



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



December 2018
January 2019
Newsletter



A Letter from Mark

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

(John 1:14 NKJV)

I was in the barbers the other day and I was chatting to the lady as she was giving me a number 3 hair-cut. (It's cheaper if you don't muck about with posh hair-styling stuff!) She was saying how much she hates Christmas. In fact she hates it so much that she and her husband fly off to the sun for as long as they can afford so they don't have to endure all the commercialistic trappings. On further discussion it turned out that due to past unhappy relationships and difficulties Christmas heightened these anxieties and became synonymous with those troubled times. I said that in the church we have a joyous time focussing on the true meaning of the season - about God's love manifesting Himself in Jesus! What a contrast to the vacuous commercial greed with its emptiness, debt and social pressure.

So I refer to our wonderful Bible verse above. Jesus is the 'Word'! He became a human being. He was bothered. He cared enough to get down into our messy, sinful, crazy world. Why? Out of duty? Yes. Out of pity? Yes. But more than that. Out of an overwhelming sense of His grace coupled with the reality of truth. One without the other is wobbly in spiritual terms. As you may know, from countless previous Christmas sermons and articles, the Greek word for 'Word' in the New Testament is 'logos'. This is a wonderfully rich word full of deep meaning. Suffice it to say it can also be translated 'reason'. So when you see posters or Christian publicity that says, 'Jesus - the Reason for the Season', it's absolutely spot on!

If we take our Bibles seriously, we know and rejoice that Christ is no longer a tiny, vulnerable scrap of humanity in a feeding-trough, but the triumphant King upon His throne in Glory - what a contrast! In His grace and because He wants us to live in the reality of truth, He has chosen to reveal Himself, in part, through His revelation in the Holy Scriptures i.e. the Bible. The more we read, pray through, study and understand the Bible, the more we'll know of Him and the more effective we'll be in living the Christian life. Nominal Christians don't have a hunger of God's Word and have no appetite for it. But when the Holy Spirit is truly at work in a disciple of Jesus they have a desire to read the Bible, because it's one of the best ways to know the mind of God.



Once again at the beginning of another year (how time flies!) we have the opportunity to be intentional about our daily time with the Lord and systematic in our reading of what He wants to say to us. So I do pray that you will make use of the Bible in a Year plan and that you will enjoy spending quality time reading His word and knowing more of His strength and help to be a blessing to Him, those around you and yourself.

Happy Christmas and a happy new year too in Christ Jesus,
Rev Mark

(If anyone would like a copy of the Bible in Year Plan, please let me know.)

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the February Newsletter, please let me have the details by Thursday 10 January 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



I would just like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Jenny



New Squadron Padre

Last month Mark was inducted as the Squadron Padre for the Ivybridge Air Training Cadets.

This is a photograph of him being presented with his certificate by the Area Chaplain, Rev Brian Anderson.



December/January Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Dec 2	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Songs of Praise (See page 9)
Dec 9	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence (Communion)
Dec 16	10:30 am 4:00 pm	To be announced Christingle
Dec 23	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Carol Service
Dec 30	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
Jan 6	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence (Covenant Service) Rev Mark Lawrence/Simpson
Jan 13	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
Jan 20	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
Jan 27	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Rev Mark Lawrence

BITTAFORD

Dec 2	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs
Dec 9	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence
Dec 16	6:00 pm	Carol Service
Dec 23	10:30 am	Mr Nigel Norris MBE
Dec 30	10:30 am	To be announced
Jan 6	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
Jan 13	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Jan 20	10:30 am	Mr Keith Angilly
Jan 27	10:30 am	Mrs Gillian Mills MA



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

Spring 2019

7 December

Christmas celebration, with carols, poems and sketches

4 January

Party with party food and a bit of a panto!

18 January

Seoul Reflections with Carolyn Lawrence

1 February

Britain on film, "Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside"

15 February

Visit to an African village with Janet Parsons

1 March

Memoirs of a head teacher with Duncan Knowles

15 March

Easter craft

29 March

Stowford Mill with Sheila Hancox from Ivybridge Heritage

12 April

Easter event

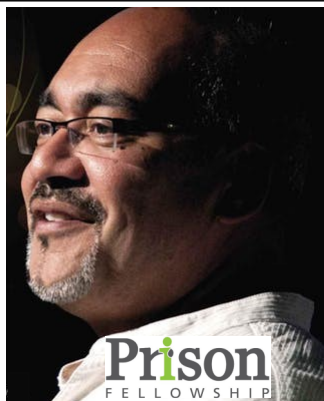
Please contact one of us for more information:

Val 893614 Maureen
Sara 894198 Judy 894829
Sue 896444
Christine and David 892858

We are an open fellowship all are welcome!



*An unforgettable evening of
music and laughter in support of
Prison Fellowship England & Wales*



**Saturday 2 February at 7:30 pm
@ IMC**

Tickets £10 available from
prisonfellowship.porg.uk/jvtour
Rolf Burnie - 01548 560380
Lindsay Elis - 01752 894571

Christian Community in Conversation

We have to admit that much of our conversation, in our daily lives, can become rather superficial. Surely, this affects the way we relate to each other and the way we talk about our faith?



Great news: a Devon team is addressing this very issue. Their aim is no less than to 'grow a new generation of people who are confident and excited about having spiritual conversations based on experiences of life, living and encountering God'. Would you like to hear more about this? It could change us, and make our Christian communities more attractive places, where people would choose to come and talk about the things in life which matter.

The project is being led by Jo Simpson, the Evangelism Enabler of the Plymouth and Exeter District, and Jo will be offering three taster sessions at IMC on Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm. The dates will be 6 January, 27 January and 3 February.

The website (currently under construction) is www.ccic-sw.co.uk.



Work Days are held on the second Saturday of the month from 9:30 am onwards.

The next two dates are -

8 December

12 January

All help is appreciated in carrying out the many maintenance and cleaning jobs around our church building.

We also enjoy excellent coffee and cakes from "Wesleys".

Christmas Services

at

Ivybridge Methodist Church

We would love you to come and join us
for any or all of our Christmas Services

Christingle Service

Sunday 16 December @ 4:00 pm

(Children welcome to come dressed as nativity characters)

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 23 December @ 6:30 pm

Carols at Bittaford Chapel

Monday 24 December @ 6:00 pm

Midnight Communion Service

Monday 24 December @ 11:15 pm

Christmas Day

Monday 25 December @ 10:00 am

*A short Family Service
to celebrate Jesus' birthday*





Ivybridge
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**



CO-OP COMMUNITY CHARITY FUND SUPPORTS THE BRIDGE PROJECT

Ivybridge Youth for Christ are asking for your help. If you shop at, and are a member of, the Co-op (blue members card) you are earning two cashbacks when you buy Co-op branded products. The first is added to your card, which you can decide when to spend. The second is 1% collected against your membership number and is paid equally to the local community charities selected by the Co-op. The Co-op give you the option to choose *one* local charity from those they have chosen. We would really welcome your support for one of those - **The Bridge Project**.

If you select **The Bridge Project** the support is for 12 months from the 28 October 2018 to 26 October 2019. There are two ways you can elect to support **The Bridge Project**:-

1. **If you are registered on line** with your Co-op Membership, then go to the Co-op website and click on '**Ivybridge Youth for Christ (The Bridge Project)**'. If you live 5 miles or more away from Ivybridge, you will need to extend the mile radius accordingly to see the additional projects that will then show you the Ivybridge options.
2. **If you are not registered on line** you can just phone the members support team who will select the charity you want to support. They will ask for your member's number and your address details – the phone numbers are 0800 023 4708 or 01543 223772. The project charity is called – '**Ivybridge Youth for Christ (The Bridge Project)**'.

Below are the statements about The Bridge Project you will find on the Co-op Members' website.

About the Project

We bring young people and positive adult role models together in a space that young people call their own. We also bring young people themselves together in one setting to mix with each other. We also bring the voluntary sector and the local police and councils together in serving the community. We keep the streets safer and therefore are a valuable asset to all of the community.



About the Charity

Ivybridge Youth for Christ is a local charity that supports young people in partnership with local councils, police and churches via The Bridge Project (TBP). TBP helps local young people by providing them a place to meet and chat with youth workers and each other over a free hot chocolate and biscuits at the local skate park on a Friday evening. We currently use a gazebo as our shelter but we want to buy a mobile youth unit. Those who need specific help are signposted in the direction of other youth provision such as youth clubs or counselling services. We seek to demonstrate, promote and encourage the values of dignity, empowerment and partnership to young people and to help them grow to full maturity as individuals, and that their condition of life may be improved.

The good news is that IYFC have now been able to purchase a bus replacing the gazebo.

Thank you for supporting young people in Ivybridge through The Bridge Project. Please pass this message on to your family and friends.

Kate Duckering,
Chairperson
Ivybridge Youth for Christ

Advent Hymns and Carols *Songs of Praise*



Sunday 2 December 2018 at 6:00 pm

Accompanied by the organ and singers.

**Your favourite Advent Hymns and Carols
in café style worship with coffee/tea and cakes.**

If you can bring a cake or biscuits that would be great.

All welcome - we look forward to seeing you



December 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.

Not sure whether to wish you Happy Christmas or a Happy New Year but you can choose as I pray both are possible for you all.



First a new baby whose birth we missed in the last edition. Ryder Mason Courtney was born to Matthew and Jo on 18 October weighing 6lbs 10oz. Grandparents Sheila and Chris are delighted with the new addition and Joe and Eliza are very excited to have a new cousin. We wish Matt and Jo all the very best wishes and hope Ryder brings much joy to you all.

Another piece of good news is the announcement of the engagement of Anna Davis (Linnie and Roy's daughter) to David McGrath in early November. We send love and many congratulations to Anna and David (both based in Scotland) and pray blessings on all your plans for the future.



Many will know Joyce Pope had another fall recently sustaining multiple fractures of her pelvis and spent some time in Derriford. Joyce is at present recuperating in Kingsbridge hospital and we send you much love Joyce along with our prayers for a speedy recovery back to mobility. Yvonne wants to thank everyone for their good wishes and much appreciated visits

It's lovely to see Jane Clark back from hospital and we hope things continue to improve and you stay well Jane. Take care

It's good to welcome Tim Grayling back amongst us from his work in Kenya and we hope matters soon clarify for the next chapter of life Tim.

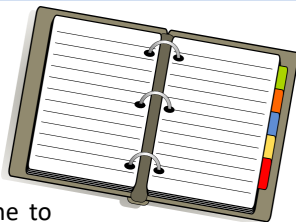
Brian and Joyce Elliot continue to fight health problems and we pray that life eases bit for both of you soon. Be assured we are praying for you.

There are others within the Church struggling on differing fronts and we ask prayers for them and that we continue to stay strong in God as we face uncertainty in the Country's future.



2019 Event - Book your place now!

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?"*



Come away in this holiday week and take the time to prepare yourselves for Easter. Gain new insights into the ministry of Jesus and renew your understanding of God's faithfulness as we engage with key theological and biblical questions. We will look deeply at issues around discipleship, mission practice and theological reflection. Running alongside this will be complementary sessions for the children.

Book directly on the Lee Abbey website: www.leeabbeydevon.org.uk.

Carolyn's Job Update



Thanks to everyone for your prayers and support as I have begun my new job. It is a big adjustment for us both with me being away two nights a week in London and working full time. It is going to take time to work out our routine and what things need to be laid aside.

The job itself is really exciting and feels so right. My title is Programme Support Officer - Mission Education. Part of my job is to develop some short term mission programmes, to select, train and support those who participate. The other half involves seeking to engage people and churches around the country with what is going on out there in the wider world. So I am networking different groups and will, in the coming months, begin to go around the country speaking to groups and at events about the world church and opportunities for people to take part in short term and longer term missions, as well as seeking to encourage 'Church Twinning' between churches here and overseas. This means that eventually my job will be less London based and more flexible so that will make things easier in time.

I value your continued prayer as with all new jobs it seems a bit overwhelming to start with and there is so much to learn!

Financial Update

Back in August I wrote in this Newsletter describing the church's financial situation (if you didn't see it please dig out your copy, or look it up on the church website – page 24 of <http://www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/August-2018.pdf>).



Since then we have been through the process of setting the 2018/19 budget (the church's year runs from September to August), and I am sorry to say that the situation doesn't look any better.

In the General Fund we are having to bank on a Gift Day giving of £3,000 just to balance the books (Gift Day is to be scheduled in the New Year). Normally this income would be ear-marked for a specific project, such as the LED lighting project (see page 19 of this newsletter).

We are also holding cash reserves well below the level set by the Church Council's own Reserves Policy (£15,000 vs. a requirement to hold on average £21,000). These sound like big numbers when compared to our own personal finances, but they are necessary to ensure the smooth running of the church (whose income and expenditure is not equally spaced through the year).

The budget, as currently set, whilst balanced has a minimal allowance for maintenance – for a building the age of ours, this is neither sustainable, nor sensible.

We have also reviewed the Youth Vision Fund (which is a ring-fenced element of the church's finances dedicated to supporting our work with youth and young children; it is largely used to cover Phil Blunt's salary and his working expenses). Whilst this fund has its own reserves the review revealed that we are currently running at a deficit there too, which means it will run out of cash in November next year.

Finally, we have recently discovered that the church has a second gas meter (that actually supplies most of our gas!) for which we have not been billed in the past. It is only fair that we face up to paying for this gas going forward.

So, here is a table showing the magnitude of the issue we face:-



Item	Annual Deficit
General Fund operational deficit (covered by Gift Day in the budget)	£3k
Make up reserves to policy level (£21k) over 3 years (current level =£15k)	£2k
Sensible additional allowance for building maintenance	£5k
Youth Vision Fund deficit (current situation will run out of cash in Nov19)	£11k
Additional gas from 2nd meter (recently discovered to be supplying most of our gas)	£2k
Total	£23k

Current giving forecast (inc. Gift Aid) £63k

% increase in giving required 37%

There are many small actions that we can take to chip away at this, and we are taking these, however the only way to really address this situation is through our giving.

If you are in a position to make a one-off gift then this will obviously be very welcome, and it will buy us some more time. However, the real, long term solution is for us all to reconsider our regular giving. You can see the magnitude of the task from the table above, so please give this serious, prayerful, consideration.

Dave Rowe

On behalf of the IMC Leadership Team

There will be a
Taizé service for Advent
at The Priory
on Sunday 9 December
at 6:30pm





*Within all the tinsel I hope you find
Christ's peace this Christmas*



I HAVE SEEN CHRIST

I have seen Christ
in the neglected face of an unloved boy;

I have seen Christ
in the gentleness and faith of an old man;

I have seen Christ
in the quick hands of a nurse
who knew I needed her before I asked;

I have seen Christ
born again in spirit
in the joyful song of a bright faced child;

I have seen Christ
when my heart was breaking
in the compassionate eyes of a friend;

I have seen Christ
in the forgiveness of a loved one;

I have seen Christ
in the anguish of a mother for her dying son;

I have seen Christ
in a dustman and a doctor.

God grant
that they may have seen Christ in me.

Joan Rowbottom, from "A Touch of Flame", an anthology



Christmas Eve Carol Service

at Bittaford

6:00 pm

With some Christmassy decoration

All Welcome



Christmas Carol Concert

in aid of



hannahs

dame hannah rogers charity

Saturday 15 December 2018
at
Ivybridge Methodist Church

Reception starting at 7:00 pm
Concert commences at 7:30 until 9:30 pm



Tickets £8 per adult, £5 per child
including a festive drink and home-made mince pie

With music from:
Manor Primary School Choir
The South Hams Singers
Yealmpton Gospel Choir
Ivybridge U3A Choir



**Come and join us for a
Celebration of Christmas!**



There Are Crusades and Crusades...

In 1994, the Cambodian church was enjoying rapid growth. The ten underground churches that emerged from Communist persecution in 1990 had multiplied to at least 150 with more than 10,000 members. Taking advantage of the religious freedom guaranteed by the new constitution, a group of church leaders agreed to host a four-night crusade to be led by Texas-based evangelist Mike Evans.



Mr Evans' publicity material promised that the sick would be healed, so families from distant provinces sold cows, rice and possessions to pay for the trip to the capital Phnom Penh. 30,000 people filled the stadium on the first night, the inadequate security measures were overwhelmed and people crowded the stage, thrusting blind and disabled children at Mr

Evans, who saw things were getting out of hand and made a hasty exit. On the second night, security fences kept the crowd away from the stage and things were quieter. Some people were healed; most were not.

The Phnom Penh Post described what happened next:

'On the third of the scheduled four nights, angry crowds, realising that "miracle" cures would not be visited on everyone in the stadium, resorted to physical violence. A van containing young volunteer Christians and some Western NGO workers was surrounded, stoned and beaten upon by fists and feet. Those inside admitted to the Post later that they feared for their lives. They only managed to escape after police with batons cleared the crowd amid violent scenes. Youths tore down Evans's signs, kicking and beating his portrait with sticks and stones.'

Mike Evans was then escorted by the military to the airport and put on an aeroplane.

In the immediate aftermath, the church experienced persecution and lost members. Some church buildings were vandalised or even razed to the ground. One Westerner commented, *"This has put Christianity in Cambodia back 20 years."* Meanwhile, Mr Evans's video of the crusade proclaimed that because of his preaching the church had grown from 10,000 to 100,000 in two days.



Now, Cambodian church leaders are risking another crusade. 'Love Phnom Penh' will be held on 15, 16 and 17 November 2019 and the speaker will not be Mike Evans but Franklin Graham, son of the late Dr Billy Graham.

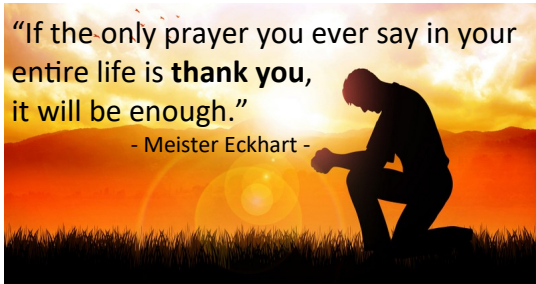
Please pray:

- ◆ for the Cambodian team planning for the crusade;
- ◆ for good communication between the organisers in Cambodia and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in the USA;
- ◆ for good co-operation from the Ministry of Religion, police and Phnom Penh municipal authority;
- ◆ for many people to be saved, followed up, added to the church and disciplined effectively;
- ◆ that nothing would hinder or spoil what the Lord wishes to achieve through this crusade.

Myers Cooper

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is **thank you**, it will be enough."

- Meister Eckhart -



Prayer Morning

Saturday 19 January 2019

9:30 am – 12:30 pm IMC

Everyone is invited to come and start 2019 'Waiting on the Lord!'

This morning offers an opportunity for quiet individual prayer and the hope is that whether you stay for 10 minutes or the whole morning you will feel enabled to spend some time in God's presence and will leave with a sense of His peace in your heart.

Various prayer stations will be set up to help you focus on different themes but you are also free to just come and 'be'.

We hope you can join us!

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Claudia Alvarez Calderon - Soprano

Alex Wilson - Piano



An evening of sacred music and Christmas carols from around the world

Hot drinks and mince pies available

Wednesday 19 December

Methodist Church

Ivybridge

Thursday 20 December

St Lawrence Chapel

Ashburton

Tickets £10 (under 16s free) - Doors open 7:00 pm

Bookings and info: 07951 054577/info@claudiaalvarezcalderon.com

www.claudiaalvarezcalderon.com

Church Lighting Opportunity



Back in the August Newsletter I briefed you on the financial situation facing the church, and this is updated on page 12 in this Newsletter. As well as constraining our day-to-day activities, the position we find ourselves in also denies us the chance to pick up on opportunities when they come along – even those that will actually save us money in the long term.

One such opportunity has resulted from some great work that Sophie Phillips has explored with some of her contacts – that is to change the church and hall lighting to LED. lighting. The cost of this is £5,500, and it has a payback period of between four and five years (after which we would actually be saving money). Whilst on the face of it this would normally be a “no-brainer”, our current finances mean we do not have £5,500 right now to invest in this.

However, a very generous couple in the congregation, who are keen to see this project come to fruition, have offered to match any donations made towards it. That means that if the rest of us combined can pledge £2,750 between us then the project can go ahead immediately, and we can start saving money immediately.

So, firstly a huge “thank you” to the couple involved; and secondly ... over to you - can you help make this project a reality?

Dave Rowe

On behalf of the IMC Leadership Team

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas

So the Word became human and
made His home among us.
He was full of unfailing love and
faithfulness. And we have seen His
glory, the glory of the Father’s
one and only Son.

John 1:14



Church Contacts



Minister:

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Senior Stewards:

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Mrs Alison White Tel: 01752 691039

Room Bookings:

John and Pam Montgomery
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email: imcbookings@gmail.com

House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Youth Work:

Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the
February Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Thursday 10 January
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