



# IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

**Sharing Life**  
*Sharing Faith*



**August 2018**  
**Newsletter**

## ***Letter from our Minister***

*“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (1 Peter 5:7-9 NIV)*



I believe there is great encouragement in these precious verses from God's holy word. We are reminded that our Loving Heavenly Father cares for us and He wants us to leave our anxieties with Him. As you'll know the New Testament's original language was Greek. The Greek word for 'cares' which is *melei*, also means to be interested and concerned. Just think of that - the Great God of Creation - Father Yahweh is bothered about us! He's interested in our lives and concerned about things that we're worried about. He invites us to leave our anxieties and cares with Him, because He can grant us peace which the world can't. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:25 – *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes.”* Jesus then goes on to say in verse 33, *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

So whether our battle is with our thoughts, our situation or even the powers of darkness our Heavenly Father is interested. The last verse in the passage we started with from 1 Peter 5 also reminds us that we're all in the same boat! We're in this together with God! So God gives even more than His interest and concern, He gives us power to be *“more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”* (Romans 8:37) Knowing God the Father, through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is so wonderful. It is rooted in the reality of our day to day living wherever we are. There is nothing we can't share with Him and He is just like a loving Father. So give any concerns you might have to Him and see what He is able to do. Nothing is too difficult for Him!

We do pray you have a blessed summer, especially the families with children and grandchildren, during their school holidays. Look out for the details of the Fun Fridays and the forthcoming Party in the Park on Sunday 16 September.

Yours in Christ,  
*Rev Mark*

### ***From the Editor ...***

If you would like to include anything in the September Newsletter, please let me have the details by Friday 10 August in any of the following ways:-

- ♥ send it by email to -  
*contact@jennyhansford.co.uk*
- ♥ ring me on 01752 894634
- ♥ hand it to me at church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "H" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at - 10 MacAndrew Walk, Ivybridge



Thank you.

*Jenny*



The final total collected for this year's Christian Aid was -

**£6,630**

This is a wonderful total and we want to thank all who participated in collecting for and giving to this very worthwhile cause. God bless

*Paul and Sandra Morgan*

## *Songs of Praise*

Sunday 5 August at 6:30 pm

Accompanied on the organ by Phillip Squire, together with some new ideas, plus your favourite hymns and songs in café style worship with coffee/tea and cakes. If you can bring a cake or biscuits that would be great.

Look forward to seeing you



# August Worship

## **IVYBRIDGE**

Aug 5	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Songs of Praise
Aug 12	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Paul Courtney No service
Aug 19	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion Taizé
Aug 26	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Andrew Day No Service

## **BITTAFORD**

Aug 5	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
Aug 12	10:30 am	Rev Alison Richardson
Aug 19	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Aug 26	10:30 am	Mrs Brenda Youngs

The speakers for September are not known at the time of going to print

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

19 August at 6:30 pm  
at IMC

All welcome to a time of peace,  
and meditative praise.





# MARANATHA QUIET DAY

Saturday 22 September 2018

10:00am - 5:00pm

**Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0EE**

in the Violet Evelyn Room, with use of the Abbey and grounds



Led by Mariane Grinter

Worship times with Rev David Arnott.

Cost £10

Please bring a picnic lunch - tea, coffee, biscuits and cake provided

For more information or to book please contact Joy Davies

[jandr@davies379128.plus.com](mailto:jandr@davies379128.plus.com)

01752 895946 07813 609317

**A place of beauty and a time for teaching, worship,  
peace and quiet reflection with our Lord.**

**All Welcome!**

The Maranatha Community, 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT

Tel: 0161 748 4858

email: [info@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@maranathacommunity.org.uk) [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk)



# August 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.

Hello - hope your summer is going well but as I type this I realise the weather could have changed and we're all feeling that we need web feet, but I hope not!!

Lots of congratulations this month - firstly to those wonderful young people who left Ivybridge for academic climes some years ago and are now graduating.



JJ Martin was awarded a 1st class Masters in Chemistry from Reading, Sophia Skinner a 1st in Physiotherapy and Josh Antonio a 1st in Visual Effects and Concept Design. What a testament to hard work and commitment and we send you all warmest congratulations and blessings for your future careers.



The Cade family celebrated Jo's marriage to her fiancée Tom Sexton in July and we send our love and congratulations to the happy couple. From the photos it looks to have been a lovely day and Jo and Tom's smiles said it all.

Also Mike Cade has added another string to his bow by becoming a Town Councillor on the Ivybridge Town Council. We wish you well Mike and hope you soon get to grips with the machinations of Committees.



As we come on to significant birthdays we missed mentioning Linda Hardaway who celebrated one at the end of July. We hope you managed to have good day Linda and send our love and belated very happy birthday wishes.

David Ion will be celebrating in August and no doubt will have a busy birthday and lots of fun with the family. Congratulations David and many, many happy returns.

Another late mention is to send belated warmest congratulation and love to Dennis and Margaret Ewers as they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5 July. What an achievement and we wish both many blessings in the years to come.

**Congratulations!**





Many might not be aware that Carole Mitchell has been running the Tuesday Coffee morning every week since she took over from Marjory Lake 10 years ago. Carole has now decided the time has come to "retire" from the role. So, Carole, we owe you a huge thanks for all the cakes baked, teas and coffees served and people connected with over that time on behalf of the Church, and we hope your Tuesdays are bit more restful from now on.

### **Bittaford's Nativity Scene**

Every December the congregation at Bittaford erect a Nativity Scene in the front garden of their Church. The scene is lit up at night and gives people travelling through Bittaford the chance to see what the real meaning of Christmas is and that there is indeed hope for all.



Unfortunately some of the "characters" in the scene are showing signs of wear and tear and could do with being repainted. So, this is an appeal for help in repainting the characters so that when the time comes to erect the scene this year it will be bright and fresh.

If you feel you have the talent to take on this task please contact Stewart Edward on 01752 698785 or email [stewart.edward@live.com](mailto:stewart.edward@live.com)



Thank you very much for all your prayers and positive actions during my recent operation and time in hospital. My husband and boy's managed very well, but were kindly supported by your prayers, visits and meals.

I was immediately relieved of pain, though it has returned a little. I await a post-op appointment with the consultant. I am very grateful for your love and care. I am also hugely grateful for our wonderful NHS.

*Vikki, (Warwick, Isaac, Jacob Luscombe)*

## Muskathon Kenya - June 2018

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me. Your generosity was amazing. If anyone would still like to sponsor me please let me know. It's not too late.



60 of us took part in the Muskathon - running, cycling or walking various distances; each on their own journey pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to raise money for Compassion, specifically for solar panelling for 1,500 families in Kenya. £125,000 was raised, which exceeded the need so the remainder went towards paying for 20 students through university. So thank you again for your contribution.

This was one of my most amazing and humbling experiences, taking part in the Muskathon was just the final lap of honour to bring it all together. My room mate was Denise, a lovely lady from Cornwall who, like me, was doing the sponsored walk.

On the first morning we went for a training session around a nearby park where a church had been set up, seating about 1,000 people. The music was playing and people were arriving. By the time we left the first minister had started talking!

We went to the second biggest, and most dangerous, slum in Africa - Kibera. The Compassion project there was amazing. The children and staff were very welcoming and eager to show us their project. The children looked happy and full of hope, and the teachers were loving and kind. Ann shared her story with us. She was four years old when she joined the project because someone was sponsoring her; she's now studying medicine at university.

The Project Director, Patricia, asked us to think about Ann, or herself, whenever we feel hopeless. They had both come to the project with little or no hope; but thanks to somebody sponsoring them through Compassion and keeping in touch through letters, they both have made great achievements and are full of hope.

We also visited the home of a sponsored child in the middle of the slum. Christopher is 17 and lives in a small mud hut with his mother and 14 year old sister Dorkus. Christopher is studying to be a plumber through Compassion. Two things stood out for me in this home - his mother's graciousness and her love for her children. Her gratitude that her child had the opportunity to





better himself through the love of someone living many miles away spoke volumes.

I also chatted with a 16 year old young man who wants to be an electrician. He told me how he didn't like it when he first come to the Compassion project because it took him away from his mum, he was four when he first got sponsored, but he loves it now and has made many good friends. His words "My faith strengthens every day, because I know God loves me."



One of the children Miles and I support lives in Mombasa. He had come up by bus with another two sponsored boys. It was wonderful to meet Stephen who is now 14, and what a super young man he is, with the most amazing smile! He lives with his mother and older brother. His mother is a tailor, and she made me a beautiful bag as a gift. I was shown a file with his school reports, health checks, home visit reports,

our letters, receipts of what they have bought with any money we have sent, and what his aspirations are for the future. It made for good reading. Stephen's dreams have changed over time - a policeman, teacher, pastor and now he says he wants to be an engineer. I had a great time getting to know Stephen.

The following day we went to another project in Nairobi for a church service, lots of singing and dancing as well as Bible reading and sermon, before a 6 hour bus ride to Merigate/Lake Baringo where we were welcomed by a local tribe dancing and singing our way into the hotel compound as the sun was setting. Beautiful! This was followed by a fabulous thunderstorm and a deluge of rain. I was up at 6:00 am to watch the sun rise over the lake. The short rains had turned into big rains, and over the previous three months the lake had risen and flooded about 20 meters.

We drove to a local Compassion project which had a very different kind of poverty being rural rather than urban. I guess in many ways it's how we imagine Africa to be. We were welcomed again by song and dance by the children and teachers. We were dressed in our shorts and T shirts, whereas they had tracksuit tops and bottoms and some woolly hats on because it was their winter! They have 250 children there, many of whom had never seen a white person "mazugoo". They loved having their photo taken and then being shown the photo. We were proudly shown their new dining room that



was in the process of being built, and we were the first to use their new toilets (very different from our toilets at home!!).

We had a “home visit” to the home of a little boy called Keven who was four. The bus drove four of us with Keven, a teacher and an interpreter and stopped on the roadside where we were told to follow Kevin. Off he went at a good pace through the bush - no paths! After about 20 minutes we met with Kevin’s mum sitting under a tree with his one year baby brother. We chatted with his mum through the interpreter. They have very little, a few goats and small area growing mealies. The lady who sponsors Kevin gave him some gifts. I think he was a bit overwhelmed by it all. Mum was also given gifts of mealie pap, rice, sugar and a few other basic foods. These brought a big smile to her face. Kevin walked us back to the bus at the end of our visit. He walks 5 km to school each day on his own!

After lunch we were honoured by the community by becoming honorary Masi. With loads of singing and dancing we were dressed in traditional Masi blankets, beads and bracelets - all made by the ladies in the community. It was a very humbling and moving experience. Lovely people. They didn’t have much but they lived with joy and contentment, and gave a lot.



The next day Compassion had arranged a sports day at one of the projects. 250 children from the surrounding area were there plus children who were sponsored by people doing the Muskathon. I met Esther from Kisumu, who Miles and I sponsor. She came with her best friend Happiness and their Social Worker. Esther is nine years old with a lovely personality. She loves to dance and sing, so we did lots of that! We played various games and she was good and fast.

When her Social Worker heard that I was from IMC he got very excited and gave me a big hug! He told me that they love and pray regularly for us, and give thanks that we have sponsored so many children in Kisumu. He asked me to pass that message on to you all. Your sponsorship is making a big difference in those children’s lives and the lives of their families and the wider community.

The following day was a rest day when we were taken out on boats in the lake to see crocodiles and hippos. We also saw two fish eagles. I was very excited because I love these majestic birds. We actually saw one swoop down and catch a fish! It made my day!



Back at the hotel we had a race briefing after dinner which was very uplifting and scary at the same time. Every detail had been well planned and they made sure we were well looked after and protected. I couldn't fault the race organisers or the medics. They were BRILLIANT!

So with a 2:00 am start Denise and I went to bed at 9:00 pm. I finally got to sleep at about 11:00 pm - too much going on in my head. When the alarm went off at 12:30 am we were both out of bed like rockets. We had to be up then because the bus was leaving at 1:00 am to take us to the start. The only down side was that we couldn't have a cup of tea or breakfast because nothing was open! They had boxed up some leftover pasta and rice with sauce and half way through the trip I forced some rice and sauce down as I needed something in the tank.

We were met by Jamie, one of the organising team, who had been told that because another of the organisers was still marking the course she would have to walk some of the way with us. It turned out to be 15 km! We were also followed by a police van lighting our way until sunrise. It brought to mind Psalm 119:105, *"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."*

There were watering holes every 5 km which had water, electrolyte drinks, honey bread, nuts, bananas and water melon. Some had a medic in case treatment was needed. Another medic continually drove around the Course. They were great - very caring and encouraging. As soon as it was light the police left us and we had walked a little more than 20 km, which was good going. Fortunately it stayed cloudy until about 10:00 am, but after that it was full sun. I was very grateful for my hat, and camel pac which meant I could drink whenever I wanted.

We were walking on dirt roads with very loose stones or deep ruts. It was very difficult for the runners and cyclists, and I did my mandatory fall, resulting in a few grazes and a bruised hip. The last 5 km was very hard, and about 500 m from the finish I had a wobble! I stopped in a little bit of shade and sat down. After 10 minutes, though, I got back up and carried on, and when I got to the finish line there was a HUGE welcome and I have to say I felt very chuffed. A welcome hug, a cup of cold coke and a sit down. Every person who took part in this event finished. £500,000 had been raised and 290 children sponsored. AMAZING! Thank you again to everyone who sponsored and supported me. I raised over £1,000 and two children were sponsored! From Compassion's point of view, every child sponsored is valued at £1,000. The adventure was hard, but I will do it again!

*Madeline Allen*

## God's Guidelines for the Walk of Faith

### **Success comes from having the right goals**

Success is accepting God's goal for our lives and by His grace becoming what He has called us to be. (Joshua 1:7-8; 2 Peter 1:3-10; 3 John 2)

### **Significance comes from proper use of time**

What is forgotten in time is of little significance. What is remembered for eternity is of greatest significance. (1 Corinthians 3:1; Acts 5:33-40; 1 Timothy 4:7-8)

### **Fulfilment comes from serving others**

Fulfilment is discovering our own uniqueness in Christ and using our gifts to build others up and glorify the Lord. (2 Timothy 4:5; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 25:14-30)

### **Satisfaction comes from living a quality life**

Satisfaction is living righteously and seeking to raise the quality of our relationships and the things we do. (Matthew 5:5; Proverbs 18:24; 2 Timothy 4:7)

### **Happiness comes from wanting what we have**

Happiness is being thankful for what we do have, rather than focusing on what we don't have - because happy are the people who want what they have! (Philippians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 1 Timothy 6:6-8)

### **Fun comes from enjoying life moment by moment**

Remove unbiblical hindrances such as keeping up appearances. (2 Samuel 6:20-23; Galatians 1:10, 5:1; Romans 14:22)

### **Security comes from focusing on eternal values**

Insecurity comes when we depend on things that will pass away rather than things that will last for ever. (John 10:27-30; Romans 8:31-39; Ephesians 1:13-14)

### **Peace comes from quieting the inner storm**

The peace of God is internal, not external. (Jeremiah 6:14; John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7; Isaiah 32:17)





# 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



## Autumn 2018

### September 7

The Bedford Boys visit the USA  
with Ken Bromage

### September 21

Speaker to be confirmed

### October 5

Shoe Box Day  
plus a workshop to help the RNIB

### October 19

Concert with the Clarion Choir  
and their Russian pianist!  
Invite your friends.

### November 9

To be confirmed

### November 23

Running a business in Ivybridge  
with Ivor Jones

### December 7

Christmas celebration

Please contact one of us for more information:

Val 893614      Maureen

Sara 894198      Judy 894829

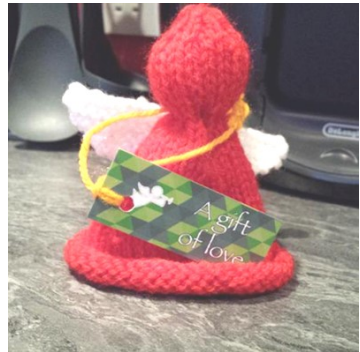
Sue 896444      Christine and David 892858

**We are an open fellowship and all are welcome!**

## Christmas Angels

**The Aim:** To share God's love and to bless the community we live in with a free Christmas decoration that comes with a message of hope at Christmas-time.

**The Idea:** Knit lots of angel decorations, attach a message of Christmas hope, and in one coordinated event leave them in (hopefully) hundreds of locations across our community for people to find (this is known as "yarn bombing").



**Where did the idea originate?** We got the idea from a friend of mine whose church in Fleet in Hampshire joined in last year (she is Sue Butterfield, who used to live in Ivybridge, so many of you probably know her). However, the idea originally came from the North Shields and Whitley Bay Methodist Circuit near Newcastle. In the past three years they (and churches like ours across the country) have knitted over 70,000 angels, and some of them have turned up as far away as South Africa!

**What do we want you to do?** Get yourself and your friends knitting angels - we need hundreds of them!

**Where do I get a pattern for the angels?** There are already hard copies of the knitting pattern available on the noticeboard in the Concourse at church, or you can download an electronic copy from:

<http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Christmas-Angel.pdf>

or if you prefer crocheting, then you can download a crochet pattern from:

<http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Christmas-Angels-Crochet-Pattern.pdf>

**What will we do?** We will collect the angels from all you avid knitters (there will be a collection box in the Concourse at church from September onwards), and we'll print and attach the Christmas message labels; then on a date in the few weeks before Christmas we will organise the yarn bombing (if you want to be a part of this, please let us know and we'll rope you in).



At the time of writing the exact date for the bombing has not yet been agreed. We will also register our project with the original scheme so that it will be part of this much bigger venture - **#xmasangels**

**Where do I find out more?** You can either talk to me or explore the website <http://www.christmasangel.net/>

Happy Knitting

*Nicky Rowe*

Tel. 01752 690031

## 1000 Letters Campaign



Around 1000 children and young people are expected to attend the 3Generate youth event in November 2018. This year's theme is 'Courageous'.

People in Methodist Churches across the country are being asked to write a letter to the

youngsters attending. A letter to help them be *courageous in their faith* by sharing something of your own faith story. The purpose of the letters is to help children and young people feel connected to, and part of, the wider body of the Church; to feel part of the big Methodist family and encourage them in their faith.

Could you share something about your experiences of being part of a church/faith community. Maybe you remember special people or moments from growing up in a church - could you share some of that story? This is a great opportunity to share your faith with a younger generation.

The letters will be displayed at the 3Generate event to be read by the young people who will range in age between 8 and 23. At the end of the conference, each young person will be given one of the letters to take home.

If you feel you could write a handwritten letter for one of our young people, please speak to Carolyn or check out the guidance on the Methodist Church website [www.methodist.org.uk/1000letters](http://www.methodist.org.uk/1000letters).

## Africa – Gospel and Culture



Myself with Alison Judd, World President of the WFMUCW, and Rev Cleopas Sibanda and his wife Susan from Zimbabwe.

At the beginning of June I had the privilege of attending the Methodists for World Mission Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. The theme was 'Africa – Gospel and Culture' and I was excited to be worshipping with and learning from our African sisters and brothers.

During the weekend, I heard from various speakers about the culture of Africa and how this

can help to facilitate the spread of the gospel. I have experienced some aspects of this culture on various visits to African nations and there is much for us in the UK church to learn from our brothers and sisters.

One aspect of culture in Africa is that there is a strong sense of community and relationships are central to maintain harmony. One example of this was cited by an African minister who said he was shocked on coming to the UK to discover that a bereaved person was left on their own, because in Africa it is customary for neighbours, friends and family to sit with a bereaved person for several days and to take care of their needs such as meals and laundry, allowing them time to grieve. We need to remember that we are one family under God and to demonstrate that in our love, unity and care for each other.

This sense of community expresses itself in celebration together no matter what the occasion, and the church is built as people share their food and eat together. In Africa, children are expected to go along to church with their parents whether they want to go or not. This engenders a strong sense of Christian community and the children are more likely to continue engaging with church and worship as adults as a result of this. They learn that there is nothing more important to do on a Sunday than to worship Jesus and share fellowship with their Christian family.

Music is a big part of African culture and Bunmi (World Church Partnership Co-ordinator for Africa) explained that whether or not their singing is tuneful, Africans sing from their hearts. The spread of the gospel has always included music so people find within the church another opportunity to express





themselves in song. Alongside the singing, the natural tendency to dance on any occasion gives the African Christians an opportunity to express the joy of the Lord through movement. This is an aspect of African culture that I absolutely love and I always feel completely at home when worshipping with my African family!

Bunmi described the hunger for God amongst African Christians, borne out of a desire for hope, healing, salvation and breakthroughs in their daily situations. Gospel rallies are popular, especially when there is a healing ministry offered, as people don't have the NHS to turn to as we do and this fosters a dependence on God. Many African Christians are committed to times of prayer and fasting and Bunmi explained that this changes the spiritual atmosphere in a community, area or nation and helps the church to grow. Christians are also used to sharing testimonies within worship about ways that God has helped them. Even people who are illiterate are able to share words of testimony and it encourages prayer and support for each other as well as building fellowship. In a continent of story telling this is a great way of sharing the reality of the power of Jesus with others. It also helps people learn how to naturally share what God has done in their lives with their non Christian friends and family.



Young people from London leading our vibrant and joyful worship



Archbishop Josiah – keynote speaker

It seems that we have so much to learn from the African church about community, joyful expressions of worship, our commitment to prayer, our level of hunger for God's word and the power of testimony as a means of building each other up.

I pray that we in the British Methodist Church will be challenged and enthused by our African sisters and brothers and that our love and devotion to Jesus will grow and express itself within the church and in our communities.

*Carolyn Lawrence*



Wednesday 10 October 2018

7:30 - 10:00 pm

at

Hope Baptist Church, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

Tickets Early Bird Rate until 21 August - £4.00

Standard price - £6.00

Available by going online to -

[www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/other-events/free-to-be#booking](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/other-events/free-to-be#booking)

Ladies, we're delighted to invite you to our popular women's event

*Free to Be* in partnership with Spring Harvest.

During the evening our speakers Cathy Madavan and Bekah Legg will explore what freedom in Christ really looks like.

Don't miss this great opportunity to take some time out to focus on your identity in Christ and come away with a fresh perspective of how God sees you.

Here's what others have said about the event:

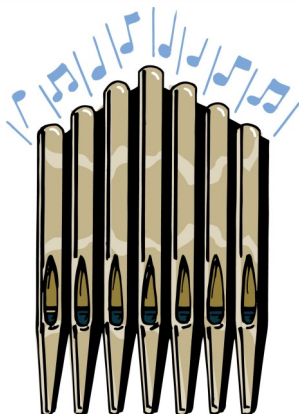
*"Fantastic speakers. Uplifting and encouraging. Just what I needed!"*

*"I've taken a lot away from this. Thank you!"*

*"Wish I had heard this 30 years ago but never too late."*

Why not gather a group of friends and join us!

The Care for the Family Team



## Fundraising Day

Mark and the stewards have given the go-ahead for a one-off event to raise money. The last Saturday in October (27<sup>th</sup>) is the projected date and it would involve the Organ being played throughout the day by several organists (Penny Gadd will be helping with this), and food, eg cakes, bacon butties, cheese toasties, soup, desserts; and cheese/cream scones.

Obviously, this will need several people, to help organise with possibly a catering committee.

Suggestion that the monies raised to be shared between IMC; Bittaford and the Kisumu Project.

Please contact Mercy Matthews or Joy Phillips if you are willing and able to help in any way. Thank you.

We would like to thank everybody who played a part in Kim and Dan's wedding on 30 June.

We had a lovely day and were thrilled to see so many of our church family there. It really made the day special for us. Many have known Kim for such a long time, she was so pleased to see you there!



The tea, coffee and cakes were very much appreciated and commented upon, so a big thank you to everyone who contributed.

The other comments were about the music group, which blew some of our visitors away! And also the flowers which were stunning, a big thank you to the flower team, they looked fresh despite the challenging conditions!

We had a great day and would love to share photos with you later!

Many thanks everyone!

*Chris and Mike Gentle*

# CREATING effective DISCIPLES through small groups

## **Small Group values**

Following on from our Housegroup/Small Groups Sunday on 17 June, here are the notes I showed on the screen, which I pray will be a help to all those of you who are already in an Small Group and those considering being part of one. We encourage all our members to make this a priority for the reasons below.

Small Groups are the 'Jewel in the crown'!

Jesus at the centre  
Every member growing  
Witnessing is natural  
Every small group multiplying  
Love and honesty in community

## **Jesus at the centre**

The Small Group is a place where people meet with Jesus and are changed by Him. As we meet, He meets with us. The Small Group structure will facilitate this, so we can know Him and experience Him. People encounter Christ in all elements of Small Groups.

It's all about Jesus – not us.

- ♥ - We recognise Christ in others
- ♥ - We die to self and live to Christ
- ♥ - Holiness is nurtured
- ♥ - The Word is allowed to speak to each person

Our expectation is that we will encounter Jesus in our Small Groups. We need to create 'space' to engage with Him through

- ♥ Words
- ♥ Actions
- ♥ Silence
- ♥ Relationships



### **Every member growing**

The Small Group is a community of faithful people, not a super-leader shaping people in their image. Their pattern is Christ. Christianity is a lifelong developing relationship with Jesus. It should be growing and maturing.

Within the life of the Small Group, this value challenges us to

- ♥ Wrestle with problems
- ♥ Work out our beliefs
- ♥ Become more like Christ

in a safe place where we have the encouragement and accountability of others.

### **Witnessing is natural**

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul describes the church as a body in which every member has a different yet essential part to play.

The Small Group looks to draw out skills and gifting - whether that is caring, praying, speaking etc. This way the whole Small Group will be encouraged and function well.

The Small Group life only thrives when all contribute. The outcome is that confidence gained in the Small Group translates itself into other parts of the individual's life. It's not an overnight change, but it does come.

In Small Groups witnessing is not '*you should become a Christian*' but '*come and meet my friends*'. More of us can offer that invitation

Witness tools:

- ♥ Barbecues
- ♥ Dinner
- ♥ A walk

These make inviting friends less cringe-making and more natural! Every Small Group can grow!

Small Groups multiply – they don't divide!

- ♥ We gain confidence in inviting our friends
- ♥ They see our faith in action
- ♥ They ask questions

Small Groups are easier to join than Sunday Church! People will be won to Christ by seeing normal people living out their faith. We must prepare for groups to grow by our friends becoming Christians.



### **Every cell multiplying**

As a result, each Small Group experiencing new life will multiply into two new Small Groups. The Small Group is more than having a good time together; it's designed to keep an eye and heart open for those not in the group, through social action and evangelism.

### **Love and honesty in community**

Small Groups are about openness, honesty and sacrificial love. Build an atmosphere for trust and deepening friendship. Learn to share each other's lives - the good times and the bad.

We can experience Jesus and grow in relationship with fellow group members, learning to love and care for others. Without that openness, there can be no real community.

### **Small Groups are communities – Small Groups are not meetings**

In John 13 Jesus provoked love in His disciples by challenging them, *'by this will all people know you are My disciples if you have love for one another'*

### **A final thought - Small Groups are Church!**

People who

- ♥ want to be close to Jesus
- ♥ are gathered to grow
- ♥ are willing to share life
- ♥ learn to share Jesus

If you'd like to join a Small Group, please speak with Helen Maddaford and/or Carolyn and I.

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

*Rev Mark*

**Mid-week Holy Communion**  
**First Tuesday of each month**  
**1:30-2:00 pm in the Concourse**

**Service led by**  
**Rev Mark Lawrence**

## World Federation Day 2018



# Life and Learning

*(based on Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all)*

**Saturday 27 October 2018**  
**10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Choice of two venues:

**Truro Methodist Church**  
Union Place, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1EP

**St. Paul's Methodist Church**  
Higher Audley St, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1DH

Further information and booking forms available from  
Carolyn Lawrence

or

download from: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

telephone: 0300 030 9873

email: [communications@mwib.org.uk](mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk)

# You really need to read this ...

Having got your attention, I will immediately admit that the purpose was to talk to you about money; not the most popular topic, I know. However, I do need to share with you the current financial situation of our church. Don't panic, we are not in a catastrophic position ... yet; but we are in a position where we need to take action now.

A quick review of our finances in the current church year (the church year runs from September to August) reveals that between September 2017 and May 2018 (the latest month for which we have data at the time of writing) we have "lost" on average £1,947 **per month**. I know that some of you who are close to these things will be thinking that this period has seen some "unusual" expenditure on building repairs (slightly in excess of £11,000). If you do set these costs aside, we still lost £725 per month; though I'm sure you'll agree that thinking we will not need to continue spending at this sort of rate on a building of the age of ours is a little foolhardy.

So, you may well ask why the current situation is like it is, when in recent years the finances have appeared to be more, or less, solid. I believe it is attributable to two main factors:

- i. In previous years we have deliberately spent as little as possible on the fabric of the building – that particular chicken is now coming home to roost, and must continue to be addressed.
- ii. A number of the higher givers in the congregation have either moved out of the area, moved to help establish new church plants elsewhere, or (more sadly) have died. They have not been replaced giving-wise.

I am therefore asking three things of you:

1. to prayerfully reconsider your current level of giving,
2. (if you don't already) move to a regular method of giving (preferably bank standing order; if not then weekly envelopes), and
3. (if you are a tax payer) ensure you have a current Gift Aid declaration in place, which will allow us to reclaim from the Government an additional 25p for every £1 that you give.

I do recognise that being a Christian isn't all about how much you give to the church - but it is an important part of it.





I also realise that we should not be obsessed with raising money, and that we are actually here to worship God and spread His Word to those who do not know Him yet. Having said that, I have been an active member of a church that was completely under-funded and it crippled the mission work of that church.

Some of you might ask “well, what is the correct level of giving?” There isn’t a simple answer. The Biblical standard is a “tithe” (i.e. 10%), but you can debate whether this includes all your giving, or just your giving to the church. Also, I understand that some of you are at a point in your life where you find yourself financially strapped. All I say is that your level of giving to the church is something that has to be agreed between yourself and God, prayerfully, and it should be sacrificial – after all this is an important element of honouring God who made the greatest sacrifice of all for us.

We will again be holding a Gift Day in October (to coincide with our Harvest Festival), and whilst any one-off gifts as part of this event will be greatly appreciated, I ask that between now and then you commit to reviewing your regular giving too. It would be wonderful to report in November that the tide had turned, and that between us we had eliminated our deficit.

**Please do not put this off**, we desperately need to address the situation before it gets out of hand – we can then focus on what we are really here for - carrying out God’s work in this place.

*Dave Rowe*

On behalf of the IMC Leadership Team

To all our friends at IMC

*Hannah White*

&

*James Butterworth-Smith*

*will be getting married on*

*Saturday 4 August 2018*

*at 12:30 pm*

*at Ivybridge Methodist Church*



They would love you to share in their special day by joining them for the service, and afterwards in the Church Hall for tea or coffee and light refreshments.

## Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

(2 Timothy 2: 15)



An Awana Cambodia group leader training session

Awana Cambodia is a branch of the world-wide Awana movement, founded in the USA in 1950. Awana (the name is derived from 2 Timothy 2:15) is a church-based evangelism and long-term discipleship programme for children aged from 2 to 18. It now reaches more than 4 million children in 47,000 churches in 104 countries.

Awana Cambodia's vision is 'every child know, love, and serve Jesus Christ in leading the nations to live in harmony with the blessings from mighty God' and its ministry focus is to 'train and equip leaders in Cambodia for effective family and children discipleship'.

Active since 2016, Awana Cambodia has concentrated on adapting Awana's programmes and materials so they are relevant to Cambodia's culture, and training and equipping local church leaders to evangelise and disciple the children in their communities. To date, 279 churches are involved, 786 group leaders have been trained, 350 groups have been established and 5,200 children have been reached in seven of Cambodia's 25 provinces.

Soun Both, Director of Awana Cambodia, says, "Our vision is to see children and youth in Cambodia know, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. I have strong hope that the next generation of Cambodia will lead the nation into harmony and peace and worship our mighty God. We educate children how



to become a good child in the family, a good student in the school, a good friend in the society, and a good child of God.”

Please pray:

- ♥ for the evangelisation and discipling of the children of Cambodia;
- ♥ for churches’ and schools’ outreach ministries to be equipped for this task;
- ♥ for Awana groups to be established throughout Cambodia;
- ♥ for the transformation of Cambodian society by the presence of Jesus in today’s generation of children and young people, both now and when they reach adulthood.

*Myers Cooper*



## PET SITTING

- ◆ Service available for all types of pets.
- ◆ Experience with hamsters, tortoises, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs, cats, and snakes.
- ◆ Experience with a range of health conditions from diabetes and anxiety to giving eye drops and medicine.
- ◆ Pet sitting – we are able to pop over each day to make sure your pet has everything he/she needs, this can be for when you’re on holiday, weekends away or to provide company during working hours. Overnight stays available.
- ◆ We offer a flexible service to meet your pet’s needs.
- ◆ Dog walking also available.
- ◆ Rates available upon request.

For more information please contact:

Email: [petsitting135@gmail.com](mailto:petsitting135@gmail.com)

Phone: 01752 690312



# Church Contacts



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## Senior Stewards:

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## House Group Information:

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## Youth Work:

Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the  
**September Newsletter**  
please get them to the Editor by  
**Friday 10 August**  
at the latest please.

**Tel: 01752 894634**  
**email: [contact@jennyhansford.co.uk](mailto:contact@jennyhansford.co.uk)**



Visit our website at  
**[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk)**

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website  
you can do so at [mrmerrit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerrit@icloud.com)