



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good!
His faithful love
endures forever.

Psalms 107:1

October and
November 2017
Newsletter

Letter from Mark



Greetings fellow-Ivybridgers!! (We can say that now we've moved in!!) This is an exciting new season. I know January is the calendar start of a new year, but September is the beginning of a new academic and church year – and it's going to be an exciting ride! As you'll see from the pages of this magazine there are loads of things to get involved with.

For the men we re-start our breakfasts on **Saturday 9 September at 8:30 am** when Gary Ford will be sharing his testimony, which will be well worth listening to – why not bring a friend too chaps? I would recommend you book up now by contacting Tony Merriman (01752-894265 or email: mrmerrit@icloud.com)

After that point we're inviting all those connected with Ivybridge Methodist Church to pray and fast as we seek to recommit ourselves to God. The church will be open to seek God and to focus on Him. From personal experience fasting can open up and change things in a remarkable way. I shall be teaching about prayer and fasting on Sunday 3 September during our morning service. We are believing that this new season is going to be highly significant. We are trusting and praying to God for Him to bring many people into the Kingdom and for us to move forward as a church family. Talk to Paul Courtney to sign-up (893839 or email pauljamescourtney@hotmail.com)

The time of prayer and fasting will end with our service together at 10:30 am on Sunday 10 September. Following that we head off to Bantam Beach for our summer family picnic and open-air baptisms for those who want to publicly declare their love and obedience to Jesus! Christian baptism is a very powerful witness and enables the one being baptised to move forward spiritually. If you would like to be baptised in this way do let me know. It's not too late and if the Holy Spirit is urging you to do it (even as you read this article!) then don't resist Him.

On **Sunday 17 September** we have our Party in the Park starting at 10:30 am. This is happening at Victoria Park. Our very own Phil Blunt is organising this and it's going to be lots of fun! We'll need folk to set up and be part of it. Do come along and have a go on the bouncy castles and much more!



I especially want you to come along to Alpha which starts on **Wednesday 13 September** and bring your friends and family. Give them an invite and ask them along!

If you don't know what Alpha is then let me briefly explain. It is a friendly, unpressurised way to look at the claims of Christianity and ask questions. It starts with a free meal, there is a talk on various Christian-related subjects and then there is group discussion and an opportunity to ask questions and talk together about the subject. The evening starts at 7:00 pm and ends by 9:30 pm. Please take a leaflet and/or invitation and pass it on.



My greatest adventure

Alpha

Ivybridge Methodist Church

revmark@live.co.uk
Mobile 0752 779 6319
www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk/

NEXT ALPHA STARTS:
Wednesday 13 September
@ 7:00 pm

Watch Bear's Story
Alpha.org

Phew – all very exciting and lots to pray into and get involved with!

Also, some advance warning – we have our **Harvest Thanksgiving/Gift Day** on **Sunday 1 October**. Half of the offering will be going towards our heating fund, so we don't have to freeze this winter at church (hopefully!) and the other half is going towards the harvest appeal with **All We Can**. Who are 'All We Can' I hear you ask! This is what they say about themselves:



Chirp For Joy!

ALL WE CAN

Join our Harvest Service & raise money for All We Can

"All We Can is a pioneering international development, relief and advocacy organisation. We work through partnerships with local people to end the cycle of suffering caused by poverty, inequality, and injustice, in some of the world's poorest communities. Inspired by Christian principles and with our roots in the British Methodist Church, we help people to find solutions to poverty and to become all they can. Every person has God-given potential, and it is our vision to see that potential fulfilled."

I know they're 'legit' because Carolyn is on the board of trustees!

This year's appeal is entitled 'Chirp for Joy'. All We Can are supporting people in Zimbabwe to overcome insufficient rainfall and failed harvests, by starting up new initiatives to provide for their families. Particularly, they help communities do this by rearing and selling chickens. These communities represent the kind of difference All We Can is making in communities across the world. The money that you raise during the service and the Gift Day, will help people, not only in Zimbabwe, but also in other communities around the world that are struggling with poverty and injustice.

So we pray that people will be moved by God to give generously on 1 October. We give Him thanks and praise for all the exciting things He has in store for us as we seek Him with all our hearts in the coming year.

With every blessing in Christ,

Mark

Tel. 01752 651910 Mobile 0752 779 6319 Email revmark@live.co.uk

From the Editor ...

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



Sept/Oct Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Sep 3	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Sep 10	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence/Rev Edgar Daniel followed by Baptisms at Bantham Beach
	6:30 pm	ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
Sep 17	10:30 am	NO SERVICE AT CHURCH (See page 17)
	6:30 pm	Prayer Service led by Mrs Gill Cowsill
Sep 24	10:30 am	Mr Paul Courtney
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Oct 1	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Harvest
Oct 8	10:30 am	Miss Judith Walker
	6:30 pm	ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
Oct 15	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
	6:30 pm	Prayer Service led by Mrs Gill Cowsill
Oct 22	10:30 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Oct 29	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence

BITTAFORD

Sep 3	2:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Sep 10	10:30 am	Mr Justice Abusah
Sep 17	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Sep 24	10:30 am	Rev Terry Higgins
Oct 1	2:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Oct 8	10:30 am	Mrs Brenda Youngs
Oct 15	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Oct 22	10:30 am	Miss Sue Bolt
Oct 29	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade



**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

24 HOURS OF CONTINUOUS PRAYER

9 & 10 September



We believe we are in a most exciting season as God moves amongst us and stirs us to action! For this reason, we want to take time as family, to pray, fast and worship together at the beginning of this new chapter in the life of IMC.

Starting at 10:30 am on Saturday 9 September and going all day and night into the Sunday morning service on 10 September we will be meeting and praying together for God to anoint, stir hearts, challenge, equip and move by His Spirit. Will you join us?

The event will begin with worship and then we hope you as individuals, couples, families, house groups, friends, will come together and commit to praying with us at varying points throughout the day and night.

The church will be open throughout the event and we will have varying focusses of prayer at different times but you are free to come and go and pray however you feel led to do so. Our prayers will flow on through into the Sunday morning service.

A sign-up sheet will appear in church soon – look out for it and please join us as we commit ourselves afresh and ask God to move in power and love!

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves
and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin
and will heal their land."*

2 Chronicles 7:14

For more info please speak to Paul Courtney
01752 893839 / pauljamescourtney@hotmail.com

middle east media

MEM is a Christian charity using creative media to introduce the people of the Middle East to the truth of God's love.

Come and hear a talk about their work by Communications Manager, Emily Shurmer (aka Mark and Carolyn's daughter).



Monday 11 September
at Ivybridge Methodist Church
Tea/coffee served from 7:45
ready for an 8:00 pm start.

All are welcome.
Free entry but a collection will be taken
for the charity during the evening.



www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk
www.mem.org

Annual Gift Day

The time of year when we give thanks for God's generosity to us as a Church Family is fast approaching.

We celebrate Harvest this year on 1 October. It was explained at the Church AGM in June that one of our main concerns, in order to keep the church welcoming and accessible, is the church heating. This year our Gift Day giving will be shared between raising money for the repair/replacement of the heating system, and the Methodist Relief and Development Charity **All We Can**.

As we give thanks for all the blessings we have received at God's hand over the last year, let us give all **we** can in support of these two causes.



Churches Together in Ivybridge
will hold a Taizé Service
on Sunday 1 October at 7:00 pm
at St Austins Priory



"The Joy of the Lord in our Strength"

Nehemiah 8:10

Worship Through Dance

Saturday 7 October
at
Yealmpton Methodist Church
2:00-4:00 pm

This will be a mixed gender group,
so all welcome - men included.

Free event

For directions, or if you need a lift,
ring Angie on 895364



Winning the War against HIV/AIDS in Cambodia

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) has set a target (known as the 90-90-90 target) that, by 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

Fact: Cambodia is one of only seven countries worldwide to have already achieved the 90-90-90 target.

57,000 people living with HIV are accessing antiretroviral therapy in Cambodia, which is 80% of all people estimated to be living with HIV. This is more people than ever before and the highest HIV treatment coverage for Asia and the Pacific. It is a huge achievement for a country which had one of the fastest growing AIDS epidemics in the region 20 years ago.

In 1999, I attended a conference in Cambodia seeking to mobilise the country's response to the epidemic. After delivering the closing address, as the Prime Minister proceeded towards the exit, one of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity stepped out into the gangway and, much to the concern of the PM's bodyguards, barred his way. She introduced him to an emaciated AIDS sufferer the nuns had taken in off the streets. I wish I could have seen whether the Prime Minister followed Princess Diana's example and shook the man's hand, but I should like to think this incident had a bearing on his leadership of Cambodia's campaign, which reduced HIV prevalence among the general population from 1.7% in 1998 to 0.6% in 2015.



A woman suffering from HIV/AIDS in a Cambodian hospital, 2008
Photo: Masaru Goto / World Bank



Please pray:

- that Cambodia will reach its 95-95-95 target by 2025 or before;
- for Christians and churches to show the love of Jesus to HIV/AIDS sufferers;
- for children orphaned as a result of their parents' infection with AIDS;
- for 82-year old Canadian Christian Marie Ens and her staff, who run four rescue centres that care for (among others) people living with AIDS.

Myers Cooper



“The Healing Oils of the Bible”



Talk and demonstration of the healing oils,
with an opportunity to experience some for yourselves.

Friday 15 September at 7:30 pm
at

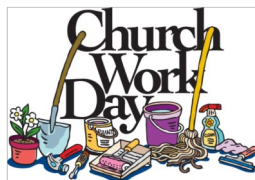
Lindsay's - 1 Yeolland Lane, Ivybridge
Wine or soft drinks and nibbles

Please ring to book on 894571



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 -

9 September

14 October

11 November

9 December



PROGRAMME

SEPT - DEC 2017



Monday Evenings

11 September - 7:45 pm at the church

Talk by Emily Shurmer (Mark and Carolyn's daughter) Communications Manager for the charity Middle East Media. Emily will speak to us about the valuable work they do in the Middle East and North Africa. We will take a collection for the charity during this evening.
(This evening is open to everyone, men and women)

6 November - 7:45 pm at the church

Workshop on relationships.
Is marriage outdated today? What makes a good wife?
How can I cope with divorce?
How do I cope with being single in a world of couples?
What about relationships that go wrong?

4 December - 7:30 pm at the Manse.

Bring along something that is special to you at Christmas. It might be a favourite song, a poem, an artefact that holds special memories or a story of a memorable family Christmas tradition or custom. Or just come and listen to other people sharing their thoughts.
With mince pies and mulled wine.

These activities are suitable for women at all stages of their spiritual journey.

Monday Afternoons

1:30 – 3:00 pm at IMC

25 September

The Woman at the Well - Part 2.

30 October

Looking at the life of Sarah, wife of Abraham

27 November

What does it mean to be a servant of God?

These sessions will involve studying a bible passage, asking questions and discussing together over a cup of tea or coffee.



Other events

Saturday 9 (11:00 am) – Sunday 10 September

Join with the rest of the church for 24 hours of prayer.

Call in to the church at any time and for as long as you want to.

Sunday 10 September

Church picnic and baptisms at Bantham Beach after the morning service.

If you would like to be baptised speak to Mark and Carolyn.

Wednesday 13 September @ 7:00 pm

The first evening of our Alpha course.

If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about the Christian faith please come and join us for a meal, talk and discussion.

Sunday 17 September

Ivybridge Family Fun Day in the Park.

More details will be in the notices.

Tuesday 5 December @ 2:00 pm

Advent Carol Service at the church. Speaker Val Marriot.

Followed by tea and mince pies.

‘Well Women’ is the ministry by and for women of all ages at Ivybridge Methodist Church (IMC). The name is inspired by the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well (John 4:1-42). This woman had collected a lot of baggage in her life and through her meeting with Jesus she found healing and wholeness and went on to lead others to discover what she had experienced.

As we meet together at ‘The Well’ my prayer is that we too will find refreshment, healing and friendship and grow in our faith, as well as bring others to share the experience. The ‘Well Women’ ministry includes a variety of activities through the year – social events, talks on various issues facing women today, Bible studies and discussions and occasional quiet mornings for retreat and restoration. All women are welcome to any of the activities planned.

For more information or to arrange a pastoral visit please contact:

Carolyn Lawrence

Email: markcarolyn1983@gmail.com Tel: 01752 651910

or visit the Ivybridge Methodist Church Website

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk



Parenting Teenagers

getting them (and you!) through

Presented by bestselling authors and international speakers **Rob Parsons** and **Katharine Hill**.



Thursday 9 November 2017

at 7:30 pm

at

Hope Baptist Church, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

Do you feel your teenager has become a different person overnight?
Will they go out with you only if you wear a brown paper bag on your head?
Or maybe your child is almost a teenager and you're feeling a bit apprehensive about what's ahead.

Join Rob and Katharine as they explore some of the hot topics for parents of teenagers:-

- ♥ Understanding your Teenager
 - ♥ Staying Connected
- ♥ Puberty, Privacy and Porn
- ♥ The Testing Teenager
 - ♥ Identity
- ♥ Letting Them Go

Ticket prices

4 or more tickets - £5 each 1-3 tickets - £6 each
On the door - £7 each Partner rate - £4 each

Book today!

careforthefamily.org.uk/parentingteenagers
Tel: 029 2081 0800





Mark and Carolyn invite you to a
'Housewarming Party'



When? Saturday 2 September 2017 from 7:00 pm

Where? 11 Badgers Close, Ivybridge, PL21 9TN

Please bring a bottle and some finger food to share.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.





Gift Aid Scheme - Regular Giving

A good number of the Congregation make their regular offering via the Gift Aid Scheme. For every £1 that is given under the Scheme, 25p can be reclaimed from HMRC. Therefore, the tax reclaim money received is of great help to the work of IMC and I would like to thank all those of you who are able to participate in the Gift Aid Scheme.

If you have completed a Gift Aid Declaration, please can I remind you that you **must** pay Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax. You need to ensure that the relevant tax paid by you in the tax year is equal to or greater than your Gift Aid donations made to **all** charities. If the tax is less, HMRC will ask you to pay the difference.

If you are no longer a tax payer, or no longer wish to make your offering through the Gift Aid Scheme, or there has been a change in your circumstances, e.g. address, it would be appreciated if you could let me know so I can update the records I hold.

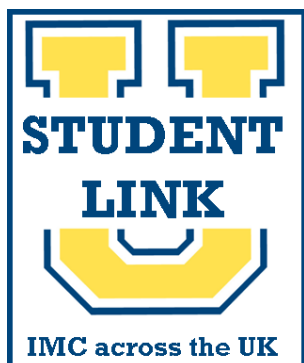
Thank you for your help and co-operation.

Stewart Edward

Gift Aid Co-ordinator

4 Lower Brook Park, Ivybridge

Tel: 01752 698785 Email: stewart.edward@live.com



IMC news wherever you are!

Are you (or one of your children)
off to university this Autumn?

Keep in touch with your home church
by joining the IMC Student Link Group.

Please send you Uni address to
Paul & Nic Courtney and keep in touch.

Tel. 01752 893839

Email: pauljamescourtney@hotmail.com

Would anyone be interested in starting a Gospel Choir here in Ivybridge? No auditions needed, ability to read music not necessary, just come along, sing and enjoy - everyone welcome!



We will need to find a keyboard player, and a conductor - just someone who likes music and has a bit of rhythm.

*Voices
Needed*

We can then get some words and simple songs to start. Maybe we could even start with some Christmas gospel music and, if we are ready, join in with a service over Christmas.

If this is something that you think you would like to get involved in, please ring me on 07340 542369, or email me at janedouro@mail.com. I would also like to hear from anyone else in the church who would like to help with running this. Thanks

Jane Clark

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

**FREE
ENTRY**

**party in
the park**

Victoria Park

Sunday 17 September

10:30 am - Morning Worship

12:30-4:00 pm - Family Party

Entertainer : Bouncy Castle : Bands : BBQ

07816 910152 - www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk



August News

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

You will have gathered by now that I've made several wrong assumptions about which newsletter will be joint one - but this time I know I've got it right because Jenny told me! Hopefully by the end of this news collection we will have mentioned all the news that has been shared with us over the last few months!



Firstly many congratulations to all those who have come through their A Levels and are moving on to pastures new. Heather Lawrie will move on to Plymouth University to study Criminology, Hannah Reeves will continue her studies in a four year course in French at Exeter University, Sally Mogridge will study Geography at Cardiff and

Alice Elliott is taking up an Apprenticeship to train as a Higher Lever Teaching Assistant. We send our very best wishes for the future to you all.



Well done to all those who have been doing AS levels and we wish you a good year next year in preparation for A Levels.



More congratulations are due to Aimee Elliott who has just returned from a great time at Camp America and whilst there heard she gained a 1st Class Honours in Primary Education.

Great news Aimee and we wish you every success as you search for that first job.

Congratulations too to Tom Bush, Anna's son, who moves on to study an HNC in Engineering at City College after a successful 2 year preparation.



Celebrations for Pat Watson who celebrates a big birthday in September - we wish you many happy returns Pat and hope you have a very happy birthday and celebrate well.





It's joy to send our love and congratulations to Barry and Aileen Jury who celebrate 25 year of marriage on 17 October. It's been a tough few months but we hope you are able to celebrate well and enjoy your special day.

September will bring a change of life style for Jason Archer as he reduces his teaching commitment (semi retiring?) and we wish you all the best for any new ventures that you undertake.



We send our sympathy and love to Marilyn Davis and her family as they mourn the loss of Marilyn's Mum who died recently. We especially hold them in our prayers for the funeral which is on 5 September.

Prayers are especially asked for Jenny Hansford and John Hladkij as they go into hospital on the 5 an 9 of September respectively for orthopaedic ops - and we hope they'll soon be back to full health and skipping around!!

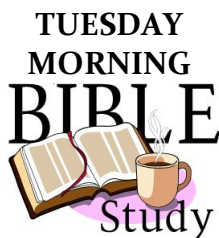


It has been lovely to see both Christine Jago and Barry Jury able to be in Church recently and we continue to pray for ongoing healing for you both.

It's also good to know that prayers have been answered for Maria (Duncan & Kirsten Knowles' daughter) but we need to again pray for continued healing. Please also continue to pray for young Nikolas (Kathy Blackwood's grandson), for Mark and Mandy and for Christine Welch and her family.



There are other families facing health problems and some still struggling with loss and bereavement and we continue to pray for you and hold you in love.



Please note the change of venue!

The Tuesday morning Bible Study will continue as usual from Tuesday 12 September at 10:00 am, but we will now be meeting at **24 Grosvenor Court.**

Come and enjoy a



COFFEE & CAKE MORNING



at

Ann Cocks' New House -
31 Greenfield Drive, PL21 0UG

on Friday 20 October 2017

any time between 10 am & 1 pm

In aid of
The Chestnut Unit at Derriford
(Prostate Cancer)

&

Marie Curie Nurses (SW)

Suggested Donation of £1.50

I look forward to seeing you, please bring a friend





Join us at our next

Alpha Course!

Starting on
Wednesday 13 September
*** 7:00 pm ***
here at Ivybridge Methodist Church

Who will you invite...?

For more details contact Mark
or any of the stewards.

Find out more about the Alpha Course at
www.alpha.org

*** Please note the change of time from last month's newsletter ***

There will also be a group meeting on Tuesday mornings
from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at 20 Grosvenor Court with
Joan Bulman



Ivybridge Methodist Church
Saturday 9 September at 8:30 am
Full-English Breakfast for £3.50*!



After-breakfast testimony -
our very own Gary Ford



Please let Tony Merriman know if you're able to come
for catering purposes on 01752-894265
or email mrmerit@icloud.com



Wise and Wonderful

We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.
Meetings are on Fridays, from 2.30 until 4:00 pm
with a charge of £1 each time



Autumn 2017

8 September

Harvest celebration

22 September

Guyana! with Carolyn and Rev Mark Lawrence

6 October

The shoe box challenge.

Covering and filling as many boxes as we can, to send to Eastern Europe
with gifts for children in need. We did 32 last year!

20 October

“Red sky over Dartmoor”

Tony Rea talks about his latest book, based on events in The Great War.

10 November

Fair Trade with Lorna Howell

24 November

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) with Sarah Guy

8 December

Christmas meeting

Please contact one of us for more information:

Valerie Marriott 893614

Sara Bromage 894198

Judy Jago 894829

Sue Pengilley 896444

Christine and David Moulder 892858

We are an open fellowship and all are welcome!

Church Contacts



Minister:

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

Senior Stewards:

Mr David Moulder Tel: 01752 892858
Mrs Dawn Martin Tel: 01752 690742

Room Bookings:

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

House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Youth Work:

Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the
November Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Tuesday 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