

## April Newsletter

Hi everyone!

Julia and I are so excited to be joining you in Ipswich in just a few weeks' time. We visited again recently to look at houses and expect to be in Ipswich again within the next week or so to secure a home to rent. Please pray that we can now find somewhere that we can move into during the last week of April.

Julia and I have a large family of five adult children and seven grandchildren (with a further one due in June) and we thought we would introduce them with the pic below. I'm sure you will see some of them in the coming months as they visit Ipswich.



We have been watching from afar on YouTube and feel like we know many of you already and we are so looking forward to finally coming and joining you. We know that we will be building with you on the wonderful foundation that Pastor Harold (and latterly Pastor Wale and Pastor David) has laid. It is an exciting time in the history of IIC, as it approaches its 100th anniversary, and we feel incredibly privileged to have been given this opportunity and have already been prayerfully preparing so that we can hit the ground running.

I believe that God is on the move again in our nation and a recent Instagram post by Pete Greig shared some of the many exciting things that are happening in the UK. God is moving and my hope is that we can be a part of that move, and I will be sharing more about that in my first and second messages on May 4/11th. That will mean all of us getting on board - praying, fasting,

seeking God, reaching people, sharing our faith and making disciples. We will all need to play our part if we are to fulfil God's mandate for IIC. This will undoubtedly mean some changes, as we seek to sharpen our focus and become even more intentional about reaching people and making disciples. That is the clear call of scripture and everything we do should aim to have that as an end result. We look forward to serving alongside you, to see God change and transform Ipswich, Colchester and beyond.

The world is such a dark and life sapping place right now, so God's house must be a place of life, hope, love, joy, peace, freedom, healing, miracles and prayer. It needs to be full of the presence of God. My desire is that everyone who attends one of our meetings will leave feeling built up, strengthened, encouraged, empowered and equipped with the tools to navigate this crazy world.

A final encouragement - on my 21st birthday my mother gave me an NIV concordance in which she wrote the words, *"The One who has called you is faithful and He will do it."* (1 Thess. 5:24). In many respects this has been a life verse for me - wherever I have gone, no matter what I have faced, I have not just known His faithfulness, but I have experienced His ability to breakthrough in almost impossible situations. This is what He does. Whether it be the home in Ipswich that we are seeking as I type, or perhaps for you - it is the healing you are seeking, the financial breakthrough you need, or the university place or job opportunity, or the door to open, or the relationship you long for, or the reconciliation you are desperate to see...no matter what it is, I would remind you of this - *"the One who has called you is faithful and He will do it!"*

Be encouraged that He is the God who sees, who knows and who acts. He is the God who turns darkness into light. He is the God who rules and overrules. He is the God of hope. Our job is to pray, wait and trust, while He does what He does best. He is faithful.

Be blessed, and we look forward to meeting so many of you at our induction on Saturday May 3rd and on Sunday May 4th.

*Simon Lawton*



PS - why not add us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter and become our friends - it will help us to get to know you and recognise faces before we arrive, and why not also check out my blog at [www.simonlawton.com](http://www.simonlawton.com) or our books on Amazon.