



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



May 2015
Newsletter



From the Minister

I recently received an email from a guy who is studying at Bible College. It happens fairly regularly - someone who is engaged in studies, often training for ordained ministry, sends out a questionnaire to random church leaders across the region (or nationally) to discover our experiences or opinions on various Christian matters. Sometimes they are focussing on bereavement, or worship, or difficult moral or ethical issues. Sometimes they target me specifically because they remember me from somewhere or other and want to ask about specialised stuff like schools ministry.

But this particular chap sent me 20 or so questions on a wide range of topics, pretty generic and aimed presumably at a wide range of church leaders. These covered topics like my personal prayer life and Bible Study, and some questions about how much of a fundamentalist I might be. One question jumped out from the rest and has stayed with me since, so I thought I'd share it with you:

"No 23. In Corinthians it talks about the gifting of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12, 13 and 14). Do you believe they are still available today? If so why and if not why not?"

Kind of him to inform me where in the Bible the gifts occur, I thought indignantly. And then ... seriously? There are church leaders who don't believe in the gifts of the Spirit?

Well, yes, the truth is that there are. And not just church leaders - many Christians are uneasy or sceptical about the Gifts, especially things like Tongues. It's easy to see why: the Christian life is so much more comfortable without the Holy Spirit. Our faith can dwell securely in the past, and there is no expectation of anything supernatural occurring to worry us or wake us up. The trouble is, this is not real Christianity.

You may remember me preaching on Easter Sunday morning (it's okay if you don't!). I find Easter Sunday quite tricky for preaching - I mean, it's less about exposition and more about proclamation. All that I feel I can reasonably do on Easter Sunday morning is to say, "look, Jesus is not dead, He's alive." And at some point early on in your faith walk you simply have to accept that the resurrection is not a myth but an actual historical event,



unlikely as it might appear to be. If Jesus is dead, then there is no Christian faith. If He is alive, then there needs to be some evidence to support it. And that's where the Spirit comes in.

In the weeks leading up to Easter I toured around many RE classes at the Community College in Ivybridge, telling them the truth of the Easter story. One of the most popular questions that the students kept asking was this: Why, if Jesus rose from the dead as a living breathing human being, did He have to leave us 40 days later? Why didn't He just stick around as a human being forever? Surely, if He is fully God, He can be immortal even in human form? Imagine Him being there throughout history, playing a key role in the affairs of the world. Imagine Him now in 2015, making regular TV appearances. Why did He have to go?

Well as usual, this is a simple question to ask but requires a long and complicated answer, parts of which dig deep into theological thought. For me though, there is a simple reason why Jesus had to leave us from the mountain after 40 days of resurrection appearances. As He said himself,

"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7)

Jeremiah prophesied that *"No longer will they ... say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.* (Jeremiah 31:34)

In order for us to get to know Jesus in these times, and to belong to Him, it is simply not enough to have Him somewhere in the world as a human. We would probably never meet Him, and He would always be distant and unattainable. By Jesus leaving us to be with the Father in heaven, He promises to send us this "Advocate" (the Holy Spirit), and this means that all of us who believe can have the Lord not only walking with us, but in us as well. Jesus promised us that the Spirit would equip us with gifts that would proclaim His Kingdom in greater ways than He had done Himself through His earthly ministry. This month sees one of the most significant events in our Christian calendar, Pentecost. This is the day that the Spirit was first poured out on the apostles, and God has been pouring His Spirit into people ever since. He (the Spirit) proclaims God's presence, and fulfils His will.

For many Christians we are nervous about abandoning ourselves to the Spirit in case we are unwittingly falsifying the gifts. We are hesitant to share prophecy, words of knowledge or wisdom, in case we are getting it wrong and



(without meaning to), making it up. Don't worry, this happens, no one will judge you for it (though they may sometimes correct you!). If Christianity is a swimming pool, don't tiptoe round the edge, dipping your toes in, fearing that the water might be cold. Instead, take a leap in at the deep end, trusting in God. You will find that faith in the Spirit is exhilarating and fun, and once you've been in the water you will never want to get out. Bear Grylls summed it up best when he once compared faith to swimming: he said that you can feel the water all around you, supporting you and refreshing you. But try explaining how it feels to someone who has never tried swimming ... it almost defies description.

The Spirit must be real, in the same way that the resurrection must be real. Without either our faith is in vain. God wants us to trust Him and mature in our trust. If you are a parent you will know that as your children grow you have to learn to let them go and not do everything for them. So it is with our faith, neatly summed up here in Hebrews 11:1.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

On the night of the Last Supper, as Jesus talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit, He promised that He would not leave us alone, but would always be with us. So with boldness, let us welcome Him into our hearts and seek to experience His presence and guidance with us, this Pentecost and beyond.

God bless

Ralph

From the Editor ...

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



May Worship

IVYBRIDGE

May 3	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE
May 10	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
May 17	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Family Service Miss Sue Bolt
May 24	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Andrew Day
May 31	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Rev Ralph Ward
June 7	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion IGNITE
June 14	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward Rev Ralph Ward - Communion

BITTAFORD

May 3	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
May 10	10:30 am	Ms Deniz Carey
May 17	2:30 pm	Rev Ralph Ward - Communion
May 24	10:30 am	Mrs Val Marriott
May 31	10:30 am	Mr John Pointon
June 7	10:30 pm	Rev David Youngs - Communion
June 14	10:30 am	Mrs Ann Cullum

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



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.

Welcome to the news slot this month, we hope you enjoy reading it.

We missed it last month but it is always lovely to have a baby to welcome, and on 27 March Corli and Peter welcomed baby Poppy into their family. From the photos she looks beautiful and we send congratulations and very best wishes to all the family, especially to Corli and Peter as they have another grandchild to love and spoil!



April was "a bit of a month" for health scares and accidents but glad to say that for all the folk we know about things are improving.

Tony Merriman is home from hospital following his heart problems and back to being busy again - good to know all is OK Tony.

Geraldine Abbott is convalescing after her fall and subsequent operation to fix a broken femur - she is amazingly positive and gradually getting used to crutches, and we hope all continues to go well Geraldine.

Diana Bond has been in hospital for surgery and Diana we hope your recovery is progressing well and you'll be back to church and life in general very soon.

Pat Fox has had a very long stay in hospital and been through a very tough time. Pat we hope now you are home your journey back to full health and strength will be speedy. We send you our love too.

Congratulations to Jenny Light who celebrated a significant birthday early in April. Good to know all your celebrations went well Jenny, and we wish you many happy returns.



Many congratulations too to Treve and Carole Mitchell who celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on 15 May. We hope the next years bring you both much joy together.

Warmest congratulations to Fern Galloway, Chris Hedge's daughter, who has just qualified as a Doctor. Well done Fern, you have an amazing amount of perseverance and



determination and we pray F1 and F2 live up to expectation and don't wear you out!! Fern will continue to study within the NE London Deanery.



Kim Gentle has been having a very exciting and busy time of late whilst working in Belize as an Expedition Doctor for Trekforce. She is focussing on Jungle Medicine and doing a lot of training in casualty retrieval etc, it also sounds as though she has found some interesting bugs. Below is a quote from Kim after she had completed the 200 mile La Ruta Maya canoe race.

"I've just finished the La Ruta Maya, which was a four day canoe race down the Belizian River. We paddled over 200 miles over that time, which was really hard work! We would start paddling at 7:00 am, and finish for the day at about 4:00 pm. Everything hurt so much! My arms, shoulders, hands and bottom in particular! It was important to find ways to distract ourselves from all our aching muscles so we would sing lots of songs. We also had "Storytime" everyday at 12:00. Each of us (there were 3 of us on the canoe) would choose a topic that we were passionate to talk about. Some of the topics included Sailing races, Gothic Architecture, Formula One, The History of Medicine. It was really interesting and kept us going! On the fourth day we finished the race in Belize City, and it felt amazing to finally finish it! "

Quite an experience to have. Kim was delighted to know she has the post she really wanted at Derriford for her core training (CT 1) in medical care, which includes most of the medical specialties. This will begin in August.

Congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Anderson! Becky and Nick's wedding was a wonderful day and all the celebrations went well and were enjoyed by all.



Cake Sale

There will be a cake sale after the morning service on Sunday 17 May to raise sponsorship for Rob and Steve Cowsill who are undertaking the 100 mile London cycle ride in August, Rob in aid of Mind and Steve in aid of Alzheimers. You can also support them further by visiting either of these websites -

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BobbyCowsill>

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StephenCowsill>

Your support will be greatly appreciated!



MISSING MAPS

Would you like to do some humanitarian work prior to a future disaster? Would you like to do mapping in Haiti, Zimbabwe or Vanuatu? If you

have a laptop and can use a mouse, perhaps you'd like to meet at Church to map parts of the world we'd never otherwise reach.

The basis for this is the crowdsourcing, internet-mapping system, "Open Street Map" (www.openstreetmap.org). You might like to look at this (and Register) and practice mapping your house and your neighbours' houses.

Médecin sans Frontière, the British Red Cross and the American Red Cross have taken this system and are asking for crowdsourcing input via "Missing Maps" (<http://www.missingmaps.org/>). You can take satellite imagery and turn it into line mapping which will be sent to in-country, trained staff to travel the area to ground-truth your work – adding in street names and identifying buildings,

Whereas you don't need me to get you going, you might find it useful in case there are questions I can answer. You would need to think of giving a couple of hours and you will have to look carefully at the screen and make decisions on whether a line is a road or pathway (you get some help from photographs of the surrounding countryside). All our work gets checked by expert validators and then the linework is checked on site anyway.

If you would like to have a go, please email me on this new email, Britain.ireland@gmail.com

Thank you,

Victor Abbott



Dates of the next Work Days

May 9th

June 6th -

(Please note this is 1st Saturday in June)

July 11th

August No Work Day

Please come along from 9:30 am onwards and help to keep our Church building clean, tidy and welcoming for all its users.

Delicious coffee and cakes from "Wesleys" and free lunch for all helpers!

When Faith is shaken



On 3 June starting 7:30 pm we will be visited at IMC by Patrick Regan, leader of XLP ministries, as part of his current tour. Some of us have heard Patrick speak at events such as Spring Harvest, New Wine and Soul Survivor - he is superb and inspirational, and we are very pleased that he is coming to share with us. Here is some information about the event:

A fantastic opportunity to join Patrick Regan OBE and singer song-writer Andy Flannagan on this limited date tour. Patrick will be exploring themes from his latest book 'When Faith is Shaken', and Andy will be performing some of the songs from his highly successful album: 'Drowning in the Shallow'. This is an ideal opportunity to create a mid-week event for all the small groups in your area to come along to and be challenged, refreshed and inspired.

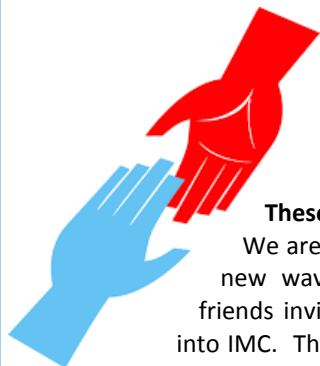
What do you do when life falls apart and it feels as though God has left you? How do you keep going when your faith has been rocked to the core? We all go through painful times but sometimes things get so hard we're not sure where God is or what He's up to.

For Patrick there was pain, illness and loss in his family and community. Then he faced a series of excruciating operations that took him to the brink physically, emotionally and spiritually. Writing during his journey of recovery, Patrick takes an honest look at how we find God in these times of suffering. He wrestles with how we can know God's peace when life is anything but peaceful, what the true nature of courage is, how we allow ourselves the grace to rest when we're running on empty, and how we can stay fully present in the moment - all so we can ultimately grasp the love of God at a deeper level.

Tickets will be priced at £5 and are available from Ralph
(ralphward@talktalk.net or 01752 651424).

Please tell your friends.





Evangelism/Outreach – IMC 2015 *It's All About Numbers!*

These are exciting times!

We are seeing steady new growth and optimism creating new waves of interest in all that church can provide; friends inviting friends and people new to the area coming into IMC. They are putting their confidence in God and God is putting His confidence in us as a Church that we can learn to provide and to grow together.

From The Alpha Course last autumn, people new to IMC were coming in off the street, obviously hungry to know more of God through all that Alpha can offer - many, many weeks seeking a 'new life' amongst new faces, that's quite some commitment and some hunger isn't it? A huge commitment for us too, and we should take a moment to rejoice in this work because it stirs us on to greater things, further obedience and greater blessing. Tempting just to give a quick but heartfelt hallelujah and then move on to another project but let's just reflect for a moment...

Old Heart New Hunger

This is exactly the sort of hunger in our faith that we ALL need, not a hunger that just consumes all that's set before it but a ravenous hunger that drives us to stop at nothing to know more of His presence in our lives. We can't just rely on a Sunday morning and perhaps a housegroup meeting, there are so many more ways to nurture the flame He has put in each of us - "Lord, help us to be famished for you!" So easily we become complacent and forget that we have a calling to press on; God has a plan for each of us and we all have to find ways to keep pushing in to it, keep moving forward.

Hunger + Humility = Breakthrough

We do what we do for God's glory not our own, increasingly we are pushing out and becoming more confident as a Church with green shoots of outreach ministry popping up everywhere. We have Street Pastors, Foodbank and Healing on the Streets led from IMC and now we are involved in joining with The Salvation Army to form a Street Café for youth. Later this year could potentially see Parish Nursing and other welfare schemes come to fruition, all of these projects actively showing God's love for the lonely and the vulnerable in society. With authentic, spirit filled commitment to these works, and



others, we will see God's love breaking through in ways we could never imagine but we must get down on our knees give it all to Him and be filled by His Spirit who will sustain us and guide us.

Next Steps ... take a breath!

We know the Christian life is a spiritual battle and we know that God's people have always faced obstacles and challenges, but we must not be intimidated, the good news is that God has provided for us - we are liberated by the cross. Frequently bumping along the bottom of my faith I try and reach up and break through, connecting with God through worship and prayer. We must draw our strength from a deep personal relationship with Him, He is there for us and we must stay close and constantly remember to clothe ourselves in every part of the 'armour of God'.

Numbers

The book of Numbers sees Israel as a fighting force preparing for battle and as Church we too can prepare for some of the battles that we are bound to face by:

- **Seeking instruction from God** - He can speak to us in the midst of whatever darkness we are going through
- **Supporting good leadership** - As Phil Blunt said, following Jesus with authenticity we are all 'leaders' to somebody.
- **Being Proactive** - God rewards faithfulness, if we are only half-committed to Him we miss out on so much.

Juggling our busy lives, let's commit to pressing in this year and spending more time in His presence, waiting on Him, and as our heart stirs, seeing where He is already at work and stepping in to play our part and experience more of His love.

COOK WANTED FOR CHEWSDAY LUNCHES

We are looking for a new cook to join the team cooking lunches every Tuesday at church. Could you cook a meal for about 25 people every 5-6 weeks? Nothing fancy, just honest, everyday, tasty food.



You would be well supported by the rest of the team. It's fun, good company, a chance to get to know other people from church and a free meal for you!

If you are interested, Mercy would be delighted to hear from you. You can ring her on 893812 or email: bmercy.matthews@homecall.co.uk

Getting to know you!



Joy and Nigel Phillips

Nigel was born in Ivybridge and has lived here ever since. He attended both junior and secondary school in the town. After an apprenticeship in a REME workshop he worked as a motor mechanic in a local garage for 31 years before being made redundant, he then became a maintenance engineer for a commercial diving company based at Lee Mill until very recent retirement. Nigel was also a Retained Fire Fighter here in Ivybridge for about 15 years, a Scout leader for a number of years and has for many years been involved in assisting to train students for the Ten Tors Challenge from Ivybridge Community College.

Brought up in a Christian family, he attended Sunday school at St John's Church where he was also confirmed then became "converted " to Methodism when he met Joy.

Joy is from a Cornish Methodist farming family, being born near Callington. Having always attended Chapel, she made a commitment as a teenager through her school Christian Union, and has found her faith gradually growing and deepening over the years. She trained in Residential Child Care and worked in Hampshire and Exeter before coming to live in Ivybridge after marrying Nigel. Joy has worked at Dame Hannah Rogers for the past 17 years as a cook.

We met in 1977 at an MG Car Club event, of which Nigel was a member, and were married in 1979. We have been members at IMC for the past 36 years, have made many friends and been involved in various aspects of church life. Both of us are Property Stewards and both have also served on the Church Council. Joy has helped in Junior Church and served as a Church Steward. At present she helps at Songs and Stories, is on the "Wesley's" Rota and volunteers at the Food bank.

We have a son and a daughter who were both christened and married here at IMC. We feel very blessed that they still live locally and continue to worship with us here along with our four grandchildren.

Our main hobby is Hill Walking. We have recently completed the 630 South West Coast Path with friends. This took us about 5 years of weekends and day



trips. We enjoy walking locally on Dartmoor but have also walked in many different areas of the UK and abroad. Nigel is also interested in local archaeological history and our walks on the moors usually include points of interest relating to this. He also enjoys DIY, gardening and carpentry. Joy enjoys reading and crosswords and also regularly swims and attends Pilates classes. We both enjoy entertaining and spending time with family and friends particularly our four young grandchildren who keep us on our toes



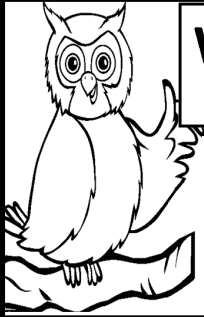
Ladies In Faith and Fellowship Together

Event	Time/date	What to expect
House Group	Wed 6 May	<i>'Lady of Virtue'</i> Ruth Chapter 3
House Group	Wed 13 May	<i>'Lady of Virtue'</i> Proverbs 31:10-31
House Group	Wed 20 May	<i>'Lady of Virtue'</i> Ephesians 5:18
House Group	Wed 27 May	<i>'Lady of Devotion'</i> 1 Cor 7:34-35
House Group	Wed 3 June	<i>'Lady of Devotion'</i> Jeremiah 29:12-13
Bring & Share Breakfast	Sat 6 June 9:30 am	All welcome

A women's only group for women of all ages, marital status' and journeys with Jesus.

LIFT House Group meets every Wednesday from 7:30 pm at 21 Bedford Grove, Ivybridge for prayer and study, and whilst aimed at single women is suitable for all. We will be studying from "Lady in Waiting: Becoming God's best while waiting for Mr Right" by Jackie Kendal, which is a study guide from inspiring women from the Bible. For more details contact Julia Johnston on 07890 280634.

The Prayer Breakfast is an inspiring morning, and due to popular demand will be a monthly event for ALL women.

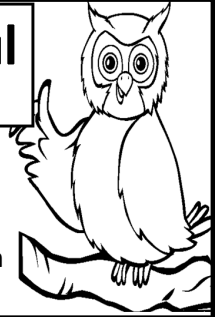


Wise and Wonderful

(because that is what we are)

Fellowship for "third-agers", all are welcome. We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.

Meetings are on Fridays, 2.30 - 4:00 pm
with a charge of £1 each time



Summer programme 2015

15 May

Question Time - Ask our panel of experts about gardening, cooking, and the story of old Ivybridge

29 May

Mystery Trip led by Brian and Christine Treharne

12 June

Shaun the Sheep invites you for films and popcorn.

26 June

Annual Cream Tea at Hannah's, Seale Hayne

10 July

"Four old ladies in the Himalayas"

Please contact one of us for more information:

Valerie Marriott 893614 Sara Bromage 894198

Judy Jago 894829 Sue Pengilley

David and Christine Moulder 892858

"What a lovely church family you are!"

A great big thank you to you all in IMC for your patience, kindness and good wishes when I tripped at the fundraising barn dance in March and broke my hip. Thank you for keeping me warm with your coats, sending me good wishes and kind thoughts, visiting me for chats, offering me help and being the best kind of friends.

Regards,

Geraldine Abbott



Bittaford Methodist Church
presents
Summer Concert Series

23 May - Yealampton Gospel Choir

13 June - Porthpyra Singers



Tickets

Adults £5 Children by Donation

All Concerts start 7:30 pm

**Available from Ivybridge Methodist Church
or Jutta on 01752 698381**

Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who came to our first concert on 18 April where we saw the Multistarz Theatre Group. This was an evening of great fun and was very much enjoyed by all who came.

£400 was raised at that concert, which is fantastic! Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you at our next concert on 23 May.

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

June Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Sunday 10 May

at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634

email: jenny.bucknall@gmail.com



Visit our website at

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

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

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