It formed part of the message delivered by one of the speakers at this year's Hillsong Conference at the 02 in London, which Adele and I attended in July, and I reproduce it here in the hope that it inspires you as it did me. Romans 12:1 says this: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship."

Imagine that you order a pizza, and when the delivery man arrives at your door he presents it without a box. You wouldn't accept it. So the box, whilst it adds nothing to the flavour of the pizza, is essential to the delivery. God desires to make use of each one of us as a vessel for His grace and power; all we have to do is make ourselves available – "present our bodies" – and He will take our offering and use it mightily for His glory. We are simply an empty container, which God wants to fill with His Spirit to proclaim His Kingdom.

Sometimes we start thinking that we have to become the pizza itself, but that is like saying that we are part of God himself. All we need to be is empty and available, like a box. A temple for the Spirit, clay for the Potter. We don't need to be super-Christians, supremely confident and fantastic at everything we do. We just need to be available. In fact consider the characters that God chose in scripture to become His vessels: people like Moses (a stumbler over his words), and David (an adulterer!). God doesn't choose the proud, He chooses the humble as His vessels - consider Mary the mother of Jesus as an example.

So we need to make ourselves available to God this Autumn. But there's more required if He is to use you as a vessel for His grace and glory: you need to be empty, and you need to be clean. God uses us through brokenness before Him, emptied of our sin and pride. Living a Christian life is a discipline and a lifestyle distinct from the standards of the world around us. But if we are prepared to live it, repenting of our sins and receiving the Lord's forgiveness, then we are clean and purified and ready to receive Him.

Let's all invite in the Spirit anew, that He may fill us and use us to proclaim His glory and establish His Kingdom in our midst.

God bless

Ralph



PLEASE NOTE
New times for Tuesday Lunches

From Tuesday 1 September lunches will be served from 12:30 - 2:00 pm.



September Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Sep 6	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE
Sep 13	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Family Service Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
Sep 20	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Paul Courtney NO SERVICE as we will be joining Bittaford for their Songs of Praise Service (see page 10)
Sep 27	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Ralph Ward
Oct 4	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE
Oct 11	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Harvest Rev Ralph Ward - Communion

BITTAFORD

Sep 6	10:30 am	Mrs Di Smart
Sep 13	10:30 am	Mrs Alfreda Rogers
Sep 20	2:30 pm 6:30 pm	NO SERVICE Songs of Praise (see page 10)
Sep 27	10:30 am	Mr Keith Angilley
Oct 4	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Oct 11	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 ...

Our next Newsletter will be in October and if you would like to include anything in that Newsletter, please let me have the details by Thursday 10 September 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



Ivybridge Youth for Christ

FUN AT THE FARM AND AUCTION OF PROMISES

Friday 2 October from 7:00 pm at Pennywell Farm & Wildlife Centre, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0LT



Auction items and promises welcomed

Contact 898546 or ivybridge@yfc.co.uk

Prophetic Art Workshop



with Jayne Luscombe

Saturday 3 October 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Yealmpton Methodist Community Church

£25 per person

Come and spend a day on Saturday 3 October at Yealmpton Methodist Community Church, PL8 2NA. Learn how to dwell in the presence of God, be released to worship God creatively and express His heart through prophetic art. This Prophetic Art Workshop is a 'hands on' opportunity to use the gift we were all born with, and be inspired to paint. This workshop is designed for everyone, whether this is the first time you've picked up a paint brush since school or you are already a seasoned



artist. All materials supplied included in the price. Feel free to bring your own paint brushes if you wish.

Booking essential. Please book by Friday 25 September Please contact: Jayne Luscombe - Prophetic Artist

Tel: 07504 880478, email: luskies-@hotmail.com or book by posting the booking form below. £25 per person. Please bring a packed lunch. Light refreshments included.

Please send to: 60 Long Park, Modbury, PL21 0RP

You are invited to our...



Open House Coffee Morning

Saturday 10 October 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

6 Bittaford Terrace, Bittaford, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 ODX (Opposite the Church!)

Tel: 01752 893839

There will be tea & coffee, cakes (to eat and to take away!), cards, gift wrap, charity Christmas cards and much more, with funds raised supporting Bittaford Methodist Church and Ugborough & Bittaford Pre School.

If you're able to pop in it would be lovely to see you!

Nic & Paul Courtney





... and continuing to pray for our community

The Simple Steps of prayer

Adoration - Our Father in heaven
Petition - Give us this day
Intercession - Your Kingdom come
Perseverance - Your will be done
Listening - Our daily bread
Warfare - Deliver us from evil

At Ivybridge Methodist Church we learn to pray by praying; God doesn't need an interpreter, He knows our hearts and He wants a personal relationship with each of us and it's exciting to think we can all try!

At this very moment someone, somewhere is praying. In over 100 nations and in different kinds of churches, as well as schools, homes, prisons, campuses, tents, festivals, shops and more, people are discovering new ways to pray.

This September at IMC, launching from The National Prayer Weekend, we are going to try to reach out into our community and engage with as many local businesses and enterprises as we can - shops, schools, college, medical practises, care homes, council, police etc.

- We are going to offer prayer, explaining the national prayer campaign and offering prayer from your local Church, so is there ... "Anything that's weighing heavily on your mind, or anything in particular you'd like to thank God for?"
- 2. We will simply gather a name and a condition to keep it fairly anonymous, God will know the detail!
- 3. If people engage with this then we can offer a mini prayer booklet provided by IMC to explain more about prayer.
- 4. The names will be gathered and divided amongst house-groups who will lift up those names to God on a regular basis, weekly or fortnightly.



5. After two months, at the end of November, we'll go back and remind the people that we have been praying and ask if there have been any changes, gathering any feedback or encouragement. We'll then provide dates of Christingle and Christmas services and offer them the opportunity to come along and join us for a service, bringing along their friends and family.

In doing this we hope to understand more fully the hopes and hurts of our community, experiencing more of God's presence in this place and sharing more of His love for His people.

Many of us over the years have been to conferences and festivals and places of rest where we've experienced new passion, vision, depth and unity and have discovered that prayer cannot be contained; it spills out into mission and mercy. Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord.

More announcements regarding The National Prayer Weekend will follow shortly @ IMC.

Contact Gill Cowsill or Christian Hill for more details.

EXTRA TUITION

Would your child benefit from some extra tuition to help them at school?

I'm currently studying for my A-Levels at Ivybridge Community College and plan to become a teacher after studying French at University. I am keen to tutor anyone in KS2 or KS3 in any subject required, including preparation for KS2 SATS and the 11+ Exam. My fee is £12 an hour/£6 for half an hour.

I am also available for babysitting (fee at your discretion!)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any more information.

Thanks.

Hannah Reeves

Tel: 01752 894623 Mobile: 07936 362777 Email: hannahreeves@hotmail.co.uk



Bittaford Methodist Church Garden Party

September 20th 3pm - 6pm

Bouncy Castle, Cream Teas, Barbecue, Craft Stalls



Songs of Praise 6:30 pm

Family Service in the Garden
With your Favourite Hymns
taken by Ralph Ward



Welcome to new members at the Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 20 Grosvenor Court. We meet at 10:00 am for coffee, and finish at 11:50 am.

Starting on Tuesday 8 September we will be studying 1 Samuel.

Autumn Programme

8 September DVD Saul and David. Saul anointed King, and Samuel's

Farewell - (Chapters 9, 10 and 12)

<u>29 September</u> Saul Rejected - (Chapters 13 and 15)

<u>13 October</u> David Anointed - (Chapter 16)

David and Goliath - (Chapter 17)

27 October Saul tried to kill David - (Chapters 18 and 19)

10 November David and Jonathan - (Chapters 20 and 21)

24 November David spares Saul - (Chapter 24)

Nabal and Abigail - (Chapter 25)

8 December Saul and the Witch of Endor - (Chapter 28)

Saul and Jonathan die - (Chapter 31)

Over the last year some of us elderly members of the congregation have been entertained by the members of the Girls' Brigade. They have treated us to "tea" so that they can practice their "Hostessing Skills".

This was very much appreciated by us all, especially as they were very interested in what life was like in our childhood; the games we played and the hobbies we took part in during the various decades that we grew up in.

We certainly hope that you all passed your test, and have your badges to prove it!

So we ladies and gentlemen who received this wonderful privilege would like to say a very big THANK YOU to you all and also your leaders.

Wishing you God's blessing.



September 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.



We are delighted to announce that Liz and Andy Bawn are Grandparents once more as daughter and son-in-law Anna and Ady became the proud parents of Charlotte Elizabeth (they thought of it first!!) born on 4 August weighing 8lbs 9oz. So a warm welcome to baby Charlotte and we hear her big sister

Bella is pretty pleased with her too. Many congratulations and love to all the family and we hope you have much joy as a newly shaped family.

It was delight to welcome both Libby McPartlin and Isaac Luscombe into the church family by baptism recently and we look forward to watching them grow up amongst us. It is also good to remember to honour our promise to pray for all our young people.





Caitlin Welch and Chris Fox are getting married here at IMC on 5
September at 2:00 pm. We wish you lots of peace in the final
preparations and much joy as you take on everything your new
life together in Canterbury will hold. Have a wonderful day
and we pray the weather will smile on you as you celebrate.

Jo and Andy Smart have now moved up to Coads Green near Launceston for Jo to begin her Ministry as a Methodist Minister in the Launceston Circuit. Quite a few from this church were able to go to Coads Green last month to support Jo at her Welcome Service, and as Ralph said, when he prayed for them



both, we send them off with our prayers, love and wishes for God's richest blessings for their time there.



Ben Gentle is due to return from his travels at the end of August and will be starting to do a year of training to be a primary school teacher with Devon SCITT beginning in September. As this is being written he is finishing off a trip around the USA with two friends. He has visited

Vancouver Island, Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks, Vegas and the Great Lakes and then surfed his way down the west coast, quite a trip! The Gentle family are all looking forward to seeing the photos!





Congratulations must go to Vicky Llewellyn as she gained a 2:1 in Education Studies. It has been hard work requiring lots of determination but what a result. We send all our best wishes for the future Vicky.

Also congratulations to Jo gentle who passed her NQT year with flying colours and is now a fully qualified teacher!



A levels and GCSE's are over once more and as you would expect some of our young people are delighted, whilst others are spending time discerning new paths. To you all we say very well done and whichever path opens up for you we wish you God's speed and many blessings. We'll let you know who is at

which University in our next issue.

September brings lots of new starts and several of our younger young people are starting school and some of our older young people are off to University. To them all we send our very best wishes and prayers for a good settling in and a great experience thereafter.



Bethel

A more unusual new start - Ben Stephenson is spending nine months at the Bethel School of Ministry in Redding, California. By the time this is in circulation Ben will be there and it would be great if we could continue to pray

for him. We look forward to hearing how he is getting on. We hope it is a very blessed time Ben.

Jasmine Hladkij and Harriet Pope continue to have success in their rowing careers, winning a race for Totnes in a recent tournament. Harriet rows and Jaz is Cox which sounds a great team and we send congratulations and good wishes for future success.





There are still folk struggling with ill health in our congregation and we would ask for your prayers for them in these difficult times.

Our love and sympathy go Pat and Mick Robinson and their family on the loss of Pat's Mum, Edie. We know how hard

these times are and send our love as you come to terms with life without Edie.

Many will know Betty Cridland and that recently she hasn't been well. Following an operation and recuperation in Kingsbridge Hospital, Betty is now



in Ivydene and would welcome visitors. Also Chris Gentle's father, Richard, has recently moved down into Ivydene and we wish him all the best as he settles into life in Ivybridge and particularly Ivydene.

Our prayers are needed for Peter and Corli during the next few weeks, for those recovering from major illness, for those struggling with employment issues and for those who are still seeking to find their place within IMC.



News from Bittaford

A big thank you to everyone who has supported any of the events at Bittaford this summer in any way. The very enjoyable three evening concerts raised a total of £1,000.

We were blessed with one of the few mostly sunny, dry days this summer for the Garden Party which was a great success, enjoyed by all



age groups. With the money raised by that, plus Green Pastures, Egg and Jam Sales and other donations a further £1,000 has been banked. Congratulations to all who worked so hard on these projects.



In addition, the first and only Christening to be held here during Ralph's ministry was well attended on 28 June.

Turn to page 10 of this newsletter for details of our next Garden Party followed by a Songs of Praise Service.



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

September 11

Special Constable - Mike Antonio

September 25

Harvest Happening "Farming is a family affair!" with Mary Andrew

October 9

"Our sponsor family in India" with Kirsten and Duncan Knowles.

October 23

"Behind the Scenes - Sara Hladkij

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









About 80 people attended the Songs of Praise Service last month and enjoyed singing a variety of hymns and songs led by the Totnes Brass Band. Some people shared why a hymn or

song had special meaning for them, and the evening was enhanced by plenty of tea/coffee and cakes.

STUDENT LINK IMC news wherever you are!



Are you (or one of your children) off to university this September?

Keep in touch with your home church by joining the IMC Student Link Group.

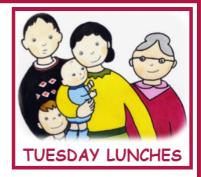
Please send you Uni address to Paul & Nic Courtney and keep in touch.

Tel. 01752 893839

Email: pauljamescourtney@hotmail.com

Amend your diaries!

Sorry folks, due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change the date for our next lunchtime special. The date will now be Tuesday 6 October at 12:30 pm and we will be serving a Harvest Lunch in the Café that will be well worth waiting for!



The three course meal will consist of -

A cool melon starter; Succulent roast pork, roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables and all the trimmings; Autumn pudding and cream.

All this for just £7 including drinks. Where else could you get a treat like that except at Ivybridge Methodist Church?

Please book by the end of September by ringing Mercy on 893812, emailing her at bmercy.matthews@homecall.co.uk or speaking to her at church.

Everybody is welcome.

Dates of the next Work Days



12 September 10 October 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!

Getting to know you!



Julia Johnston

I moved to Ivybridge in 2012 with my now 16 year old daughter Chloe. I am currently enjoying the summer holidays whilst filling my home with various foster children, camping and preparing for my new job as an English Teacher at Lipson Academy in Plymouth.

God has been so good to me in my life and I have been blessed with a secure job, nice house with a great circle of family and friends which is ever growing.

I started going to church around 10 years ago, I wasn't a Christian then but I knew I wanted to have a good grounding to raise my child by. After a few years a friend introduced me to her church which is very

similar to Ivybridge - lively and Spirit led worship and relevant preaching which challenges and inspires. It wasn't long before I responded to a call to put the Three—in—One first, and I was Baptised in 2012. Initially I felt that God had forgotten me, but looking back I can clearly see the changes He has made in me. I have found my joy in being surrounded by the natures that God has provided rather than boozey nights out!

When I first moved to Ivybridge, I felt a bit isolated as I didn't know anyone. Chloe quickly became part of the youth here at IMC and has nurtured her relationship with Jesus with the guidance of her church family. Thank you to Phil and all of the youth who are constantly growing in the Father's image. God spoke to me after being unsuccessful in finding a house group and called me to start my own - I feel this was the start of God's purpose for me unfolding.

I started a house group for single ladies and introduced this through a breakfast. LIFT Prayer Breakfast was initially a one-off, however there seemed to be a need for a regular prayer group for women in Ivybridge so this has become a regular group, not part of my plan but again I felt this was God leading the way. The Prayer Breakfasts are held on the first Saturday of every month at 9:30 am in the Concourse here at IMC. The LIFT Prayer Breakfast calls all women from a large number of churches and marital statuses.

However, I still felt a call for singles' ministry and have started up a singles' gathering for men and women, not to date, but to find fellowship with each other.

Many people think that a singles meeting must be to find 'the one', however that is often far from the reality. I have been single forever, well okay since I gave my life to Jesus, and I can honestly say that I have found inner happiness, joy and peace in making Jesus 'the One' for me. Many friends ask how I get that and I realised I had something I could share.

Since starting the singles group for men and women, a large number of single people in Plymouth and Ivybridge have rejoiced in their singleness, they have 'had a new heart' and 'been restored'. I am excited about what else God has planned for Singles' Ministry as it seems to be growing every week with more and more Singles gathering together sharing in fellowship, prayer and worship. Being single means that you can have an intimacy with God that you may not have when you are married. Unless people pass at the same time as their spouse, we are all going to experience a time of being single.



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

October Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Thursday 10 September

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 mrmerrit@icloud.com