



# 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 2019 Newsletter



## ***A Letter from Mark***

*"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."*

(Heb.3:13 NIV)

By the time you read this the nights should be getting a little bit shorter and Spring will soon be with us! Does that encourage you? We all need encouragement don't we? I know I do! Our words are so important. Yes, there is a place for correction and rebuke, as any parent (or grand-parent) will tell you, but as in the Bible verse above we have the privilege to encourage one another daily. Yes, we need lots of encouragement - the more the better - every day. When we are in a living relationship with the God of Creation, our Loving Heavenly Father, there is so much to encourage us, or as the word suggests, to give us courage - that's what encouragement means! Let me give you a trivial example.

When Carolyn and I were first married we owned a little house in Kempston, Bedfordshire right by the main Midland main line! Awesome! Anyway, the outside needed painting and I'm not keen on ladders and even less keen on climbing up them. But the job needed doing and we couldn't afford to pay someone to do it, so I had to get on with it. I remember ascending the first few steps with my sandpaper to rub down the eaves - yikes! I was about 3 steps up and that was enough for me! I started to get scared and my legs started to tense up on the third rung! I thought to myself, 'This is no good at all', but I was virtually paralyzed with fear and only about 3 feet from the ground, if that! I looked up at the ladder above me and the decorating that needed to be done and prayed right there on the ladder. I spoke to my fear and rebuked it. That might sound crazy, but that's what I did. And to my amazement I continued to climb the ladder and got the job done. I give praise to God for His encouragement. When no-one else was going to get up that ladder except me, He strengthened me to do it. Yes, a trivial example, perhaps, but I learned a valuable lesson that day that fear is not my master, because God is my loving Heavenly Father and His perfect love drives out all fear!

Some of us this month are stepping out of our comfort by going to Kenya to serve the Lord on 21 February until 1 March. Whilst we're there we'll meet some of our Compassion UK children that are sponsored by so many of you at IMC. We want to encourage them and take them your greetings. We're then going another 50 kms north to the city of Kakamega to take part in



various mission activities such as, preaching, teaching, praying, singing and serving as the Lord leads in churches, schools and prisons. Please can I encourage you to encourage us with your daily prayers!

We specifically need prayer for Tony, Jenny, Gill, Helen, Phil, Rachel, Carolyn and me for:

- ◆ Journeying mercies - protection on the roads and in the air;
- ◆ Good health and further protection from bugs, bites, sickness, and in fact all the powers of darkness and their agents!
- ◆ That we will be given strength and courage to do what needs doing;
- ◆ That we'll be a blessing to our African brothers and sisters and encourage them;
- ◆ That through our work and witness many will come to know Jesus and the power of His Holy Spirit;
- ◆ Finally, that God will get all the glory.

Many thanks.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev Mark**

### Prayer Day January 2019



For those who were able to attend, the Prayer Day was a real blessing. I know Carolyn and Mark felt that powerful prayer ministry happened. For some it was a gentle time of walking round the prayer tables letting God speak into our lives in different ways.

There was a table where you could plant a seed and pray for someone you loved to grow in whatever way was appropriate, a candle table where one could sit quietly and put simple written prayers on a board. Another prayer station offered the chance to pray for Kenya and Compassion, yet another the chance to colour in cards with biblical verses to enable meditation on them as colouring took place. Stones offered the chance to get to grips with forgiveness as we held them, prayed about the issue and put them at the foot of the cross. Thanksgiving was a focus as we were able to sit and watch a series of beautiful photos on the computer, and lastly there was the Ivybridge Table to enable prayer for the town.

It was stimulating, thought-provoking and prayer enabling however long or short a time you could stay. Thanks to Gill and Carolyn for this morning of opportunity.



# February Worship

## **IVYBRIDGE**

Feb 3	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence/Jo Simpson
Feb 10	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
	<b>3:00 pm</b>	Rev Mark Lawrence - Parade Service
Feb 17	10:30 am	Dr Philip Walsh
	6:30 pm	Mrs Gill Cowsill - Prayer Service
Feb 24	10:30 am	Mr Paul Whitell

## **BITTAFORD**

Feb 3	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
Feb 10	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Feb 17	10:30 am	Mrs Gillian Higgins
Feb 24	10:30 am	Mrs Di Smart

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

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

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

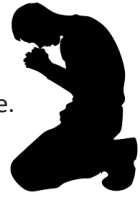
- ♥ send it by email to -  
*contact@jennyhansford.co.uk*
- ♥ ring me on 01752 894634
- ♥ hand it to me at church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "H" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at - 10 MacAndrew Walk, Ivybridge



*Jenny*



## Prayer for our Country



Lord Jesus, on whose shoulders all government rests,  
we pray for all those who exercise authority in public life.

We pray for our politicians:

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition,  
together with their colleagues, and we remember too,  
all our political servants who seek to serve us across the United Kingdom.  
Give them Your wisdom and Your guidance as they seek to guide us.

Guide us away from injustice, and towards the ways of peace.  
Give to those who rule a passion for truth and a sincere love for people.  
May their service lead us to become better citizens, respecting one another,  
and reflecting the values of your kingdom,  
For Christ's sake.

Amen

(Taken from an Advent Study on Respect by Joel Edwards)



SAT-7 ON THE ROAD IN 2018

**Saturday 16 March - 1:00-5:00 pm**  
**at Wonford Methodist Church, Exeter**



See and hear what God is doing in the Middle East and North Africa ...  
... and how you can be involved!

Find out how SAT-7 is making God's love visible in a turbulent region

Hear from Middle Eastern Christians about how God is at work

Take a look behind the headlines at what is happening in people's lives

Speakers include an award-winning producer of ground breaking  
SAT-7 ARABIC women's programmes

For more information and to register visit [www.sat7uk.org/envision](http://www.sat7uk.org/envision)

[www.sat7uk.org](http://www.sat7uk.org)  
respond@sat7uk.org • 01249 765865  
SAT-7 UK IS A REGISTERED CHARITY



**MAKING GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE**  
ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
**THROUGH CHRISTIAN TV**

# IMC Youth Work News :



Hi Church!

Thank you so much for all your support whether in volunteering or praying. We do value everything this church does especially involving the youth work.



This term we are super excited about taking over the leadership of **Wired Youth Club** which sees 20-30 young people through the doors on a Thursday night. We have had a really good number of volunteers for this but we can always use more to make sure no one has to give too much time, so if this is something you feel you could get involved in please speak to Phil!

We had some fantastic parties leading up to Christmas with over 20 at our **Alpha Christmas meal**. The Alpha group is still growing well with young people bringing their friends to what we call #plusone nights. These have no content but are for them getting to know the church family.

We are planning an **Alpha Residential** in March which I think will be fab for them to grow in their relationships with their local church and we have been joining with youth from Vineyard Church in Plymouth for the Alpha group, who will also be joining us on the residential. This has been an incredible exercise of unity as both of our churches didn't really have enough young people to run a good sized Alpha, but together we have a lovely size. We thank Rachel, Gary, Tony and Jenny for letting us use their houses in this.

**KidsFest** we thought was coming to an end as we only had 3 or 4 coming each week, so we prayed about it and said, God if you want this to continue we will give it until Christmas to grow. As it came to Christmas it grew and grew with over 10 new children coming, so we are now planning a new term! We are hoping to link with the plans for **Messy Church** which should be launching anytime from February.

**Spy (St Petrox Youth)**, after an assembly in the school last term, has seen a whole new group of young people joining which has brought a lovely atmosphere. We are seeing 10-15 young people each week there.

**Arrows** has also kept growing and the young people are really attentive to the stories and have some amazing questions for their age.



**New! Youth Band Nights** has been a fab new venture we put out to the church young people to see if they wanted to try being a part of a band, and we had six the first night. In this group we mentor them in what worship is but also have a lot of fun playing lively worship songs so WATCH THIS SPACE - we may be playing on a Sunday in the not too distant future!

As was pointed out in the service a few weeks ago, funds for youth ministry are running at a large shortfall. By November this year if those funds are not there my contract will be stopped so please do pray about giving to the Youth Vision Fund.

#### Prayer Points

- Clarity as we start the New Year, new ideas
- Young people to continue to attend
- Young people to come to know Jesus for themselves
- Energy for the leaders and volunteers

If you feel God calling you to **join** our **team** or volunteer for one of the events above, (you can be aged between 18 and 110!) we will be able to find a place for any gifts from just listening to leading, serving tuck shop to washing up, so please do chat to Phil on **07816 910 152** or email **phil\_blunt4e@hotmail.co.uk**



Churches Together will be holding  
a Taizé Service in IMC Hall  
on Sunday 10 February at 4pm

### 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](http://www.leeabbeydevon.org.uk).



# 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.

Welcome back after our Christmas break, we hope January and all it held was a good start to 2019 and we pray the rest of the year will hold blessings and peace.

Many congratulations to Laura Maddaford and Josh Butt on their engagement announced in December. Laura and Josh we pray that, as you plan for your life together, you will know God's blessing in your lives.



Lovely news for Lindsey and Rodger Reid too, as their son Ben announced his engagement to Sue-Lyn on New Years day. We send warmest congratulations Ben and Sue-Lyn and hope all goes well as you make plans for your future life together.

Diana Bond's funeral has happened since our last newsletter and we were blessed to have such a lovely lady as part of our congregation even for a short while. We send our condolences to her family.



Brian and Joyce Elliott have moved into Ivydene at the moment and we send our love and best wishes to you both and hope all is settling down in your lives.

Lots happening in the Abbott family recently as Richard and Zoe have both completed studies at Master's level and are now studying for their Doctorates (following in Victor's footsteps!!). Zoe's Doctorate is looking into aiding women with severe arthritis deal with all the negative perceptions around their condition which she will study for in Cardiff. Richard's Masters was in music and synaesthesia and he will be expanding this for his PhD in Plymouth.



Many congratulations to Sophie Phillips as she received an award for all the work on Fuel Poverty she has been doing recently. Sophie went to the Houses of Parliament to receive the award and it's fantastic recognition to all the time and effort (and passion) that goes into Sophie's day to day work.

Please continue to pray for all those struggling with "unseen" disabilities especially depression.





## Thank You Angel Knitters!

A big thank you to all of you who knitted angels before Christmas. In the end we had more than 500!

The angels were “bombed” around the town (largely near the schools, the parks, and the main shopping area). All of them were picked up by someone (we actually went around each day that the bombers were active to ensure that the angels did not become “litter”!).

We have had lots of really positive feedback from the community, including an e-mail from as far away as Dorset, and a letter from a school child thanking us for her angel, which she found on the way to school. The e-mail from Dorset had obviously had a huge impact on the gentlemen in question. He had to travel to Ivybridge as part of his work and had arrived early in the town to be greeted by a host of angels. He then took the effort to find out Mark’s e-mail address to ensure he could thank us properly. He even said “As ever I have spent a lot of money on presents this year but somehow this gift is probably the best I will receive as its from someone I don’t even know”.

Another e-mail (this time from much closer to home) said “Just wanted to say thank you to the person who made the knitted angels. We found some in the park on our way to pick up our daughter from school; they are so lovely, it made mine and my husband’s day to see them, and we picked up one for our daughter who was delighted with it and was so excited to put it on her tree”.

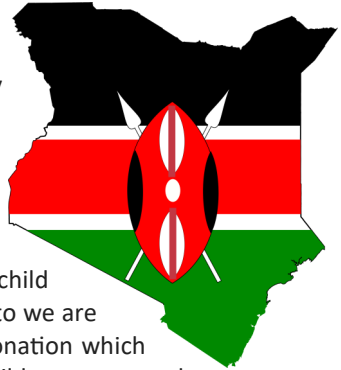
So, once again, many thanks to all of you who took the time and effort to either knit angels, make and attach labels, or “bomb” the angels - it looks like we spread quite a bit of God’s love this Christmas.

*Nicky Rowe*



## Kenya

A group of eight of us are going on an eight day mission trip to Kenya on 21st February. We will be visiting the Compassion project in Kisumu, then going on to Kakamega to engage in mission and outreach in the community there. We are unable to take gifts to individual children at the project but if you sponsor a child there and would like us to take a letter and photo we are happy to carry those. If you wish to make a donation which we can use towards general gifts for all the children or towards our expenses whilst there please speak to me at church or email me on [markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:markcarolyn1983@gmail.com) and I can give you bank details. The cost of this is a sacrificial gift for all the participants on this trip so if you feel able to contribute in this way it would be much appreciated and nothing will be wasted. Any left over money will be used to buy resources and Bibles for the pastors there.



We would also really value your prayers in the run up to and during the trip. If you would like to be added to a text prayer chain for while we are out there, then do let me know by texting your mobile number to me on 0755 799 6893. Don't forget to say who you are!

Thanks to everyone for your support and prayer.

*Carolyn*

## Carolyn's Job Update



A few people have asked me about receiving regular information so they could pray for me concerning my new job with the World Church Team in London.

I would really value prayer support as I am now involved in a lot of things that are strategic and can have far reaching consequences, so if you would like to be added to a prayer email group do let me know and I will be happy to add your email to the list.

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



## 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

#### 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!**



### Thank you

We have received a thank you letter from All We Can in response to the amount of £613.42 that we were able to send after our Harvest Service. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to this.

## SOUTH KOREA MUSKATHLON 2019



Do you want to help Christians in North Korea? Tim Hamilton does - he's taken on the Muskathlon where he'll run his first marathon to fundraise for Christians in the country where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. Are you ready to join him and take on the challenge of a lifetime?

*"I've been so inspired by the faith of North Korea's secret believers - and the courage of those who risk their lives to help them," says Tim. "The Muskathlon gives me an opportunity to meet North Korean believers and raise significant support and awareness for this incredible work. I'm not much of a runner, so a marathon is a huge challenge. And so is the fundraising target of £10,000. But it seems like the least I can do - and I'm sure family, friends and church will give great support."*

In North Korea, citizens earn less than \$2 a month. Many are forced to eat grass to stay alive. *"In winter everything is frozen and there's nothing to eat,"* says an in-country source. *"We have to pay additional taxes too. We can't even use our heating stoves because there's no firewood."*

Like Tim, you can change the story for Christians in North Korea by taking on an extraordinary challenge. The money you raise will help your brothers and sisters to stand strong in the face of extreme persecution and poverty, as well as providing shelter and training to North Koreans who have escaped to China, and broadcasting Christian radio into North Korea with the potential to reach tens of thousands with the hope of the gospel.

Join us on the Muskathlon 2019 in South Korea where you'll meet and encourage North Korean Christians who have been imprisoned for their faith, raise money for vital food aid and compete in an extreme challenge.

***The Muskathlon is an extreme challenge in an extreme location that will push the limits of your endurance. Run 13, 26 or 39 milers, OR trek 39 miles, OR cycle 75 miles and fundraise £10,000 for vital support for North Korean believers.***



**Dates: 5-12 October 2019**

**Where: South Korea**

**Trip highlights:**

- ♦ **Fellowship with a North Korean defector and South Korean pastors**
- ♦ **Visit the demilitarised zone**
- ♦ **Sightseeing**
- ♦ **Daily group devotions**
- ♦ **Your Muskathlon challenge and a huge celebration**

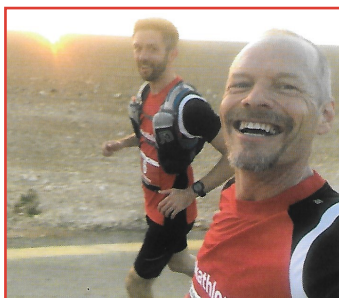
**Cost: €1,550 excluding flights**

**You'll be supported by Fiona at Open Doors with fundraising advice, resources and everything you need to make your trip a success.**

Muskathlete Graham Jennings, who ran a marathon in Jordan in October 2018, talks to Challenge Events Coordinator Fiona about how the trip deepened his faith.

**You recently got back from Jordan where you ran an impressive 26 miles! What was the biggest impact of the trip?**

*My faith has been challenged and deepened. In Jordan I realised that Muslims pray five times a day and I often struggle to pray that much, so I have set the bar higher. And I have a greater confidence in what God can do in my life. I also have a new awareness of my brothers and sisters who are going through difficult persecution, and how I can pray for them.*



Graham raised over £9,000 for Open Doors by running a Muskathlon in Jordan

**On your trip you had the privilege to meet and pray with refugees. What impacted you most?**

*Probably hearing the story of an Iraqi refugee who fled her home, which was then burnt out. Her husband was shot and wounded and her son-in-law was killed. They lost all security and yet they still have hope and faith!*

**You saw first-hand the work that Open Doors is doing in the region. What was that like?**

*I was impressed by what's being done. Open Doors supports the local church who give out essential supplies to many Muslim refugees. This gives the church the opportunity to share their faith with these families in their homes and many responded.*



### **What was the highlight of the Muskathlon trip for you?**

*I have two highlights. First, eating food that the Iraqi refugees had prepared for us, because it was their sign of friendship to eat with us and to serve us. Their food was amazing, freshly prepared and so colourful. Number two was running the marathon. There was so much support out there. I didn't know whether I could do it - my training had been disrupted by injury. It was a real challenge but I complete it!*

### **So what would you say to others thinking of taking on a Muskathlon?**

*It was a huge challenge for me, but so worthwhile. If you're up for it, go for it - you won't regret it.*

A massive thank you to Graham who raised a whopping £9,050 for Open Doors, and he's still going!

Think you're up for the challenge? Ready to change the lives of Christians in North Korea? Visit [www.opendoorsuk.org/muskathlon](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/muskathlon) to book your spot or contact Fiona on 01993 460015 or [challenge@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:challenge@opendoorsuk.org).

Looking for something closer to home? Take on a 10K run or do a Pilgrimage prayer and walking challenge. Visit [www.opendoorsuk.org/fundraise](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/fundraise) to see what's best for you.

Taken from OPEN DOORS magazine, January 2019



### **Cambodia for Christ (Part One)**

Taing Chhirc was a major in the Cambodian army in the 1960s and early 1970s. He was also on the staff of World Vision, Cambodia. Between 1965 and 1970, Cambodian Christians were not allowed to worship freely. Chhirc worked tirelessly during this time to make a way for the church to meet openly.

In 1973, Chhirc was in the UK with his wife and daughter, studying for a master's degree. That year, he had the opportunity to speak at the Keswick Convention about the situation in Cambodia. He pleaded with the British church to intercede for Cambodia, where a civil war between the communist Khmer Rouge and the republican government was heading towards victory for the communists. As a result of this, a prayer group was formed and it took the name 'Cambodia for Christ'.



Soon afterwards, the Lord called Chhirc to return to Cambodia but to leave his wife and daughter in safety in Scotland. Before he left, he shared with his friends and family that God had called him back to Cambodia to die as a martyr.

Following the Khmer Rouge victory, Chhirc took refuge in the French Embassy until all the Cambodians there were forced to leave. Several years later, an eye-witness reported that soon after this he had seen Chhirc and another man, Voan, on a road filled with panicked, bewildered people who had been driven out of Phnom Penh by Khmer Rouge soldiers. Although everyone else tried to blend in because they knew it was safer, these two men stood out in the crowd. They went from person to person, calming them and offering the hope of Christ to anyone who would listen. They handed out tracts, and many people were either so numb or so desperate, they took them. Suddenly, five or six black-clad Khmer Rouge cadres appeared and surrounded Chhirc and Voan. Without any warning, they clubbed both men to death while a stunned crowd looked on.

Cambodia for Christ continued in the UK and evolved into Southeast Asian Outreach (now Cambodia Action), the organisation with which I served in Cambodia in the 1990s.

Taing Chhirc's legacy lives on. Chhirc was a mentor to Mam Barnabas, one of the few Christians to survive the killing fields of Cambodia. Barnabas, now in his late 60s, has planted scores of churches, led army generals to Christ, written hundreds of worship songs and ministered to Cambodian churches in the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Tertullian wrote, 'the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.' Taing Chhirc's courageous decision to return to his homeland in 1973 led to a violent death, but it also led to the salvation of thousands of Cambodians.

Please pray:

- ◆ for the ministries of Mam Barnabas and Taing Chhirc's brother Taing Vek Huong;
- ◆ for missionaries to Cambodia whose calling has been inspired by Taing Chhirc;
- ◆ for the work of the organisation that Taing Chhirc founded: Cambodia Action.

Next month: How one Cambodian man has adopted the name 'Cambodia for Christ' for a ministry to young football enthusiasts.

*Myers Cooper*

# Church Contacts



## Minister:

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## Senior Stewards:

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Mrs Alison White Tel: 01752 691039

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email: [imcbookings@gmail.com](mailto:imcbookings@gmail.com)

## House Group Information:

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## Youth Work:

Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the

## March Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

**Sunday 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)