



# IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing Life*  
*Sharing Faith*



This is real love - not that we loved God,  
but that He loved us and sent His Son  
as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

*1 John 4:10*

# February 2017 Newsletter

## ***From the Minister***



During February we mark Valentine's Day, an occasion to celebrate relationships, and also for some retailers to make a lot of money! Relationships of all kinds are vitally important and they all take working at – whether that be in a marriage, a parent/child bond, a friendship, or relationships within a church. One of the keys to a successful relationship is

good communication and the Bible gives us clear guidance on how we can ensure that discord is not allowed to fester amongst us.

I read in Word for Today a few weeks ago these helpful rules given to a congregation by a new pastor and they really resounded with me so I felt that it was good to share them with you all.

- ♥ If you have a problem with me, come and see me privately. I'll do the same for you.
- ♥ If someone else has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me. I'll do the same for you.
- ♥ If someone won't come to me, say, 'Let's go and see him together.' I'll do the same.
- ♥ Be careful how you interpret me – I'd rather do that. It's too easy to misinterpret intentions. I'll also be careful how I interpret you.
- ♥ If it's confidential, don't tell. If you, or anyone else comes to me in confidence, I won't tell, unless they are going to harm themselves, harm someone else, or a child or vulnerable adult has been physically or sexually abused. I expect the same from you.
- ♥ I don't read unsigned letters.
- ♥ I don't manipulate. I won't be manipulated. Don't let others manipulate you. And don't let others try to manipulate me through you.
- ♥ When in doubt, just say so. If I can answer without misrepresenting something or breaking a confidence, I will.

These can be summed up in the Golden Rule of Jesus, 'Do to others whatever you would like them to do for you.' Mark and I commend these rules to you and pledge to do what we can to keep our side of the deal and pray you will also extend us the same courtesy.



It is our prayer that Ivybridge Methodist Church will be a place of good, open, honest communication and that no gossip, complaining or critical attitudes will be allowed to separate any of us or drive anyone away. We want to have a reputation for being a church in which people feel safe from backbiting and hearsay, and where each person is valued and treated with dignity.

This takes a commitment from each one of us to refrain from negative speaking, to refuse to listen to negative speaking from others, to refuse to be easily offended by things others may say or do that we don't like and to work together to be gracious, merciful and tolerant of each other. We need to remember that church is not primarily a place to have our own preferences and desires met but a place where our core desire is to glorify Jesus and bring others to know His great love. We are not consumers but we are family and as such need to bear with one another in love.

We also want to remind everyone that if you know of someone in the church family going through a difficult time for any reason, we would really like to know about it if they are happy for you to share it with us. We may not be able to get to visit everyone but we would love to be able to pray for you and to encourage the rest of the church family to pray as well so that we can support each other as much as possible.

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!

Blessings,

*Carolyn*

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

If you would like to include anything in the March Newsletter, please let me have the details by Friday 10 February 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***



*Jenny Hansford*



# February Worship

## IVYBRIDGE

Feb 5	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion Mrs Val Marriott
Feb 12	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
Feb 19	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Prayer Service led by Mrs Gill Cowsill
Feb 26	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Paul Courtney Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

## BITTAFORD

Feb 5	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Feb 12	10:30 am	Mr Terry Milam
Feb 19	2:30 pm	Rev Simon Leigh - Covenant Service
Feb 26	10:30 am	Mr Justice Abusah

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

## Women's World Day of Prayer 2017

Friday March 3rd  
7:30 pm  
at  
St John's Church





## Women's Ministry at IMC

Thank you to all those of you who took time to write, email and speak to me about your ideas for women's ministry at IMC. I have given all these ideas a lot of thought and prayer and have devised a programme for 2017 taking into account as many views and desires as possible. Of course, I know I can't please all the people all the time but we will trial all the things on the programme and I am happy for you to keep talking to me constructively about ways of improving things as we go along.

The overall title of the ministry is 'Well Women' and is inspired by the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well (John 4:1-42). This woman had collected a lot of baggage in her life and through her meeting with Jesus she found healing and wholeness and went on to lead others to discover what she had experienced.

As we meet together at 'The Well' my prayer is that we too will find refreshment, healing and friendship and grow in our faith, as well as bring others to share the experience.

I have tried to include a variety of activities through the year and a programme is available for you to take home and pin on your noticeboard or give to a friend to invite them along. If you would like an emailed copy of the programme please let me know your email address and I'll send you one.

All women are welcome to any of the activities planned whatever their age and whatever stage they are at in their spiritual journey.

The programme for February is -

### **Monday 6 February**

Tea/coffee from 7:45 for 8:00 pm start. at IMC

Talk on 'Identity and Self Esteem'

This talk will answer questions such as:

'What is my worth? Do I have any value to God?

What can affect my self esteem? How can I have a healthy self image?

### **Monday 20 February**

1:30 - 3:00 pm at IMC

Bible study and discussion on the theme of 'Getting our priorities sorted' based on the story of Mary and Martha

**Carolyn Lawrence**

Email: [markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:markcarolyn1983@gmail.com)

Tel: 01548 852073



# February 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.



For the first newsletter in the new year it is again a delight to welcome a new baby. James and Alison Hooper's first baby - Daniel James was born on 13 January weighing 7lbs 5oz. We send our love and congratulations to James and Alison and also to Grandparents Sara and John Hladkij. We hope it won't be too long before baby Daniel pays a visit to IMC, and until then we pray for sleep and peace for his parents.

Another new arrival, but back on 28 November and so missed the Christmas newsletter, was Osain Lewis - born to Matt and Delyth - son and daughter-in-law of Jean and Malcolm Lewis. Many congratulations to you all, and we hope you will have much joy getting to know Osain and he is able to make the long trip down at some point.



One other event that missed the newsletter in December was Brenda Hughes' 80th birthday. Brenda, we do hope you had a lovely birthday and we send our love and congratulations with prayers for blessings in this year to come.

Another significant birthday that is being celebrated this month is Sylvia Hornibook's 80th birthday on the 4 February. We wish you a very happy birthday Sylvia and hope you enjoy your celebrations.



For those who remember him before he left us back in 2004, we welcome Myers Cooper back to the area. We hope you are well settled in your new home Myers, look forward to seeing you at IMC hopefully soon.

Since our last newsletter Barry Jury has been very poorly but is now having treatment and beginning to pick up a bit. Barry and Aileen would be grateful for our prayers and we send love, blessings and prayers for a good outcome and for healing.





As we go to print Kate Crouch is also in hospital after severe stomach pains. Kate we hope that by the time we read this you are home and well on the way to recovery, and we send you our love and prayers.

We also send our love and prayers for complete healing to David Moulder whose leg had an argument with the heavy staging for the Nativity/Christingle Service - and lost!! David, we were so sad it happened but hope all goes according to plan from now on.



Once again we find we are sharing news of a number of bereavements from amongst our fellowship, and to each family we send prayers for comfort and for a knowledge of God's presence as they and their families walk the journey of grief at this time.

Both Miles Allen and Chrissie Phillips have lost their mothers and Kate Duckering and Len Skinner their fathers, both unexpectedly. Please know we will be thinking of you during this time and as you adjust to life with these special people.

Some will remember Mildred French who worshipped with us regularly until she went to live near her Daughter. Sadly we heard that Mildred passed away during December.

Also Betty Joyce, who was the widow of a Minister who served in North Devon and Jane Plant's Mum, died recently at the age of 97 and we send our sympathy to Jane and all the family.



Mustard seeds is a group of christian singles of all ages who meet monthly to share faith and fellowship. Feel free to turn up in the day or call Julia in advance: 07890 280634

**All events start at 12:30 on the  
last Saturday of each month**

- 28 January:** Trehill Arms, Ivybridge
- 25 February:** RumpusCosy (Derrys Cross)  
Pre-order appreciated, please call 01752 604837
- 25 March:** Secco Lounge, Royal William Yard
- 29 April:** Saltram House
- 27 May:** Waterfront, Plymouth Hoe
- 24 June:** Cadover Bridge Picnic
- 29 July:** Bigbury Beach Picnic

# Moving People: Moving Stories

The **Methodist Church**  
World Church Relationships



## **MWM World Mission Conference 2 - 4 June 2017**

**at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick**

Refugees, economic migrants, and people seeking new lives  
in new places mean more people are on the move across  
the globe than ever before.

Follow the churches' journey alongside some of these people  
and explore how we can become a church of all nations.



**Methodists for  
World Mission**

Celebrating diversity and promoting mutual  
partnership around the globe.

[www.mwm.org.uk](http://www.mwm.org.uk)

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

Twitter: [@MWM\\_charity](https://twitter.com/MWM_charity)

Facebook and Youtube:  
'Methodists for World Mission'





## Calling all Men!!

As from this month we are starting a  
**Men's Breakfast,**  
and all men (young and old)  
are invited!

It will be held on the **second Saturday** of each month starting at 8:30 am and finishing by 10:00 am. The cost will be £3.50 which will be for a Full English Breakfast cooked for us by our very own chef-in-residence - Tony Merriman!

After the meal there will be a testimony or short word of encouragement.  
This is where you come in as I'm happy to hear from you as to who would like to share something! Do let me know!

Here are the dates for your diary for the whole year!

**11 February**

Mark sharing his testimony

**11 March**

**8 April**

**13 May**

**10 June**

(Special with the Tough Talk team in Kingsbridge)

**8 July**

**9 September**

**14 October**

**11 November**

**9 December.**

Booking will be essential as Tony needs to know how many meals to prepare in advance. You can contact him on 01752 894265 or his mobile 07841 015762, or email him at [mrmerit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerit@icloud.com)

I look forward to seeing you then.

Blessings,

***Mark Lawrence***



## **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 Programme 2017**

#### **3 February**

Rolph Burny from the Prison Fellowship

#### **24 February**

Yealmpton and Brixham WI Choir

Please note this is a 3 week gap, to dodge half term

#### **10 March**

Leah Parsons from Dementia Friends

#### **24 March**

To be confirmed

#### **7 April**

An Easter Reflection with Mary Andrew

Please contact one of us for more information:

Valerie Marriott 893614    Sara Bromage 894198

Judy Jago 894829    Sue Pengilley 896444

Christine and David Moulder 892858

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

### **Ivybridge and District Food Bank**

This Christmas the Food Bank has fed more families than ever before and this is down to the generosity of the people of Ivybridge and District, local schools and Tesco and the Co-op who allow regular collections to take place on their premises.

The photograph shows part of the extra gifts we were able to give to all our families along with an extra food hamper. They also received the food parcel





they would normally receive. There was much delight and gratitude at the gifts and food parcels and all recipients wanted the community to know of their gratitude and what difference all this would make to their Christmas.

Warmest thanks must also be given to Jutta, the Food Bank team and our wonderful

volunteers who worked their socks off in the weeks running up to Christmas to organise all the parcels - you are all much appreciated.

The work of the Food Bank goes on every week and consequently we are always looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways. Anyone interested should contact either 07706 457336 or 07706 457337. Thank you.

**Brunel  
Manor**

## *Ladies Celebration Day* Saturday 8 April 2017

Our speaker this year is Louise Sibley.

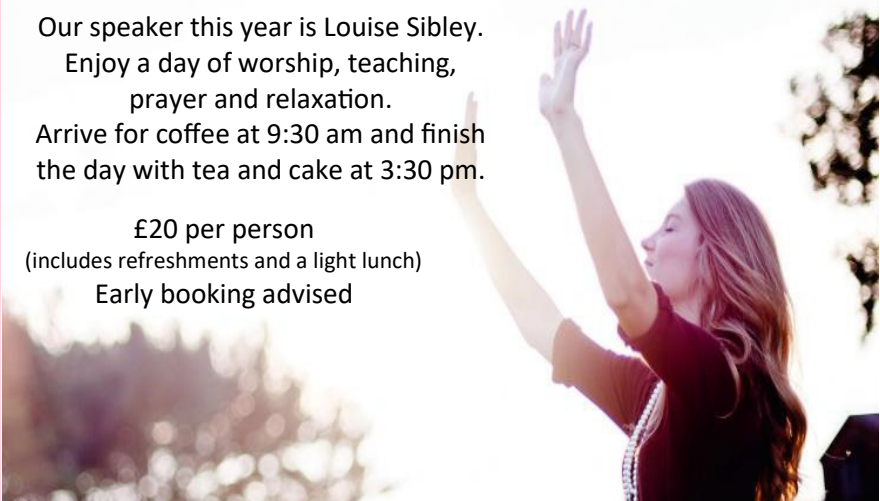
Enjoy a day of worship, teaching,  
prayer and relaxation.

Arrive for coffee at 9:30 am and finish  
the day with tea and cake at 3:30 pm.

£20 per person

(includes refreshments and a light lunch)

Early booking advised



Brunel Manor, Teignmouth Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 4SF

Tel: 01803 329333 [info@brunelmanor.com](mailto:info@brunelmanor.com)

## WHAT IS STILETTOS?

**Stilettos** is a movement passionate about adding value to the women within the local church, across the South West and globally. They are dedicated to helping every woman, through God's Word and Holy Spirit, to believe that she is made for far more than what is temporary by encouraging, empowering and strengthening them in this journey called life.



Stilettos is for ladies of all ages and backgrounds; from teenager to grandmother and from every church denomination and non-church background, with the purpose of unity and glorifying God, helping the vulnerable and believing that through Jesus we can be the change needed for the days we live.

Organised by The Worship Centre in Estover, Plymouth, **Stilettos** is more than an event, it is an everyday action to reach, encourage and empower women. Once a year they hold a one day Women's Conference at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall. This year's Conference will be their fifth and will be held on Saturday 29 April on the theme of "Revolution" and the two guest speakers will be Michele Cushatt and J John.



Michele Cushatt, and her husband Troy, live in Colorado with their six children, aged 8 to 23. A storyteller at heart, Michele inspires audiences with the warmth of her transparency and presence. Her unique style makes you feel like you just spent an afternoon with a good friend, sparking tears one moment and laughter the next. Having experienced both the best and worst of life, she's unafraid to disclose her imperfect spaces, so that you know you're not alone in yours.

J John (Revd Canon) lives in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire in England. He is married to Killy and they have three sons and one daughter-in-law. Described as refreshing, humorous, passionate, accessible, earthy and dynamic, J. John is an Evangelist, minister, speaker, social activist and writer. He has a remarkable gift for communicating the truth in an engaging, stimulating and practical way. His passion for story-telling enables him to bring the gospel to life in a fresh and contemporary manner. Many of our young people will know J John from when he has spoken at Soul Survivor.



I went to the Conference for the first time last year and wished I had known about this event years ago! It is a day of fantastic fellowship, wonderful worship and amazing speakers, I came away inspired. I think we are so blessed to have this Conference happening practically on our doorstep, and would highly recommend it to all the ladies at IMC.

As I said, this year's conference is being held on Saturday 29 April from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The cost of a ticket is £25 for the whole day however, if we can get a group of 10 or more going we can get tickets for £22.50 each. I will definitely be going again this year, so if you are interested in joining me, or would like to know more, please come and see me. You can also go online to [stilettconference.com](http://stilettconference.com) for more information.

*Jenny Hansford*

### **Be Careful What You Post on Facebook in Cambodia**

I am often asked the question, "What is the situation in Cambodia now?" In the back of the questioner's mind is the legacy of the Khmer Rouge genocide, an awareness that Cambodia is still a developing country with problems of malnutrition, poverty and corruption, and perhaps an inkling that there is still instability and danger on the political scene.

To try to unravel and explain Cambodian politics is far beyond the scope of a short newsletter article, but here is one fact and some related background that may prompt you to pray that the Lord will bring peace and justice to Cambodia in greater measure than in recent years.

**Fact:** On 27 December 2016, Sam Rainsy, the President of the Cambodian National Rescue Party, was sentenced *in absentia* to five years in prison. The charge was posting on Facebook a fake treaty purporting to show Vietnam and Cambodia agreeing to get rid of their mutual boundary.

**Background:** Cambodia has been governed, either exclusively or briefly in coalition, by the same party since the Vietnamese army invaded Khmer Rouge-controlled Cambodia and set up a new government in January 1979. The party, now known as the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), is led by Hun Sen, who has been Cambodia's Prime Minister since 1985 and is one of the longest serving leaders in the world. Hun Sen was a Battalion Commander in the Khmer Rouge army until he fled to Vietnam. He was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in the Vietnam-instituted communist government in 1979.



Sam Rainsy founded an opposition party in 1995. In the 2003 general election his party polled 22% of the vote. In 2012 the party merged with another to form the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP), of which Sam Rainsy has been President ever since. In the 2013 election the



Opposition leader Sam Rainsy (left) and Prime Minister Hun Sen (right)

CNRP secured 44.5% of the vote and won 55 out of 123 seats in the National Assembly. The CNRP claimed that if the election had been fair, they would have won a majority. Since 2005, Sam Rainsy has endured a succession of lawsuits and criminal charges during periods of self-imposed exile. The Vice-President of the CNRP spent several months holed up in the party headquarters fearing arrest for refusing to appear in court, but following a royal pardon granted at the request of Hun Sen he has emerged and taken up the role of leader of the opposition in the National Assembly.

In 2013, Hun Sen stated his intention to rule Cambodia until he is 74 (which will be in 2026). Many Cambodians fear what may happen if the CNRP continues to increase its share of the vote and the CPP loses the next general election in 2018. Hun Sen has an elite, well-armed bodyguard unit comprising several thousand troops. In 1997, when the junior partner in a coalition with a party headed by the then King's son, Hun Sen staged a bloody coup to oust his co-premier. Prior to the 2013 election, Hun Sen warned that Cambodia could descend into an 'internal war' akin to the Khmer Rouge period if the opposition won the election and carried through on a threat to arrest members of the current government.

**Please pray:** for peace, stability, righteous government, a climate in which political debate can take place without fear of reprisals, and for free and fair local elections to take place this year and a general election next year. Please pray for the salvation of communist/turned nominal Buddhist Hun Sen and probably more fervent Buddhist Sam Rainsy. Pray that ordinary Cambodian people will be able to live without fear of bloodshed and war and will find their ultimate security in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

*Myers Cooper*

Here is an old hymn which is in 'Singing the Faith' (the latest version of the Methodist Hymn Book) which I read a few weeks ago. The Lord spoke to me through it and I pray it will be a blessing to you too.

Blessings,

*Rev Mark*

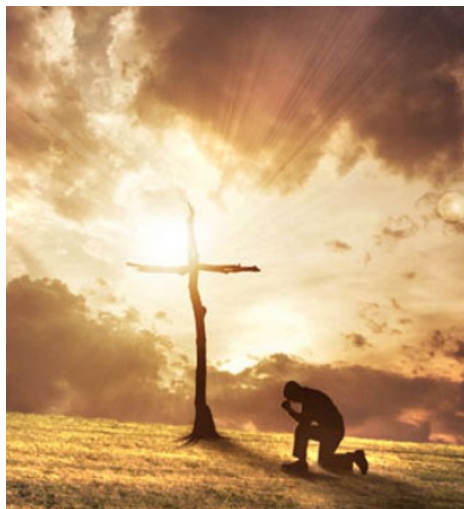
O the bitter shame and sorrow, that a time could ever be,  
When I let the Saviour's pity, plead in vain,  
and proudly answered:  
"None of You and all of me!"

Yet You found me; there I saw You dying and in agony,  
Heard You pray, 'Forgive them, Father,'  
and my wistful heart said faintly:  
"Some of You and some of me!"

Day by day Your tender mercy, healing, helping, full and free,  
Firm and strong, with endless patience brought me lower,  
while I whispered:  
"More of You and less of me!"

Higher than the highest heaven, deeper than the deepest sea,  
Lord, Your love at last has conquered;  
grant me now my spirit's longing:  
All of You and none of me!

(Theodore Monod [1836-1921])



# Church Contacts



## Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence Tel: 01548-852073  
email: revmark@live.co.uk

## Senior Steward:

Mrs Sara Bromage Tel: 01752 894198

## Room Bookings:

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

## House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

## Youth Work:

Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the

## March Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

**Friday 10 February**

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)