

THE NET

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

Issue #3

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An online Christian community based in the Diocese of Oxford, part of the Church of England.

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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.

Phil's Blog

It doesn't seem very long ago that a few of us decided to try our hand at Newspaper editing and here we are at issue #3 already!

i-church seems to me to be growing from strength to strength with more people joining each month and a steady flow of people deciding to join the i-church community as well. We must be doing something right, with 3-4,000 people visit our web site each month. We now need to figure out how we can attract those 3,000 or so visitors enough to want to join us! So, plenty to do in the future.

You may have noticed that there are no readers' letters printed in The NET. I am going to assume that it is because everyone is thinking "no need to write, they know how I feel". Well, we don't, so please do drop us a line. We would especially like to hear from any non-members who are reading this; what is it you like or don't like about what you see on our site and what can we do to get you to join us? We really are interested in your views so don't be shy; it only takes a few seconds to dash off a quick email.

The address is editor@i-church.org.

A new feature has been added to our members area during August, the photo gallery. Already a number of photos have been uploaded covering a wide range of topics, all of them giving an insight into the life and interests of the poster. You may find this month's Forum Tip will be helpful on this.

And talking about photographs, we are still looking for some interesting ones to brighten up our web site. So if you get time, why not take a picture of your i-church set up, your computer and its surroundings (maybe you have candles, books, other computer kit, cats, or, as in my case, papers festooning your desk as you log onto i-church and visit the Chapel, the café or the forums). There is a huge diversity among i-church members, let's see some of that on our home page to show people that while we are all very different, we are still all brothers and sisters in Christ.

All the best, Phil Wright

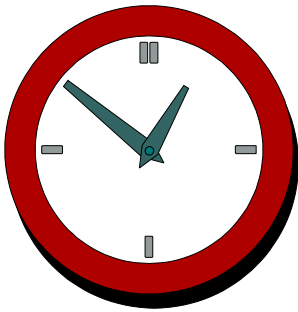
Pastor's Letter

Russell Dewhurst



Most of us live our lives based on the clock. Up and about at a certain time, breakfast a little later, work starts at a certain time, lunch break, time we're due home, the time we try to get to bed by. And the time of day is rarely far from our lips: "Good morning!" we say, or "Have a good evening!"

Christian worship has traditionally inherited this very natural grounding in the time of day. "Morning Prayer" and "Evening Prayer" are the daily diet of Anglican weekday worship. Prayers in the morning often ask for help in the day ahead; prayers in the evening often look back in thanksgiving or penitence to the day now past. One of the regular monastic "hours" of prayer has even become a word we all use to describe the time of day: "None" has become "noon". Christian worship is rooted in this daily cycle.



For i-church, as so often, things are a little more difficult. When we meet to worship God in our chapel chat room, there are usually people from different continents. It may be evening for me, but it's midday for someone else, and morning for another. No-one minds if I say "good evening" (and I often do!) but the response "good morning" reminds me that our community spreads right across the time zones.

We had the same problem trying to decide what to call our regular daily prayer times. Initially we had a daily service of "Vespers", or evening prayer. More often than not, there was no-one attending for whom it was evening time. So latterly we've taken to referring to our daily prayers by the time that they happen, according to Greenwich Mean Time: 0800 GMT, 1100 GMT, 2000 GMT and 0200 GMT. Less romantic, perhaps, but much less confusing.

So does all this mean we are less "grounded", less "rooted", in the cycle of daily time, of mornings and evenings? I don't think so.

We're all still conscious of what time it is for ourselves, but we become more aware of what time of day it is for others across the planet. I am reminded of the hymn, "The day thou gavest":

We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.

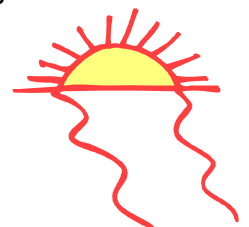
As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.



Being part of i-church's cycle of prayer in the live chat chapel makes me more conscious that my prayer is part of something much bigger. It's not just about me and my day: what I've done, or what I plan to do. There is a great hymn of prayer and praise always ascending to God, and the Church holds the whole world before God in prayer. Each of us is privileged to be able to join our voices to this great prayer, whether through i-church or in our own prayers.

When I leave i-church prayers in the evening (UK time) and prepare for bed, I know that I have been praying with others who are beginning a new day. And as I sleep, still others in i-church will be offering new prayers to the God and Father of us all:

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.



May God bless all our waking and our sleeping, and meet us in our prayers. Amen.



i-church and The Mission to Seafarers (MtS)

Mervyn Moore & Tom Heffer



You may have noticed on the i-church home page a link to The Mission to Seafarers' website and wondered why it was there. Well, the reason is that the MtS has been a partner of i-church since its creation because the aim and objectives of both organisations are quite similar.

In case you didn't know already, the MtS is a world mission agency of the Anglican Communion and, like i-church, seeks to support those who are not able to maintain relationships with a geographical Christian community. The main difference is that the focus of the MtS is to share God's love specifically for seafarers and their families worldwide.

Most people want to know why the church cares for seafarers, because the picture they have in mind is that sailors have plenty of shore leave, money to burn and a girl in every port. In reality nothing could be much further from the truth as the majority of the world's seafarers come from developing countries, spend up to a year at a time away from their families and friends and, because of the fast turn-around of ships and a new port security code brought in following 9/11, get very little time ashore.

In response to their needs, the MtS, along with its ecumenical partners in maritime ministry, seeks to look after the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of seafarers and their families who call on them for assistance. A network of chaplaincies in 230 ports, many with seafarers' centres, provides facilities for seafarers to contact home, a welcome break from the demands of life at sea, a listening ear for those in trouble, and practical support in cases of justice and welfare.

In addition, through the i-church link, seafarers can now draw spiritual strength and encouragement from a community which stretches across the seas and provides the continuity and stability that is impossible to come by when they are away from home.

The MtS port chaplain dedicated to the i-church connection is the Revd Mervyn Moore, a South African priest who is based in Singapore. He is the MtS Web Pastor and has responsibility for looking after seafarers using the i-church facility. The Revd Tom Heffer is the Director of Chaplaincy for the MtS based at Central Office in London and is a Trustee of i-church.



Ship visit to an abandoned crew



Visiting a seafarer in hospital



Mervyn conducts a service aboard ship

If you want to know more about the work of the MtS please check out our [website](#) or feel free to contact one of us for further information. [Mervyn Moore](#) & [Tom Heffer](#)



Here you can see Seafarers enjoying facilities provided by the MtS. In the background you can see two men using the internet to stay in contact with their families at home.

Chatting to the MtS

Ailsa Wright

On 28th June a number of us chatted to Mervyn Moore and to David See in Singapore about their work with seafarers. They explained that they see mostly people from China and the Philippines in Singapore. These seafarers sign a 9 month contract and then sign off. Some of these people are seen time and again so build up relationships with the chaplains.

While at sea only a few get to use the internet as it needs a satellite link and is expensive. So for most seafarers who join i-church it would mean using the internet at the drop in centres provided by the MtS. For the rest of the time they would be absent from i-church for long periods. This would be quite a different form of membership from that of others.

The way that i-church will help seafarers is not totally worked out as yet and will probably emerge as time goes on. For those who have relatives who are also sailing i-church would be a point of contact. It may be that a chat room for seafarers only would be a possibility although they would appreciate the opportunity to chat to others too. Other members might have to be aware that any seafaring members will not be able to reply to personal messages for long periods of time and may not want to find hundreds of them waiting when they finally do log on.

i-church has the potential to shrink the isolation felt by seafarers. We have several seafaring members already and no doubt will get more in the future.

Skype

Phil Wright

So, what is Skype? Why are so many people on the forums raving about it? Skype is one of a number of “voice over internet protocol” or voip systems now available and it allows you to “phone” any other person who has the same software on their computer, anywhere in the world, free of charge. Yes, the software is free, and the calls are free, as long as it is to another Skype user! If

you have used MSN or similar systems you will find Skype very intuitive.

First, go get the software (from www.skype.com) and download the software for free. Follow the instructions to install Skype on your PC or laptop.

Your computer will need to have a soundcard—but almost all PCs come with one as standard these days. You will also need a microphone and a loudspeaker, or you may prefer to have some headphones with a built in boom microphone. These are available easily from major computer stores or over the internet. Expect to pay from £25 to £50 depending on the quality—my set was £20 and is perfect for this purpose. Many headsets are now branded “Skype ready” so you may want to look out for one of those.

Once you have installed the software you will need to set up a unique Skype identity—the name you will log into Skype with. If you have a common name (like me) you’ll find it already taken; just add something to make your name unique. I am

“phil_wright_crofton” for example.

Also, just like with email, Skype allows you to display your proper name, or a nick name, when you are actually making a call or in the directory that your friends will build up. So, when I talk to you, you will see “Phil Wright” appear. Skype allows you to some extra info if you want—this may help your friends find you when they build up their contact list. Add as much as you are comfortable with.

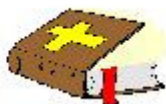
Once you are set you will want to find someone to talk to. Suppose you want to talk to me—do a search for “Phil Wright” and you will get lots of hits. (I found 11 apart from me!) And there a dozens of Philip Wrights. You do need to know which is the right one, so knowing where someone lives is a big help. Once you have found the person you want, add them to your contacts and they will be easy to find in future. To help, there is a Skype contact box in everyone’s i-church profile, so you may find some of your i-church friends have already signed up for Skype.

To call someone, check that they are online. Like MSN there are various statuses you can be in including “away”, “not available”, “do not disturb” so it’s a good idea to check that the person you want to talk to is available! Then, click the large green call button. You will hear the phone ringing and with a bit of luck your call will be answered.



Skype uses the internet to send the call audio, so a good connection gives a better quality. Having said that we have tested with people on dial up connections and whist there are occasional delays, the call is perfectly easy to hear. Also, you can have up to five people on the same call at once; so great for small meetings, prayer in small groups etc. One person acts as the host and invites everyone else in—but if the host rings off or is disconnected, everyone drops out at the same time! We have had a call with members in the USA, UK and Australia—excellent quality and all free!

Skype also has a chat area, just like MSN or our own live chat. It’s a great system and has terrific potential for i-church. If you haven’t tried it, give it a go!



Ailsa Wright

A thought kept niggling at me that, as a church community, we should make a recording of the Bible. It seemed like something that would be possible for a worldwide community to tackle together as the distance between us would not matter. Also it would allow us to hear each other's voices, something I really enjoyed when using Skype.

On August 4th I posted this in the forum 'This I do for fun' and waited to see what response I would get:

"We are a community here despite being scattered over the globe. That scattering does however limit what we can do as a body for practical reasons. I was wondering if we could record the Bible between us in mp3 format. We would then have our various accents available for each to hear and we would have completed a project together. Sometimes it is good to listen to the Bible being read rather than reading it ourselves. I guess it could be put on the website for others to listen to. Maybe this is a silly idea but I would like to work at something together."

The response was better than I had expected. The Gospel of Mark was suggested as a starting point. It was also suggested that we involve others from our B&M churches to help with this and as a way of spreading the word about i-church. By August 11th we had been in contact with the publishers of the NRSV to check on copyright matters. It was obvious from their reply that they would want lots of money from us in return for permission to record their version of the Bible. However, the World English Bible, WEB, was suggested and that is copyright free. So a week after I posted the idea there had been consensus reached on the version of the Bible to be used and where to start. 308 views of the topic have taken place so it certainly has captured the imagination.

I moved the project to the 'i-church worship' forum on August 10th and asked for volunteers for each chapter of Mark. The chapters were soon covered and Phil worked on compiling guidelines to a recording programme that was easy to use. He also created a web page to store our efforts in. By August 20th 9 chapters of Mark were available to listen to, although some may need re-recording to get the necessary quality. As I write, there have been over 500 views of that thread. There has been a lot of excitement as we have each been able to hear the other's reading. It makes people so much more real when you can hear their voices and the Bible comes alive when read.



As interest remained high I posted the Bible Recording Project Phase 2 on August 16th and soon had messages from members wishing to contribute chapters of Matthew, Luke, John and Acts. There is a long way to go before all chapters are accounted for but already a few are recorded. John 15 by Nick is a little different!

As a result of conversations about the Psalms I have now posted Phase 3 of the project which is the Psalms. I would really like to have 150 different voices do this one. It seems that this might be a good place to get our friends and family to help out. Many of the psalms are not too long to read out. The first recording has now been done but it will be a long time before this is completed.

Any i-church member is welcome to become involved and there is technical help for any who are unsure. This could be a wonderful resource for us to use for personal Bible study but also to add to our worship in the i-church chapel. I am really impatient to hear more voices!

If you are suffering from tooth decay you should consult your dentist. If you are suffering from truth decay, you should consult your Bible.

Mark Stibbe

Wordsearch

Another biblical wordsearch—just for fun, no prizes for correct answers; if you want you can phone a friend. Enjoy.

The Rich Young Ruler

One day, a rich young man came to Jesus and asked how he could be sure of having eternal life from God. The man had been very good and kept the law, but Jesus said his love for money kept him from loving others and God as he should.

The man went away sad and Jesus said that it was as hard for a rich person to let go of their money as it would be for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle! BUT Jesus also said that God could change the hearts of rich people, because nothing is impossible for God.

F L L O V E J R Z S B L
N L I M P O S S I B L E
Q G A E R J M G M J N K
C M O W S B O I L O A P
V S L O I P N Z V S S T
T A E I D Q E K U T E R
G D M F P V Y K L L E R
N G A V R K A Q D L G B
U B C O Q P Q E U O S Q
O I V I V K E R H C I R
Y P J Y B N B W A E P T
E F I L L A N R E T E Y

camel
eternal life
good
impossible
law
love
money
needle
rich
ruler
sad
young

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The way to achieve inner peace is to finish things you've started. It is definitely working for me. I am now making a point of always finishing what I start and I think I am well on my way toward finding inner peace.

Because I care for you, I am passing this wisdom on to you. Here are the things that I have finished today: two bags of crisps, a strawberry cheesecake, a packet of biscuits, a bottle of coke, a small box of chocolates.



Recipe by Jayne

Only left-overs and visitors suddenly coming? A cold day? Or just wanting a change?

LAMB/CHICKEN CURRY

1 onion, minced
3 Tablespoons butter
3 Tablespoons flour (If you get lumps in your flour when cooking, use cornflour.)
1-1/2 cups chicken stock or water (use a good stock, rather than water.)
3 cups cooked lamb - diced (or chicken) (Dicing is optional, chicken legs can be served whole, or the meat carefully sliced, heated, and the curry sauce poured over it.)
1 cup cooked mixed vegetables (optional)
2 oz (50 grams) sultanas.
4 oz (100 grams) of finely sliced apricots, (Tinned apricots are better because of cooking time.)
One finely chopped apple
One medium sized grated carrot (optional as a replacement for mixed veg)
2 Tablespoons lemon juice or vinegar
1 to 3 Tablespoons curry powder (These vary from mild to hot so check out what you are buying.)
1/4 teaspoon dry mustard, (mix to smooth paste with some of stock, to avoid lumps.)
1 large bay leaf, broken into several pieces, or several small ones.
1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 a cup of dry rice per person
Lemon/orange/tomato/parsley for garnish.

TO PREPARE:

Sauté onion in butter. Stir in curry powder. Stir in flour, (If you are using cornflour it is best to mix this into a thin paste with a little of the stock, then add to stock before adding stock to pan.) Add stock gradually, stirring constantly. Cook over low heat until sauce is thickened. Cut lamb (or chicken) into bite-sized pieces. Stir into sauce and add remaining ingredients; simmer 30 minutes, stirring regularly to avoid burning. Serve with rice. Serve with the following condiments: chopped egg, crumbled bacon, sweet chutney, (a good mango chutney is recommended, but beware these can be quite *hot* in themselves) Garnishing is a matter of taste and can add an appetising colour to what may look like a bland dish. So lemon, orange, parsley, even tomato, are suitable when carefully sliced.

If you are not sure about the amount of curry to use, don't add it until all other ingredients are in the pot, then add a little at a time, having made a thin paste, tasting as you go. I am all in favour of the cook tasting along the way.

To cook rice, if you have not got a rice cooker, place rice in pan with three times the amount of lightly salted water. (I often add a bay leaf.) Bring to the boil and then simmer for around twenty minutes, or until rice is cooked, keeping it well stirred to avoid burning. If you have a microwave I recommend cooking it in that as you then don't have to stand by a hot stove for half an hour. For two cups of rice, in the microwave, add six cups of water, and cook on high for 20 min.

While the rice is cooking make sure you have a kettle of boiling water ready to wash the cooked rice with. Empty cooked rice into a large wire strainer, and slowly pour over the boiling water, making sure all the rice is washed. Toss gently and place in serving dish, or on plates. If the latter move the rice out from the centre of the plate to allow curry mix to be added without covering the rice. Garnish the whole with lemon and/or orange slices.

SERVES: 4

(Keep the fire extinguisher handy in case you have made it too hot. But seriously, it is good to have a jug of fruit juice on the table, to wash the inside of the mouth with from time to time. Also if serving whole legs/wing of chicken, ensure everyone has a finger bowl and napkin, trying to dissect a chicken leg with a knife and fork can be frustrating, use your fingers.)

Visitor to Live Chat

Ailsa Wright

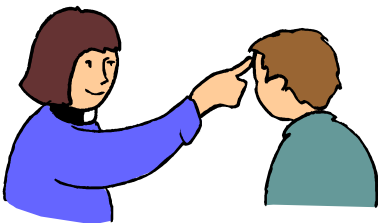
On Friday 18th August, the Revd Leanne Roberts, chaplain of Hertford College, in Oxford University met in the Live Chat café with members of i-church. Nine members of i-church joined her as she took the opportunity to help us understand the role of a chaplain at university.

The first question she answered was about the pattern of her day. She explained that her days were busy and certainly not dull. Her day begins with Morning Prayer at 8.30am when several students usually join her. She has some form of meeting in most days and also meets with students for tea and a chat. As she has cats the students seem to like stroking them and may also take the opportunity to talk about something that is troubling them. Leanne makes sure that all students starting in the college are informed about her existence and availability. As she lives in the college among the students she is easy to find, sometimes at odd hours when students need something like a corkscrew! At 5pm there is an evening service of prayer, compline on Tuesday at 10pm and Mass on Wednesday at 6pm. Leanne occasionally joins the students in the bar in the evening.



Asked about the challenges of her role Leanne highlighted the need to face crises calmly. These can come from students or staff. It is important for Leanne to show that she is available to everyone, not just for Christians. At the same time she needs to be a witness to the Christian faith. This tension is the result of working in a secular organisation. Leanne felt that the key for any Christian working in a secular environment is to be a witness and to endeavour to see Christ in all whom we meet. We should listen and not judge and be there for them when they are having a hard time.

Comment was made about how the students seem to like the college chapel services which are traditional in form, despite people thinking that young people don't like such services. The college Eucharist takes place on a Wednesday evening at 6pm and it is modern catholic in style. The chapel has a choir of about 33 and attendance of between 55-85 in the congregation. This is out of a student body of 680. The music, the ritual and the sense of mystery seem to be attractive. For many students this is the first time that they have attended church and they find it very exciting. For Leanne it is wonderful when they decide to be baptised or confirmed.



Although there is a university counselling service, to which she often refers more troubled students, Leanne feels that she can act as an honest friend to the students. She understands the life they are living and can offer a listening ear without being a trained therapist. As a chaplain to students Leanne has the opportunity to be sought out and work on a pastoral level with people in a way that is not as likely in a parish setting. By wearing her clerical collar, Leanne declares what and who she is. Those talking to her know that her perspective is a Christian one although she will only share her faith if asked to do so.

The key to Leanne's role is presence, being visible and involved in the life of the students rather than just popping in once a week. Asked about the difference between chaplaincy and pastoral care, Leanne expressed the view that it is the motivation of the chaplain that makes the difference; the recognition of what drives the chaplain to do as she does. Wearing her clerical collar makes this clear. Those meeting her know that she sees them as created by God and with God-given potential which can be realised.



Fund Raising Day

Don't forget to think how you can take part in the i-church fund raising day. For more details see Issue #2 Page 10.



Albert, pick up thy Bible.

(In the style of Stanley Holloway)

On the day of the Churches Together,
in the vestry before't service starts,
the readers were gathered in bother,
for the vicar were giving out parts.

This new vicar, he'd turn up with dramas
he'd writ off the top of his head,
and those who 'ad practiced their readings
were give summat different instead!

Now Albert could do recitation:
he'd rehearsed what he were to say,
and had got it off, no hesitation;
and this vicar would take it away?

"I think I will stick to what's written,"
our Albert were bold to suggest.
And the new vicar's conscience were
stricken,
as he saw that this weren't just in jest.

Then up spoke the_'ed teacher from Idle,
"Now then, let's not get ourselves vexed:
Albert, pick up thy bible,
and tha'll see t'vicar's close to thy text.

Th'art a fair-minded man, Albert, truly,
So pick up thy bible today,
and see if the words vicar's writ thee
aren't nearly what th'ad planned to say?"

Now Albert had won the advantage,
but he weren't the merciless sort,
And when she said "Pick up thy bible"
he did, as she'd known, what he ought.

"Albert, pick up thy bible",
'ee did as the_'ed teacher had said.
For that book tells us not to be angry,
but forgiving and patient instead.

For t'vicar, as all knew, weren't wrong-un,
he should have said during the week,
and not changed his mind and sprung on 'em
some scripts which he'd given the tweak.

"Well, all right," said our Albert, the charmer,
"I 'xpect I can manage OK,
but another time, vicar, remember,
don't just drop on us right on the day!"

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0200 - End of the Day for the West

Alan Shaw

Each night, Sunday – Thursday a service is held at 0200 GMT (Monday-Friday, the confusion of keeping time in a global community!) This is a service I like to attend and try to on most days. For me, in the eastern USA, it's Compline, or a service right before bed. It's become a part of my daily life, a way to end my day in prayer and worship.

Service times locally for North America:

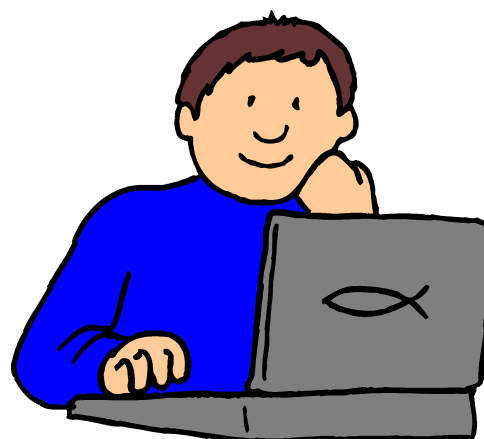
- * 10:00 PM AST
- * 10:00 PM EDT
- * 9:00 PM CDT
- * 8:00 PM MDT
- * 7:00 PM MST
- * 7:00 PM PDT

Nick and I take turns writing the services. The liturgies therefore vary week by week as we try to add variety. Sometimes we'll focus on a theme such as peace or environmental stewardship. Each service generally contains the following elements:

- * Gathering and centering
- * Reading and reflection/discussion of the reading – this is frequently one of the lessons from the lectionary.
- * Intercessory prayer
- * Closing prayers

The services are posted on the "resources link" on the I-church home page and at <http://globalsurge.com/icw.htm>.

These are dynamic services and I invite each of you to visit and make icw0200 a part of your life.



Appointment

I am very pleased indeed to be able to announce that Helen W is taking up a new role within i-church, namely that of pastor to the Individual Members: or IM Pastor for short!

Helen is a priest in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, and it is wonderful that she feels called to expand her ministry with us here in i-church. I have discussed this matter with the i-church Council and received the go-ahead from Bishop Colin, so Helen's role as IM Pastor begins today.

There is a Frequently Asked Questions file about the new post on the Docs page: <http://www.i-church.org/cms/docs> Basically, Helen's role is to be a pastoral port-of-call for Individual Members who are not part of an i-church Pastoral Group. This doesn't in any way replace the role of the PGs, and it's still our hope that most members will go on to join a Pastoral Group in time. But as IM Pastor, Helen will fill an important hole in what we've so far been able to offer in terms of pastoral care within i-church.

There will be special prayers & commissioning for Helen beginning this new ministry at i-church worship at 2000 GMT on Tuesday 22nd August. Please do pray for her and for all Individual Members, present and future, in i-church.

Russell Dewhurst,
August 15th 2006

Church Photographs

Send us your pictures of your B&M church so we can see where you worship.

This month we have the church where Nick Battaglia worships, the Roman Catholic church of St Irenaeus in Park Forest, Illinois.



Acronyms

Last month we highlighted some common acronyms found in i-church. This month we continue the topic, but these are all Bible translations.

ESV = English Standard Version
GNB= Good News Bible (NT Paraphrased)
JB = Jerusalem Bible (RCC)
KJV = King James Version
LBT = Lamas Bible Translation
LG = Living Gospels (Paraphrased)
NEB= New English Bible
NIV = New international Version
NIVr = New International (Readers version)
NKJV = New King James Version
NLT = New Living Translation
NOB= New Oxford Bible
NTRV = New Testament Recovery Version
RSV= Revised Standard Version
RSVCTS = RSV Catholic Truth Society
TEV = Today's English Version
TLB = The Living Bible
TMLB=The Modern Language Bible
TTB = The Thompson Bible
WEB = World English Bible

Humour

Two bees ran into each other. The first bee asked the other how things were going.

"Really bad," said the second bee. "The weather has been really wet and damp and there aren't any flowers or pollen, so I can't make honey."

"No problem," said the first bee. "Just fly down five blocks and turn left. Keep going until you see all the cars. There's a Bar Mitzvah going on and there are all kinds of fresh flowers and fruit."

"Thanks for the tip," said the second bee, and he flew away.

A few hours later, the two bees ran into each other again. The first bee asked, "How'd it go?" "Great!" said the second bee. "It was everything you said it would be."

"Uh, what's that thing on your head?"

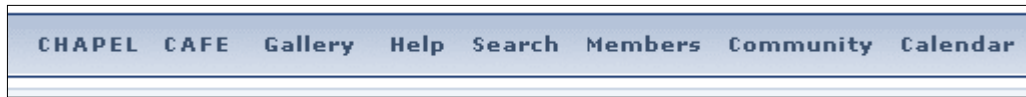
"That's my yarmulke," said the second bee. "I didn't want them to think I was a wasp."

Forum Tip

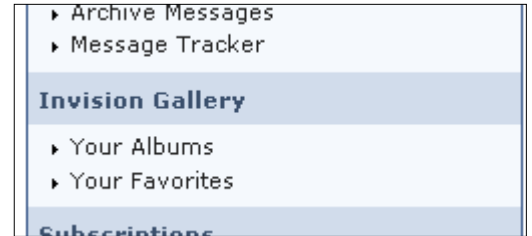
Paul Sibley

Here's a guide to using the Gallery, a new feature of our site allowing you to share pictures..

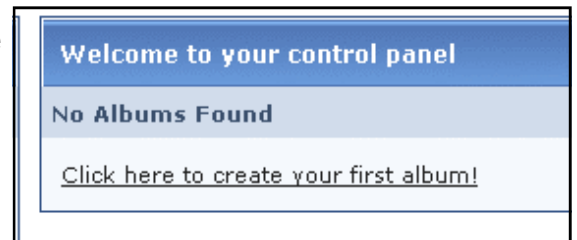
To access the gallery click on the link on the top bar of the forum.



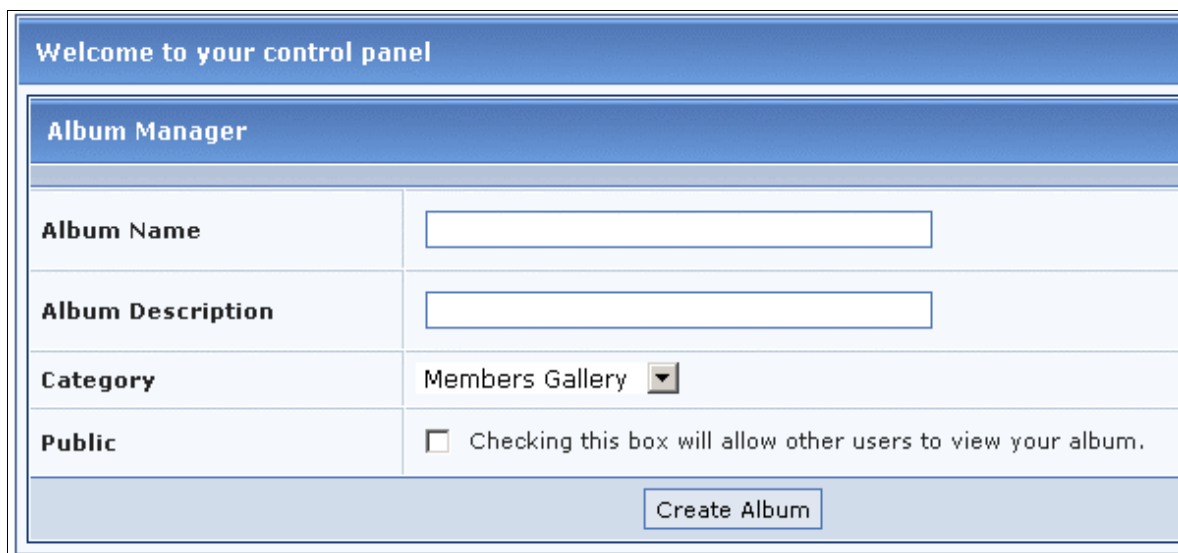
Before you can upload images into the gallery, you need to create your own album. To do that, click on 'My Controls' near the top of the page. In there look down the menu on the left for 'Invision Gallery' and click on the link below it, 'Your Albums'.



This will open up your gallery control panel. If this is the first album you are creating, you'll see something like the box to the right. Click on the link that says, 'Click here to create your first album!'



The Album Manager will open (see below). Give your new album a name and description. If you want other people to be able to view your album, you need to make sure you put a 'check mark' in the box to make it public.



Welcome to your control panel	
Album Manager	
Album Name	<input type="text"/>
Album Description	<input type="text"/>
Category	Members Gallery <input type="button" value="v"/>
Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Checking this box will allow other users to view your album.
<input type="button" value="Create Album"/>	

Now you've created your album, you can begin to upload images into it.

At the right of your album manager you'll see a drop down menu. Click on the arrow, and scroll down to where it says, 'Upload Image'. Click on that and you'll be taken to a posting screen, very similar to what you see when posting a topic in the forums.

Give your image a Caption, and any notes you may want to add. Towards the bottom of that posting screen you'll see a section called, 'Upload Photo'.



Copyright (use © for the © symbol)	<input type="text"/>
Upload Photo	
Image to upload	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
<input type="button" value="Post Image"/>	

Click on 'Browse', navigate through your computers filing system to locate the picture you want to use. Either, double click the image filename, or single click and click on 'Open'. Then Click on 'Post Image' at the bottom. Your image will be posted into your album.

Once you have your first album created with some images in it, you can upload more images into it directly from the gallery. Just click on the 'New Image' that will be visible when you are viewing your own album.



Hope that helps you get the most from the gallery. If you have any questions, do please ask them, and I'll try my best to answer them.

Welcome Helen

Ailsa Wright

On Tuesday 22nd August 10 of us gathered in chapel for a special service to welcome Helen as Individual Members' Pastor. Helen was with Russell in Oxford while the service took place; the rest of us were scattered around the globe.

The service began with Russell asking Helen two questions and Helen responding:

Russell_Dewhurst: Helen, do you believe, so far as you know your own heart,

Russell_Dewhurst: that God has called you to be pastor to Individual Members?

Helen_W: I believe that God has called me.

Russell_Dewhurst: Will you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of i-church to further the kingdom of God?

Helen_W: With the help of God, I will.

Then it was the turn of the rest of us:

Russell_Dewhurst: People of God,

Russell_Dewhurst: will you support and uphold Helen in this ministry?

To which we all enthusiastically replied: With the help of God, we will.

Clifton offered the reading from John 15:16 and Russell talked about the importance of welcome in the Rule of Benedict and for our community in i-church. He emphasised that, though Helen has a specific role, it is up to the whole community to look out for each member. The ministry of welcome, though led by Helen, is one for us all to exercise. There was then an opportunity for those present to offer a prayer of their own.

It was good to meet as a community to support Helen and to launch her ministry on our behalf. There was a party atmosphere in chapel as the service ended. We may not have had real champagne but Russell was plying Helen with cups of real tea in Oxford. Luckily we have a cork popping sound effect in LiveChat so that was pressed into service.



Chatting together continued for quite some time after the service until each member drifted away to do whatever their time zone demanded, some to bed, some to a party, some to drive home from work, some to cook the evening meal—all part of the variety that is i-church.

Creativity

Tim H

I recently heard about an alt.worship group ('Grace', in London, led by Jonny Baker) which was looking for ways to encourage people to think creatively. The basic idea was that everyone has creative gifts - but that most of us pretend we haven't, and so never use them. One of the ideas they came up with was a 'Stations of the Cross' project. In Lent, they encouraged everyone in the church to think of something artistic and Lent-related that they could put together, and everything they received was put on display. They ended up (by coincidence) with a set of 14 artworks, including cartoons, paintings, a Powerpoint presentation... It seems like it was a great success.

This got me to thinking (always dangerous). Do you think we could try something similar here?

We could ask people (either as individuals, or as PGs or any other groups) to put together something creative - which could be computer art, Powerpoint, animation, poetry, music, liturgy, a scanned painting or sketch, anything at all. Then we could post everything up on the front page of the website.



I was thinking we could start with something fairly small, as a trial run, and then maybe try for something bigger as a Christmas project. My idea was to ask people - perhaps each PG? - to put together something creative on the theme of a Bible passage chosen by the group. Anything would do - I sketched a couple of doodles of Elijah rising to heaven and Moses parting the Red Sea on the back of an envelope while thinking about it (and no, I won't post them, they were terrible). Or we could choose a theme - say, Bible passages that relate to i-church. Someone might like to think about the desert blooming in Isaiah, say, or Pentecost.

What do you think?

(The idea has been embraced by several members but there is still time to get involved.)

September Calendar	Service Times																		
<p>Birthdays as per Calendar on members forum (there are 10 September birthdays to celebrate)</p> <p>September 14th Special service to celebrate James Watkins' real "birth day"</p> <p>September 24th Deadline for The NET</p>	<p>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:</p> <table data-bbox="877 1433 1356 1814"><tr><td><u>Worship</u></td><td>GMT</td></tr><tr><td>Mon to Sat</td><td>08:00</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>09:00</td></tr><tr><td>Daily DIY</td><td>11:00</td></tr><tr><td>Daily</td><td>20:00</td></tr><tr><td>Mon to Fri</td><td>02:00</td></tr></table> <p><u>Open House—Tuesdays</u></p> <table data-bbox="877 1881 1356 2038"><tr><td>Study</td><td>19:00</td></tr><tr><td>Chat</td><td>19:30</td></tr><tr><td>Worship</td><td>20:00</td></tr></table> <p>You can now get services in your local time on the member Home Page. Check it out.</p>	<u>Worship</u>	GMT	Mon to Sat	08:00	Sunday	09:00	Daily DIY	11:00	Daily	20:00	Mon to Fri	02:00	Study	19:00	Chat	19:30	Worship	20:00
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<p>Worship in i-church</p> <p>July saw 33 separate people visiting the chapel for one or more services, clocking up 347 attendances between us, or more than 10 each on average. So whilst the number of people was a bit lower than in June, attendances were up. This probably means that once people have found the service time slot in the week that suits them they are likely to become regulars.</p> <p>The most number of people in a service was again 11, but more it is becoming routine for 8 or more to attend the 20:00 GMT worship. If you have yet to join us, do drop in when you can. You are sure of a warm welcome.</p>																			