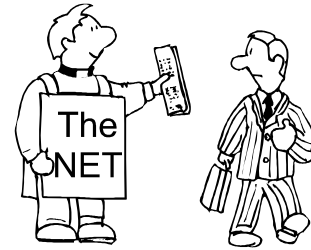


THE NET

The Newspaper of i-church
www.i-church.org



Including all

Putting fingers to keys at short notice, to write an editorial, is like having to give a sermon with no preparation.

I came back onto the boards just a few days ago, to find a brisk discussion taking place in the place of face to face meetings for i-church members, their value, and how some people felt left out.

This is an ages old problem in most organisations, how do we ensure that all can be included in any activity that the Church undertakes? Indeed it may well be asked is it realistic to even try to achieve this?

My thoughts are that if we don't make a very real attempt, however difficult it may seem, then we will, inevitably exclude more and more people, some will fade into the background, some will leave.

One of the points made was that such breaking up of the community into those that can, and do, get about, and those who, for a variety of reason, are unable to, is that it could lead to the polarisation into different groups, ending with some splitting away to found their own version of i-church.

Well there is nothing new there, since the earliest days, there have been separate churches, be they in Corinth, Rome Jerusalem, Alexandra, Thessalonica, be they in small groups or large gatherings. Paul wrote to some of these, and from his writings it would seem that all were different, all had their own different ideas, which he tried to unite into one faith.

And it is one faith we share, the belief that Jesus, the Son of God, incarnate for a few brief years of ministry, was executed on the cross,

rose again and rejoined the Father from whence He came.

For the rest what we believe is open to our interpretation of scripture, or to the words we hear from our several pulpits. Jesus did not envision a small narrow group of believers, He told His followers, and the message has been handed down to us, to go out and take the Word unto all nations, all peoples. From that has grown the Church as we know it today, many branches from the one vine. Inevitably there is splitting and renewal as new churches are planted, and I would see no exception in i-church at some future time. The question is, should it happen, would such a new venture go with the blessing of those who stay behind giving their support in practical ways, or would they be sent packing and good riddance?

In a new media there are already a number of independent net churches that have sprung up. i-church, though, has provision for a paid Web Pastor, and is linked directly with the Anglican church through the Diocese of Oxford, a strong church, on a rock foundation, a church that should be looking to bridge the gap between the B & M parishes, and the millions of unchurched out there searching for spiritual fulfilment.

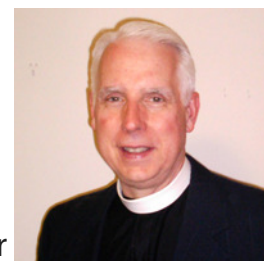
So whatever route i-church takes, if a split comes about, let it be one that binds both groups together as Christians serving the One God, and joining together in Love to feed at His table. If this is held in our minds, then we can truly continue to serve and support one another with Jesus as the head, the capstone, of the Church we are all part of.

Jayne



Pastor's Letter

Joe Parrish



The Importance of Small Groups

Studies show that 84% of church members who are involved in a small group or class remain active in their church for at least 5 years. And, visitors to a church are 5 times more likely to become members if they're invited to a small group. Small groups matter! Plus, they can be used to bring the unchurched into a relationship with Christ!

i-church has several small groups springing up, from Bible studies, home radio fabricators, new members, spiritual direction, and the 'original' small groups that have the names, "PG's", or "Pastoral Groups". The latter are pretty much open for the most part, and anyone can join. I happen to lead one called PG21, and there are others, PG20, 26, and 27. The others are currently open as the leaders are able to take in new folk.

So we invite any who want to explore the 'small group atmosphere' to do so. And if you have an idea of one you would like to lead, do contact us in the Council to get it going for you.

In a small group one has the ability to be away from the hustle and bustle of the 'big boards', the support is pastoral, and one can get to know a few folks from the big boards better and more quickly without the intrusion of having to discern how one's post may be seen by hundreds of others.

So come on in, our small group virtual water is warm and welcoming!

i-church Announcements

A number of i-church roles have been confirmed in the last month, as follows:

Karen Wellman has been appointed by the Bishop of Oxford to be a Trustee of i-church. Karen has been a member of i-church from its very early days and is a regular contributor on the forums. Karen has an interest in governance, having served as a School Governor.

Matt Clayson has joined Paula Franke and Paul Cowie as a co-moderator of the Sofa.

Diocesan Synod Worship

i-church has been invited to lead the opening worship for Oxford Diocesan Synod on Saturday 17th November at 9.30am (UK time). We have never done this before so it's something of an experiment. It would be wonderful if several members of i-church could gather in the chapel for this, ideally by 9.20am.

As what is on the screen will be projected for all members of the Synod to see, it might be wise not to type anything you don't want a wider audience to see!

Do join us if you can.

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Ps & Qs

Puzzles and Quandries on the Way Richard Haggis

“Is it right to pray for someone to die?”

A heartfelt enquiry, and here is a heartfelt response. Let me begin with two vignettes. The first is my godmother, just after her husband died from lung disease. He wasn't old, but he had suffered. They had been married over forty years. She said, “He looked so peaceful, you couldn't wish him back”.

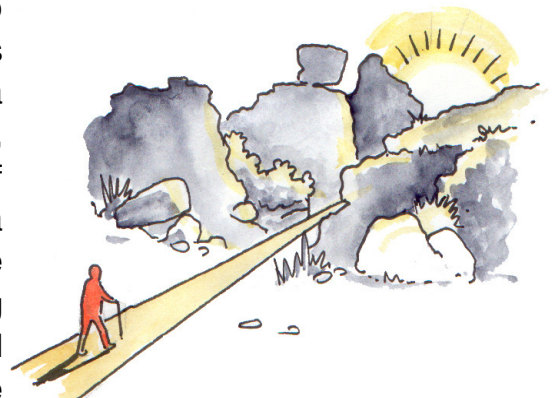
The second was my spiritual director, a holy nun, who, in her seventies, about 8 years ago was diagnosed with heart disease and given about five years to live. I was aghast. She looked at my face and said with a smile – “But that's the whole point! To be shot of this old crock [meaning her body] will be no loss!”.

In both cases, I think these were instances of faith in the face of death: the love that says that the beloved has suffered enough, and it is not right to pray for him or her to survive; the love that says, I know I am safe with God, and to lose this earthly body is only to become closer to him and his love.

As with all kinds of prayer, there's a whole load of ways of cheating on this one. We can pray that someone will die so we can be delivered from the burden of looking after them. We can pray that the death of a loved one will free us to get on with our lives whilst we are still young enough to live them. We can pray that an abusive person will die before we have to deal the card of rejection to them. It hasn't taken me long to think of people in those situations, and to be honest, I have sometimes prayed alongside them. But they are cheating. What needs to be done in this life must be done. Sometimes relationships have to end because they are hurting both parties (and it is a kind of hurt to perpetuate a situation which allows someone to be abusive).

Sometimes we have to admit that we just don't love the other person enough to keep caring for them in this exhausting way. They are terrible things to face, but they are better than praying for a person to die for our own convenience. We are called to be adults in this life, here and now, and avoiding decisions helps no one. I don't for a moment think this is easy – “physician, heal thyself” is echoing in my head as I write – but with God's grace, we may find light to see the way, and courage to walk it.

That aside, there are situations when the loving thing is to pray for a person to be allowed to die. Sometimes this is even true if they don't want to. A couple of years ago, a much-loved great-aunt of mine made the final journey, although she hated walking it, and lived through months of regret for what had gone awry in her life here (she wasn't a wicked person at all, but like most of us, was not brave enough to seize some important opportunities). She clung to life through pain, and anger, and bitterness, and I prayed that death might free her, and allow her to become again the kind and generous person she really was.



God doesn't make us to discard us in the pain and mess of the deathbed. Our souls are immortal, and are meant for eternal love. When this life has ceased to have any positive meaning, it is OK to pray that it will end, and that a transfigured life will take its place, in the heart of the Divine Trinity itself.

Environmental Open House

Ailsa Wright

Martin and Margot Hodson joined members of i-church in chat for the special Open House during our environmental week in October. Martin is an environmental scientist and has been involved in the Christian environmental movement since 1990. Margot is an Anglican priest who started out as a geographer. She has been involved in nature conservation since she was an undergraduate and involved in the Christian environmental movement since 1995.

Margot explained that there is a link between the environment and Christianity as God made the planet. If the planet is of concern to God it should also be of concern to us. It is often thought that people can earn what we want regardless of the environmental costs. Margot pointed out that Leviticus 19 for example, suggests we should limit what we earn. Also the early part of the book of Isaiah warns those who are just concerned with profit and not with how this affects other people or the earth. Some would say that being rich is a sign of God's favour but there are psalms that make it plain that wicked people prosper but God will judge them in time.



Martin explained what the most important things for Christians to pay attention to are. He highlighted climate change, loss of biodiversity and human population. These issues are all interconnected and also encompass others such as soil degradation and water. Martin was in no doubt that humans are inducing climate change. He explained that the problem could be tackled at a variety of levels: individual, community, national, international.

The emotive issue of population and its control was looked at. Martin told us that the population in the developing world is growing at a similar rate to that in our country during the industrial revolution. Large families are needed at first to ensure survival of some but population shoots up as more survive due to better health care.

Looking at the practical things we can do, we mentioned choosing not to drive everywhere but using bus or bike instead. This might mean going to our local B&M church even if it's not quite to our taste. We will at least form bonds with the local community that way. There will be a time when we reach 'peak oil' which means that demand will be higher than supply. Then everything will be more expensive as transport costs will rise. The time to downsize so that we use less energy is now.



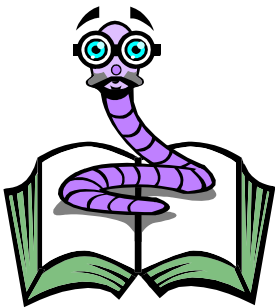
The problem of waste and its disposal was also discussed. There are places that have eliminated plastic carrier bags for instance. Recycling was very much supported by those attending though there was concern about news stories indicating that UK waste is being taken abroad and not properly recycled. There is also the issue of incineration of waste with all the pollution of the atmosphere and the impact of this on child health. There have been big advances in preventing pollution such as acid rain in Western countries and smog, but developing nations are not on top of such things

yet. There is a global problem with greenhouse gases. Margot quoted the slogan 'refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle'. Remembering the days of rag and bone men, scrap metal merchants and returning drinks bottles brought a touch of nostalgia to the company.

Martin suggested that we downsize our lifestyle a little at a time. This is something the church can give a lead in. Instead of buying new clothes, get them from charity shops. Most fabrics have problems associated with them, cotton taking a lot of water but synthetics being dependant on oil. Church downsizing is a good thing. Margot mentioned EcoCongregation. She thought this would be something that i-church could do as it involves the congregation as much as the building.

We talked of downsizing our diets in order to downsize our waistlines. Buying things that are produced locally is very good, through farmers' markets for instance. Some items don't grow locally anyway and other nations depend on selling them for their economies. Where possible these should be Fair Trade. The Christian Aid website was recommended as a good place to learn about trade issues. Also, Martin and Margot's book 'Cherishing the Earth'.

All agreed it was an interesting evening and Martin and Margot offered to return to chat about a specific topic in a few months' time. Look out for the announcement and try not to miss it. Open House is a great way to learn.



Book Review

Jayne Tite

Well having just had almost two weeks minus me 'puter you might well ask what the Dickens I did with me self. To be honest I took up visiting The Olde Curiosity Shoppe. (For those that don't know, Jayne's Apple computer was undergoing an upgrade recently).

Now what has this old classic to do with book reviews on a Christian site? Well I believe that Dickens had much to teach us about Christianity, remember Tiny Tim's closing words? "God bless us, everyone."

Like many other U.K novel writers of those times, the author brought before the English public the plight of those in need, those, who were suppressed, and a justice system that more than a little favoured people with money and property.

The Old Curiosity Shop, is a good example of such a book, taking us right into the lives of Little Nell and her grandfather, of Quilp the money lending and sadistic dwarf, of Nell's estranged ne'r do well brother, and his cohorts, and into the [poverty and misery prevalent in the nineteenth century in England's towns and cities.

Like other Dicken's books, it is not to difficult to draw the parallels with today's society, the evils of drink, gambling and gluttony, and the never ending pursuit of wealth: with homelessness, and ill health, not to mention possessive love. In the characters portrayed we are all there, if we dare recognise ourselves.

A good book for slow reading by a warm fire on a cold winter's night, this one often gets passed over in favour of some of his better known works, but I would put it right up there with them.

There are a number of cheap editions around, and if you can't find one in a second hand shop, there is always the library.

The Old Curiosity Shop - Charles Dickens - 1840

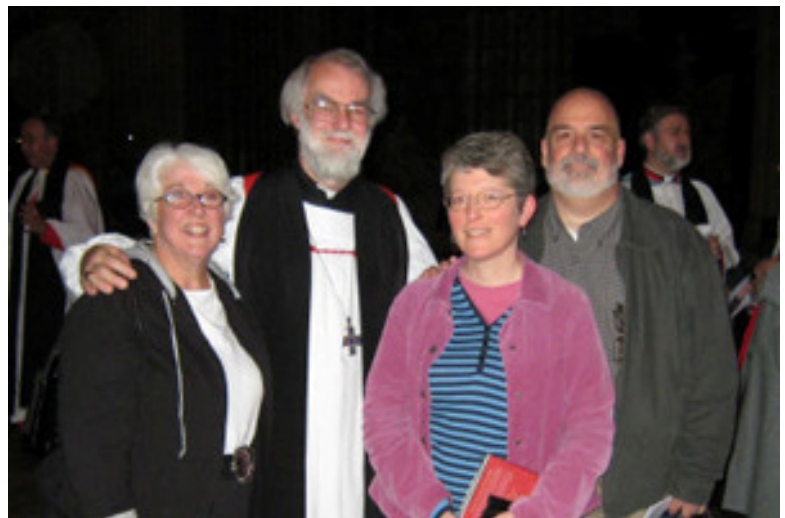
i-church meets

Phil Wright

During the course of October a number of i-church members were able to meet in person and spend a few days in company. Whilst recognising that many members who would have liked to join us were unable to do so for a variety of reasons, we are publishing these pictures of the various events so that you can see something of what happened, and also to give you an idea what some of the names we see on our forums and in chapel actually look like in the flesh.



First visitor to the UK was Nick Battaglia from Chicago who came with his wife Phyllis (Phyl to her friends). Nick and Phyl spent a week in London and were joined by Helen who went to a small provincial church in the capital (left) where they met up with the local preacher and managed to get him to pose for a photograph! (below).



You may of course have seen this posted on the forums - and you may also have noticed a slight change to the picture which caused great amusement and interest. (If you don't remember this go and take a look at <http://www.i-church.org/forums/index.php?showtopic=4547&st=25>.



Soon Paula Franke flew in to Manchester from Kentucky via Chicago and joined the Wrights in Wakefield. Wakefield has a rather more modest cathedral than Westminster, but does have a stained glass window with a deliberate error. After some careful gazing, we figured it out. The appropriate part of the window is shown left.

Saturday saw a open-house event with a bar-b-que in the evening which brought together some i-church members from the North.

Phil broke out the gas bar-b-cue and soon the smell of sausage, chicken, beef burgers and their veggie equivalents brought guests and members of the Wright household out onto the patio to sit, chat eat and drink the evening away. Despite a rather cool autumn evening everyone seemed to have a good time. It was quite dark by the time that Paul Walker made his way from Derbyshire to join the group.



Clockwise from the left:
Paula, Tim, Phyl, Debbie and the
back of Ailsa's head.

Nick, Paul, Ailsa and the young man
in the front is Ailsa's son Eddy (who
was on hand to help eat any surplus
food)



On Sunday we headed for York to attend the 11:30 morning Eucharist. We were joined in York by David Gatenby who had trained down from Teeside to be with us. The neat thing about attending a service in the Minster is that after it's over you are free to look around this wonderful cathedral, although you do get a bit of a stiff neck with all the gazing upwards!

After church we wandered down the narrow York streets, quickly finding "ye olde pub" (oldest in York) with a patio just perfect for our meal.

From front left, clockwise
Paula, Debbie, Tim, Phyl, David,
Nick, Phil and Ailsa





After our lunch we headed on into the Shambles, where the streets are very narrow and you do get an impression of the hustle and bustle of a city in “ye olde days”.

We visited the Jorvik museum in the afternoon for a taste of life in Viking times. Finally we walked round the city walls back to our car, and here you can see (if you look through your magnifying glass) Debbie, Phil, Phyl and Tim standing on the wall.

The next trip out was to Castle Howard in North Yorkshire on a cloudy Monday. We enjoyed looking around the house, and only just missed the owner, The Hon. Simon Howard, who was walking through the house winding up all the clocks! The guides in the house were excellent and really make the visit very interesting.

If you look closely at the picture of the house (below, left) you may just see Nick & Phyl standing on the steps - Phyl said “you know, I could live here!”



On Tuesday we headed west to Bolton Abbey. Roy Bayfield and his wife Jennie joined us there for a great day of walking. Above you can see us all ready to set off (left to right Ailsa, Phil, Paula, Nick, Roy and Jennie).

The final picture here is the ruined abbey as seen from across the river - Paula collected rocks for her collection back home. Next to this “beach” are a series of stepping stones across the river. This proved too much of a



temptation for Phil and Nick who braved the swirling water to step across. Here you can see Nick pausing for breath about half way across. I think this is where Phyl shouted across “one of the stones is loose!” I am happy to report that both our intrepid explorers crossed the river without getting wet!



The picture above right shows a “penny tree” we came across on our walk - a fallen tree that had been peppered with coins. Assuming this was an ancient Anglo-Saxon tradition, Nick proceeded to hammer a 2p coin into the bark; a feat which proved more difficult than it looked - for some reason there was no convenient hammer lying close to hand and so Nick had to resort to a small rock.



The final picture shows just how beautiful the Yorkshire Dales are - if you have not been we highly recommend you put it on your list of places to visit in the UK.

One other aspect made our day perfect - we had travelled through rain to get to Bolton Abbey, the rain stopped just as we arrived and started again just as we approached the car park on the way home!

We next had a few quiet days before the Oxford part of the reunion. Nick and Phyl headed off by train to Canterbury while the rest of us caught our breath. On Friday we set off for Oxford, with most of us meeting up at the Linton Lodge Hotel, where we were staying.



Here we all are waiting to set off for lunch together - you may notice the limousine standing behind us but regrettably it was not for us - we had to walk!

From left to right - Jennifer, Alastair (chair of Trustees), Pam, Natalie, Stuart, Richard, Ailsa, Paul (Jennifer's husband), Matt, Paula and Jim (Pam's husband).

One of the photos (right) caught Jennifer in conversation with



Alastair - I think she's saying "we only need this much extra money to cover our costs for the next two years!"



Over the next few days we enjoyed being together exploring Oxford.

Alastair kindly showed us around his college (St John's) and obviously something caught our attention high up when this shot was taken (All apart from Matt, that is!)

Some of us ventured up the 13th century tower of the church of St Mary the Virgin for one of the best views over Oxford. Here are Ailsa, Harriet, Richard, Helen and Nick with Phil behind the camera.



The view from the tower is well worth the climb - and the squeezing past people coming down the narrow spiral staircase as you go up!



Here is the view of Christ Church, where we enjoyed Sunday Eucharist as well as a tour of the Upper Library courtesy of Richard.

Our final meal together was at the “Big Bang” where sausage figures highly on the menu. The manageress, Lucy, really looked after us extremely well - in fact I don't think I have ever had such enthusiastic service in a restaurant ever before.

As well as the usual suspects, we were joined by (from the left) Assistant Pastor Joe and his wife Jan, and by ex-Web Pastor Russell.

All in all we had a terrific time in Oxford.

If the planned reunions in the USA and Australia in 2008 and 2009 are only half as good as this one (and you can be sure they will be equally as good) then everyone who goes will have a wonderful time. Our thanks to all those who made the arrangements and especially to all those who were able to join us for some or all of the events.



Advent videos

Ailsa Wright

Do you remember as far back as Lent? It seems an incredibly long time ago. At that time we attempted something very ambitious in i-church, we tried to create vids to put on YouTube for each day of Lent. With hard work by several people, we did it!

Jon Burdon was the inspiration behind this and he recently told us that there have been over 11,000 hits on our vids. The efforts put in to create the vids have paid dividends as people still watch them and some ask permission to use them in their churches. If you've not see them, there is a link to them from our public website.

Following on from this success, we are trying to do vids for advent. The season is not so long, so we should be able to do it, but only if people make the effort. Making the vids was great fun I found and Jon was very helpful indeed.

So, thinking caps on, and let's see if we can produce some Advent vids between us. Do contact Jon Burdon if you have any questions (or any vids he can upload of course).

CD Review

Paula Franke

A Room Full of Clouds

Rich Millett's second CD "A Room Full of Clouds" has been released and, once again, Rich provides a treat for the ears.

He describes his music as "songs in the key of Jesus . . . but not your Daddy's Christian rock!" While listening, my husband also noted that "it's not your granny's gospel, either!"

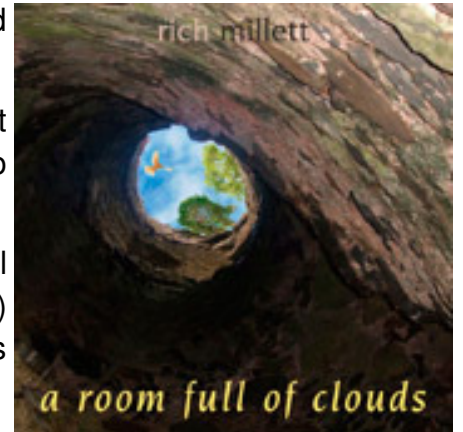
The 11 tunes in this collection are a bit softer and more prayerful (especially with "Grace", "Let Us Pray" and "We Are Here") compared to his debut CD "The Skies Have Eyes". But the "rock" is still there and his lyrics continue to be thought-provoking.

Rich uses a choir element once again to good effect in "We Are Here" (I always love a good choir and this one is no disappointment!) Amy Graham lends a lovely voice in a duet with Rich in "Let Us Pray". This song also ends with beautiful spoken prayer by Keith Hill.

"The Fall of Rome" may be my favourite with its powerful images of how the world has strayed and time is running out.

The title song "A Room Full of Clouds" takes those same images and puts them in a more hopeful light: "kingdoms come and kingdoms go, time is running by so fast, and only one was built to last . . . as we wait at the gate to a room full of clouds."

For more information about Rich and his music, visit www.theskieshaveeyes.com or www.myspace.com/richmillett (music clips available).



Christmas cometh

Ailsa Wright

Last year Jayne organised a Christmas gift exchange for those i-church members who wished to participate. Each person was given the address of another member and sent them a gift valued up to £10 or the equivalent in local currency.



I took part and it was great fun. I knew that while I was considering what to get for the person Jayne gave me, someone else, somewhere else, was busy trying to think of something to send to me. As it turned out, my gift didn't arrive until the new year but that did nothing to dampen the excitement at all.

Jayne has kindly offered to arrange the same thing this year also. Those wishing to take part should send a PM to Jayne with their name and address. They should indicate if they are willing to send a gift overseas.

Easy! Then all you do is wait for the fun to begin.

Recipe

By Jane Tite

UN POTAGE CRÉCY

(Yep that's true François for Carrot Soup. It is so long since I made this wee beauty, that I needed to go and hunt through all my old recipe hard copies, and low I had actually written the title in French, fortunately also in English, otherwise I'd never have found it as I really don't "speaka da lingo".)

With winter setting in, in the northern hemisphere, I thought this would be a nice change to the normal run of soups that we use.

4 large carrots. (Aprox 6 to 8 inches long, and fat.)

4 small potatoes. (Maybe about 1½ inches in diameter)

1 onion. (Size dependant on taste, but don't overdo it.)

1½ cups of water

2 tablespoons of butter. (A lite butter substitute is fine.)

Salt and black pepper to taste.

1 crushed garlic clove.

1½ cups of boiled milk. (Boiling it first stops it curdling when added in cooking.)

1 egg yolk.

1 cup of light (thin) cream

2 tablespoons of chopped chives. (For garnishing.)

1 teaspoon of chopped parsley. (Likewise.)

1½ cups of croutons. (More or less according to appetite.)

Peel the carrots, (usually give them the lightest of scrapes), potatoes and onion. Cut them into slices and place them in a heavy pan with the water, butter and seasoning, cover and cook until veggies are very soft, (remember that carrots take longer than spuds). Rub through a fine strainer, and then add the milk.

Mix the egg yolk well into the cream, but do not beat it, and then place the mixture in a large serving bowl, pouring the soup onto the cream and egg. Sprinkle with the chives and parsley, but serve the croutons separately.

Well there you go, bon appétitè.



Council report

Ailsa Wright

The proposed Singles Group has been left for the time being until someone has the time to start it.

We have continued to look at council procedures, concluding our discussions on a timeline for council action as matters are discussed and brought to a vote. The Council voting procedure has also been clarified. Council procedures are now published in full in Docs. The matter of publishing mod guidelines in Docs was revisited and voted against. This document will continue to be available to mods only.

The listing of PGs under a person's avatar was discussed in council and in the PGs. It was decided that this is no longer appropriate. Members are encouraged to list any groups they are in within their signature if they wish, or in their profile.

As a result of questioning on the boards, Phil left council until a vote of confidence in him as returning officer could be held. Discussion has continued on how elections should be conducted and agreement reached that the procedure will be broadly similar to that used this year, with the names of candidates being published as they make their candidacy known.

A series of special services on the theme of creation/environment was held in the week September 30th – October 7th. Many of those in the worship leaders group took part in leading. Two new members have joined the group this month with one, Heidi, now taking a regular slot leading Compline on Tuesdays.

Topics currently under consideration by council include the need for a standing committee for urgent decisions. The Trustees have been consulted about this, and it is likely that council will not create a Standing Committee until a new web pastor is in post. Meanwhile, urgent decisions are likely to be made by the Lay Chairman or Deputy.

Research guidelines for those who wish to do research into i-church or wish to write magazine articles are currently being finalised and will then be made available on the outside website so that anyone visiting will know what is required.

Two matters concerning statistics are being looked at: one set which can be generated by the Invision program itself and can tell how many posts there have been, how many topics started, etc; the second set is what the welcome team may be able to gather to monitor how well we help new members to integrate into i-church. These figures may well have implications for future funding applications.

There has been interest in i-church from some publications and it was felt that a media pack which is downloadable might be useful to give initial information. The contents of this have not yet been finalised.

Three members of council have worked on the online interview process which is the first interview for applicants for the post of web pastor. Those online interviews are underway this week, with fact to face interviews in a fortnight's time.

I had an opportunity to meet with Tom Heffer, one of the Trustees, who is our link to the Mission to Seafarers. We discussed how to strengthen what i-church can offer to seafarers. There is likely to be another meeting in the new year to take this forward.

The search for a Web Pastor

Four people applied for the post of Web Pastor and all four have been interviewed by the online panel in the week beginning November 5th.

That group is now discussing the result of those interviews and will make its recommendations to the Trustees early next week.

The face to face interview will be conducted by Bishop Colin, Alastair Hunter (Chair of Trustees) and Ailsa Wright (Chair of Council). It will take place on November 21st in either Oxford or London.

The successful candidate will be invited to become our Web Pastor sometime around November 26th. The actual date of appointment will depend on individual circumstances - it could be almost immediately or as much as three months after the offer of the job is made.

This is an important time in the life of i-church. Change is disturbing and can be worrying for many people. However, it also brings with it possibilities that were not there before.

Please keep all involved in this process in your prayers: the applicants, the online interview panel and the face to face interview panel.



Staying in Oxford?

If you are visiting Oxford, and you need somewhere to stay then read on. i-church member Matt Clayson has fixed up a special deal at the Hotel where he works.

Double/Twin room	£90 (based on 2 sharing)
Single	£80

All prices include tax at the current rate and full English breakfast. Dinner is available for £20 extra per person in our Library Restaurant.

To book, either PM/email Matthew Clayson, check out the web site (<http://www.lintonlodge.com>), telephone +44 (0) 1865 553461 or send us a fax on +44 (0) 1865 559327.

All enquiries must be directed to Matthew Clayson or Karen in Reservations (or you won't get the special rate!). Bookings are subject to availability.

How to join i-church

Not everyone who reads The NET is a member of i-church, and if that applies to you, please read on . . . It is great to find you reading our newspaper. Hopefully reading these pages will whet your appetite to find out more about us.

If you go to our main website, www.i-church.org you will find lots of information about i-church, what we do, when we do it etc and if this sounds like the kind of church you would like to belong to, please do ask to join.

We have members in the UK, Europe, The United States, Caribbean, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. We are very much a world wide broad church, and there is usually someone around, somewhere in the world 24 hrs a day.

Whilst we are formally part of the Church of England, we have members of many denominations and varied churchmanship. It is our diversity which makes i-church such an interesting place to be. And you can be a member of both i-church AND a more conventional bricks and mortar church at the same time.



Scrooge writes

Jennifer Ducker, who leads our small finance sub-committee, hit on the excellent idea of setting up “something for nothing” fundraising. Yes, it is possible to get small amounts of funding just for doing things you would do anyway. It’s brilliant - and anyone can do it. So, how does it work?

The system is called easysearch or easyfundraising. Jennifer explained how it works in the last issue of The NET - if you haven’t already done so go and read the article. After you have registered and specified i-church as the charity you wish to support, all you have to do is use easysearch when you want to search the internet for information or easyfundraising when you want to buy something online. We have provided **i-browse** and **i-buy** buttons in the i-church forums to speed that part up.

Does it work? It certainly does. Recently we wanted to buy some flowers for my mother-in-law’s birthday. We used i-buy button to access the easyfundraising site and chose one of the online florists. We bought the flowers as per normal and a few days later received an email to tell us that 96p had been credited to the i-church fund. We paid no more for our flowers than normal; it is the florist that makes a small donation. And the flowers were great as well!

It seems that you don’t always get an email, for example we haven’t seen an email from amazon.co.uk for books we ordered but have seen the total in our fund go up. So, it really does work and if everyone helped out i-church funds could receive a great boost. The amounts may be small but over time they add up to a tidy sum. It’s not every day you get a genuine offer of something for nothing, is it?

Worship in i-church

Being a 24/7 church is a constant challenge. We have had several discussions about what would be good times to meet for worship and the best we can manage is always a compromise.

The new compline service designed for members in the US is beginning to be attended regularly by some, not all of whom are in the States. We seem to have some insomniacs in the UK who are attending also. If you haven’t tried it yet, do pop into chapel on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday at 10pm EST (Sunday, Wednesday & Friday 0300GMT). You will be warmly welcomed.



Service Times

NB Many places, including the UK changed their clocks back from summer time to normal time in early November. As a result some services now run at a different time.

Keep this guide by your computer to help you remember when all the service times are. There is space for you to write in the local equivalent times:

<u>Worship</u>	GMT
Mon to Fri	09:00
Sat & Sun	10:00
Daily	12:00 (if leader avail)
	19:30 &
	22:30
Sun & Wed, Fri	03:00
(i.e. Sat, Tue, Thur 10pm EST)	

Open House - Tuesdays

Worship	19:30
Study	20:00
Chat	20:45