



## What is this Newsletter about?

Welcome to the second electronic newsletter from [IBEX](#) - the Churches Working with the Economy, Central South Coast.

We are here to help the churches to relate our faith to daily life, to tackle issues of social justice and to take action to serve our local communities more effectively.

In this edition you will find items on:

- What IBEX offers and details of our upcoming Annual General Meeting
- Church in the Community - What's that all about?
- Ideas from Buckland URC in Portsmouth
- The Fareshare Project
- The Methodist Chaplaincy 'Chaplaincy Everywhere'
- The Guardian's Society Professionals website
- The Tolpuddle Festival - A Report
- The Christian Aid 'Hungry for Justice' Campaign for October 2014, and
- How you can contact us for help in thinking through your own ideas about meeting need in your own locality

Thank you for all the encouraging feedback we received for our first newsletter. Please continue to let us know what you think of the newsletter, what you want to learn about or how you think we can help you in your own activities on email [newsletter@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk). We do trust that the font size and colouring enables greater readability.

[Val Potter](#) (Chair)

[David Wrighton](#) (Team Leader)

[Cliff Bembridge](#) (Church and Community Officer)

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### **What is your Church thinking of getting involved in?**

Is your Church considering a redevelopment programme, looking to start a Soup Kitchen, or thinking about tackling a local community issue? Whatever it might be, perhaps [Cliff Bembridge](#), our Church in the Community Officer, can help. Cliff's role is to encourage Churches to think beyond their four walls, and to be professional and ambitious, while remaining realistic about it, when they do.

### **Church in The Community? What's that all about?**

Cliff Bembridge has been at Buckland URC in Portsmouth for about two and a half years. When he went there, it was a Church which wanted to do things, and Cliff brought a mixture of pragmatism and vision to the place which has brought results, but not without some hiccups. Cliff is doing things at Buckland as part of his role with IBEX, and would be only too happy to talk about it and show people what is going on.

Buckland is a neighbourhood which has its problems. The Church (a large Victorian building with all the problems that brings) with an early 1970's add-on, was not fit to deal with its community, and so it was necessary to change or die. Major changes are planned, once the money has been raised, but there have also been a number of small successes already. The Victorian part of the building is the main expensive remodelling bit, but much has already been achieved with the newer part of the premises.

Fund-raising is a vital part of this, and that is one thing Cliff works very hard at.... And has some success. Cliff notes, however, that it is not just about making the Church look nice. People will not give you money just to prettify your premises. There has to be a point to it.

There may be the need to change the whole ethos of a Church, to help it to care about the community that surrounds it – really care.... with no hidden agenda.

Then, what real needs are there within that community, how can you help tackle them, and what needs to be done to help support that action. If you are applying for serious funding, you will need to show what you can do realistically, but also **show** that the need really exists, and is not something you would just like to do.

Below are some of the things going on at Buckland, some successful, some less so, but if this rings any bells with you, Cliff would be only too happy to talk to you. You can contact Cliff on [e-mail](#).

### What Buckland URC is doing!



- A soup kitchen – which operated before Cliff arrived, but has changed in nature and expanded its operation, becoming less “exclusive”, if that doesn’t sound too ironic.
- Two well-equipped business standard meeting rooms – redecorated, furnished and

equipped on a tight budget, but it is amazing what a transformation you can achieve.



- Business in Buckland – One room given over to hire out desk/work-space and facilities for new businesses, maybe by the hour, even, if there is a need to keep costs down. Cliff has obtained funding to support this through being accepted on to the course of the Hampshire School for Social Entrepreneurs – a vital contact.



- A move to provide a space for child-minders and their charges, a safe place for them to meet. This didn't ever really get off the ground – a failure – but something which could be tried again.

- Debt Counselling – the provision of a service rather than rebuilding, but needs much thought and planning because of the need to gain approval from the FCA – Financial Control Authority.

- A brand new idea for a multi-cultural Arts Centre – an original idea for an exhibition space, but then something to reflect the very diverse nature of the Community. Just visual arts? Regeneration through the Arts? Tackling disadvantage through the arts? Who knows? **Very** early days – it might be something or nothing – but who knows?

- And then the big one, several hundred thousand pounds to remodel the Church itself.

Mezzanine Floor for worship area upstairs, meeting rooms and spaces downstairs, a Community café at the front of the building. Fund-raising going well, but it could still all founder. But you don't know until you try

As the immortal bard put it so succinctly: "Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."..... (spot the deliberate mistake – it was Alfred Lord Tennyson!).

### Have you heard about 'Fareshare'?



Operating since April 2014, Fareshare Southern Central provides good quality food to 55 charities and community organisations in Hampshire. They support breakfast clubs, food banks, and lunch clubs for older people, night shelters, day centres, community cafes and projects supporting vulnerable young people and those with addictions and mental health. Working closely with the food and drink industry we ensure that no good food goes to waste.

A few examples of the high quality foods delivered to charities recently ...



If your interested in getting involved in the work Fareshare do please contact Matt or Claire on [fareshare@scratchcharity.co.uk](mailto:fareshare@scratchcharity.co.uk) or see details on their [website](#).

## Chaplaincy Everywhere - Methodist Chaplaincies



Chaplaincy Everywhere is to become the brand for Methodist chaplaincies.

You can subscribe to news and updates through the Chaplaincy Everywhere [newsletter](#).

The newly formed Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network will continue to develop chaplaincy on the ground which is also great news.

Do see the [Chaplaincy website](#) for more information.

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## The Guardian's Society Professionals - Big Community. Big Ideas. Big Impact.

To mark the launch of the [Guardian's Society Professionals site](#), they came up with [an updated version of the five evils](#) that public service and voluntary sector professionals face today – digital exclusion, underemployment and isolation, chronic illness, inequality, and squalor.

From wearable technology in Healthcare to [charities who are going back to basics with inclusion](#) – the Guardian's society professionals networks explored how their sector is coping with, and tackling, the giant evils of the 21st Century.

Do take a look at their website - many ideas to explore and commentary to follow.

## The Tolpuddle Festival July 2014 - A Report



“Typical of the Church, muscling in on something like this”. Apparently this was a comment overheard last year when the Bridport and Dorchester Methodist Circuit had a stand at the Tolpuddle festival. They had a similar comment this year, when carrying a brand-new banner in the parade for the first time - (quickly retracted after a brief conversation!)

So it was with great relish that I began my efforts from the main stage with a reminder that, if it had not been for the Methodist Church, probably none of us would have been there anyway. I had already planned to say that I was a Methodist, as was George Loveless and at least 4 of the other Martyrs. (We are not sure about James Hammett, so it might be all of them). I reinforced this by informing the gathered throng that I am a Local preacher, as were three of the Martyrs, George Loveless, James Loveless and Thomas Stansfield.

It was a real opportunity to emphasise that these people called Methodists had been fighting injustice for more than 200 years, often in the teeth of fierce opposition from the establishment, including other Churches, and had offered practical support to those in the direst need all through that time. These were the values which those three men preached, far and wide throughout Dorset, and which inspired the early Trade Union.

The TUC were remembering their own, as well – two larger than life figures not back this year, in the form of Tony Benn and Bob Crow. Tony Benn’s grand-daughter, Emily Benn,

spoke movingly about his influence and how much the family had appreciated messages received after his death, particularly those which said how much he had inspired people. He, in turn, was inspired and recharged on an annual basis by the Tolpuddle experience. She mentioned his favourite Hymn – “Dare to be a Daniel” – and he always supported someone who stood up for what they believed in.

Two Bristol MP’s also paid tribute to one of their predecessors. Dawn Primarolo noted how he made complicated things understandable, how he inspired generations of activists, how he himself would say that he became less sure of what he knew as he grew older. But one thing on which he was constant was the tried and tested principle that we should treat people as we expect to be treated ourselves. He was also a strong believer in Public Services, that he would say “Yes, I AM my brother’s keeper”, that he saw taxes as a way for the better off to support the worse off, and that they should be the weapon with which we tackled child poverty, unemployment and any other social evils of the age.

Earlier, Frances O’Grady, the general Secretary of the TUC, joked, as you might expect, about the loss of Michael Gove and others in the cabinet reshuffle, and about the auction of a tennis match against David Cameron and Boris Johnson. But she also highlighted some shocking facts: how the wealthiest 5 families in the Country own more than the poorest 12,000,000 people, asking how this could be allowed to happen in one of the richest countries of the world, asking why we cannot do more for the pay of teachers, nurses, cleaning staff and all the other people who keep things going.



This seemed to bring things full circle. The Tolpuddle Martyrs, inspired by their faith, militated against the appalling and worsening conditions that they and their families faced, the greed of the landowners set against the poverty of their workers. This was emphasised by the speaker at the service in the Chapel at the end of the day. David Drew, a Christian

Socialist, formerly MP for Stroud, and who will be fighting the seat again at the next election, focussed on the spiritual side of life above physical possessions and self-interest. What would George Loveless think now, 180 years on? Much has changed, for the better, but austerity is particularly hitting rural communities in all sorts of ways. Echoes there of Tony Benn and his passion for public services, perhaps, but even more echoes of George Loveless, the early Methodist Church and all the injustice there still is to tackle.

*David Wrighton*

## **The 'Hungry for Justice' with Christian Aid - October 2014**



The [Hungry for Justice](#) is a weekend to promote the idea of [fighting starvation in an age of plenty](#).

Over the weekend of 18 - 19 October, hundreds of churches nationwide will be urging their local MPs to tackle climate change, and praying for our sisters and brothers around the world.

Will yours be one of them?

You could hold a special service, create a prayer room or arrange a walk of witness – whatever you do, please invite your MP along and challenge them to act.

## **Planning for Mission and Service**

Need help with mission and service in your local community? Working on a mission

strategy and how you can serve your local community more effectively?

Come along to the IBEX AGM on 29th October to find out what we can offer and how we can help. Hear examples of what is possible and be inspired to turn ideas into reality with our advice and support. We also want to hear from you what your own plans and priorities are so that we can be more effective in serving you in the coming year.

The venue is Buckland URC, 178 Kingston Road, Portsmouth, PO2 7LP, at 7.00pm. Please email [secretary@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk) to let us know if you intend to come so that we can get enough cake!

## Who is IBEX?

IBEX – the Church working in the Economy Central South Coast

IBEX is a Christian organisation relating faith to economic life, in Hampshire and Dorset, mainly Bournemouth and Poole.

We are funded by the URC Wessex Synod, Southampton Methodist District and Baptist Home Mission.

Our main areas of activity:

- Support for local churches serving their communities
- Work with Partner Organisations on Community Projects e.g. local authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations
- Support and development of Chaplaincy

## How can IBEX help your Church?



IBEX works by identifying and strengthening your Churches mission to your Community. Through a unique network we help you to integrate the Church with the local Business and Voluntary Sector, support your church in transforming buildings for Mission or provide help to develop strategies around Fund-Raising opportunities.

IBEX is involved in Retail Chaplaincy in Bournemouth, Poole, Portsmouth and Southampton.

IBEX can help to develop Workplace visiting, a committed observer/critical friend, Pastoral support, or long term engagement.

Can we help you? [Contact us here](#) – we'd love to visit with you and your team to see how we can help you!

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**Our mailing address is:** [newsletter@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk)