

## PASTOR'S PATCH:

### Eating and Blessing

I've been sitting down to many special meals in the last fortnight. On 27<sup>th</sup> February there was our first "Soup Session" in the hall enjoying freshly-made soup, bread rolls and flapjack with people from the community. On 4<sup>th</sup> March it was a hearty cooked Men's Breakfast at Fishcombe Cove Holiday Park. On 5<sup>th</sup> March I was sat in Bay Coffee enjoying a drink and natter with a number of people from our community (including a former Town Councillor who grew up in Brixham Baptist Church and showed me a black and white photo of a former minister). Last Saturday at the Family Activity Day "Go Build" I and 70 people enjoyed a meal with Fish and Chips followed by ice-cream (kindly helped by our friends at Rockfish and Bay Coffee). Last night in the Front Room I enjoyed a lovely fresh-cooked meal of pasta and meatballs at the Ignite session, a youth discipleship group that meets every Monday. I sat at a table with a dozen young people age 10-14 plus the leaders for the evening, Maria and Ann. This morning I was at the Riviera International Centre for the Torbay Business Breakfast with around 100 local business and charity leaders sharing some good news stories about what is going on across Torbay. And that's on top of lovely meals at home with my family (some of them skilfully cooked by my daughter Juliana or wife Lucy). No wonder many ministers start to see "middle-age spread" as it can be one round of eating after another!



We're probably all blessed with eating at least three meals a day, plus snacks and drinks in between. But sharing them with others is always an added joy.

A quick look through the Gospels shows Jesus often eating in homes with Pharisees, disciples, townspeople and a whole host of others (including some very dubious company). This was always part of his strategy, to share time and company with a whole range of people over a meal (called "table fellowship" when to share a meal with someone was counted a blessing). The church continued this pattern too, as "*they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts*" (Acts 2:46, but also 20:11 and 27:35).

Will we keep this tradition going? Sharing and inviting others to eat meals with us that we may have fellowship with them and share that blessing with others just like Jesus did? It can be with friends from family, church or the community, and all are important. Seek out table fellowship with others, even if it means inviting them to a church event or getting your cooking apron on!

**Darrell**

Jonathan Oliverio presents.....

## *The Brixham Spring Sing!!*

An afternoon of vintage gospel singing!

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm**

at Brixham United Reformed Church

Teas and refreshments available.....

Entry is free.....

A retirement collection will be taken for  
the work of Cycle Torbay.