



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

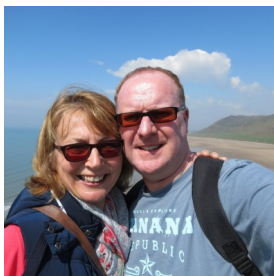
Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who
delight in them.

Psalm 111:2



October 2018

Newsletter



Letter from Mark

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NIV)

October can be a weird time of year. It is a time of reduced daylight. It is a time of even more unpredictable weather than normal(!) and a time when we put the clocks back an hour (on the 28th) and British Summer Time ends! The Autumn is really in full flow!

As King Solomon said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in Ecclesiastes 'there is a time for everything, and a season...' Here at IMC we're in a time of continued transition. People move on and new people arrive! All very exciting, especially when it is in obedience to the ever-renewing Holy Spirit! Things are always becoming new – that is a good thing. It is a God-thing. The Bible also says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)

It is good to learn from the past, but not to live in it! It is also good to know that through Christ we can have complete freedom from the sins of the past, from the hurt of the past and from the guilt of the past, so that we can live in the present. That is the Gospel truth – the old has gone, the new has come. So let me ask you a question: How are you today? We normally respond, 'Fine thanks' without getting too deep with the inquirer in our polite British way!

Not all challenges we face today are caused by the past, but just because that's the way things are at the moment. It is reality! However, things are changing! And we have a Loving Heavenly Father. And we have a Saviour who is both Lord and King! And we have His Holy Spirit who specialises in bringing order out of chaos! Hopefully that doesn't describe your life at the moment, but if it does – take heart. Our God is the God of creation and renewal. He wants to, and has the power to, continually renew us and



remake us! He doesn't give us a spiritual make-over (i.e. covering up the cracks) but a completely new heart and mind! So if the season of today isn't going as planned – hold on! Trust Him. As someone once said, "Don't let where you are become a prophesy of where you're going to stay" and "Don't judge your future by the people who are betting you don't have one!"

Seasons may come and go, but God is beyond our human time zone and He is all powerful, all good and always with us!

In the life and ministry here at IMC we can be certain that, as we continue to go through times of change, His renewal power is at work as we seek to give Him all the glory, trust Him and refuse to let the past or the present dictate our destiny in Him. Hallelujah! The old has gone – the new is here!

Yours in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever,

Rev Mark

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the November Newsletter, please let me have the details by Wednesday 10 October 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



HARVEST at IMC

Our Harvest Service is on
14 October at 10:30 am

This will be followed by a
Bring and Share Lunch

Please come prepared and join us



October Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Oct 7	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion United Service at Stoke
Oct 14	10:30 am	HARVEST Family Service - Rev Mark Lawrence
Oct 21	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
Oct 28	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Phil and Jean Walsh (See page 19)
Nov 4	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Miss Judith Walker Phil and Jean Walsh (See page 19)
Nov 11	10:00 am	Remembrance Sunday - Rev Mark Lawrence

BITTAFORD

Oct 7	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Oct 14	6:00 pm	HARVEST Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Oct 21	10:30 am	Mrs Judi Vikauskas
Oct 28	10:30 am	Mr John Pointon
Nov 4	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Nov 11	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

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

Wise and Wonderful
have great pleasure in inviting you to a concert
in the hall at IMC
on
Friday 19 October
at 2:30 pm



Plymouth Clarion Choir

will present a varied programme, with songs from shows and other well known music. It will include solos and a piano duet.
Clarion is a male voice choir, founded in 1915.

Accompanist: Pianist Olga Ogomanic
Compere: Rev David Youngs

We are asking for a donation of £2
to cover the choir's costs



Poster found in a church in France

"When you enter this church it may be possible
that you hear 'the call of God'.

However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile.
Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, please enter,
choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving!"



October 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.

I write this on a very, very soggy day and it would be lovely if you could read it on a sunny day ... let's wait and see!!



It's lovely to be able to welcome a baby again as our first news item. Olive Mai was born on the 21 September to Katie and Luke and we wish you all many blessings as you enjoy being a new family. Olive is a great, great granddaughter for Mercy Matthews, a great granddaughter for Lynda and Peter Fox and a niece for Lewis so she will have lots of family around to cuddle and carry her around!

We want to send many congratulations to Meg Gentle who has just heard she has a post with the Julian Housing charity in Exeter where she will be the Mentoring and Volunteers Co-ordinator. We hope you soon settle in Meg and that the job proves satisfying and fun



We haven't seen Diana Bond lately as she has been poorly and spent some time recuperating in Kingsbridge Hospital. She's now moved to a residential home and Diana as you read this know we will be praying for you and hope you are back to full health soon.

Eva Carr - Cynthia Lucas' Mum - has now moved to Windward in South Brent and we send our love and best wishes to you too Eva as you settle in to your new surroundings.

Commiserations go to Joyce Pope as she is managing life with a broken pelvis after a fall. We do hope things are improving Joyce and we look forward to seeing you soon but in the mean time we send love and best wishes. We hope the comfort level improves soon.

Sue Flood, too, is recovering from an operation on her extremely painful knee and Sue we pray all will heal very fast, the exercises will be bearable and we look forward to having you back amongst us soon. Sending love and healing prayers.





We say a fond farewell to Nic, Paul, Joseph and Eliza as they move on to the next stage of their ministry in the Church. They will worship for a time at the Redeemer Church in Plymouth and wait on God to see where He calls them from there. We send you with our love and blessings.

THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the lovely members of our church family who shared in Hannah & James' special day.

*It was lovely to see so many of our friends there,
it meant a great deal to us.*

Thank you to all who helped in so many ways big and small; the wonderful team who helped with refreshments, the amazing cake bakers, the washer uppers, the chair movers, the people who tidied up afterwards, Lindsey, for the window flower arrangements, the street pastors for the car breakdown service!!

and finally of course to Mark & Val for leading the service.

Forgive us if we've forgotten to mention anyone.



*With love and blessings
Alison, Hannah & James xx*



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support in my recent illness, it was felt and much appreciated. Also I cannot praise the NHS highly enough for their care and attention to everything that was required and needed.

I am fine now and almost back to normal.

Many thanks
Kathy Hayes

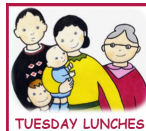




HARVEST SPECIAL on Tuesday 16 October

Booking Essential by 9 October!

3 course meal for £7



Menu

*Pumpkin Soup with
mini bread rolls*

or

Paté and Baguette

Baked gammon and pineapple

or

*Sticky chicken
with*

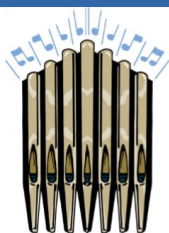
*Mini roast potatoes, green
beans, root puree and
cauliflower in white sauce*

Lemon meringue slice

Melting Moments

Rich Chocolate Mousse

All above as a trio



A change to the Fundraiser Day

On Saturday 27 October
the Organ will be played
between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Come and listen to this wonderful
Instrument as our church organists play a
variety of pieces that will display the instrument's wide tonal
range - from tranquil flutes to rousing full chorus;
and enjoy coffee or tea with cake from
our Wesley's Café.



New Job!

Many of you know that I applied for a job with the Methodist Church, World Church Relations to do mission education to test whether this might be a door God is opening for me. I have been offered the job and will be starting my new role later in the month - partly working in London and partly from home.

We would both appreciate your prayers as we adjust to this new situation and as I settle in to this post. We both believe it is part of God's plan for this season and pray that He will give me opportunities to share the love of Jesus and bring divine appointments along the way. I will keep you updated with all the details once I know them!

Blessings,
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



Autumn 2018

October 5

Shoe Box Day
plus a workshop, to help RNIB

October 19

Concert with the Clarion Choir and their Russian pianist!
Invite your friends.

November 9

The Dame Hannah Rogers story with Charlotte Nichols

November 23

Running a business in Ivybridge with Ivor Jones

December 7

Christmas celebration

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!

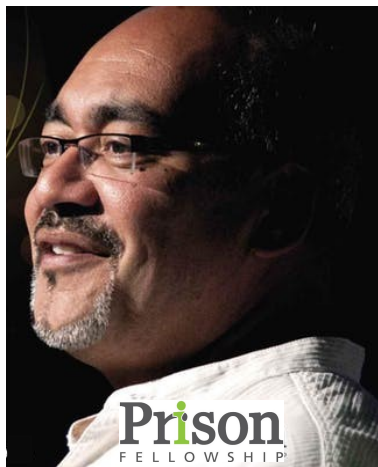
Bible Fellowship at Bittaford

will be held at 2:30 pm on
Thursday 4 October
and Thursday 18 October.
These will be led by Rev Mark Lawrence.
All are welcome.





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



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

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

Bittaford Methodist Church

HARVEST FESTIVAL



on Sunday 14 October at 6:00 pm
Bring and share tea at 4:30 pm

ALL WELCOME

Help Please!



The door has swung wide open for Christian ministry in Channings Wood Prison where the needs are very real but the human resources are distinctly lacking. Can you help?

Here are some possibilities:

- First and top in priority: PRAY. We can contact you with the needs and with answers to your prayers.
- Help with a forthcoming Alpha course. Training is available free of charge, including with the special needs of working in a prison situation.
- Assist with, or lead, a PF Restorative Justice course.
- Sunday services, to meet and chat with the men at the end of the service over a cup of coffee.
- Lead worship and/or help to start a choir.
- Assist the managing chaplain with his office duties.
- Help with Bible studies. And more.

As Christians we can be agreeably surprised at those we meet in our prisons and how fruitful and satisfying ministry there can be. Prisoners are often very open to the gospel and deeply grateful that they have not been forgotten.

Interested? Contact Rolf or Viv by phone or email:

Landline: 01548 560380

Mobiles: Rolf - 07854 735895 / Viv - 07814 712206

Email: pfk611@gmail.com

In association with Chaplaincy and Prison Fellowship

Mid-week Holy Communion
First Tuesday of each month
1:30-2:00 pm in the Concourse

Service led by
Rev Mark Lawrence



Wednesday 10 October 2018

7:30 - 10:00 pm

at

Hope Baptist Church, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

Tickets - £6.00

Available by going online to -

www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/other-events/free-to-be#booking

Ladies, we're delighted to invite you to our popular women's event

Free to Be in partnership with Spring Harvest.

During the evening our speakers Cathy Madavan and Bekah Legg will explore what freedom in Christ really looks like.

Don't miss this great opportunity to take some time out to focus on your identity in Christ and come away with a fresh perspective of how God sees you.

Here's what others have said about the event:

"Fantastic speakers. Uplifting and encouraging. Just what I needed!"

"I've taken a lot away from this. Thank you!"

"Wish I had heard this 30 years ago but never too late."

Why not gather a group of friends and join us!

The Care for the Family Team

themarriagecourse

The marriage course is a series of seven sessions designed to help any married couple strengthen their relationship. It doesn't matter if you've been married for a few months or fifty years. It doesn't matter if you're not actually married, living together or planning a wedding. You don't have to be a Christian or church goer to benefit from this course and your marriage certainly doesn't have to be in any trouble. It is for any couple who wants to work at and invest in their relationship.

The sessions will run once a month on Wednesday evenings and as each session follows on from the previous one it is best to attend as many as possible. Each evening should be like a 'date night' and begin with a meal as a couple followed by a DVD presentation and then guided discussion, again as a couple, using a handbook. THERE IS NO GROUP DISCUSSION.

The venue is **The Exchange (1 Fore Street)**. The cost of the course will be the price of a meal once a month at £5 per head.

26 September	Building Strong Foundations
31 October	The Art of Communication
28 November	Resolving Conflict
30 January	The Power of Forgiveness
27 February	The Impact of Family - Past and Present
27 March	Good Sex
24 April	Love in Action

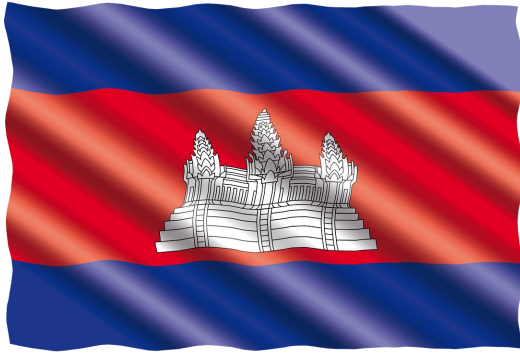
The sessions will be run by Chris & Carla Patrick, who have been married three years and have two young sons.

If you are interested in attending the course or want to ask any questions please contact us on 07884 236908 .



The next Taizé Service
will be on 14 October
at 6:30 pm
at St John's Church

A One-Party State



Fact: After what many perceive to be a 25-year-long failed attempt at democracy, Cambodia is now a one-party state.

The Cambodian People's Party won all 125 seats in the general election in July. The only viable opposition party, the Cambodia National Rescue Party

(CNRP), was dissolved last year by the Supreme Court and 118 of its members were banned from politics for five years. Although several opposition members who had been convicted of insurrection in connection with a street protest four years ago were released from prison after the election, CNRP leader Kem Sokha continues to be held in pre-trial detention on charges of treason. He has been in prison for over a year and at the end of August a judge extended his detention by a further six months.

18 of the 20 minor parties that stood in the election have joined a 'Consultation Forum' convened by the Prime Minister. "This forum will gather all political messages for the royal government as a contribution to the country's reconstruction," Hun Sen announced. "This is the culture of dialogue. We want a consultation between the government and the political parties outside the government." It is not yet clear what the forum will actually do.

Please pray:

- ◆ for Prime Minister Hun Sen and the government;
- ◆ for the establishment of a viable opposition;
- ◆ for freedom of speech without intimidation;
- ◆ for the preservation of freedom for the Cambodian church;
- ◆ that Cambodian Christians may know how to carry out the instructions of 1 Peter 3:13-14: 'Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.'

Myers Cooper

How well do we listen?

Christine Hillman

Listening is something we all do, isn't it? We listen to each other - or do we?

When someone is talking to you, do you ever find yourself thinking about what your reply is going to be?

For example, "Oh yes, I remember when that happened to me." or "Well, I don't agree, I think so and so."

Sometimes, of course, it is appropriate to respond to someone with a different perspective, but there are other times when we need to pause and ask ourselves whether we have really heard the other person.

Have we listened in a way that helps us really to understand their point of view? Or have we all too quickly responded from our own point of view?

To listen properly to another person matters very much, because in doing so we are implicitly showing not only our acceptance that what they are saying is valid for them, but, more importantly, we are reverencing them as persons, reverencing the Christ in them.

A source of deep healing

Many of us were not listened to with loving attention when we were children. Our needs and opinions weren't 'heard' or acknowledged. Thus, our sense of who we are, that is valued and valuable human beings, wasn't formed well in us.

As adults that shows itself in our poor self-image, which for some of us

can go further into an underlying sense of not knowing who we are at all.

When that's the case we function largely on the basis of what others think about us and the way in which they respond to us.

Thus, we are still looking to receive confirmation of our identity from outside, which we needed to receive as children.

Unconsciously, we are still looking for the loving response and affirmation that was our right as children.

Through receiving that we can develop a 'knowing' that 'God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good' (Gen 1:31); that sense that, although I sin and have faults which I need to repent of, I am basically OK through Christ who dwells in me.

So, listening with loving attention can be a source of deep healing to someone; simply being listened to properly - not being interrupted, not being criticised, not having their experience and understanding devalued by our opinions or attitudes.

It is a very valuable, healing gift which we can all share with others.

Wise words

An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

Proverbs 24:26

From the Crowhurst Journal, Summer 1996



Ivybridge
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Charity Auction

in aid of Ivybridge Youth for Christ

on Saturday 10 November 2018

7:00 pm until late

at

The Watermark,

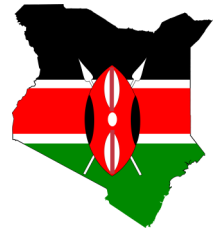
Ivybridge

Bar available



Mission Trip to Kenya

Just to let you all know that there will be a group of 7 of us going to Kenya for a week's mission trip next February, including a visit to the Compassion project in Kisumu. Everyone has paid for their own flights and we are in the process of sorting details of what we will do when we are there so watch this space as we will be asking for prayer cover in the lead up and during our trip.



We plan to take a few things with us for the children in Kisumu and Kakamega as well as Christian literature to help us with the ministry there. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution either towards things we can take with us or to help with other aspects of the visit such as mini bus hire in Kenya please let us know.

Blessings

Carolyn and Mark

World Federation Day 2018



Life and Learning

(based on Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all)

Saturday 27 October 2018
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Choice of two venues:

Truro Methodist Church
Union Place, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1EP

St. Paul's Methodist Church
Higher Audley St, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1DH

Further information and booking forms available from
Carolyn Lawrence

or

download from: www.mwib.org.uk

telephone: 0300 030 9873

email: communications@mwib.org.uk

Not Goodbye – just a change ...

Some of you will have been in church on 2 September when it was announced that we were leaving IMC to follow a new call in ministry as a family. It was a huge blessing for us to be 'prayed off' on our way in to this next phase of our life. We want to say a HUGE thank you for all the hugs, prayers, cards, letters and phone calls we've received on that day and since!



For a long time now, we have felt a strong sense of challenge from God to step out into a calling He has placed on our lives and over the summer months He really affirmed that call.

Many years ago, a word was spoken over us that God was going to use us as a family in ministry - but that this was going to be 'out of the box' because God was doing new things with His church and we feel now is the right time to step out and respond.

We are mindful of the 'box' that IMC has become for us personally - a place of comfort, safety and relatively easy Christian walk and want to step out in faith and seek God further. It is really important for us to say that we are not leaving because there is anything wrong – in fact because things are going well at IMC it makes this step out all the more challenging!

As you can imagine this is a big step for our family – Paul has been here since he was 9 months old, Nic over 20 years and for Joseph and Eliza, all they have ever known of church has been IMC, but we're putting our trust firmly in God. We are not sure yet exactly what God is calling us in to, but we know for certain that we cannot follow that call without first, stepping out.

IMC will forever be our 'church family' and will forever be our 'home church' - a huge part of our whole family's faith journey, and we will always be grateful for the people who have prayed into our lives and been with us to share in the joys and challenges along the way. We also know that this will not stop just because we're not there on a Sunday!

Please pray for us. Whilst this is exciting it is also quite scary! We need faith and know that it won't be easy. We also know that whenever any of us seeks to follow God, the devil will do his best to throw us off course!



On 2 September we prayed over IMC a word of **abundance** and that is our continued prayer, claiming the words of Paul to the church in Ephesus (for you and us!) - that God will do **exceedingly abundant** beyond all we could ever ask or imagine according to His power at work within us (Eph 3:20).

We have been really challenged to view this time with a 'kingdom perspective' and that helps us to know that this is not goodbye, merely a change in our place in what God has planned.

We look forward to seeing many of you at various events over the coming months.

With all our love and continued prayers.

Paul, Nic, Joseph and Eliza Courtney

xxxx

Gifts and Calling

Sunday Evenings 28 October, 4 November and 25 November

at 6:30 pm

in the Concourse at IMC

Many of us from time to time ask the question: What does God want me to do for Him? The bible makes it clear that we all have a vital part to play in God's Kingdom, but it can sometimes be puzzling to sort out how. To answer such a question, it helps to have a good understanding of what spiritual gifts are, how to discover ours and then how to use them effectively. These evenings will help you to see that your gifts are part of who God has made you. They are part of you and not something tacked on as an afterthought

We look at what the Bible teaches about spiritual gifts, seeing how our gifts fit with others' and how the aim is the growth of God's Kingdom in all senses. We look at the unique make-up God has given us and also consider how life can sometimes hinder or throw us off-course. The overall objective is to set us more firmly on a path where we can grow in our calling

The evenings are practical as well as informative and aim to build on where we already are. Everyone is very welcome!

Phil and Jean Walsh



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
November Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Wednesday 10 October
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