



Making Disciples, Impacting Nations

IPSWICH INTERNATIONAL CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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Pastor Harold's Report

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

(Romans 5:1-5)

It has always been the Father's desire that our hearts overflow with His love. No matter what we experience as individuals or as a church family, as long as our roots are deeply secured in the Father's love we can trust Him to cause all things to work for our good. The good news is that He is at work within us causing our hearts to be willing to please Him in all that we do. He is constantly transforming our hearts from one degree of glory to another as we allow Him.

Our mission statement is 'MAKING DISCIPLES IMPACTING NATIONS'. On this journey, there are things to be grateful for and still a lot of work to be done as we seek to fulfil the five-fold mandate God has given us.

The New Testament Church expressed its life and worship in different spaces and sizes. They had large gatherings where they often met in the temple. They also had small to mid-size gatherings which normally took place in people's homes. This was clearly demonstrated in the life and ministry of Jesus who ministered to crowds of people from time to time. He also had a wider circle of disciples between, 70-120 men and women that he empowered for ministry. He however, dedicated most of His time with the 12 and within that an even smaller number of 3. These two groups had the privilege of close proximity to Jesus, seeing, learning and experiencing most of His life.

As Jesus is our role model it is clear that if we want the results He says are possible then we need to intentionally adjust our life patterns to be in line with His blueprint. In order to make this a reality we have embarked on an interesting journey to learn, model and implement this across IIC. This is very much a process and not an event so it will take some time to develop and fully mature. We will continue to re-evaluate our leadership structures, membership, activities and make the necessary changes to allow the Lord room to do what He fully desires for His Church.

In the New Year, we will have a greater emphasis on Covenant and Kingdom which are the two major themes which run through the Scriptures. Starting with our 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting (Jan 12th-Feb 1st, 2015) and through the year we will be highlighting these truths. We encourage you to really engage with what the Lord is doing and wants to do if we allow Him the space to do so. It is a time to prepare ourselves for the Bridegroom and get involved in His Mission of touching others with His love.

A Family Friendly Church – As part of making IIC a more family friendly church we are aware that a sense of welcome and belonging is foundational to this process. Currently, our Sunday worship services are the main times to encourage this. Therefore, in addition to our current ushering and welcome team we are rejuvenating our care ministry led by Wendy Allen and Pastor Mick to connect well with people and also coordinate visitation. We are also exploring the best way to have refreshments after both services and the space to talk and pray privately when needed. The main challenge is often the layout of our building but there is always a way around it. The youth and children's ministries continue to provide opportunity for a sense of family. We are in need of more dedicated helpers to join our wonderful teams who give their best. At the end of summer we had our annual Big Day Out which was a huge success. There is an even bigger one planned for 2015-Watch this space!

An Effectively Discipled Church – As discipleship is a process and not an event we are constantly reviewing how to make effective disciples here at IIC. We started Discipleship 101 earlier this year as an initial essential step in following Christ. This is part of an ongoing series to equip the saints in every area of life, which we will unveil in the next few months. Inasmuch as we have had and will continue to have our larger gatherings, it is very clear that they are not enough. For us to know greater effectiveness we need to do life together in smaller groups and hold each other accountable on how we apply biblical truths to our daily lives. We know many of you want to be effective disciples and are open to intentionally developing this approach.

A Contagiously Generous Church – We are grateful to God for being able to be a blessing to those in need within our church and also to other local and global ministries and mission agencies. This is possible because of your generous giving within the church. We intend to continue to grow and develop into a contagiously generous church. In conjunction with this, we really want to appreciate all who volunteer by generously giving their time and use their skills in serving the Lord here at IIC.

Imagine what church would look and feel like if we all opened our hearts for God to use us for Acts of Random Kindness? We would be known as a church who freely give of our resources to bless one another and others.

A Passionately Mission Minded Church – Last November our Creative Ministry performed 'The Greatest Love Story Ever Told' which blessed many and sowed seeds of the gospel in several people's lives. There were also a few commitments made to follow Christ. Our next big outreach event will be this Christmas and is entitled 'REACHING THE KING'. We expect many to hear the message in song and respond to the King. There is however no doubt that the most effective way of reaching people is through friendship evangelism. Almost all of the people who came to Christ in IIC this year came through personal contact. ESOL is another area of mission we are engaged in and is experiencing amazing success through befriending and serving the community. Members of IIC are involved in partnering with other churches in areas such as: The Soup Kitchen and Town Pastors. International missions is very much part of our DNA and it is exciting to see how

different individuals are involved in making a difference in other countries blessing the poor and spreading the good news. Remember mission is a mentality not a location!

An Intimate and Intercessory Church – The manifest presence of the Holy Spirit is one of the most important things we must all hunger and thirst for in our personal lives and also in our gathered meetings. This year we have intentionally invested in our worship ministry through additional training and discipleship. We know anointed worship is vital to our intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Already, the difference is beginning to show but we know there is still a long way to go. Prayer and especially intercession is another major call of the Lord upon this fellowship. Wherever believers have a deep longing for Him He shows up and manifests His glory. A prayerful church is a powerful church. In the past few months there have been times when some of us have responded to this important calling, but many of us still need to hear the wake up call. Some of our corporate times of prayer have been very powerful and the Lord has spoken very clearly, but it is clear we need to keep pressing in. Please avail yourself to make intimacy with the Holy Spirit a major priority.

Pastor David's Report

Overview

Over the past year there have been so many wonderful things that have happened beginning with the Daniel Fast and Discipleship Conference led by Nigel Tween. In March we celebrated the opening of our new building. In May, my wife and I had the privilege with Colin Reed, Jasmine and Jurate to go on mission to the Philippines.

As a church we have had the blessing and challenge of seeing all aspects of family life - from births, weddings and funerals. We have also seen the continued development of relationship with Burlington Baptist Church, St Matthew's Anglican Church and Ipswich Community Church culminating in our Joint Services. I have also been involved in developing deeper relationships with CYM in order to see His Kingdom manifest.

On a more regular basis I have been involved in visiting and spending time with members of the fellowship, Chaplaincy at the University Campus and Suffolk New College. As well as continuing to run a small group for those 18-30's on a Wednesday evening.

Highlights

As the overseer of the Youth Department I have been encouraged by the service of the young people in the lunches that they have put on. As well as seeing so many of them serving in different departments. My thanks to Helen and Carl Herbert and their growing team who head up this area and of course the wonderful young people.

On a personal level - the mission trip to the Philippines was inspiring and humbling. My wife and I had an amazing and eventful time on mission seeing many come to know God and ministering to those in need.

It has been tremendous to deepen relationship with our Romanian brothers and sisters as they continue to be a part of our fellowship. It was a real privilege this summer to baptise 20 people in one service. Praise God for what He is doing amongst us.

Challenges/Needs

We are grateful for those who are engaged in living out their callings in the existing departments. As overseer of the Youth Department it has been good to see some new volunteers joining in recent months; however, as we have such a vibrant group and would love to do more for those young people we already have, and those outside of the church we are in need of more workers. You're never too old to love the young people!

Future Plans

I continue to embark on the mammoth task of writing a devotional on the 'Word' version of the New Testament. This is a passion of mine to encourage young people to engage with the word of God in a relevant format.

As a small group we are looking at developing covenant relationships and kingdom expression. This will involve us identifying an area of mission that we as a group feel called to. As part of this mentality shift I intend to specifically spend time investing in some individuals who God is calling me to disciple.

Many thanks to all for your continued commitment and desire to see the Kingdom of God to be made manifest in Ipswich. We continue to pray as we seek to see greater manifestations of His glory as we live as disciples in covenant relationship as part of the community of faith.

Pastor Wale's Report

Discipleship

Jesus commands us to “make disciples of all nations” while He retains the responsibility of building His Church, and gives the assurance that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” We are therefore called to be Disciples making Disciples. In the past year my responsibility has been to oversee the process of being an effectively disciplined church.

Discipleship, as a life-long process, starts with the initial commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ. This is a process and not an event. We developed a six-lesson course to be used by an individual, to lead someone to a full commitment to God through Jesus Christ. About thirty people were trained in the use of these materials while about ten (10) recent converts benefitted from its use.

Meetings of varying sizes – big, small and one-on-one – have their place in the discipleship process. Whilst our Sunday services provide warmth and a sense of belonging to a big family; smaller meetings allow for, and encourage, intimacy, accountability and deeper fellowship. Deeper sessions enable participating members opportunities to engage in learning, applying, praying and growing in their faith as they explore in greater depth the subject of the messages preached in previous Sunday services. They also provide the opportunity to meet and know better other members of the church.

Regular attendees have shares testimonies to these effects. We encourage you to get involved and “taste and see that the LORD is good.”
(Psalm 34:8)

Welcome

We would really like to make people feel welcome in, and to, our midst especially during our two Sunday services. We have made some progress in this area but so much still needs to be done. IF ONLY we have many more volunteers in the Welcome & Ushering team to greet, engage in conversation new or recent comers and generally make everyone feel welcome and part of the family.

Are you thinking of how and where you should be involved in the church? Why not consider joining the Welcome & Ushering Team?

“But I am shy!” ... Well we provide encouragement and training to overcome shyness. You can make a difference.

Denest Akintaju, Treasurer

Financial overview

I present the financial report of Ipswich International Church for the period October 1st 2013 to September 30, 2014. Our God has indeed been faithful. Though we are in a relatively healthy position, I trust that the Lord has more he wants to do through us as we believe and reach out to Him in faith.

In line with the vision to be a mission minded church, we are trusting the Lord that the finances of IIC will increase tremendously in the coming year so that we are not just "breaking even" but we will be able to fulfil the vision of being a blessing. This can only be possible as each one of us makes a commitment to play our part. We are exploring other ways of increasing revenue through schemes/grants that are available to charities.

Thank you to those who have given in the past year. May the Lord increase you more and more (Psalm 115 vs 14). I trust that we will all participate in giving to the work of God.

Summary Figures

These figures have been reviewed, agreed and signed off by the Eldership of the church. A more detailed break down of the accounts is available for viewing upon request.

Gift Aid

If you are a taxpayer and you have been giving tithes and offerings to IIC. HMRC could give back 25% of your gifts back to the church which would increase the income of the church.

We realise that not every offering is from taxpayers, but if every taxpayer in the church registered for gift aid, the £45,000 we received as gift aid refund could easily have been between £50,000 and £52,000.

This is what gift aid is all about. You will need to fill a gift aid form and be assigned a gift aid number which you will put on the offering envelopes whenever you give your offerings. Gift aid forms are kept in the foyer and can be obtained from any of the ushers.

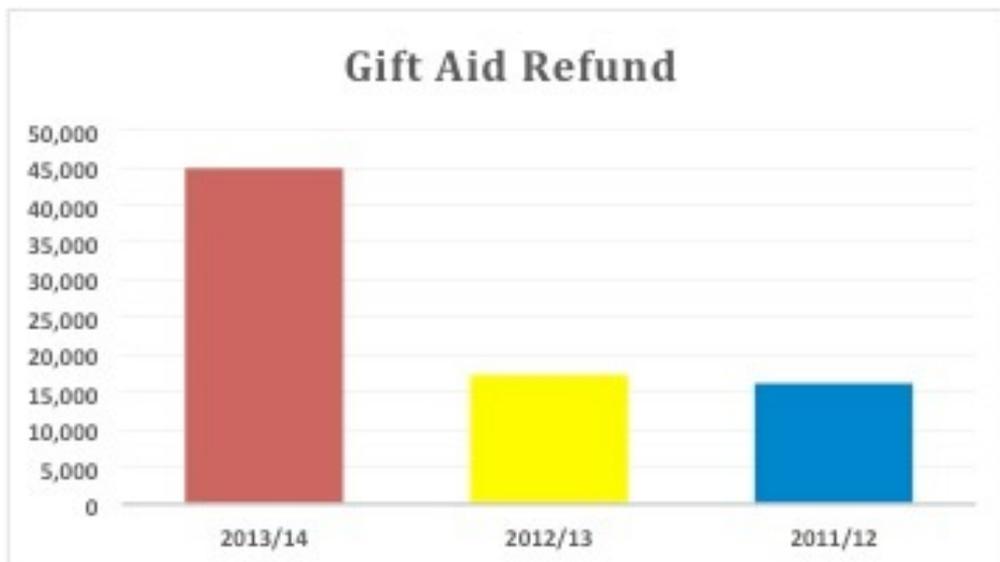
You can now also give to IIC through your Smart Phone using your debit or credit card. Please see the treasurer for more details.

1 Burlington Road

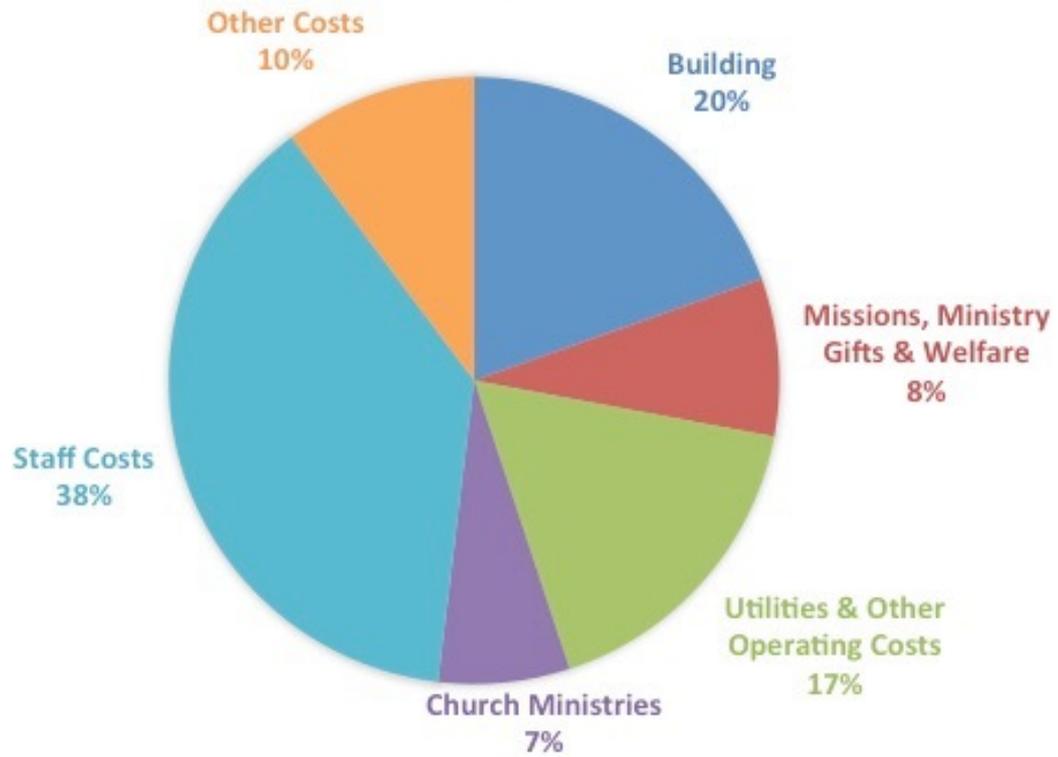
In December 2013 we had an opportunity to purchase the building next door at 1 Burlington Road for three hundred and seventy thousand pounds (£370,000) and it was part financed by the proceeds from the sale of the Manse.

The mortgage facility enables an early redemption without incurring any penalties. Our current monthly payment is £2,258 (which is only £258 more than the repayment on the manse). The current balance is £259,000.

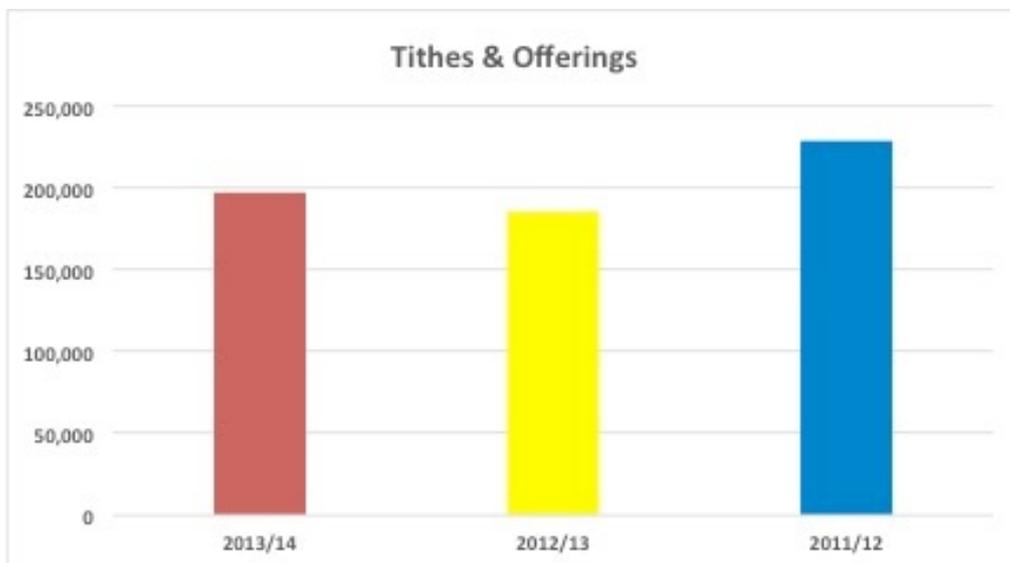
Income for the Period	£
Tithes & Offerings	196,928
Gift Aid Refund	44,901
Misc Income	408
Total	242,237
Expenses	227,370
Surplus for the year	14,867
Balance on savings account	70,000



2013/4 - EXPENDITURE



Tithes & Offerings



1 Burlington Road

In the year 2002/3, the Word of God to I.I.C. was
*“Enlarge your house, build on additions, spread out your home, for you will soon be bursting at the seams.” *1 For “I will give you the nations for your inheritance”, “The nations that you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God” *2.*

This was given to the church on more than one occasion. At the time we received this Word, we did not really understand the implications until one day when on the way to church, the Lord stopped the then senior pastor and his wife at the house next door and said *“Enlarge your tent pegs”*. After further prayer, the church leadership felt that God was telling us that He was going to give us this building, specifically for ministry to the community as well as for the use of the church ministries and activities. For many years, this vision and Word from God stayed with us and we continued in prayer over.

In March 2011, we were visited by the owners of 1, Burlington Road late one Friday afternoon to say that they were putting the house on the market, and wanted to let us know because they knew of our interest, and they would like us to be the new owners. Although we believed that this was the fulfilment of God’s promise, for several reasons we could not go ahead with this purchase at the time .

More than two years later and after several failed attempts at selling the house, the owners accepted our offer (17% less than the original price). THIS IS OUR GOD. God’s timing, God’s will, God’s plan, God’s doing. TO HIM ALONE BE THE GLORY.

We are thrilled as we watch the fulfillment of the second prophetic word above -*The nations that you do not know will come running to you*. Peoples of different ethnic and national backgrounds are within our reach even here in Ipswich. The acquisition of this building gives us more opportunities to be more missional.

*1 Isaiah 54:2, New Living Bible

*2. Isaiah 55:5, NIV

Building & Maintenance

Overview	As the result of purchasing the building next door - 1 Burlington - the focus shifted from major projects associated with the main church towards ongoing maintenance of the main building plus jobs within the new building required to make it fit for purpose.
Highlights	Many thanks to everyone who has helped during the year. Ann Barnes has retired from her role of tending the garden of the main church. Many thanks to Tony and Pat Ralph for taking this on. Gordon Grimwade regularly gets involved grass cutting and hedge trimming. Many of the Romanian congregation help on a regular basis around the church. Matt Long also deserves a special mention. His dedication and enthusiasm in cleaning and clearing up is recognised by many in the Church fellowship. Special thanks to Ian Piggott for his tireless devotion to work around the church. This has included repairing of the kitchen following major damp issues, re-plastering of the kitchen and the upper room. Ian has also replaced some of the gutterings of the building.
Challenges/Needs	Once again, many thanks for the tireless work from volunteers within the church. There is always a need for practical people with time to spare and the energy and enthusiasm to help with the ongoing work within the main church and the new building. Every 5 years the main church building is inspected. This is referred to as a Quinquennial inspection. This is used to identify and prioritise building maintenance work associated with the fabric of the building. The latest inspection is overdue.
Future Plans	The purchase of the former dentists building has put redeveloping of a new toilet block on hold. Future plans involve an initial feasibility study to consider a small toilet block at the rear of the Dentists garden. The results of the Quinquennial report will be analysed and any major work will have to be factored in to future budgets.

John Fisher

Children's Ministry

Overview

The Sunday school/God Squad has been through a few transitions this year. These have included the changing of leadership, to the use of no 1 Burlington Road on a Sunday morning. We have had a relatively high turnover of helpers and we said goodbye to two committed teachers and Cherry Woodward who went to be with the Lord. She was a dedicated and passionate children worker, nevertheless we have a faithful team of teachers who have remained. The children giving their lives to Jesus and walking in close relationship with Him remains our priority, but we will be looking ahead in the near future to how we can introduce new ways of doing things and the best way to meet the children's needs as well and making the best use of the teachers and helpers we have.

Highlights

Moving the top two classes to the new building, 1 Burlington Road, has given a lot more space to the children which was needed as we were outgrowing the church on a Sunday morning. Praise God!

We started to see the children asking questions as they engaged with the word of God and many have given their lives to Christ and prayed prayers of salvation.

It is always a blessing to see older children move on and transition to the youth department and many of the children took this step this year. We are blessed to see them continuing their walk with God.

Challenges/Needs

We are always in need of more helpers on a Sunday morning. We need willing people with a heart to serve God and the children.

A particular need is for helpers or teachers in classes where we have children with additional needs, so those with experience or training in this area would be ideal.

We also require those who have skills to lead the children who have experience of discipling children and implementing new methods of teaching and discipling.

We require regular prayer for our God Squad Team; for their health and strength and spiritual well being.

We require regular prayer for the children themselves that the seed that has been planted will be watered and grow beyond what they experience on a Sunday.

Future Plans

In the New Year, we will be looking at different structures and ways of working with teachers we have, whilst considering what is best for the children, as we will again say goodbye to another teacher.

God has been good to keep us going this year despite the difficulties, however, His plan for the children and His heart for them is what motivates us and we remain excited to see how this will unfold in the coming year.

Stacey Baker

Youth Ministry

Overview

We have had a busy year as always with the youth department. We have continued to support the youth to have a mid week meeting which we have changed to a Wednesday at 7:30pm and during the Sunday morning service. Sometimes we run specific courses and at other times we allow time for prayer or a forum which simply gives the young people the freedom to ask questions about their faith.

We have always believed that it is important to equip our young people to be ready to both share and defend their faith. We recognise the many challenges the youth can face in todays society and we aim to support the young people to deal with those challenges.

We are currently piloting a course with those in years 7 and 8 relating to discovering and reaching their potential in Christ.

We have continued to raise money for the youth department through our fundraising lunches, car wash and our popular 'youth auction'.

Highlights

We have always had a heart to connect with the young people related to purity and relationships; we ran our fourth purity course at the end of the summer. The young people really responded well to this and we had over 20 attend each week. We covered lots of areas including myths and truths about sex, and what God's word says. We shared our testimonies along with some others and really saw God do work in the young people.

In August we took the youth away for a residential to Letton Hall in Norfolk. We all had a great time and valued this time to really get to know the young people. It is an opportunity for them to build relationships with each other and to take time out to focus on God.

We are thankful to Ian and Sally Piggott who took a small group to the Gathering this year. The young people had a great time and were inspired by the powerful worship and speakers.

Challenges/Needs

We still face challenges around leaders and teachers. Although we have been able to split the group on a Sunday, we would like to be able to do the same during the week.

Future Plans

We hope to attend the Gathering and Letton Hall again next year and will be planning a 'Mini Gathering' of our own as an event to support the celebration of 100 years of Elim. This will be a great opportunity for the young people to get involved and use their gifts and talents to glorify God and share their faith with others.

Notes

We would really like to thank all those who support us, including all the new teachers who have come on board since September to ensure a sound transition for the Year sevens. Without your support we wouldn't be able to run the course.

We would like to give special thanks to Ian Piggott who is a huge part of the team, without his support, Letton Hall, The Gathering and the fundraising lunches simply wouldn't happen. And to Sally Piggott who really supports us and stepped up as a leader to support the young people to attend the Gathering this year.

Carl & Helen Herbert

Aspire Ladies Group

Current Leadership	<p>Florence Afflu, Elizabeth Adejuwon, Melanie Wahl and Esther Akintaju</p> <p>The ladies group have planned our programmes and activities to tie-in with the vision, rhythm and mission statement of the church.</p>
Highlights	<p>Our 2013 end of year Christmas dinner was at Arlington's Restaurant in the town centre and 53 attended, an improvement on 38 in attendance in the previous year.</p> <p>In March, we had Pearl Moses as our guest speaker at a whole day prophetic and teaching conference. We all contributed food to have a buffet which was well supported and patronised and had good support from all the departments in the church. Fifty six ladies registered in attendance.</p> <p>Our meeting in May was a bible study on the character of Mary the mother of Jesus and also James, John and Jude. The study material was prepared by Elizabeth Adejuwon. We look to encourage developing our own study materials and writing skills. In all we had eight house fellowships covering: Ipswich, Felixstowe, Kesgrave and Copdock.</p> <p>The ladies meeting in June was in the form of a seminar and workshop, facilitated and presented by our own Sharon Murray. It was designed to address the qualities of the Proverb 31 woman. Twenty seven (27) ladies attended. Thanks Sharon for a job well done!</p>
Day Fellowships	<p>Our Monday fellowship has had a consistent number of ladies meeting every Monday from 11am-1.00am to both pray and study the word of God together. The group focused on addressing various life issues. Individuals had good opportunity to build good friendships, social and work networks in the group.</p>
Outing Meetings	<p>A group of our Ladies attended the Aspire Elim Conference which was hosted by the Ilford Elim on the invitation of our guest Music and Worship trainer, Velveta Thompson.</p>
General Overview	<p>The commitment of ladies within the church is very encouraging and across a broad range of areas. However, there is still room for many to get involved in various areas of need. The love for one another has increased - as we pray, fellowship and work together.</p>
Future Plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To improve on the leadership skill and team work building among the ladies in the church.2. To continue to encourage prayer and bible study network as support for the women in the church

Florence Afflu

Men's Ministry

Overview

Between September 2013 and September 2014 the Men's Fellowship has continued to look at building relationships. Developing closer working relationships allows the men space and opportunity to discuss matters both personal and essential to removing barriers as we grow in Christ. Irrespective of our age, background or experience accountability and relationship is essential for all disciples.

Throughout the last year, we have looked at various topics such as accountability, testimonies, God's view of sexuality among many other issues.

We have also had productive social events such as the men's football match with the youth vs. the over 25's (don't forget the over 25's won on penalties!) These were great opportunities for men young and old to develop relationships and forge new ones.

Highlights

By far the main purpose of the Men's Fellowship Group is for the men to develop their own accountability among each other with bonds of trust which can not be bought or artificially created. The way the men have been so free in sharing their own testimonies has been tremendously encouraging and this has had great ripple effects as the men use each other as IRON sharpens IRON.

Many of the men have built relationships of accountability where they keep in contact with one another on a personal level where they are comfortable to share the challenges within their lives at a level where they can seek support without judgement. The men of our church should be proud and boast in Christ as they seek to overcome sin and celebrate their salvation as one voice together. This is an attitude which can only benefit the wider church and the men's families alongside this.

I am personally honoured that I have been involved in the way the Holy Spirit has moved among our men of God. They have shared personal struggles where they would not have before, which is a privilege to be part of. God can always be glorified within our weaknesses!!

Challenges/Needs

Over the next few months, we are keen to grow the leadership team which currently consists of Alan Roper and myself Dan Jolley. We would like to publicly thank Mark Briggs who was a valued servant until other responsibilities meant this was no longer possible. We are looking for someone who is committed in sharing our vision to see men grow in intimacy with Christ at IIC. If you read this and wish to know more please be prayerful and speak to either Alan Roper or Dan Jolley.

Future Plans

We now have dates set up until May 2015, dates to be released very soon. We aim to continue our men's breakfasts and welcome all the men, new and old to forthcoming social events where we can build new relationships.

I would challenge any of the men of our church to come and see what we do and if you are open to having God move in your life no matter who you are, the Holy Spirit can use your life challenges for His purposes.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Daniel Jolley

Worship Ministry

Overview	It has been an exciting year for the worship ministry of IIC! God has been so gracious to us. We are grateful to God and to the leadership of the church for the support of and investment in the worship team. The ministry is now led by a team of 5 leaders, representing the various groups that are a part of the worship of the church, including Sound/AV and Creative/Drama. We are ONE TEAM with ONE VOICE making ONE SOUND of worship to ONE GOD here at IIC. (Ephesians 4:1-3)
Highlights	We have been particularly blessed by the training input we have received from Steve and Velveta Thompson. In the last 9 months of bi-weekly sessions over 50 people have been a part of the workshops, and we are beginning to see the impact on not just the skill level of the team, but also on the unity and sense of purpose with which we approach our ministry. Starting from the Autumn term this year, we have been encouraging each individual to step things up with a personal development plan, with each person thinking about how they would like to grow in worship ministry in the next few years, and what steps they are willing to take to see this come to fruition.
Challenges/Needs	Our challenges are not new - we have seen some improvement this year but hope to see greater commitment, better time keeping, more efficient organisation and better communication. We desire to see each member growing in their walk with God, living lives of worship all week long, so our Sunday ministry is just an overflow of what is already happening in our lives. We want to see the team grow as a family, standing together in love, helping each other through the highs and lows and being open and accountable with one another. We want to see all this but recognise that our members need to maintain a church/ life balance – attending to their families, jobs and social lives as well as keeping up with the additional commitments that being part of the worship team demands.
Future Plans	We hope with the new leadership team to truly integrate all the facets of worship in the church to develop worship that is both excellent and anointed, a blessing to the body but most importantly, well pleasing to our God.

Lolu Ogunniyi

Sound and Media

Overview

From January the team has stayed steady, improving on core aspects of the equipment that we are in charge of. As a team we have undertaken some reorganization including re-visiting at how we can efficiently train new members. The changes we are implementing will enable us to have a quicker setup on a Sunday and a more flexible approach to other larger events.

Curtis will be producing a training self-certificated programme for young people who join our team so that it can be validated and the work they do with us can also be helpful for their CV's.

We have a growing number of people within the team who have a keen artistic ability within visual media who have a vision to see this area progress even more.

Highlights

Our new more streamlined methods have enabled us to react quickly to larger events, such as: John Glass' visit, Steve and Velveta's Worship weekend and more recently the "Celebration of Gospel" event. We as a team all felt that these events vey well.

Challenges/Needs

We are still in desperate need of more team members, in both sound and media/visuals aspects. As the equipment we have advances so does our need for people with the skill set to operate the equipment.

We also still face sound difficulties within the hall that only carefully planned sound reduction methods can solve. We are looking into this but no cost has been estimated at this time.

We are actively looking into our stage and lighting situation to reduce running costs as we often have to hire them in.

The desk is poorly situated and should be brought inline with the stage centrally in the building at the back. We would also like to see the stage extended to facilitate more long term options for events and filmography.

Future Plans

We would like to extend the stage and move the sound desk to a more convenient position. By extending the stage we are looking at making room for a filming studio in the recess to facilitate video podcasts and production area.

Ian Tearle

Creative Ministry

Overview	Between September 2013 – 2014, as a ministry we have been part of the Sunday services with dance and signing. Hosting a drama and being part of the Christmas season. There has been growth in the signing and the dance group. We hope to have the dance group back full time very soon.
Highlights	The biggest thing we have done this year was the drama 'The Greatest Love Story Ever Told' and doing the song in sign 'In Remembrance of Me'. Both of these productions made an impact on the people who were involved as well as the ones who watched.
Challenges/Needs	We would like to see more people become part of this ministry.
Future Plans	To take this ministry further afield and to bless Christians and non-Christian with the Word.
Esther Pemberton	

Pastoral Support

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.
(Ecclesiastes 9: 10 (King James Version))

Within the last three years there has not been a formal Pastoral Support Team, however, Pastor Mick and I have had meetings with the Pastors and Leadership in exploring different ways into how the Pastoral Support Team, (working alongside the Pastors), can be improved and enhanced to meet the needs of the congregation.

This has not stopped the work progressing as myself and a small group of individuals have supported and ministered to people within the congregation: through hospital visits, meetings at the Citizens Advice Bureau, Court, Immigration, Solicitors, home visits to the sick, spending time with those with relationship issues, marital challenges and bereavement etc.

We also minister to those who are discouraged with life and God. This includes encouraging them to have a relationship with God again. We continue to be diligent during the Sunday Service (and after) in the ministry making ourselves available whenever necessary. This is all fed back to the Pastors.

We continue to look for passionate people for the team who are humble, sincere, caring and willing to build the Kingdom of God through supporting people. Is that you?

Wendy Allen

Shalom Ministry

Overview	We have had a fruitful yet sometimes challenging year, however, when dealing with people and their personal issues, we must expect challenges.
Highlights	We had a training morning which opened new trains of thought and helped us to explore dealing with people. Some members of the drama team did some role play for us, for which we are grateful. Indeed it gave us a lot to think about, and it was an invaluable aid for reviewing our current strategies. It was a very positive exercise.
Challenges/Needs	We are aware of the challenges that are presented when dealing with personal issues and we have to be open to the Holy Spirit in order to be careful in addressing issues that can be sensitive.
Future Plans	We will be having a review in January and will explore implementing some changes. Future plans include more training for the team. This ministry can be very demanding so this awareness helps us to strike a balance.
Notes	It is important that anyone who ministers in Shalom is led by the Holy Spirit, and also they know they have been called of God to do this ministry.

Richard & Glynis Baker

ESOL

Nations will come running to you because of the Lord your God.
(Isaiah 55 v 5)

Queues at the door. More people than we could cope with at one time. On enrolment day we enrolled over 80 people. Every room in 1 Burlington is full to capacity. The nations have come running to us. What a missionfield. No need to travel. They have travelled to us.

We now have a team of approximately 20 people which consist of Teachers, cafe staff, befrienders, logistical helpers and what a team. They are an amazing, voluntary, committed and dedicated group of people whose main motive is to work for God and give Him the glory.

We teach the ESOL curriculum as stipulated by the government for people of other languages in order to integrate them into our society, create social cohesion and in fact, minister to the whole person, whether that be a listening ear, practical help, guidance and advice about all different subjects, including family and children advice. This initiative is growing at an amazing rate. Please pray for us and for the students we minister to.

We also supply free snacks and lunches, hot drinks etc., as many of our students are living on vouchers and are economically in need.

If anyone would like to be involved in this project doing any of the above tasks, or for more information please contact: Maureen Huntly: 01473 281 614 (church office) or 07985 460 425.

Maureen Huntly

Safeguarding

Overview

As a church we are committed to keeping our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe.

All our children and youth workers as well as members of our leadership team have been checked for their suitability to work safely in these areas and we have a safeguarding policy in place which is reviewed annually.

Highlights

Recently the leadership along with the youth leaders have successfully undertaken Level 3 Safeguarding training

Challenges/Needs

If anyone has a concern about a child, young person or a vulnerable adult then it is of utmost importance that this is reported and the proper processes are followed. Our children are very important to us as are our young people and we want to ensure that they have the best possible chances in life.

Often when people have a concern they choose not to say anything as they feel they should not be seen to be interfering. However reporting concerns rarely has a negative outcome while not reporting always does.

Future Plans

If anyone has any concern at all please refer this to the Safeguarding officer who will then take your concern and progress it in the appropriate manner.

Jennifer Howe

Church Office

Overview

From September 2013- September 2014 functioning in the capacity as the IIC Office Coordinator has been both rewarding and challenging. The past year has no doubt been a learning curve which has led to the unearthing of various ideas and strategic solutions, some of which have been implemented and others are still in the pipeline.

The office has also sort to help uphold the church's 5 fold vision and have been in constant liaison with the Pastors to achieve this. Apart from doing regular administrative duties the Office continues to support and communicate with various departments to help facilitate specified tasks and objectives. Assistance has been given in coordinating various events such as weddings, funerals, conferences, In-house and out-of-house events as well as the regular weekly meetings.

Within the past year the workload in the office has significantly increased, as we have sought to do things with excellence. This has not been possible without the help of faithful and consistent volunteers who meticulously volunteer their time such as Glenda Briggs, Glen Walters, Sharon Murray -Sakumai, Sarah Ho and Ian Tearle.

Highlights

In addition to the regular administrative functions of the office and in pursuit of excellence we have successfully implemented;

- a successful registration process for all conferences and major events.
- a comprehensive room booking process and procedure
- a more effective data collection process

A major highlight this year has been the formation of the 'Multimedia Action Committee' in May 2014 this initiative was put in action. This team was created in an effort to merge sound and media, creative arts and other media based leaders and ministries together to deliver excellence and contribute to the planning of all areas of Media i.e. print, video, sound, website etc .

This initiative has been a very exciting and fruitful one. Already the team has been exceptional in working together to organise the Big Day Out, Celebration of Gospel Concert and is currently planning and organising various Christmas and New Year feature events.

Challenges/Needs

As we continue to grow, our organisational efficiency remains paramount. In as much as we have sought to be excellent there is still room for development.

Our current needs for volunteers are in areas such as

- Reception duties
- Skilled persons and dedicated individuals in Graphic design and print layout, video recording and production and journalism as part of the Multimedia Team
- Hospitality Team for events, special meetings and Sunday services

Future Plans

We are trusting God that by the end of the next fiscal year we would have a complete office team as well as skilled volunteers to be able to join our Multimedia Action Committee and Teams.

Petranella Noreiga

Communications

Overview

'Pleasant Words are a honey comb. Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones'
(Proverbs 16 : 24)

The Communications Team is responsible for liaising with the Pastoral Leadership; Departmental leaders and the Church Office with regards to IIC news and up-to-date information to promote and disembark to the people. It is also instrumental in the development and promotion of the IIC Church Magazine, leaflets, notices and supports appropriate information for the IIC Social Media sites, events and activities along with other peripheral duties.

Highlights

- The development of the IIC News Magazine
- Regular monthly leaflets update on forthcoming events
- Development of IIC Room Booking system.

Challenges/Needs

The IIC News Magazine requires ... (yes .. you've guessed it ...) .. 'news'. In order for the IIC magazine to grow, thrive and be successful we need your support. Therefore, if you have anything newsworthy no matter how insignificant you may feel it is please forward to myself, Petranella Noreiga or Deborah Afflu, or email to glencallingyou@yahoo.co.uk comms@elim-ipswich.org or glen@elim-ipswich.org.

We are a busy church by nature with various events and activities, so we do welcome your images; pictures; reports; forthcoming events; missions; anniversaries; birthdays; exam results; successes and TESTIMONIES - What God has done for you and is continually doing for you.

All will be well received.

We cannot sign off without saying that we are always open to new and interested members, therefore, if you wish to be part of the team and have specific skills and knowledge that could support the work in this area then please let us know, particularly if you have at least one of the added qualities of creativity, reliability and consistency.

Future Plans

In 2015 we hope to have the IIC magazine out bi-monthly or quarterly.

We are striving to use the technology we have 21st Century style to communicate and link more effectively IIC Room Booking system to go on-line.

Conclusion

Finally, someone once said, "to effectively communicate we must realise that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others". I have found this to be so true not only in everyday life, but more so in church life, therefore, it is important that we continually strive to have that understanding and perception in order that our communication with each other and in Christ is effected and flourishes. Thank You.

Glen Walters

