



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



"If God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and
thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you."

Luke 12:28

March 2019 Newsletter



A Letter from Mark

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

(Acts 3:19 NKJV)

By the time you read this we will hopefully have returned from our mission trip to Kenya - God willing! On Sunday 24 March at 6:30 pm at IMC we'll be feeding back about all that happened. I do hope you will be able to join with us and be encouraged. We thank all those who faithfully prayed for us in the lead up, during and since our return. We simply wouldn't have done it without your prayers and God's help and power released through them.

I am so encouraged nearer to home though! We've been through some testing times recently. In one sense there's always going to be something 'kicking off' as we live in a fallen world! However, from a number of people I've spoken with recently there is a sense of expectation and a rising level of faith. That is the work of the Holy Spirit and not human in origin. From the different groups I've visited there is a growing openness to the work of the Holy Spirit. This is exciting! God honours those who earnestly seek Him. He draws close to those who seek to draw close to Him. He is a gracious, generous and loving Heavenly Father who delights to share His gifts with His children. All we have to do is ask. If you read the list of gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 they are all given for the common good and for God's glory. If you want these gifts for the building up of the body of Christ and are willing to put Him first - then ask away!

Talking of gifts what do you have to bring to Him? Are you willing to freely give to Him what you have so He can use it for His glory? You might think to yourself what can I give Him? Exactly! Many of you are already committed to the Body of Christ and have become full members of the local church. Some are sitting on the fence and waiting to see what happens! May I encourage you to get on with it and jump right in! Others say that they don't need to become members of the local church because they already are through accepting Christ! To them I answer - yes and no! Yes, we are all members of Christ through faith in Him, but we also need to accept the reality of living on the earth from time to time. Without being received into membership IMC will cease to exist as a tangible reality and couldn't legally function.



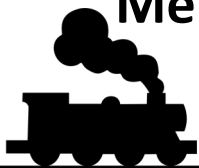
It is my prayer that over the next few months many of you who haven't made that full commitment will do so for the sake of your brothers and sisters in Christ within this local church. We are so grateful to all of you who faithfully pray, serve, give and share through this expression of the Church of Jesus Christ.

I hope to be conducting a baptism service shortly (possible Easter Sunday!) for those of you who have not, for whatever reason, been baptized by full immersion also known as the baptism of repentance. If you feel a nudge from the Holy Spirit about this do let me know! We are also hoping to have a 'newbie' evening for those who have recently joined or rejoined the church to share a meal and explain about where we're up to in our journey with God as a church.

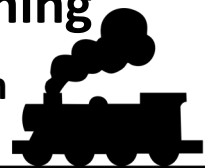
So as we continue to be open to the Holy Spirit the refreshment will come from the Holy Spirit Himself. So be open - be receptive - be obedient - and be prepared to act!

Yours in Christ,
Rev Mark

Men's Fellowship Evening



Friday 12 April at 7:00 pm
in The Concourse



A Steam Railway Slide Show and Talk

presented by Bernard Mills

With Pasty Supper



Donations to Church Funds



March Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Mar 3	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence
Mar 10	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence (Communion)
Mar 17	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence / YFC
Mar 24	10:30 am	Miss Judith Walker
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence (Communion)
Mar 31	10:30 am	<i>Mothering Sunday</i> - Dr Philip Walsh
Apr 7	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence
Apr 14	10:30 am	<i>Palm Sunday</i> - Rev Mark Lawrence

BITTAFORD

Mar 3	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs
Mar 10	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Mar 17	11:00 am	Mrs Brenda Youngs
Mar 24	11:00 am	Mrs Gillian Higgins
Mar 31	11:00 am	<i>Mothering Sunday</i> - Miss Sue Bolt
Apr 7	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs
Apr 14	11:00 am	<i>Palm Sunday</i> - Rev David Martin

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

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the April Newsletter, please let me have the details by Sunday 10 March 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



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

15 March

Easter craft

29 March

The History of Stowford Mill
with Sheila Hancox from Ivybridge Heritage

12 April

Celebrating the story of Easter

The Summer programme runs from 3 May
dates and details next time.

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!

Bittaford Methodist Chapel



Did you know that Bittaford Methodist Chapel is the fastest growing church in the Plymouth and Devonport circuit?!! What fame! The number of members from a year ago have gone from two to the dizzy heights of 14!

So, God seems to want to keep Bittaford, "A Beacon on the

Hill", open. Following a meeting last August when many people met to seek God's will about the future, Liz Cade and Chris Phillips agreed to be stewards, along with myself as worship coordinator, Avril as Communion Steward and Stewart Edward as Treasurer. Numbers of worshippers have been consistently in double figures and there is a wonderful feeling of mutual support and fellowship.

Worship has moved over to a mixture of traditional hymns and worship songs from Mission Praise and once a month, at the evening service at 6:00 pm, we have a contemporary period of worship along with Mark offering a relaxed communion taken in a circle.

As from 3 March, the morning service time is moving to 11.00 am, to allow people who want to get the bus out to Bittaford, (arriving in at 10.45) to get there in plenty of time to join us. We would love to see more people coming in.

Also, we are meeting once a week on Monday morning at Isabel's house for prayer for Bittaford. We are hoping to run an Alpha Course in September in Bittaford and are already praying for hearts to be open to invitation.

So if you want to help by prayer or practical means or by joining us for worship, we would love your support. An easy way to show your support is to join us at the evening services, especially if there is nothing happening in Ivybridge, eg Easter Sunday.

Praise the Lord for the presence of the "Chapel on the Hill"!

Rachel French

No Limits! Becoming the people God intended us to be



It's said that everyone, at some point in their life, asks the questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Psalm 139 tells us that we are 'fearfully and wonderfully made', but sadly, outside influences and our own choices tend to mess us up and put limits on us. So, we don't always act, think and feel fearfully and wonderfully! God's desire, however, is always to bless and to help us discover our true identity and purpose

This course looks at the place of healing and restoration in our Discipleship Journey and helps us to see ways of throwing off things that hinder us. We begin by looking at how we are made to communicate with God and how we can best get the Holy Spirit's input in our lives. The other side of that coin is how to avoid ungodly input! We'll also spend time looking at the influences on our lives, including family and close relationships, and understanding how past influences and events affect the present

In all this, we will not be simply providing theory! Our aim will be to understand how these things work, so we can put healing and restoration into practice through prayer in Jesus' name!

The meetings will all be at 6:30 pm in the Concourse, and the dates of the meetings are as follows:

Sunday 5 May

Sunday 26 May

Sunday 2 June

Sunday 30 June

Sunday 7 July

Phil and Jean Walsh



March 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 to a new baby and many congratulations to Matt and Helen Thorn who have a new baby son - a brother for Imogen. Jonathan Thomas was born in early February and we look forward to meeting him very soon. We hope there is some sleep in life too!!

An occasion we missed last month was to congratulate Naomi Ricketts as she went to St James' Palace to receive her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. It's a great achievement Naomi and we are delighted for you.



Rosie McMurrich has recently become a Great Grandma on the birth of Charlie to granddaughter Becky and husband Perry on 31 January. Charlie weighed 8lbs 12oz. Congratulations to you all and Rosie, we hope you enjoy time with Charlie watching him grow.

Our friends will be back from Kenya by now and we look forward to hearing all about their experiences.

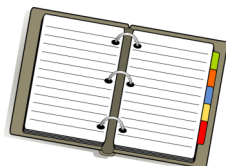


By the time this goes to print we pray Treve Mitchell will be home and fully recovered from his recent stay in hospital. We send our love and best wishes Treve for ongoing good health and a full life into the future.

We send our love and deepest sympathies to Ruth Whitfield and all the family as they come to terms with the loss of Graham in mid February. He had struggled with illness for many years and died peacefully. His thanksgiving service is 11 March at 1:00 pm at IMC



Event at Lee Abbey



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

PRISONS' DAY

A South-West Day Conference

at Plymouth Christian Centre (PL4 9HP)

on Saturday 9 March

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Keynote speaker: Jonathon Aitkin (Patron)

Jonathon is a former Conservative MP who was convicted of perjury in 1999 and received an 18-month prison sentence, of which he served seven months. He became a Christian whilst in prison and is now the President of Christian Solidarity Worldwide and a Deacon.



Speakers/Testimonies/Worship

Plus Seminars/Workshops giving a picture of different ways prisoners and ex-prisoners can be helped



Breaks for refreshments throughout; bring packed lunch; drinks provided

**Full Cost: £5 Book online at plymouthchristiancentre.org/events
Cheques to Rev T Higgins at 10 East Park Avenue, Mutley, Plymouth, PL4 6PF
(please include main contact details).**

**Full programme (including choice of seminars) can be had by emailing
tmh.eastpark@gmail.com**

The conference seeks to bring together those who are involved in this work, and who would benefit from meeting with others who have similar aims; for any who are interested in such work, and whom might find encouragement during the day to take up specific helping role (eg like writing letters to prisoners).



Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor. He sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Luke 4:18

LOVE SOUTH WEST

KINGDOM COME

A night of unhindered worship and prayer

Plymouth Pavilions

7 June 19 - 7:30 pm

Tickets now on sale:
lovesouthwest.org.uk

THE VISION

“YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE”

What could happen if churches across the South West united together for a weekend to WORSHIP Jesus and pray, SERVE our communities, and invite the region to TRY CHURCH?

THE STORY

2017 - In 2017 two churches in Plymouth, St Matthias and Mutley Baptist, got together for a night of united worship & prayer - 300 people gathered and God turned up in power.

2018 - In 2018 they felt God nudging them to gather together again to worship and pray but to cast the net wider and invite five of the other largest churches in Plymouth to join them. They all agreed, all 700 tickets quickly sold, and God poured out His power and presence.

2019 - In 2019 they felt God prompting them to cast the net even wider and gather people from across the region not only to worship and pray but then to spend a day serving their neighbours and local communities and invite them to try church.

2020 - In 2020, as Plymouth and the South West remember and celebrate the pioneering spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers as they headed to America on the Mayflower, the plan is to run Love South West again - with an even bigger bang. Get the dates in your diary now - 5-7 June 2020

THE PLAN

FRIDAY: KINGDOM COME

A night of unhindered worship & prayer at Plymouth Pavilions

Doors: 6:30 pm • Kick off: 7:30 pm

SATURDAY: SERVE DAY

A day of local social action projects at various locations throughout the South West

SUNDAY: #TRYCHURCH

Inviting the South West to Try Church
Local Churches throughout the South West



Housefires

St Matthias, Plymouth

Friday 29 March

at 6:30 pm

We welcome our good friends HOUSEFIRES back to the UK for their third tour with Big Church Live. There's something about this incredible group of musicians that is inspiring and magnetic.

Best known for their songs 'Good Good Father', 'Build My Life' and 'Yes and Amen', HOUSEFIRES bring a unique sound and an authentic heart of worship that you won't want to miss.

Tickets £16 available from

<https://bigchurchtickets.com/events/housefires-spring-tour>



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



Prophetic Witness Movement

South Devon Branch

Chairman: Brian Yabsley (Tel: 01548 550593)



All meetings held at
Ivybridge Baptist Church
on Saturday from 3:00 - 4:14 pm

6 April

Mr David Herring

Subject to be announced later

8 June

Rev Ian Huxham

Subject to be announced later

10 August

Pastor Ian MacGregor

“Expositions on the Book of Revelation
Ch 15 & 16 - The Seven Bowl Judgements”

12 October

Rev Byron Jones

“God’s Timelines in History”

7 December

Pastor Ian MacGregor

“Expositions on the Book of Revelation
Ch 17 - The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast”



Subjects may be changed shortly before
the meeting according to world events.





LADIES!

This year's
Stiletto's Conference

is taking place on
Saturday 23 March
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall

Guest Speakers

Steve Uppal

From All Nations Church, Wolverhampton
and

Jen Baker

From Bath City Church

With guest speakers Steve Uppal and Jen Baker, our one day ladies conference is not to be missed. Join us, and over 300 other women from across the South West as we gather to Worship God, be inspired and filled with His Word, and sent out empowered to make a difference at home, to your community, your city and this nation.

For more information, and to book, go to
www.stiletto'sconference.com

Cambodia for Christ (Part Two)

Last month, I wrote about how an organisation named Cambodia for Christ came into being as a result of the courage and commitment of a Cambodian Christian man, Taing Chhirc.



Now, another Cambodian man has adopted the name 'Cambodia for Christ' for a ministry to young football enthusiasts.

Pov Phearun is the son of the pastor of The Light of God Church in Chheu Teal village, to the south-east of Phnom Penh. In 2012, while still at university, he began to notice how the young people of his village were increasingly coming under the influence of a growing drug and gang culture. This, in turn, was fuelling crime and the disintegration of family life. Phearun felt called by God to use the youngsters' love of football as an opening to share the gospel with them.

Since 2012, apart from a two-year break when he ran out of money to fund the programme, Phearun has been organising football training and tournaments for the village young people.

"They like playing football so much, and among them I also have some youth they addict using drug so I spend time with them and start to share the gospel and let them to learn Bible to know more about Jesus," he says. "They also open their heart to believe in Jesus and change their lives.

I have worked with many children and youth of my football teams. That is good way that we share the gospel and protect them from the drug abuse and gangster group by teaching about dangerous using drug, drink alcohol and smoking and fighting."



The Cambodia for Christ football ministry includes:

- ◆ training sessions;
- ◆ matches against other teams;
- ◆ an annual football camp;
- ◆ Sunday morning worship and teaching sessions;
- ◆ fellowship meals and social activities.



Phearun also hopes to develop:

- ◆ projects to help the community, eg. litter-picking;
- ◆ training the young footballers in evangelism and disciple-making.

Phearun tries to fund the programme out of his own pocket, but he needs more help to pay for:

- ◆ football kit;
- ◆ footballs;
- ◆ transport to matches;
- ◆ rent of land for training pitches;
- ◆ outreach and fellowship.

Please pray for:

- ◆ young people to come to know the Lord;
- ◆ protection from drug pushers and gang recruiters;
- ◆ Christian young people to stand firm against peer pressure and grow in their relationship with Jesus;
- ◆ footballers to give a good witness in the way they play;
- ◆ financial provision;
- ◆ protection for Phearun and his wife and son.

Myers Cooper



Church Contacts



Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence Tel: 01752-651910
email: revmark@live.co.uk

Senior Stewards:

Mr Reg Marriott Tel: 01752 893614
Mrs Alison White Tel: 01752 691039

Room Bookings:

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

House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Youth Work:

Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the

April Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Sunday 10 March

at the latest please.

Tel: 01752 894634

email: contact@jennyhansford.co.uk



Visit our website at

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

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