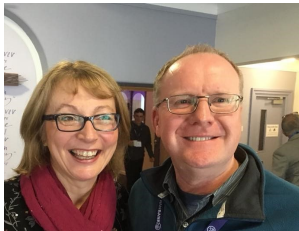


April 2019
Newsletter



A Letter from Mark

“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

(Romans 6:4 NIV)

I’m very much looking forward to our Resurrection Day celebration on Easter Sunday this year when we will be baptizing several people during our 10:30 am service. They will also be received as full members of Ivybridge Methodist Church, if they’re not already.

It is most appropriate to be baptizing believers on such a wonderful day! The Bible clearly tells us that baptism is an outward symbol of an inward spiritual reality. We are directly obeying the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as we seek to “...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19 NIV)

For those who have repented of their sins and received Christ as their Lord and Saviour baptism is the next step in becoming true disciples of His. Each candidate will have the opportunity to give a short testimony of what has brought them to this important decision. Before we baptize them we ask three fundamentally important questions:

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Do you renounce all your sins and the works of the devil?

Will you follow Jesus Christ for the rest of your life?

If they answer ‘yes’ I will say, ‘On confession of your faith I baptize you in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.’

We then lower them into the tank/pool (or whatever we’ve got available) so that they are completely immersed as a symbol of them dying to their old ways and then swiftly lift them up out of the water, hopefully to rapturous applause and the shortest form of the Creed – “JESUS IS LORD!”

What a joy and privilege it is! During my ministry I had the joy of baptizing around 80 people in the sea, baptismal pools and in prison as a wonderful testimony to the transforming resurrection power of Jesus who continues to bring eternal, resurrection life into those who were once dead in sin. Only Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit can do this!



If you're reading this article at the beginning of April it's not too late to have a word with me if the Holy Spirit is prompting you to follow Jesus through the waters of baptism.

I pray you will have a blessed, healing and joyful Easter.

Yours in the crucified and risen Christ,

Rev Mark

From the Editor ...

This September will mark 14 years since I became Editor of this newsletter. I was very surprised when I discovered how long it's been as it does not feel that long, however after praying about it I feel this is the right time for me to hand this important role on to someone else.



If you feel this is something you could take on, even if you're not 100% sure, please can you pray seeking God's will asking if this is a way that He is calling you to serve within this church. I have found it a very rewarding experience and I am sure the person who takes this on will too.

If you want to know more about what is involved with this important role, please talk to me and I will happily share a bit more with you. Also, the sooner someone comes forward the more time I will have to actually show you what is involved as there will be three more editions after this newsletter before my time as Editor will end - May, June and July/August.

The church newsletter is a very important resource that we have in this church. It is a way to keep you informed of all that is going on within our church fellowship, as well as further afield, and it also keeps those who are not always able to be at church in touch with IMC. It is available anywhere in the world as it is shared on our website every month. So please, I cannot stress enough the importance of answering if you feel God is calling you to this role. The July/August double edition will be my last newsletter as Editor, and it would be very sad if no-one answered that call. Thank you.

Meanwhile, if you would like to include anything in the May Newsletter, please let me have the details by Wednesday 10 April in any of the usual ways. Thank you.

Jenny



April Worship

IVYBRIDGE

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------|---|
| Apr 7 | 10:30 am 6:30 pm | Rev Mark Lawrence Rev Mark Lawrence |
| Apr 14 | 10:30 am | <i>Palm Sunday</i> - Rev Mark Lawrence |
| Apr 21 | 10:30 am 6:00 pm | <i>EASTER</i> - Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion United Service at Bittaford |
| Apr 28 | 10:30 am 6:30 pm | Mrs Jean Walsh Mr Mike Cade |
| May 5 | 10:30 am 6:30 pm | Rev Mark Lawrence No Limits - Phil and Jean Walsh (See page 7) |
| May 12 | 10:30 am | Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion |

BITTAFORD

| | | |
|--------|----------|--|
| Apr 7 | 11:00 am | Rev David Youngs |
| Apr 14 | 11:00 am | <i>Palm Sunday</i> - Rev David Martin |
| Apr 21 | 6:00 pm | <i>EASTER</i> - United Service Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion |
| Apr 28 | 11:00 am | Mrs Marion Wilkinson |
| May 5 | 11:00 am | Rev David Youngs |
| May 12 | 6:00 pm | Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion |

*The speakers have been taken from Circuit Plan
and are correct to the best of the Editor's knowledge.*

Abbeyfield

Songs of Praise

This takes place between 10:30 and 11:00 am
on the second Wednesday of the month.

Hymns and songs are mostly from the
1997 BBC Songs of Praise Hymn books.

The residents welcome any who would like to join them, and
refreshments are available afterwards, with time to socialise.



**UNITED CHRISTIAN
BROADCASTERS**

UCB Radio

Since Christmas when Carolyn bought me a digital radio I've been listening to UCB Radio. It is such an edifying station and I would thoroughly recommend you give it a try and tune in or go online to listen to it. It plays

Christian music and there are testimonies, Scripture as well as interviews and news updates. It's brilliant!

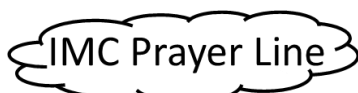
You can listen to UCB 1 and UCB 2 on DAB radio (available nationally across the UK). Digital (DAB) radios are available (starting from around £30) from most electrical retailers and larger supermarkets. Unlike the older style analogue radios, they're tuned alphabetically, so UCB 1 and UCB 2 don't have a radio frequency. Plug in your DAB radio and scroll to the 'U' section until you find us. UCB 1 is available across the UK wherever there is a DAB signal; UCB 2 is available across the UK, in most major cities and surrounding areas.

You can listen live or on-demand to any of our stations on our UCB Player app. You can access more information about shows and presenters through the station pages above. You can also listen online via our website or by searching for any of our stations on online radio services like Radioplayer and Tuneln. Alternatively you can also listen to UCB on a Smart speaker.

Blessings,
Mark

Bittaford Methodist Chapel

Now that Bittaford have their morning services at 11:00 am, it is possible to catch the 10.33 am Gold bus from the Town Hall in order to attend. There are usually spaces in cars for the return, but if not then there is a bus back down at 12:19 pm.



We have a firm belief in a God who is concerned about our everyday life and answers prayer. A prayer line has therefore been established to enable people to leave prayer requests for issues that are deeply concerning to them, either for themselves or for others for whom they have significant concerns. These issues might be health issues whether physical or mental, relationship breakdown or other major crises that arise from day to day life.

The prayer line operates on an answerphone basis and is monitored every day. People do not need to give personal details and they are not contacted as a result of the prayer request unless this is requested. The prayer request then goes forward to groups and individuals who have agreed to pray.

Prayer line number: 07801 956695

Church AGM

after the morning service on Sunday 7 April

followed by a bring and share meal



Everyone welcome

No Limits!

Becoming the people God intended us to be



These meetings will be held in the Concourse on the following dates:

Sunday 5 May Sunday 26 May

Sunday 2 June Sunday 30 June

Sunday 7 July

Worth a Visit!

re:source
BOOKS

If you are looking for Bibles, Christian books, cards and gifts

then why not pay a visit to **RE:source Books**, the Christian bookshop and resource centre run by the Christian Resources Project. We are situated on the outskirts of Plymouth City Centre at 14 Lipson Road, PL4 8PW. (At Cattedown roundabout take the road towards Mutley and turn right into Lipson Road at the second set of lights. May Terrace is the first turn on the right and we are the big blue house on the corner of Lipson Road and May Terrace.) We are open **Monday to Friday 9:00 am until 5:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am until 4:00 pm**. There are parking restrictions between 10:00 and 11:00 am weekdays so it's best to avoid that hour, although we do have a very small car park at the back.

We specialise in children's books but also have a wide range of study books, testimonies, Christian fiction and much more. There's a great range of cards not readily available in other card shops for dedications, baptisms, ordinations, as well as birthday, get well, sympathy etc. We can obtain or order anything we don't have in stock. We also specialise in remainders so many of our titles are at special offer prices. If you are looking for books to give away to schools, in clubs and special events or when visiting we have some really keen prices including our **30 books for £5** range.

Into cutting, sticking, painting and all sorts of crafts? Or, have children who are? We are developing a great range of craft materials and kits, and fun materials for children's work. We've even got some bubble wands in stock at the moment! A great fun activity.

Email us on shop@christianresources.org.uk, ring 01752 224012, or drop in – **it's worth a visit!**



April News

If you have anything you would like included in the Church News please let Judy Jago know at church, or ring her on 894829.

It's lovely to congratulate new Grandparents Liz and Mike Cade as their daughter Jo and husband Tom are now the proud parents of Morwenna, who was born earlier than expected on 22 February weighing 6lbs 6oz. From the photos she looks beautiful and we look forward to meeting her soon. Many congratulations Jo and Tom and we wish you every joy as you grow together as a new family.



More congratulations, this time to Rob Cowsill on his engagement to Claire earlier in March. We wish you every joy as you plan for the future and much peace as you sort wedding plans.

Louis Hamilton Fox celebrates his 21st birthday on 11 April and we wish you the very best of birthdays Louis - celebrate well and enjoy your day. Many happy returns



CONGRATULATIONS

What a joy all these celebrations are and we continue with Duncan and Kirsten's 50th wedding anniversary on 29 April. No doubt there will be lots of celebrations and we send our very best wishes and many blessings for the years to come. Happy Anniversary.

By the time this news goes out we pray Len Skinner has had his operation in Torbay hospital and is recovering well. We send healing prayers and very best wishes Len.



There are still folk who need our prayers and we ask you to pray for those in residential homes and those who are struggling with grief and health issues especially.

Ruth and the whole Whitfield family would like to thank everyone who came to join them in celebrating Graham's life. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

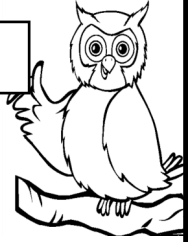
God bless you all.





Wise and Wonderful

We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.
Meetings are on Fridays, from 2:30 until 4:00 pm
with a charge of £1 each time



Easter and Summer 2019

12 April

Celebrating the story of Easter

3 May

“The Long Walk”
with Madeline Allen

17 May

The Yealmpton Gospel Choir

7 June

“Message in a bottle”: keeping safe
with Andy Vincent of Ivybridge Lions

21 June

Cream Tea at Loddiswell
Leaving at 2:00 pm. Booking essential.

5 July

Mission Aviation Fellowship

19 July

Visit to Saint Luke's Church, Buckfastleigh

***We are an open fellowship, and look forward to your visit,
apart from 21 June and 19 July, when we will be out!***

Please contact one of us for more information:

Val 893614

Maureen

Sara 894198

Judy 894829

Sue 896444

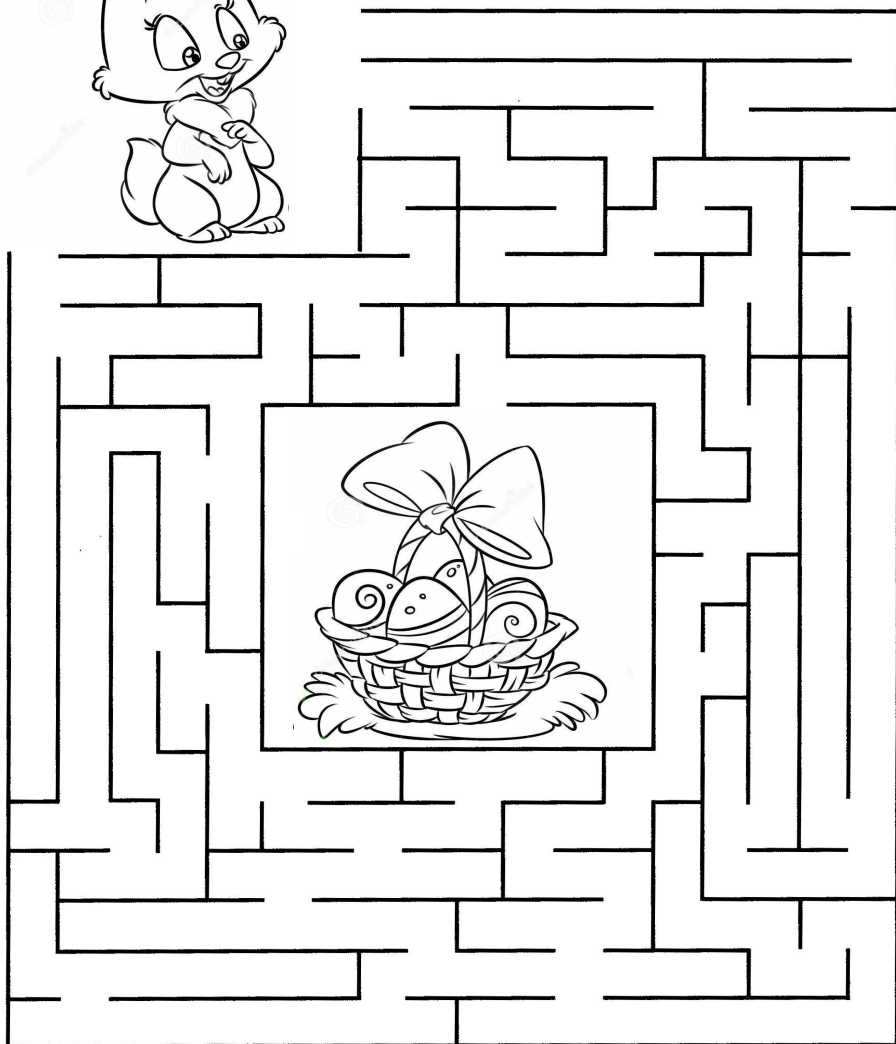
Christine and David 892858

Easter Activity Pages for Children

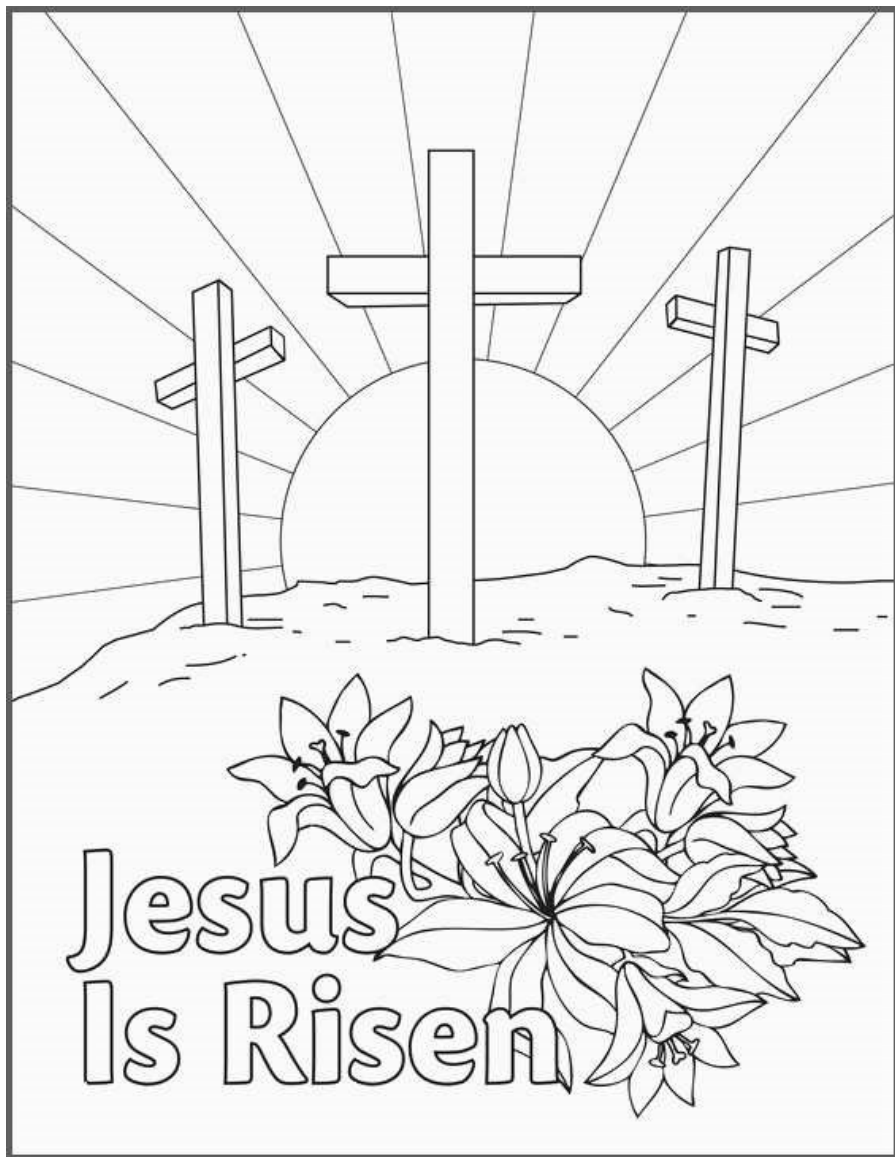


The Easter Bunny has lost her basket of eggs in the maze and needs your help to find it! Can you get to the centre without crossing any lines?

(Solution in next month's Newsletter)



A page to colour in



Happy Easter!

Church Membership



Dear Friends,

I mentioned in my article at the beginning this magazine that we're going to be baptising a number of people during our Easter Sunday 10:30 am celebration. We'll also be receiving them and quite a few others into the membership here at IMC. For those of you who are not full-members I include some information below which you might find helpful/interesting. Once you've read through this and have prayerfully considered it, if you feel the Lord prompting you to be baptised by full-immersion and/or wanting to stand with us in the next step of commitment to Jesus by becoming a full member please let me know.

So first of all here is a very brief description/explanation about the Methodist Church and secondly some questions and answers about what membership is.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

The Four 'Alls' of Methodism

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | All need to be saved | John 3:16 | Man's fallen human nature |
| 2. | All can be saved | Acts 2:21 | God's Grace in Christ alone |
| 3. | All can know they are saved | 2 Timothy 1:12 | Assurance of Salvation |
| 4. | All can be saved to the uttermost | Ephesians 4:13 | Sanctification & Maturity |

The Doctrinal Clause of the Deed of Union of 1932 (The Constitutional Basis of the Methodist Church)

"The Methodist Church claims and cherishes its place in the Holy Catholic Church which is the Body of Christ. It rejoices in the inheritance of the



apostolic faith and loyally accepts the fundamental principles of the historic creeds and of the Protestant Reformation.

It ever remembers that, in the providence of God, Methodism was raised up to spread scriptural holiness through the land by the proclamation of the Evangelical Faith and declares its unfaltering resolve to be true to its divinely appointed mission.

The doctrines of the evangelical faith, which Methodism has held from the beginning and still holds, are based on the divine revelation recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

The Methodist Church acknowledges this revelation as the supreme rule of faith and conduct."

METHODIST MEMBERSHIP Q&A

How many members are there in the Methodist Church?

The Methodist Church is Britain's fourth largest Christian denomination and part of the worldwide Methodist family of over 60 million committed members and a further 20 million adherents. As per the latest count, there are 188,000 people who have made and sustained a commitment to Christian discipleship within the Methodist Church of Great Britain and are active members of a local Methodist church.

I go to church so surely I already belong as a member of the congregation?

Yes, you do belong. But the Methodist Church also offers you the chance to show another step of commitment by being 'confirmed' and 'received into membership'. This means that there is a service in which you make promises - these are the same promises that are made when someone is baptised. A prayer for the work of the Holy Spirit in that person's life is also said in both services. If you have already been confirmed in another denomination, you can be received as a Methodist member by a simple act of welcome.

What is being 'received into membership'?

Being 'received into membership' means that you are welcomed into a particular Methodist church (ie: usually your local church) which can support you in your discipleship and where you can support others. In the service, the minister welcomes you into membership saying: 'We receive and welcome you as members of the Methodist Church, and of the church in this place.' The minister and a representative of the local church then shake your hand.

If you move to another Methodist church then you will not be confirmed again, though when your membership is transferred to that church, you will often be formally greeted by a handshake during a service.



Why do I need to become a 'member' in this sense?

Becoming a 'member' is a way of saying that you belong to and support your local Methodist Church and that you want to do this.

Being a member of the Methodist Church means that you can hold certain responsibilities (e.g. steward, pastoral visitor, local preacher). Only members can be on the church council or be elected to the circuit meeting, district synod or the Methodist Conference.

The promise of mutual support is one of Methodism's strengths. When you become a member a pastoral visitor or a class leader is responsible for visiting you and offering spiritual support, encouragement and challenge.

Where does the idea of 'membership' come from?

The Methodist Church used to be a religious society within the Church of England rather than a separate Church. The terminology of 'membership' and the 'membership ticket' dates from that time and has stuck.

How do I become a member?

Talk to your minister, who will let you know what arrangements are possible locally to prepare you. There may be a group of people in the church or the circuit, who are considering membership. It is important that you have the chance to explore your own questions about Christian faith and the particular witness that is offered in the Methodist tradition.

The Methodist Church has produced a small colourful book, *Called by Name*, about what it means to be a member of the Methodist Church.

What do I have to believe or say to become a member?

The Service of Confirmation and Reception into Membership includes two questions asked as an Affirmation of Faith: 'Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?' and 'Do you turn to God, trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?' The answer to both questions is 'By the grace of God I do.'

Everyone present is then asked to affirm their belief and trust in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, as members of the universal Church which has expressed its faith in the one God through such as the Apostles' Creed over the centuries.

After confirmation and the reception, the newly-confirmed are asked to make three promises: 'Will you commit yourself to the Christian life of worship and service, and be open to the renewing power of God?', 'Will you seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?', and 'Will you witness, by word and deed, to the good news of God in Christ, and so bring glory to God?'. The response to each of these is 'With God's help I will.'



What are the obligations of membership?

The membership ticket lists commitments that members of the Methodist Church undertake:

As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:

- ◆ Worship within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer;
- ◆ learning and caring, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship;
- ◆ service, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world
- ◆ evangelism, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

I hope that helps! Do contact me if you want to find out more.

With every blessing,

Mark

Men's Fellowship Evening

Friday 12 April at 7:00 pm

in The Concourse

A Steam Railway Slide Show and Talk

presented by Bernard Mills

With Pasty Supper



Donations to Church Funds

Open to all men

LOVE SOUTH WEST

KINGDOM COME

A night of unhindered worship and prayer

Plymouth Pavilions

7 June 19 - 7:30 pm

Tickets now on sale:
lovesouthwest.org.uk

THE VISION

“YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE”

What could happen if churches across the South West united together for a weekend to WORSHIP Jesus and pray, SERVE our communities, and invite the region to TRY CHURCH?

THE STORY

2017 - In 2017 two churches in Plymouth, St Matthias and Mutley Baptist, got together for a night of united worship & prayer - 300 people gathered and God turned up in power.

2018 - In 2018 they felt God nudging them to gather together again to worship and pray but to cast the net wider and invite five of the other largest churches in Plymouth to join them. They all agreed, all 700 tickets quickly sold, and God poured out His power and presence.

2019 - In 2019 they felt God prompting them to cast the net even wider and gather people from across the region not only to worship and pray but then to spend a day serving their neighbours and local communities and invite them to try church.

2020 - In 2020, as Plymouth and the South West remember and celebrate the pioneering spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers as they headed to America on the Mayflower, the plan is to run Love South West again - with an even bigger bang. Get the dates in your diary now - 5-7 June 2020

THE PLAN

FRIDAY: KINGDOM COME

A night of unhindered worship & prayer at Plymouth Pavilions

Doors: 6:30 pm • Kick off: 7:30 pm

SATURDAY: SERVE DAY

A day of local social action projects at various locations throughout the South West

SUNDAY: #TRYCHURCH

Inviting the South West to Try Church
Local Churches throughout the South West

Easter Services



Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm at IMC

Tenebrae Service - a reflective service

Good Friday

10:00 am service at IMC

Hot cross buns and coffee after the service
Followed by walk up to the Beacon with the Cross
leaving 11:15-ish



Easter Day

9:00 am Holy Communion at Yealmpton
All welcome

10:30 am Service of Celebration at IMC
including full immersion baptisms and reception into membership

6:00 pm Service with Holy Communion at Bittaford
All welcome.





Prophetic Witness Movement

South Devon Branch



Chairman: Brian Yabsley (Tel: 01548 550593)

All meetings held at Ivybridge Baptist Church
on Saturday from 3:00 - 4:14 pm

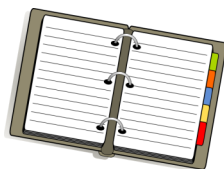
6 April

Mr David Herring

“Israel, the Millennial Reign,
and the Christian's full security”

Event at Lee Abbey

Alex Jacob and David Pileggi are at Lee Abbey on
8-12 April 2019 (Mon-Fri) considering “*Jesus is Jewish!
And why this matters to me?*” Book directly on the Lee
Abbey website: www.leeabbeydevon.org.uk.



On Saturday 18 May
our Organ will be played
between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Do come and listen to music from the
organ as you partake of your
coffee and cake.



The next Taizé Service
will be at St John's Church
on Sunday 7 April
at 6:00 pm

“We do not have enough water”

Cambodia PM

Because more than three-quarters of Cambodia’s population relies primarily on subsistence agriculture, droughts and floods can tip large numbers of people into poverty. In 2015, Cambodia experienced its worst drought in half a century, with most of its 25 provinces experiencing water shortages, and around 2.5 million people severely affected. In 2012, drought across 11 provinces adversely affected tens of thousands of hectares of rice paddies.

Now in 2019, Cambodia is again experiencing drought conditions. Local communities in rural areas across the country have expressed grave concerns over the severe lack of water for their daily consumption amid a prolonged drought that has caused streams, creeks, lakes and ponds to gradually dry up.

“I want to appeal to all authorities to advise all people not to do dry-season rice farming several times. Please do farming only one time this year because we do not have enough water,” Prime Minister Hun Sen said in February.

Cambodia is forecast to be indirectly affected by the El Niño phenomenon which will cause temperatures to rise to between 40 degrees and 42 degrees Celsius in April and May.

Please pray for families whose livelihoods, nutrition and health are being affected by the shortage of water.

Pray for Cambodia to be able to adapt to climate change and for resources to be made available for the construction of reservoirs and irrigation systems.



Pumping in Dry Season
Chris Graham/AusAID

Myers Cooper

Church Contacts



Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence Tel: 01752-651910
email: revmark@live.co.uk

Senior Stewards:

Mr Reg Marriott Tel: 01752 893614
Mrs Alison White Tel: 01752 691039

Room Bookings:

John and Pam Montgomery
Tel: 01752 894083
email: imcbookings@gmail.com

House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Youth Work:

Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

Prayer Line

07801 956695

If you have any items for the

May Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Wednesday 10 April

at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634

email: contact@jennyhansford.co.uk



Visit our website at

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website
you can do so at mrmerrit@icloud.com