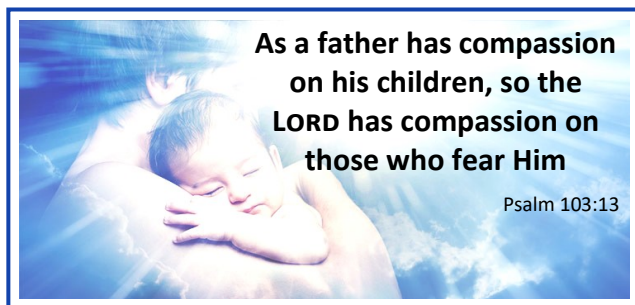




IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



As a father has compassion
on his children, so the
LORD has compassion on
those who fear Him

Psalms 103:13

June 2017 Newsletter

Letter from Our Minister

Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to know that God is with us and graciously leading and guiding us!

This month we have our visit from ToughTalk, which I pray will be a means to boost the IMC men's work and for people to hear the good news of Jesus through the testimonies of these visiting brothers. Please pray that God will touch and transform lives, that people will be saved and added to the church.



On Monday 19 June we have our AGM or as it's technically known – the General Church Meeting. This might sound like a yawn-fest, but we are seeking to present the vision and values of IMC as we seek, with God's help, to move further forward in faith, growth and fruitfulness. In last month's magazine we produced the summary of these exciting areas of ministry and this month there is a brief outline of each area (see page 24) and we will seek to unpack those a little more at the AGM/GCM. This is going to be a team effort – we need you to come along and engage and commit time and energy with the leading of the Holy Spirit in the areas of:

Teaching, Discipleship and Evangelism
Worship
Pastoral work and house-groups
Prayer
Finance
Children & Families
Youth and Community
Support and activities for older people
Outreach and World mission

There are so many exciting things to get involved with and to prayerfully consider. We do continue to pray for more of you to become full members of IMC and to enable us to be all that God is calling us to be. As we are told in the Bible 'we are all members of one body' (Ephesians 4:25). For a body to be healthy all of the members must work together and fulfil the function for which they are designed. What are you designed for? What is your passion? How are you using that to build up this local expression of the Body of Christ? The local church is a powerful means to connect with the community in which we live (for us from 3 August! Yay!). Some have been tempted to look



elsewhere for their fellowship in Plymouth, which weakens our witness and the work and ministry of the local church. If all the local Christians worshipped locally the local body of Christ would be tremendously built up and the communities would be more effectively impacted. So it is our prayer that more and more people will be attracted through what God is doing amongst us to join with us in the adventure of faith. So please pray into how you can get involved, if you're not already and come and share with us on 19 June.

With every blessing in Christ,

Mark

Tel. 01548-852073

Mobile 0752 779 6319

Email revmark@live.co.uk

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the July Newsletter, please let me have the details by Saturday 10 June 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



I would like to thank all who came to my Open House Day for my 70th birthday; and a big thank you for donations given to 'Gospel for Asia' Ministries which raised a total of £254. It gives me great pleasure to support these people to enable them to have water!

Thank you also to those who brought along lovely treats for us to eat. Date slices ... delicious!

Sally Pearce



June Worship

IVYBRIDGE

June 4	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr John Pointon Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
June 11	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
June 18	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Philip Walsh Prayer Service led by Mrs Gill Cowsill
June 25	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Mrs Hannah de Bourcier
July 2	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Miss Judith Walker Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
July 9	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney

BITTAFORD

June 4	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
June 11	2:30 pm	Rev Simon Leigh - Communion
June 18	10:30 am	Mrs Gillian Higgins
June 25	10:30 am	United Service with Ivybridge
July 2	10:30 am	Mr John Pointon
July 9	2:30 pm	Rev Simon Leigh - Communion

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



Methodist Women
in Britain

World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women



World Federation Day 2017



Gender Equality in the 21st Century

*(based on Sustainable Development Goal 5:
Gender Equality)*

Saturday 28 October 2017

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

at

Side Door Methodist Church

Lacey Road, Grimsby,
Lincolnshire DN34 5BH

Further information and booking form
available from Carolyn

or

download from: www.mwib.org.uk

telephone: 0300 030 9873

email: communications@mwib.org.uk



មេស៊ីយ៉ាភ័ក្ត្រកម្ពុជា ២០២១ MISSION KAMPUCHEA 2021

protestant churches in Cambodia today is around 3,000, of which about 300 are located in Phnom Penh the capital.

According to Cambodia's most recent census in 2008, there are 14,073 villages in the country. The number of

A consortium of Christians in Cambodia (both Cambodian nationals and expatriates) have come together to form **Mission Kampuchea 2021** (MK2021). ['Kampuchea' is a transliteration of the name of Cambodia in the Khmer (Cambodian) language.]



M2021's vision is:

To see a group of Jesus' disciples in every village throughout Cambodia by 2021, whose changed lives make their communities a better place for all to live.

How can the gap between about 2,700 churches outside Phnom Penh and 'a group of Jesus' disciples in every village' be bridged in four years?

- ♥ Nothing is too difficult for the Lord.
- ♥ Jesus said, 'I will build my church'.
- ♥ The model of 'church' with which we are familiar (centred on a building, dependent on professional ministry, etc) may not be necessary or appropriate in a Cambodian village.
- ♥ Most urban-dwelling Christians maintain strong links with their extended families in villages, so they have the potential to make disciples where church planters cannot reach.
- ♥ MK2021's emphasis on mobilising prayer for unreached villages shifts the emphasis away from human effort onto God's power.

MK2021 requests prayer for its National Church Planting Congress in October when updated research into the state of church planting in Cambodia will be presented and MK2021's strategy reviewed.

Please also pray -

- ♥ for a grass roots disciple-making movement to gather momentum,
- ♥ for all Cambodian villagers to have the opportunity to hear the gospel,



- ♥ for many to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and become disciples who make disciples,
- ♥ for protection from opposition and persecution,
- ♥ and that 'changed lives make their communities a better place for all to live'.

Myers Cooper



The Ivybridge Theatre Company
presents



4 COUPLES, 3 BEDROOMS, 1 UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT!

6, 7 and 8 July 2017

Performances at 7:45 pm

The Watermark

Erme Court, Leonards Road,
Ivybridge, PL21 0SZ

Tickets £7.50

Box Office 01725 892220

www.ivybridgewatermark.co.uk

Also available at church from Sandra Dudley



You are invited to a talk on
'Money'



At this talk we'll be thinking about the following questions ...

What is the secret of debt free living?

What constitutes a need or a want?

How much should I give away?

How can I shop ethically?

Monday 5 June 7:45 pm

Ivybridge Methodist Church

All women welcome – entrance free.

Contact Carolyn Lawrence for more information.

Tel: 01548 852073

Email: markcarolyn1983@gmail.com

or visit our website www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk



Women's Ministry at IMC June Programme



Monday 5 June at 7:45 pm

A talk on "Money" at IMC
(See opposite for details)

Monday 19 June at 1:30-3:00 pm

Bible Study at IMC
"How do I tell my friends and family about Jesus?"

Carolyn Lawrence

Email: markcarolyn1983@gmail.com

Tel: 01548 852073

Breakthrough Transformation Trust



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

The Cannamore Estate covers 10 acres and includes a large vegetable garden, orchard, chicken enclosure and woodland, all of which require maintenance if they are to be kept in beautiful condition. The small estates team would welcome volunteers who have a real passion for gardening and can work in the vegetable garden ensuring our produce reaches the kitchens to feed our hungry students! We're looking for one or two afternoons a week between 2:30 and 4:30 pm until the end of August. A full DSB will be carried out.

We are a Christian Educational Charity that exists to empower and equip children, young people and families who experience challenges, to take competent charge of their lives and contribute to the wider community.



Breakthrough - South Brent infor@tborg.org
or call 01364 649394 and speak to Angus or Amanda



Do you want to help children and young people develop their Christian faith and learn what God has to offer them to experience “life to the full”?

Brigade has been a part of life at IMC for many years and I have been the leader for 18 years. However, I am moving to France and will not be able to continue after July.

We are seeking someone to lead the group of volunteers to run the brigade. If you feel that this is something you might be interested in, please come and speak to either myself, Chrissie Phillips or Mark and Carolyn to find out more.

To learn what Brigade does email me at Slwignore64@gmail.com or ring me on 07962006237. Alternatively go to the Brigade website at www.girlsb.org.uk.

Thank you

Sarah Wignmore

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

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

We enjoy excellent coffee and cakes from “Wesleys” part way through the morning.



The dates of the next Work Days are -

10 June

8 July

There is no Work Day in August

9 September

14 October

11 November

9 December

It is with great joy that we can announce the safe arrival of our granddaughter, Arianna Mayowa Campbell. She was born on Saturday 20 May at 5:27 pm and weighed 8lb 3oz. Arianna means "most holy" in Greek and "lion of grace" in Hebrew; and Mayowa means "Joy bringer" in Yoruba.



We are so thankful to God for her safe arrival.

Mark and Carolyn



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



Summer Programme 2017

June 9

Visit to St Mary's, Plympton
with Chris and Brian Treharne:
(see separate notice on Page 17)

**** June 16 ****

(Note that this is a change of date, and please accept our apologies)

"With great pleasure": a special mix of
music, poetry and stories.
Contributions welcomed.

July 7

Cream tea at the Café on the Green, Widecombe!
Cars leaving at time to be confirmed:
please book your seat.

Please contact one of us for more information:
Valerie Marriott 893614 Sara Bromage 894198
Judy Jago 894829 Sue Pengilly 896444
Christine and David Moulder 892858

We are an open fellowship and all are welcome!

What is it you do?

This is a question I've been asked a lot of times and it's hard to explain in a couple of sentences so I thought I would try to explain my roles as clearly as I can.



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women

My first job is as Vice President of the British and Ireland Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) and British

Area Officer. A catchy little title to try to fit on a business card!

I was appointed to this voluntary role for five years from 2016 and inducted at the World Assembly in Houston last September. The WFM&UCW is a global fellowship of groups of women around the world whose aim is to support and promote the interests of women in all areas of life and to encourage leadership amongst women in the church. The purpose of the WFM&UCW is "to know Christ and to make Him known". Its logo is the Tree of Life, the name also given to its quarterly online magazine. (www.wfmucw.org)

There are nine units of the WFM&UCW around the world and each unit has a President and Vice President as officers. The president for Britain and Ireland this quinquennium is a lovely lady from Belfast called Louise Wilson and she and I are seeking ever closer links between our areas.

Taking on this role means that I have also become part of the Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) executive as the world church representative. (www.mwib.org.uk)



Methodist Women
in Britain

Methodist Women in Britain is an umbrella network of women's groups in Methodist churches around Great Britain. It also means that I am a representative for MWiB on the One Mission Forum (a national gathering seeking to find ways to embrace mission at home and overseas), on the World Methodist Council and at the annual Methodists for World Mission conference.

My main tasks in this role are to convene the Easter Offering service task group (producing the Easter Offering service each year in aid of World mission) and to lead the planning group for an annual national World Federation Day held in October each year. I also retain links with various mission partners around the world, produce a quarterly prayer diary and am beginning to be asked to speak at women's conferences around the country, which I love!





Methodist
relief and
development

In addition to my role with the World Federation, I am currently our District representative on the Methodist Council, which is like the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets three times a year.

As part of that role I have been invited to become a trustee of the Methodist Relief and Development charity 'All We Can' (www.allwecan.org.uk).

I believe that God has called me into these roles. I have not sought any of them, but He has opened the door for me. In each case I have been humbled by the fact that God wants me in these places and believe I am called to them for 'such a time as this'. I am committed to fulfil all my duties as unto the Lord, seeking to use the opportunities afforded to me to glorify the name of Jesus and encourage the discipleship and mission of the church as well as raise awareness and support of World Church issues and mission.

I would really value your prayerful support as I seek to undertake these roles to the best of my ability under God. If you want to find out any more about any of these organisations or ask me any questions, or if you would like to receive information about my whereabouts for prayer, then do please let me know.

Carolyn Lawrence

markcarolyn1983@gmail.com

I just wanted to say a big thank you to each and every one of you that kindly donated to my London Marathon fundraising.

The support from friends and family has been overwhelming and I am pleased to say that I have raised over £2,750 for the Scoliosis Campaign Fund!

I absolutely loved running the London Marathon 2017 and I can only describe the crowds and atmosphere along the entire route, as a "26.2 mile party"!

Thank you once again, I truly do appreciate everyone's encouragement and good wishes,

Harriett





This year a group of 36 went to Spring Harvest just before Easter and we all had a brilliant time.

The theme this year was “One for All”, which was focussed on the need for unity, whilst still being able to disagree with each other. The worship was led by Worship Central who were top class, and the bible teaching was brought to us by Paula Gooder, who was as exceptional as ever; but the star of the show was definitely Archbishop Justin Wellby - who can deliver a serious message in a way that is thought provoking whilst being mingled with self-deprecating humour. All this, coupled with top Christian entertainment in the late-night programme, was enough to re-energise even the most weary soul (but also wore out our physical bodies!!).

If you don't know what Spring Harvest is, it is the largest Christian event in Europe. For two “weeks” they take over two Butlin's sites (Minehead and Skegness); we go to Minehead, simply because it is closer. There are activities from 7:30 in the morning to almost mid-night; but you couldn't do it all without collapsing from exhaustion!



There is an extensive children's and youth programme catering for all ages, and for the adults there is something for everyone: from rousing worship in the Skyline with 3,500 others, to quiet contemplative zones for you to meet with God in a gentle, peaceful way; from Bible teaching with thousands of others, to more intimate venues where you can discuss the day's text with the experts face-to-face; from highly academic tracts to sports events; concerts from world famous opera singers to the latest and greatest Christian rock bands; and, of course, there is plenty of opportunity to spend quality fellowship time with the others in the group and/or your family (all the Butlin's facilities are available for your use including the fun-fair and the



swimming pool [with three massive flumes] – both of which are free of charge; and Minehead Beach is very close at hand).

We will be organising another group to go next year when the theme will be **“Only the Brave”**.

The everyday life of a disciple is an adventure. We face hundreds of decisions daily and the right choices are often the most difficult. God calls us to choose the costly life of following Christ. It takes sacrifice and courage. It takes perseverance. We will need robust minds, passionate hearts and active hands as we inch towards our great reward.

We do none of this alone. Using the book of James, we'll explore what it is to live a life of determined discipleship and give a rallying cry to join the everyday adventure that lies ahead. We are disciplined to make disciples. We get one chance at this life – let's live it.

We will be attending Minehead Week 1 (3 - 8 April). Note: 2 April is Easter Monday so you'll still be able to experience Easter and the build-up through Passion Week in our own church.

If you would like to know more, see a brochure, understand the different cost options, or just generally quiz us about what on earth Spring Harvest is and why we all come back so spiritually recharged and fired up for God's work in this place, then please come and chat to us, Miles and Madeline Allen, Paul and Nic Courtney, or Helen Skinner, or visit www.springharvest.org.

Spring Harvest is always very popular (and next year Week 1 will be the most popular), so to give ourselves the best chance of getting the accommodation we want, we will book on the day the booking lines open; this year this is 21 June. So, whilst next Easter may seem a long way away, you might want to decide if you want to go fairly soon!!

If you do want to go, simply let us know and we will take care of all the booking administration for you (though sadly not the cost!!).

Dave & Nicky Rowe



Churches together Taizé Service

at Harford Church
on **4 June**
at **6:30 pm**

Please note change of date and time!



June News

If you have anything you would like included in the Church News please let Judy Jago know at church,



We begin our news with huge congratulations to Mark and Carolyn on becoming grandparents for the first time to Arianna Mayowa Campbell. Arianna was born on Saturday 20 May at weighing 8lb 3oz. We are delighted with this news and wish parents and baby well as they adjust to this new phase in their lives. We also look forward to seeing photos soon!

Congratulations and many happy returns to Laura Rowe who celebrated her 30th birthday in May. We hope you celebrated your special birthday in style Laura, and that it will be a day you never forget.



Congratulations also go to Dawn and Richard Martin who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary last month in style by spending a week in Florence. We hope you both had a fantastic time.

More congratulations this time to Matthew Norton and Tom Reeves on their successful achievements in this year's Ten Tors. Matthew covered the 55 mile course this year and Tom the 35 miles. It is a great achievement just to finish and I gather both of you did it in good time as well. We wish you well for your future expeditions - whatever and wherever they may be.



Aimee Elliott (Brian and Joyce's granddaughter) is taking off for another sort of expedition in June as she files off to Detroit USA for eight weeks at Tamarak Camp in Michigan. This is a part of Camp America and Aimee's role whilst there will be to look after the Camp employees' children who range in age from three months to seven years. It sounds as if you'll be pretty busy Aimee, as at these ages they don't stop for long; however we do hope and pray you have a wonderful time, don't get too exhausted and we look forward to hearing about your adventure on your return.





Our prayers and thoughts are with Christine and David Moulder as Christine's Mum, Gladys, died on 12 May very peacefully with all of her children with her. Our love goes to all of you.

Two of our elderly members also died in the same week - Cecil Downing passed away peacefully at Kings Acre where he had lived for some time, and Juliet Griffiths also peacefully at Redmount in Buckfastleigh where she had moved to from Grosvenor House and our prayers, sympathy and thoughts are with both families.



We still have poorly people we would love you to pray for - Barry, Maria, Christine, Jutta, Brian and Nikolas aged 2. Others too are struggling with ongoing pain and difficulties and need our prayers.

We remember also those of our number in residential homes and hope they know we remember them.



Tuesday Lunches
Midsummer Feast
27 June
12:15 for 12:30 pm
Just £8.00



MENU

Prawn cocktail or summer vegetable soup

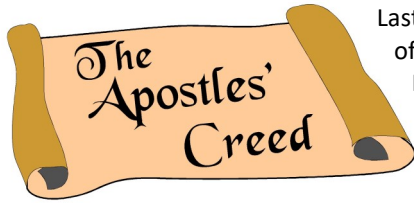
Gammon, with baby roast potatoes and an assortment of vegetables
(Vegetarian option)

Pavlova or Trifle

Soft drinks

Tea/coffee

Please book by Sunday 18 June by contacting Mercy on 893812
or by sending an email to - bmercy.matthews@homecall.co.uk



Last month we looked at the first two lines of the Apostles. Creed, recapping on Mark's evening sermons. This month we are looking at the next two lines and what scripture tells us about them.

Line 3

"He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"

The Virgin birth is, as the Apostles' Creed states, non-negotiable! However, we shouldn't be surprised at the onslaught against the truth of God's word, part of the devil's strategy is always to undermine the divinity and authority of Jesus Christ. If you recall the devil's subtle words in Matthew 4:3 & 6, "... if you are the son of God..." But praise God for the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, to use the courtroom oath!

So why is the Virgin Birth so important?

It is central to our understanding of who Jesus Christ really is. Jesus Christ is fully human, but also fully divine. If He was the son of Joseph, who had slept with Mary prior to their wedding, there are several issues to be considered -

- Jesus would be fully human in origin, but not divine.
- He would have been conceived in sin and born in it.
- Therefore, His sacrificial death would have been a noble but powerless, gesture – and only that.
- We would still be dead in our sins and our destiny would be hell, because we would not be right with God; we would still be under His wrath; we would still be unforgiven; still damned; still children of the devil; and still have all the weight of our sins upon us, without a hope in hell of escaping judgement!
- The blood of Jesus would be just like ours and not able to cleanse us, heal us or atone for us.

Basically we'd be totally stuffed and doomed to a godless eternity of torment and suffering with no hope. So, yes, the Virgin birth is pretty important I'd say! Thankfully Joseph, bless his heart, was an honourable man and did not have sexual relations with Mary his fiancé. Consequently the birth of Jesus Christ was not human in origin, but divine.

There is tremendous importance in the use of words in the NT. Turn to Matthew 1:18, *"His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but*



before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."

Marriage within the Jewish culture was that upon engagement there was a legally binding marriage contract which would have necessitated in having a divorce should the engagement be broken off, hence the comment about divorcing her quietly.

So we are told that Mary became pregnant **through the Holy Spirit**. Not a man's sperm, but by the Holy Spirit. We're also told in Luke 1:30-37, quoting Gabriel, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God."* This actual historical event cannot be analysed biologically.

The Greek for 'overshadowed' is *episkiazō* - to cast a shade upon, i.e. (by analogy) to envelop in a haze of brilliancy; figuratively, to invest with preternatural influence - overshadow.

This actual, historical event must be accepted by faith. The Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary means that God the Father is the Father of Jesus Christ, not a human being. Jesus is the God-Man!

As we looked at previously, Jesus Christ is begotten, not created. He is not part of the created order – He has always been. Read John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:15-20 and Hebrews 1:1-3.

Before we go on to look at the Virgin Mary, there were two crucial truths revealed to her fiancé regarding the one who was to be born, which both concern names. Names in Jewish culture depicted the person's character. Read Matthew 1:18-25

1:21 - Joseph is to name Him Jesus (Y'shua = the LORD saves)

1:23 - Connected with prophesy in Isaiah 7:14 *"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

The Virgin Mary

Finally, and briefly let us look at what we know about the real Mary. In classic Roman Catholic doctrine they have elevated Mary to a status that is unbiblical asserting she is "the co-operatrix in man's redemption," and "our co-redemptor." The Roman Catholic Church also teaches that when Mary's life on earth was completed, God miraculously took her into heaven. There He crowned her Queen of Heaven and Earth.



We are clearly told, *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!”* (Lk.1:42) Yes, Mary was a remarkable woman and a tremendous example to us all - selfless, faithful obedience, especially as she was likely to be a young teenager from a poor Palestinian background, not much in the world’s eye! But, in Mary’s own words, *“I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”* (Luke 1:38)

As we know: *“God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.”* (1 Corinthians 1:27)

15 Biblical Mary Facts

- Angels announced her pregnancy (Matthew 1:16)
- Visited cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:26-38)
- Sang a song aka The Magnificat (Luke 1:39-40)
- Her virgin birth announced to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
- Gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)
- Presented Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:21-24)
- Fled with Joseph and baby to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
- Returned and settled in Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23)
- With 12-year-old Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:41-52)
- Had other children (Mark 6:3)
- Went to a wedding in Cana with Jesus (John 2:1-5)
- Questioned Jesus’ sanity (Mark 3:21)
- Observed Jesus’ crucifixion (Matthew 27:55-56)
- Entrusted to John at the cross (John 19:25-27)
- Among the disciples after ascension (Acts 1:14)

**“He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary”**

Line 4

**“He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried.”**

The Apostles’ Creed is rooted in actual historical events and real people. This is the point of this reference, it roots it in reality. Pontius Pilate was the fifth prefect of the Roman province of Judaea from AD 26–36; he served under Emperor Tiberius. As you will know there are various references to him in the Scriptures, and you can Google him for more information.

I’m not going to focus on him, but much more importantly on the one who suffered under his cowardly leadership. Jesus did indeed suffer under Pontius Pilate. He shed His blood, not because of Pilate however, but because of a



superior Divine plan which was unfolding God's Kingdom purposes so that we could be saved from His just wrath without Him compromising His righteousness.

In John 18:36 Jesus says to Pilate, *"My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now My Kingdom is from another place."* To which Pilate replies, "You are a king, then!" Jesus answers, *"You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*

Classic answer from Pilate, which could be a typical answer for our complex relativistic times, "What is truth?" That's the whole point! Not 'what is truth?', but ***there truth is standing before him!*** Jesus Christ - the Way, the Truth and the Life!

The reason Jesus came to the Earth from the glories of heaven are clear. We are told that, *"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:28)


We are also told, *"...so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sin of many..."* (Hebrews 9:28) It was necessary for Christ to shed His blood for us so that we could be made right with God. The OT sacrificial system was only a forerunner of the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ who is the Lamb of God! Read Hebrews 9:12-14

So why is the blood of Jesus so critically important? *"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life."* (Leviticus 17:11)

Blood = life! (Deuteronomy 12:23) The blood of Jesus has many different attributes and is living and continues to work today through the application of the Holy Spirit. There is power in the blood! Blood is a matter of life and death. Ask a haematologist!

Back in 2012 Carolyn and I had full medicals at Interhealth in London as part of our selection for Overseas Ministry. We had blood tests. The blood tells the facts about your real state of health. There is no fooling a haematologist! They can tell you everything! They can find out how much alcohol you consume! How much fat you're taking in! What your energy levels are like. Well a whole list! Through analysing the blood they can tell you if you're healthy or sick!

Jesus' blood is even more powerful because it contains the power of God's life. And His life is eternal! The blood of Jesus has many different attributes and is living and continues to work today through the application of the Holy Spirit.



“Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away. Yet who of His generation protested? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was punished.” (Isaiah 53:4-8)

We see this gruesomely fulfilled in the NT

- Betrayed – Luke 22:1-6
- Disowned – Luke 23:54-60
- Mocked - Matthew 23:27-31
- Tortured – John 19:1 *
- Crucified – Luke 23:32-43
- Died – Luke 23:44-46

*The Roman flogging or scourging that Jesus endured prior to being crucified normally consisted of 39 lashes, but could have been more (Mark 15:15; John 19:1). The whip that was used, called a flagrum, consisted of braided leather thongs with metal balls and pieces of sharp bone woven into or intertwined with the braids. The balls added weight to the whip, causing deep bruising and contusions as the victim was struck. The pieces of bone served to cut into the flesh. As the beating continued, the resulting cuts were so severe that the skeletal muscles, underlying veins, sinews, and bowels of victims were exposed. This beating was so severe that at times victims would not survive it in order to go on to be crucified.

Those who were flogged would often go into hypovolemic shock, a term that refers to low blood volume. In other words, the person would have lost so much blood he would go into shock. The results of this would be

- The heart would race to pump blood that was not there.
- The victim would collapse or faint due to low blood pressure.
- The kidneys would shut down to preserve body fluids.
- The person would experience extreme thirst as the body desired to replenish lost fluids.

There is evidence from Scripture that Jesus experienced hypovolemic shock as a result of being flogged. As Jesus carried His own cross to Golgotha (John



19:17), He collapsed, and a man named Simon was forced to either carry the cross or help Jesus carry the cross the rest of way to the hill (Matthew 27:32–33; Mark 15:21–22; Luke 23:26). This collapse indicates Jesus had low blood pressure. Another indicator that Jesus suffered from hypovolemic shock was that He declared He was thirsty as He hung on the cross (John 19:28), indicating His body's desire to replenish fluids.

Prior to death, the sustained rapid heartbeat caused by hypovolemic shock also causes fluid to gather in the sack around the heart and around the lungs. This gathering of fluid in the membrane around the heart is called pericardial effusion, and the fluid gathering around the lungs is called pleural effusion. This explains why, after Jesus died and a Roman soldier thrust a spear through Jesus' side, piercing both the lungs and the heart, blood and water came from His side just as John recorded in his Gospel (John 19:34).

Please note the important last words of Jesus before He died, *"It is finished" With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*" (John 19:30), and *"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."* (Luke 23:46)

An important theological point, Jesus did not have His life taken from Him, He voluntarily gave it up. No-one can take Jesus life away, because as we said earlier – He IS life! *"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."* (John 10:17-18)

Jesus was definitely dead, and He gave it up for us.

Finally, as per the Apostles' Creed, Jesus was buried, laid to rest in a tomb. Read John 19:38-42.

Jesus:
was betrayed
was disowned
was mocked
was tortured
Was crucified
He Died and was buried
ALL FOR YOU AND ME!

**"He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried."**



THY KINGDOM COME

Join the Global Wave of Prayer 25 May – 4 June

Pray as a family ... pray as a church ... pray individually

In 2016 thousands of people took part in Thy Kingdom Come - many ran events in their churches, some prayed alone on a beach. This year the event is running again and we are encouraging you to join in. As the strapline says, you can pray in any way you like and see what God does!

The week falls across half term: so how about going to Big Church Day Out in Sussex (27-28 May - have a look at bigchurchdayout.com) to start the week off with thousands of worshipping, praying Christians? Locally you could join with Mutley Baptist and St Matthias, Plymouth on the Friday evening at the end of the week as they meet together to pray and worship (2 June, St Matthias Church at 7:30 pm). Alternatively you could have a trip on that Sunday to join with others in Exeter at the splendid cathedral there, remembering that Christians have worshipped in that place for hundreds of years (4 June, Exeter Cathedral at 6:30 pm).

Even if all you can do is pray right here in Ivybridge, perhaps you could commit to praying at a specific time each day or getting together with a friend or two a couple of times in the week and praying together. Praying as a family is a very powerful thing so why don't you set up a week of prayer times with your children or share prayers over the internet if your family isn't local. Thy Kingdom Come website has family packs specially for children's prayer ideas including things to do at home and out and about throughout the holiday. There are also resources for praying as an individual or group so why not have a look and get inspired? The beautiful thing about prayer is that it can be done at any time, in any place because Jesus has made the way to Father God open for us - what an amazing gift!

We will be putting resources in the church so do look out for them, and further information on the prayer board could help you in knowing how to pray and what to pray about – but the list is endless and God is interested in every detail of our family and friends' lives, our community, our national politics, our world.

The present Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said, '*I cannot remember in my life anything that I've been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit*' ... make your plans now to be part of the Global Wave of Prayer!



**WISE AND WONDERFUL QUIZ
AT ST MARY'S, PLYMPTON
JUNE 9 at 2:30 pm**



*St Mary's church has been the centre of
Christian worship and witness in Plympton for over 700 years.
There is much to see and admire inside and outside the church
and we look forward to a fascinating afternoon.
We will finish with light refreshments in the church.*

Everyone Welcome.

DRIVERS: *It is perfectly alright to park in the church grounds.
Go up Market Road and drive into the church grounds
on your left. It is a one way system.
Exit on to the Ridgeway.*

For more information or if you will need transport,
contact David and Christine Moulder Tel: 892858

TUESDAY LUNCHES

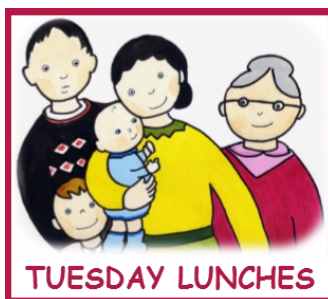
Would you be able to spare two or three hours every four to five weeks to help us with Tuesday lunches?

You wouldn't need to cook a big meal, just be around to help make sandwiches or simple snacks and help with clearing up afterwards.

We are a friendly bunch to work with and we all join in a tasty, free lunch afterwards.

If you feel you could help, please contact Mercy Matthews by email:-
bmercy.matthews@homecall.co.uk or phone Mercy on 893812.

Thankyou.



IMC

Building and Growing for the Future 2017



Introduction

In 2012, IMC published a five-year plan, with a mission and vision statement, along with a range of values that underpin what we do.

In 2017, much has changed and developed but many of these core values remain the same. However, we are committed, as His church, to constantly strive to listen to God and respond to what He has to say to us about His vision for our ministry here in Ivybridge and the surrounding communities.

This revised plan or over-arching vision statement aims to set out our mission and vision; it re-affirms our core values and goes further in looking at the key areas of church life that we believe help us to fulfil these aims.

We would like everyone who feels they are a part of our church to take time to read, to reflect, to pray and specifically, to ask God where He is calling you to serve in this vision.

Our mission statement

To know Christ and to make Christ known

Vision statement

- ◆ To be a 'beacon church' – reaching out in proclamation and service into the communities that surround us
- ◆ To develop a strong fellowship in the Holy Spirit, based upon power, love and self-discipline

Our Core Values

These over-arching principles continue to be –

- ◆ Providing accessible worship
- ◆ Sharing God's Good News
- ◆ Encouraging Spiritual Growth
- ◆ Blessing our community
- ◆ Being a Church Family

What do we want to do?

- ◆ Seek the lost and lead them to Christ
- ◆ Disciple and grow our church community spiritually



- ◆ See growth – both in the numbers of people worshipping and also in the depth of their worship and relationship with God
- ◆ Serve our community

How we do it

These values are more than just values – they call for action! And in order to deliver these values and live them out we have devised the following key areas of IMC life and ministry for which a member of the leadership team takes responsibility. These are as follows.

Teaching, Discipleship & Evangelism (Rev'd Mark Lawrence, Minister)

Everything we do and are flows from our relationship with God. Being effective disciples means understanding, believing and applying God's word. Since coming to IMC Carolyn and I have endeavoured to be strategic and systematic in our Bible teaching, discipleship training and seeking to encourage our members to:

- ◆ Take membership seriously (challenging people to become members if they are not already) – intentional commitment and personal spiritual growth go hand-in-hand. The March 2017 IMC magazine article went into that in some depth and will be regularly re-visited.
- ◆ Encouraging/urging regular and systematic Scripture reading and application of what God is saying through His Word. Systematic teaching themes provide great opportunities for this as we have seen during 2016 and into 2017. We have been working through the commands of Jesus as per the mandate from the Great Commission, Matthew 28, during the morning services, and teaching through the Apostles' Creed - enabling us to understand what we believe and why it is so vital for 21st Century discipleship, in our evening services.
- ◆ Encouraging growth and multiplication of house groups – we seek to regularly visit to encourage and get to know you. Furthermore, we will explore opportunities to resource house groups in line with thematic Sunday teaching/preaching programmes.
- ◆ Men's and women's fellowship groups – another opportunity to grow together and strengthen relationships with one another and with God.
- ◆ Rolling programmes coming soon including – Alpha, Freedom in Christ, Marriage Course and other events to galvanise, equip and consolidate IMC to grow and for individual disciples to be as fruitful as possible.
- ◆ Facilitate openness to the Holy Spirit as individual children of God and as we gather together. We need the powerful and personal work of the Holy Spirit within us and through us otherwise we'll dry up or wear out in the process!



- ◆ Continue to develop the use of online and social media tools to share the messages and teaching of IMC – sermons posted online and shared on social media, growing numbers of engagement through Facebook and Twitter and increasing our reach.
- ◆ Providing written materials (such as lists of bible references for services focussed on study and complex exposition) to aid people in their study and further spiritual development – both during/after services and online.
- ◆ Most of all, to have fun in the fullness and joy that comes through faithfully obeying the Lord and knowing Him! True discipleship is life giving not energy sucking, because it all centres on Jesus Christ whom to know is life in all its fullness!

Worship (Paul Courtney, Worship Leader)

Worship is a fundamental part of all we do – seeking to give glory to God and return back to Him in praise some of the many blessings that we receive. Our goal in all of our worship activities (both in acts of formal worship in services and in more informal ways) is to create situations and atmospheres where people can encounter God. It is less about the noise we make or indeed the type of music we play – it is all about encounter.

Accessible worship that provides opportunities for such encounter for all people is a critical challenge. We aim to meet this challenge in the following ways –

- ◆ Lively worship on a Sunday morning with a mixture of songs and some hymns where appropriate
- ◆ Evening services with a mixture of modern worship, quiet times of prayer and contemplation and more traditional music
- ◆ A monthly week day communion service with traditional liturgy and hymns

We also know how important it is to nurture new generations of worshippers and leaders. To this end we will make sure that on appropriate occasions throughout the year there will be opportunities for wider participation in worship leading and music (for young and old).

We want to empower children and young people to participate, feel involved and to lead us in worship. We are committed to providing opportunities in our services for them to feel able to worship and lead others with materials and songs that are familiar and engaging for them.

Pastoral Work and House Groups (Alison White, Steward)

“A healthy Christian community is one in which people know that they are loved, visitors are welcome and young and old alike are valued and feel safe. The care that we offer, both at times of crisis and in everyday life is an active



proclamation of God's love in Christ and for all the world." The Methodist Church in Britain

We seek to do this by being an inclusive church and considering the needs of all who attend and by looking to address barriers which may prevent others from doing so.

We will -

- ◆ Provide pastoral support through a strong network of pastoral visitors who help with support and spiritual guidance for individuals, both in day to day life and when they are in times of need.
- ◆ Actively support people within the church who find themselves in difficult circumstances and develop supportive prayer networks.
- ◆ As a unified fellowship we will encourage everyone who is able to find and serve through a role within the church.
- ◆ Offer regular fellowship (beyond Sundays) to learn together – we will also encourage and support everyone to join and participate in one of a network of house-groups that aim to meet the different needs of the church family.
- ◆ Work to enable everyone to grow, learn and have fun together – to this aim we plan to host an Away Day that is open to all during 2017 and plan to host a fuller Church Weekend in 2018.
- ◆ Promote and stage a programme of shared meals and social activities to ensure there are lots of opportunities for people to enjoy being part of the church family.

Prayer (Lois Stephenson, Steward)

Prayer is the undergirding of everything we do as followers of Jesus, imitating His example of continual talking to Father God, finding time to grow in our relationship with Him and learning to listen to His voice.

- ◆ As members of His family we are committed to encouraging each other to pray wherever we are in our faith journey. This includes providing teaching and encouragement to learn how to pray as well as providing plenty of varied opportunities to encourage prayer at all levels in our church family.
- ◆ We want to teach the children and young people to pray together and for each other, we want each adult member of house groups similarly to learn to pray both in their groups and individually about specific, measurable things, growing in their faith to believe that God listens, speaks and delights in our prayer times.
- ◆ We are committed to providing corporate times of prayer within our services and in other meetings and gatherings to enable everyone to



become informed about how we can pray, about what we can pray for and to be encouraged by listening to testimonies about answered prayer at every opportunity.

Finance, Property and Health & Safety (Miles Allen, Steward)

We acknowledge that in order to deliver much of what we desire to achieve, we must maintain healthy finances and maintain our buildings and facilities to good standards.

Therefore we are committed to maintaining a healthy financial position for the church. A key part of this is also maintaining an organisational and individual attitude of Christ-like generosity. To this end, the church is committed to tithing and will encourage individuals to bless others in this way also.

As a church family, we commit to adopting a culture that does not see finance as an impediment to delivering action, but rather, looks strategically at how we can develop and deliver funds to equip what God calls us to do.

In today's society, Health & Safety are critical elements of planning and management for any organisation. The church is not exempt from the rigours of such legislation and requirements. Therefore, we commit to adhering to, and working within, the necessary laws, policies and procedures.

As custodians of heritage, we acknowledge that we also care for a building that is almost 200 years old and therefore requires regular maintenance and repair. With the expert support and practical willingness of various individuals, we commit to caring for the building and maintaining its condition, so that we are able to hand it on to the next generation in a fit state and it can continue to be a house of prayer and praise for the future.

Children & Families (Dawn Martin, Senior Steward)

We know we are called to work with children and families and encourage them to encounter Jesus as a part of everyday life.

We seek to encourage families to share their faith as part of daily life, to engage in encouraging each other to enjoy the life of our church and life generally where Jesus is central to all activities.

We provide or aim to provide:

0-5 Years and Parent/Carers

- ◆ Ministry enabling sociability within the church family for the children and the ability to engage with the sermon/adult groups for the parents/carers (possibly on a shared rota basis). We want to give spiritual and physical support to young families meeting at our church.



- ◆ Songs and Stories, Little Fishes (run by Salvation Army), Sunday Morning activities.

5-11 Children

- ◆ A variety of places/events where children are encouraged to grow in faith and understanding inside and outside our church.
- ◆ Sunday morning activities, Kidsfest, Girls/Boys Brigade, Annual Kids Club, Schools teaching outreach.

11-15 Young People

- ◆ A safe place for young people to come and explore faith through conversations and actions. Includes
- ◆ Monday evening Youth, 'Wired' on Thursday evening, Sunday morning activities

Succession to Young Adults

- ◆ Encourage young adults to be involved in church activities including Kids Ministry, sound/projection, music/singing/dance, crèche helpers and prayer as they develop and grow.

Areas for opportunity and development:-

- ◆ Family Events
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Arts
- ◆ Mission – what can we do to help others?

The work of our Youth Worker is critical across all of these areas, in partnership with a vital team of volunteers and supporters.

Youth and Community (Dave Rowe, Steward)

Youth

At IMC we recognise that that the youth form an important element of both the church today and its future. We understand how influential the experience of this age group is on the character and beliefs of the adults that they will become.

We will therefore support them in a number of key ways, including –

- ◆ The provision of a paid youth worker and the commitment of volunteers from within the congregation.
- ◆ Providing a range of activities in order to develop and grow the youth we have contact with to become committed Christians that come to love and serve God.
- ◆ Providing a mixture of study groups, fellowship/social groups and events and one-to-one mentoring.



- ◆ Empowering and encouraging young people to commit to voluntary service both locally and internationally.

We also understand the importance of creating a “critical mass” and reinforcing the normality of worship and service, particularly in this age group. We will facilitate and support young peoples’ involvement in events organised by other Christian organisations, both locally, nationally and internationally.

Community

As Christians we are called to unconditionally serve the communities where we live in order to glorify God and draw others to Him. We will continue to encourage our members in this field, and to develop mature relationships with the local councils (Ivybridge and South Hams) such that we will be the first port of call for them when they are looking for voluntary help with any issue in our community. We commit to considering all requests and will endeavour to offer support in the areas where we know we can deliver professionally.

We will both lead activities in the name of IMC and support those led by others (where this is appropriate, and the principles of the lead organisation do not conflict with ours).

Examples of how we already do this include –

- ◆ Street Pastors
- ◆ Bridge Project
- ◆ Redeeming Our Communities
- ◆ Reading for the RNIB
- ◆ Food Bank
- ◆ Girls Brigade
- ◆ XLP mentoring
- ◆ Tuesday Lunches

IMC is perfectly positioned to lead and play host (by virtue of its physical position and facilities in the town) to a number of ministries and activities. We commit to do as much as we can to further this support and activity.

Support and Activities for Older People (David Moulder, Senior Steward)

We affirm the importance of older people in the life of the church and recognise the huge contribution that they have made in the past and continue to make. We believe that the later years are just as important as the earlier ones in our growth and development. We welcome the contribution, with the wisdom of years, to our church growth, both spiritual and numerical, and to our ministry to the wider community. We will look to increase ways in which we support work among our older church family, and work outside the church, by:



- ◆ reviewing our present programmes, and considering new activities to enhance the spiritual and social life of this age group.
- ◆ looking at the needs of this age group in the community, how we may help to meet the needs, how we may be a witness to older people, and how we may draw them into our church life.

We acknowledge that as population trends change and develop, the older demographic of society continues to grow and we must be mindful of this as we offer services and support for this age group.

Outreach & World Mission (Reg Marriott, Steward)

As a church we are committed to the extension of the Kingdom of God, not just in our community but throughout the world. As such we are particularly concerned for, and seek to stand alongside the worldwide church where it is under persecution or working in hostile environments. We also believe that to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom on this earth is to pray for a world in which there is compassion, justice and equity between people and nations.

We will therefore work to:

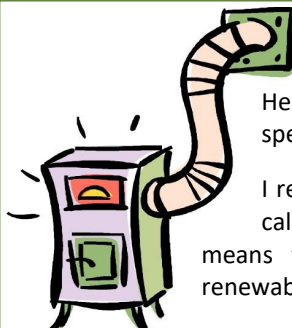
- ◆ Increase understanding of where the church is being persecuted and encourage prayer in those situations
- ◆ Directly support efforts to meet needs in times of crisis
- ◆ Promote the on-going support of development projects
- ◆ Work for a world in which there is a fairer distribution of the world's resources and promote a world view based on 'the common good' rather than me/my country first
- ◆ Support (financially and in prayer) individuals who wish to undertake mission work

Closing remarks – God doesn't stand still and neither can we!

Whilst we have set out these plans we are very mindful that God continues to grow and move way beyond our plans and thoughts (Isaiah 55:8). We commit to continually seek God's direction and prompting as we move forward as His church, together.

We know that God calls us individually and corporately to seek and serve Him. Therefore, echoing Paul's words in his letter to the Ephesians, we pray that God will raise up prophets, teachers, evangelists, servants to His word – all part of the body of Christ – actively seeking to serve Him in the furtherance and building of His Kingdom here in Ivybridge.

We would encourage you to pray, dream and imagine how God could use you and all of us to make His ways our ways as we seek to do His work here in Ivybridge.



Green Church news!

Here's a way to donate £50 to the heating fund without spending any money.

I recently switched our home energy to a new supplier called "Bulb", they offer a 100% renewable tariff, which means that all the electricity they sell comes from a renewable source, such as hydro or bio-generation.

For everyone that I recommend, Bulb will give us each £50, so I can give all those referral fees to the heating fund. If 10 people sign up, we'll reduce our congregation's environmental impact by around 9 tonnes of CO2 and give £500 to the heating fund, which will make Chris Phillips a tiny bit happier. If everyone else decides to give their referral fees to the heating fund too, it'll be £1,000 and Chris will be even more happy! (I checked with the company and they told me there is no limit to the people that I can refer.)

If you are considering this, please do check if Bulb is affordable for you, at the moment they are very competitive and have even reduced their prices when others are putting them up. So far I have been really happy with them but can't in any way guarantee they are perfect.

Unfortunately they won't be suitable for everyone and I'm sorry this excludes some people because they are all online and don't send out paper bills, also they aren't big enough to offer the Warm Home Discount.

Even if you don't switch to Bulb, it's a good idea to check whether you could get a better deal, as often people are paying around 20% more than they need to.

Please ask me if you have any questions, I can help you check the prices and help you switch if needed.

Sophie Phillips

07730 475 958, 01752 894 828
s_r_phillips@hotmail.co.uk

(PS. I checked with the church council and they're ok with this!)

Simple steps:

Grab your most recent bill.

Go to www.uswitch.com and check your tariffs

If Bulb looks good to you, go to

www.bulb.co.uk/refer/fromsophie

Bulb email me to say you've signed up and I will pass the money to IMC (I can show you the cheque if you're a bit worried!)



with



**POWER LIFTERS, BODY BUILDERS,
EX BOUNCERS & DEBT COLLECTORS,
EX VILLAINS AND HARD MEN
TELL THEIR AMAZING STORIES**

at

**Kingsbridge Methodist Church
Saturday 10 June at 8:00 am**



Full English Breakfast for £3.50!

Please let Rod Hardwick know if you're able to come at
rodhardwick1@gmail.com by Thursday 8 June.

Check out your Newsletter online!

Despite our best efforts, there may be times that you do not receive your newsletter before the beginning of the month, and for that we do apologise. However, the Newsletter does get put on our website at the same time as it goes to the printers, so why not check it out online at www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

Not only will you get to see it early, but you will see it in all its glory ... in full colour! So, check it out!

Jenny Hansford



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If you have any items for the
July Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Saturday 10 June
at the latest please.

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