



*Sharing Life*  
*Sharing Faith*



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

*Psalms 107:1*

September 2018  
Newsletter

## ***Letter from Carolyn***

Most of you know that part of my current role involves a lot of travelling and I often spend nights away in hotel rooms. Sometimes I am put up in basic Christian conference accommodation and occasionally I stay in some quite nice hotels. It struck me that however nice the hotel room is, it is still a place that I am only in for a very short time and it is nothing like being at home in my own bed!



This got me thinking about the difference between hotels and homes. In a hotel room you wouldn't start hanging pictures on the walls or putting up photos of loved ones. You wouldn't pick out a new rug to lay on the floor or get new bedding. The staff would think you were crazy if you started offering to help with the laundry or washing dishes! Sometimes when I am only in a room for one night I hardly even unpack my bag! In a hotel, you know that your visit is temporary and that it's not worth putting down any roots or trying to engage with your environment.

There are two things that struck me about this. Firstly, with regard to churches. Some people treat the church a bit like a hotel – popping in and out now and then, enjoying the benefits of the worship and the pastoral care of the church family, but never really engaging with the fellowship, contributing or getting involved.

For others the church is like a home. They become part of the family, join in with anything that needs doing, contribute their time, talents and resources, give as well as take, settle down and become 'at home'. I don't believe that Jesus intended us to treat His church like a hotel but His intention was for us to throw our lot in with His people and truly make ourselves at home - even when things are not always to our personal preferences or when there are people who get on our nerves, we are called to be a part of His body to encourage, support and bless others, as well as receive care and support ourselves. So if you're currently just popping in and out, why not make yourselves at home with us and become a partner with us in all that we seek to do in showing the love of Jesus within the church and in the world around us?

The other thing that struck me about hotels and homes is that just like a stay in a hotel room is temporary, so is our stay here on earth. In a hotel you don't get too settled as you know you're moving on soon. Sometimes as



Christians we live in this world as though this is our permanent home and allow ourselves to get stressed and anxious about matters that in the eternal scheme of things won't really matter that much. Many people spend their lives pursuing money, careers, status, possessions and glory forgetting that Jesus tells us to 'seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.' Jesus teaches us not to get too attached to the here and now because 'no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him'. This is the hotel visit and one day, we'll be going home - the best really is yet to come!

*Carolyn*

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

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



Thank you.

*Jenny*



To all our friends at IMC  
*Rachel Ion and Alan Davis*  
will be getting married on  
*Saturday 8 September*  
*at 1:00 pm*  
*at Ivybridge Methodist Church*



They would love you to share in their special day by joining them for the service and afterwards in the church hall for tea, coffee and cake.



# September Worship

## **IVYBRIDGE**

Sept 2	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Rev Mark Lawrence
Sept 9	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
Sept 16	10:30 am 6:30 pm	PARTY IN THE PARK (See page 15 for details) Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
Sept 23	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Philip Walsh Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Sept 30	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade No Service
Oct 7	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion United Service at Stoke
Oct 14	10:30 am 6:30 pm	HARVEST - Family Service - Rev Mark Lawrence ENGAGE Mr Paul Courtney

## **BITTAFORD**

Sept 2	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Sept 9	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Sept 16	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
Sept 23	10:30 am	Rev Andrew Day
Sept 30	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Oct 7	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Oct 14	6:00 pm	HARVEST - Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

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



# MARANATHA QUIET DAY

Saturday 22 September 2018

10:00am - 5:00pm

**Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0EE**

in the Violet Evelyn Room, with use of the Abbey and grounds



Led by Mariane Grinter : Worship times with Rev David Arnott.

Cost £10

Please bring a picnic lunch - tea, coffee, biscuits and cake provided

For more information or to book please contact Joy Davies

jandr@davies379128.plus.com 01752 895946 07813 609317

**A place of beauty and a time for teaching, worship,  
peace and quiet reflection with our Lord.**

**All Welcome!**

The Maranatha Community, 102 Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6JT

Tel: 0161 748 4858

email: [info@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@maranathacommunity.org.uk). [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk)



## **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.





# September 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 once again to the "news spot". We are grateful to those who have shared news with us.

September is obviously a popular month for weddings!

We celebrate with, and send love and many congratulations to, Rachel Ion and Alan Davis who will be married here at IMC on 8 September; and Steve Cowsill who will marry fiancée Kerry on 22 September near Tunbridge Wells. We hope you have wonderful days and that all the celebrations will reflect all the time and work put into your preparations. Enjoy every moment and make wonderful memories.



Many congratulations and much love also to Paul and Sandra Morgan who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 7 September - a lovely achievement and we hope all the celebrations go well. Many blessings for the years to come.

Bekki, Nick and Elijah Anderson are on the move from Yeolland Park to Torre Close. We do hope the move goes smoothly and that you settle into your new home quickly.



All our young people who sat their A Levels have been successful - Ben Martin, Laura Martin, Naomi Ricketts and Tim Thornton.

Tim is going to do an MSc in Engineering at Bath, Naomi will have a gap year and will then go to Cardiff next year to study Physiotherapy, Ben is going to the University of Hertfordshire to study Computer Animation and Laura is also planning a gap year before studying Performing Arts next year. Many congratulations to you all and our prayers for a safe and happy year to come.

Many congratulations also to Marie Bradwell (Mercy's daughter) who has gained a Masters in Social Policy from Plymouth University and will go on to lecture at Marjon. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish you every success in the future Marie.

Marie's daughter Cleo is taking up a place at Plymouth College of Art and Design to do a Photography degree and we also wish her well.





Speaking of moving on, we send George Martin our warmest wishes as he goes to Cambridge College of Fashion and Design to do a three year course. George we hope you have great and successful time, and we look forward to hearing about your progress.

Please would you pray for those who are just starting school and those who are moving on to the College - both are big steps and prayer can help give them the confidence they all need.



It's good to see Carol Kempthorne back with us after her shoulder operation and we hope all continues to go well Carol.

Also it's good to know Jane Clarke is out of hospital after quite a long stay, but we were sad to hear her Father died very recently so send extra love and good wishes at this

sad time.

By the time this goes to print John Ricardo should have had a knee replacement and Sue Flood is having her operation on the 7th - so please pray for straightforward procedures and fast recoveries for all those going through painful times.

We send our love and deepest sympathy to Helen Skinner and all the family as they mourn the sudden loss of Helen's Mum in early August. Please keep them on your prayers at this difficult time.



A big thank you to every one who has prayed for my daughter Kirstie and her son Nikolas. They now have Council Housing Association Accommodation, her fourth move, and it is a nice wee house with a garden, so she can have her dogs!

Nikolas has still got lots of hospital appointments, but they are aware of his ongoing problems. Please continue to pray for Kirstie and the doctors who are monitoring Nikolas. Thank you.

God bless

*Kathleen Blackwood*

## Gifts and Calling

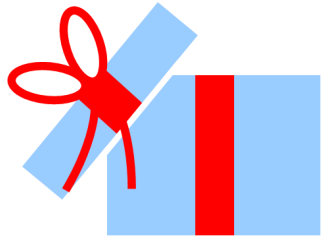
***Sunday Evenings 28 October, 4 November and 25 November  
at 6:30 pm  
in the Concourse at IMC***

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*



## Bittaford Methodist Church

invite you to their

# HARVEST FESTIVAL



on Sunday 14 October at 6:00 pm

Bring and share tea at 4:30 pm

**ALL WELCOME**



# 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

### September 7

The Bedford Boys visit the USA with Ken Bromage

### September 21

My experiences in Africa with Meg Gentle

### 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!**

## Seoul reflections



What a privilege it was to attend the World Methodist Council meeting in Seoul and to hear about what God is doing in and through the Methodist Church as well as learn about concerns for prayer.

The World Methodist Council comprises 425 members representing almost 80 million members in over 130 countries and it is a real honour for me to be a part of this on behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain.

It was also good to learn about the particular issues facing the church in South Korea and hear about their earnest prayer for the reunification of North and South Korea. I was honoured to attend an early morning prayer meeting with 5,000 local believers, as the culmination of 40 days of prayer for the re-establishment of the church in North Korea. I learned that there used to be a flourishing church in North Korea as described on this notice board outside the church where we were meeting.

There were some 2,000 churches in North Korea mostly in the vicinity of Pyongyang, a city once called Jerusalem of the East. These churches, which were largely established by missionaries from the Presbyterian and Methodist denominations, not only shed light to salvation but also served the poor and the deprived by providing education, medical and cultural assistance. During the Japanese rule they committed themselves in fostering leaders, promoting the value of independence and bearing the brunt in the movement for independence. Nevertheless over the course of the colonial period, communist rule and the Korean war most of the churches in North Korea have been destroyed.

This year, marking the 30th anniversary of Mt Horeb Prayer Rally, we seek to pray for the churches in North Korea believing that God's work for restoration and peace are revealed where churches are planted.

As I arrived for the early morning meeting, many had already gathered and were silently and fervently praying. Each person had brought their Bible with



them, some of which were very well worn and clearly loved, and many took notes as the Pastor preached. The commitment, fervour and spiritual hunger of the Korean Christians was a challenge to me and something from which we in the UK can learn so much. We gave thanks to God that although just a year ago the nation was on the verge of war, today the prayers of many have been answered as reunification seems a step closer.



It was also an experience to share in worship on a grand scale on the Sunday morning, complete with orchestra and full robed choir. Kwanglim Methodist Church has around 85,000 members who meet at various times and places during a usual Sunday. It was amazing to experience church on a large scale like this, though I have to say, not something I would want to do every week! The sheer organisation of getting communion to over 5,000 people at a time, taking up the offering and getting people in and out was awe inspiring!



On the Sunday evening we were invited to take part in an open air peace prayer service, again praying for the church in North Korea. It was a blessing to stand with the people of the church in South Korea to pray for the breaking down of the barrier that divides their nation, and in many cases, their families.

One of the highlights for me was sharing a meal with some of the Korean women from the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church women, along with other leaders from the UK and USA. We were treated to a traditional Korean meal eaten with chopsticks of course. I have decided that this is a brilliant diet plan as I just couldn't eat very much at all! Clearly I need more practice!

It was a real honour to receive the generous hospitality of our Korean brothers and sisters and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the wider world church through the WMC and I am so grateful to everyone back home for your prayerful support as I travelled.



*Carolyn Lawrence* July 2018



Wednesday 10 October 2018

7:30 - 10:00 pm

at

Hope Baptist Church, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

Tickets Early Bird Rate until 21 August - £4.00

Standard price - £6.00

Available by going online to -

[www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/other-events/free-to-be#booking](http://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



## Bittaford Church Meeting 19 August 2018

The members and friends of Bittaford Church met on the afternoon of 19 August to pray about, and discuss, how Bittaford would move

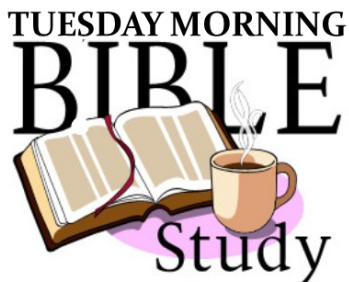
forward at time of change with Jutta still recovering and Len "retiring" to Ivybridge.

Warmest thanks and an acknowledgement of just how much Jutta and Len have done to maintain worship at the Chapel and a Christian presence in the village was expressed by several folk and endorsed by all the meeting.

Mark led the meeting and asked those present to consider how they might use their giftings and talents to enable worship to continue, and the Church achieve it's main purpose - that of sharing the gospel with those who hadn't yet heard about Jesus.

Two Stewards were appointed - Christopher Phillips and Liz Cade with Stewart Edward taking on the role of Financial Steward. Several others willingly offered their help and time as and when needed. Thanks were also offered to Chris Phillips, Nigel Phillips, Jim and Stewart for their commitment to caring for the buildings and grounds, and to Avril for the quiet cleaning she does. Rachel French will continue to act as co-ordinator for the music side of things.

It was a very positive meeting with all believing the Church would grow and serve and save those in Bittaford and Moorhaven whom God was calling.



Welcome to new members at the Tuesday Morning Bible Study which is held at 20 Grosvenor Court.

We will be starting again on Tuesday 11 September when we will be studying Isaiah. We meet at 10:00 am for coffee, and finish at 11:50 am.

# 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 .



HARVEST SPECIAL  
Tuesday 16 October  
3 course meal for £7  
Menu yet to be decided  
Booking from mid September



EVERYONE WELCOME

IVYBRIDGE CHURCHES TOGETHER

# party in the park

FREE ENTRY

**Victoria Park**

**Sunday 16 September**

10:30 am - Morning Worship

12:30-4:00 pm - Family Party

**Weight Lifting Challenges**

**Tough Talks Challenges**

**Bouncy Castles**

**Live Music**

**BBQ**

(Ivybridge Methodist if bad weather)



07816 910152 - [www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk)

# **TOUGH TALK**

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

## **MEN ONLY EVENT**

When?	Saturday 15 September at 7:00 pm
Where?	Yealmpton Community Association Hall Stray Park, Yealmpton, PL8 2HF
Cost?	£5 - Includes admission and food Pay on the night  Pre-booking advisable with Terry by Thursday 13, if possible please
Contact:	Terry Milam - 07727 266979 terry-milam@tjmilam.com

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

**Service led by  
Rev Mark Lawrence**

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

telephone: 0300 030 9873

email: [communications@mwib.org.uk](mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk)

## Now There Is Nothing

'Kang Ngan isn't sure what a dam is. She doesn't know how old she is, although she thinks "over 30" is a good guess. But she has lived long enough to know that something is terribly wrong along the Sekong River.' So begins an article (read it on the web at [nyti.ms/2viXbRh](https://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/26/world/asia/26laos.html)) in the New York Times.

You may have heard about the collapse of a dam in South-East Laos in late July. Twenty to thirty people lost their lives and as many as 16,000 people were affected. But when a dam fails, where does the water that is released go? Downstream along the river that had been dammed. In this case the river was the Sekong, which flows into Cambodia. Along with the Sesan and Srepok rivers, the Sekong flows through an area which has been called 'a bread basket for over three million people.'

As the waters rose in northern Cambodia, thousands of people had to be evacuated. The government provided noodles and bottles of drinking water, but local officials were too busy with the general election to do much more. The Living Hope in Christ Church in Phnom Penh were willing to go to the flooded area and offer practical and spiritual help to the displaced families, but they had no funds to buy supplies and there was little response to an appeal mounted in the UK by Cambodian Communities out of Crisis for donations to be sent to the church.

The New York Times interviewed Chhum Pang, who thinks she is over 60. "All the plants died. The vegetables that I grow are gone," she said. "I don't know what to do. I'm out of hope now and have only regret."



Will life return to normal? More than 60 dams have been built in the flooded area in the past 25 years, altering water and sediment flows and depleting fish stocks. About 50 more are planned or under construction. Further downstream, a Chinese-funded dam called Lower Sesan 2 has already displaced 5,000 Cambodians and could devastate fish stocks that feed tens of thousands more.

Kang Ngan, a member of the Kavet minority, concludes, "What can we do? We're ethnic. We don't know how to earn money like the Khmer and the Lao. We only know how to farm rice, and now there is nothing."

*Myers Cooper*

## **Bible Fellowship at Bittaford**

will be held at 2:30 pm on  
Thursday 6 September  
and Thursday 20 September.  
These will be led by Rev Mark Lawrence.  
All are welcome.



## **Songs of Freedom Tour**

Hosted by Prison Fellowship the countrywide '**Songs of Freedom**' Tour is a delightful evening of music, song and entertainment by the highly gifted international singer, musician and entertainer **Jonathan Veira**, and we are pleased to announce a memorable one night only visit to the South West on:

**Saturday 2 February 2019**  
**at 7.30pm in Ivybridge Methodist Church**

This may well be some way off at this stage but we'd appreciate it if you could put it in your church diary now so that people will be free to join in on a great night out and consider the possibilities of prison ministry in some way or other.

Tickets cost £10 and will be available online from Prison Fellowship or direct from Rolf and Viv Burnie (working with Prison Fellowship) Tel: 01548 560380 email: [pfk611@gmail.com](mailto:pfk611@gmail.com)

# 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  
**October Newsletter**  
please get them to the Editor by  
**Monday 10 September**  
at the latest please.

**Tel: 01752 894634**  
**email: [contact@jennyhansford.co.uk](mailto:contact@jennyhansford.co.uk)**



Visit our website at  
**[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk)**

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website  
you can do so at [mrmerrit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerrit@icloud.com)