



# IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing Life*  
*Sharing Faith*



December 2017  
January 2018  
Newsletter

## ***Letter from Mark***

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this article Christmas will be fast approaching! The fact that the shops have been displaying tinsel and 'useful present ideas' since October is neither here nor there! I have to confess that I went through a cynical phase about Christmas a few years ago and wished it was like the Olympics and that I only had to put up with it every four years, but I'm through that now!



I love this time of year – a time to focus on the true meaning of it all and to say a big 'Thank You' to our Father God for coming to us in Christ Jesus! This season is pregnant with opportunities as the Virgin Mary might say! We have a lot of extra services which are wonderful for inviting friends, family and neighbours to. You'll see a list of them all on page 5 of this magazine. It is a great time to celebrate life and the Light of the World at this dark time of year. If we believe in Jesus, we have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate. That wonderful prophecy from Isaiah 9 came back to me as I was about to write this article which says, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..."* (Isaiah 9:6)

How amazing is that? God has become a baby - for you and me! He decided that we were worth the time and trouble to come to this sin-stricken and sad world to bring light - to bring wholeness - to bring purpose - to bring His new life - all for those who will receive Him as it says in John 1:12.

I pray that for each one of us this Christmas and in the whole of 2018, for that matter, we will encounter the Mighty Son of God afresh and enjoy the freedom which He alone has won for us. Have a look at the article regarding the new course we're running from the end of January entitled 'Freedom in Christ' (page 14). That is another wonderful reason to celebrate over this festive season and to enjoy His blessing and favour throughout 2018 and beyond.

May God bless you and keep you.

Happy Christmas and a blessed new year to you all.

*Rev Mark*

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

If you would like to include anything in the February Newsletter, please let me have the details by Wednesday 10 January in any of the following ways:-

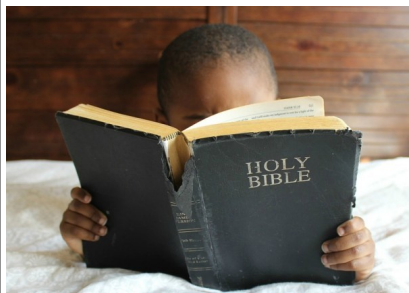
- ♥ send it by email to -  
*contact@jennyhansford.co.uk*
- ♥ ring me on 01752 894634
- ♥ hand it to me at church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "H" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at - 10 MacAndrew Walk, Ivybridge



Finally, I'd just like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and God's blessings for 2018.

*Jenny*

## **Read the Bible in Two Years**



Although reading selected passages of the Bible is great, there is no substitute for reading the whole of Scripture and gaining an overview of all of God's word, but it can seem like a daunting task. If you've ever tried to read the whole Bible in a year you will know that it can be a lot of reading each day.

With that in mind I have created a reading scheme which covers the whole Bible in two years alternating each day between an Old and New Testament reading and is a lot more manageable. If you would be interested in taking up the challenge of reading the whole Bible in two years starting on 1 January then let me know and I will either email the scheme to you or print a copy to give you.

*Carolyn Lawrence*

[markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:markcarolyn1983@gmail.com)

Tel: 01752 651910



# December/January Worship

## **IVYBRIDGE**

Dec 3	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
Dec 10	10:30 am 4:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion Rev Mark Lawrence - Christingle
Dec 17	10:30 am 6:20 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Rev Mark Lawrence - Carol Service
Dec 24	10:30 am  11:15 pm	Mr Paul Courtney & Mrs Carolyn Lawrence - Crib Service Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Dec 31	10:30 am	Mr Mike Cade
Jan 7	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Covenant Service
Jan 14	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
Jan 21	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
Jan 28	10:30 am	Miss Hazel Baker

## **BITTAFORD**

Dec 3	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence
Dec 10	10:30 am	Mr Keith Angilley
Dec 17	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Dec 24	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Carol Service
Dec 31	10:30 am	Mrs Gillian Higgins
Jan 7	10:30 am	Mrs Brenda Youngs
Jan 14	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Jan 21	10:30 am	Mrs Di Smart
Jan 28	10:30 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence

# *Christmas Services*

at

## *Ivybridge Methodist Church*

Come and join us

### **Christingle Service**

Sunday 10 December @ 4:00 pm

*(Please note the Nativity will be held on Christmas Eve - see below)*

### **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 17 December @ 6:30 pm

### **Crib Service and Nativity**

Sunday 24 December @ 10:30 am

### **Carols at Bittaford Chapel**

Sunday 24 December @ 6:30 pm

### **Midnight Communion Service**

Sunday 24 December @ 11:15 pm

### **Christmas Day**

Monday 25 December @ 10:00 am

*A short Family Service to celebrate Jesus' birthday*

### **New Year's Eve Service**

Sunday 31 December @ 10:30 am

*(No Evening Service)*



## **Civic Service Sunday 19 November 2017**

Over 100 people gathered at Ivybridge Methodist Church last month for a Civic Service, which is a tradition for Chairs and Mayors of Council, and to celebrate the community of Ivybridge. The service was attended by Civic leaders from across the area as well as local church and community representatives.

The concept for the occasion came from Councillor Kathy Cuthbert who thought it would be a good idea to gather local people together to recognize and commend all that is good about the community in an act of worship.

Several people took part in the service including Rev Chris Osborne who opened in prayer, Salvation Army Officers, Ian and Ruth Hammond who led prayers for various groups in the town and David Cuthbert who read a Bible passage. Mark gave a message based on the reading, encouraging everyone to love God and love their neighbours, seeking to serve others in all that we do.

Elis Norton gave a summary of the work carried out by the Bridge Project, seeking to help young people out and about on Friday nights in the skate park and an offering was taken to support this vital work (see page 18).

After the service, everyone was invited to stay behind for a wonderful selection of cakes with a cup of tea.

The service was a real success and it is hoped that at some point in the future another similar event may be organised and more local people encouraged to attend.



## Who Made the Clothes You Are Wearing?

When you buy an article of clothing or footwear, do you ever check the label to find out where it was made? The chances are it has come from somewhere in Asia: perhaps China, Bangladesh or even Cambodia.

**Fact:** The EU is Cambodia's largest export market. Within the EU, the country receiving the largest proportion of Cambodia's exports is the United Kingdom.

Recently, a wage settlement was agreed for Cambodian garment workers. From 2018 their salary will increase from US\$153 to US\$170 a month. Yes, your expensive designer clothes could have been made by someone being paid £130 a month, say, 75p an hour.

Most Cambodian garment workers are young, unmarried women who leave their village homes, travel to the outskirts of cities where most factories are located, work long hours of overtime to supplement their meagre wages and send home as much as possible from their earnings to support their families.

Please pray:

- ♥ for workers who travel daily on overloaded trailers to and from their places of work;
- ♥ for women at risk of collapse from exhaustion or exposure to glue fumes in hot, poorly ventilated factories;
- ♥ for better wages and conditions, and for big-name distributors and retailers in the West to press manufacturers for improvements;
- ♥ for churches seeking to reach garment workers with the gospel.

For more information visit [labourbehindthelabel.org](http://labourbehindthelabel.org)

**Another fact:** Agape International Missions (AIM), an organisation that rescues, restores and employs Cambodian victims of trafficking, pays those who work in its garment factories 400% higher wages than the national average, as well as offering medical benefits, childcare, education classes during working hours, a social worker for every employee and optional daily Bible studies. More details in a future newsletter.



*Myers Cooper*



### **World Federation Day**

On Saturday 28 October, around 50 people gathered from across the Connexion at the Side Door Methodist Church, Grimsby to celebrate World Federation Day. The theme was 'Mind the Gap - Gender Equality in the 21st Century', based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5, Gender Equality. This event is held each year on the nearest Saturday to 26 October in different locations around the country to mark the founding of World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW), and in my new role it is my job to lead a task group to organise the day. The WFM&UCW is active in over 70 countries around the world, wherever there are national churches which are affiliated to the World Methodist Council.

We were welcomed by the warm hospitality of a fantastic team at Side Door Methodist Church who couldn't have been more welcoming and helpful and for whom nothing was too much trouble.



The opening worship was led by two of our district Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) reps, and this was followed by a Bible study led by myself, based on a reading from Galatians 3:26-29 on the theme of 'One in Christ'. I spoke about how we find true equality when we discover our true identity in Jesus as beloved and valued children of God.

There followed a keynote speech from Alison Judd, the World President of the WFM&UCW. She spoke about issues of gender inequality in our own country and across the world and shared some of her experiences of her recent visit to Zimbabwe to celebrate 40 years of autonomous mission in the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe.

After lunch, everyone had the opportunity to participate in four different workshops.

- ◆ Rach Collins, presented a workshop on the theme of Female Genital Mutilation. She encouraged those present to write to their MPs to ask for education and awareness of FGM to be part of the school curriculum.



- ◆ Emily Shurmer (our daughter!) from Middle East Media spoke about the work the charity is doing in the Middle East and North Africa using creative media. In culturally appropriate ways they are seeking to raise awareness about child marriages and to encourage the worth and self-esteem of women, helping them to gain confidence and make positive decisions in their lives as they learn about the love of Jesus.



- ◆ A third workshop was delivered by Tim Baker from All We Can, who shared the work that is being done amongst some of the most vulnerable and poverty stricken people in the world. He told the stories of how projects in Cameroon and Zimbabwe are helping women to lift their families out of poverty and giving them dignity and self-worth.
- ◆ The final workshop was led by two local ladies from the North East Lincolnshire Women's Aid, who talked about issues surrounding domestic violence in the UK and how they are working to help women who suffer in this way.

The day concluded with closing worship led by the President of MWiB, Sandra Goodwin, which included prayers of intercession about some of the topics from the day.

Many of those who attended expressed their gratitude for an interesting and inspiring day and lots of ideas about practical ways they can take action and show God's love for all people in this country and across the world.

If you want to find out more about the work of Methodist Women in Britain or the World Federation, please visit our website at [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

*Carolyn*

British Area Officer for WFM&UCW



Saturday 20 January  
'Prayer Day' for our Church and Community  
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

We will be setting up various prayer stations around the church and there will be the option of prayer walking around the village.

# 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 in 2018 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 yet to be arranged but we are looking to hold it in a local pub or café. The cost of the course will be the price of a meal once a month depending on what you choose to eat.

31 January - Building Strong Foundations

28 February - The Art of Communication

28 March - Resolving Conflict

25 April - The Power of Forgiveness

30 May - The Impact of Family – Past and Present

27 June - Good Sex

25 July - Love in Action

The sessions will be run by Mark and Carolyn who have been married for 34 years, have two grown up married daughters and one granddaughter. They have run the Marriage Course several times.

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

[markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:markcarolyn1983@gmail.com)

or

01752 651910.

# New Year's Eve Family Party

**4:00 - 7:00 pm**  
**Sunday 31 December**  
**Ivybridge Methodist Church**

**Bring some food to share**  
**Free, but donations welcome towards Compassion**



**Bouncy castles**  
**Mini disco**  
**Crafts**  
**And more!**



**Bookings, info or offers of help to Sophie Phillips**  
**s\_r\_phillips@hotmail.co.uk, 07730 475 958**

## IMC Youth Work News for this term : The Children becoming youth



God is doing some amazing things with our young people. Although we have more of a younger youth group forming, they will soon be ready for Soul Survivor and our Youth Bible Study. Our older youth attend this group in strong numbers each week and touch and inspire me on a regular

basis with how comfortable they are to invite their friends and share their faith with them.

KidsFest, our after school kids' club, continues to grow and see young people coming from outside the church. One of the mums messaged me to say, *"I find it very hard to get them into any club - I have tried everything going and they are not interested, but they really enjoy Wednesdays, its the only club they have ever wanted to go back to! (One of them) has been to a few different clubs before but the other two have found it really hard (until now). Thank you!"*

Recently I experienced a really special moment at one of our clubs. One of our young people was listening to one of the stories at KidFest and ran over to me *"Phil I've finally got it! I never understood that story before!"* We do urgently need some leaders just to be one on one at this club with a few that find it hard to listen.

We have already started planning this coming year's Beach Party and are really excited about the people we have approached to speak.

All our other groups keep ticking over and lots of young people are hearing the good news of Jesus. I also do assemblies which are amazing opportunities to see 200-300 young people hearing about Jesus.

On 12 and 13 November I attended Youthscape which is the national youth workers' weekend. This was an amazing opportunity to meet other youth workers, grow as a youth worker myself and hear about what God is doing around the UK with our amazing teens.

We do value your prayers as teams are small and sometimes the going is hard. But God is doing some awesome things!



What can you do?

- ◆ Pray for more volunteers
- ◆ Pray for more young people to be saved
- ◆ Pray for the team to keep enthusiastic about this amazing mission.
- ◆ Come on our Youth and Children's work team.
- ◆ If you have any feedback you feel would be helpful to the youth work of our church please share, as we want to see youth and children's work reaching it's full potential in seeing them meet Jesus for themselves.

Please don't hesitate to contact me by Telephone **07816910152**, by email **phil\_blunti4e@hotmail.co.uk**, or at our home address **37 Roberts Road, Barne Barton, Plymouth, PL5 1DL**

*Phil*

## **Mid-week Holy Communion**

### **First Tuesday of each month**

### **1:30-2:00 pm**

### **In the Concourse**

**Service led by**  
**Rev Mark Lawrence**

The menu for our "Beat the Blues" Midwinter Special on 9 January is as follows



#### **Starter**

Flaked mackerel on lettuce with cherry tomatoes  
OR homemade Tomato Soup

#### **Main**

Roast beef etc OR Mushroom Wellington

#### **Dessert**

Luscious Lemon OR Luxury Chocolate.



On Sunday evenings from January we're going to be embarking on an exciting new chapter of discipleship at IMC. We are going to be running the Freedom In Christ course. It is an approach to discipleship that can transform the way we can become fruitful disciples.

### **Why take part in this course?**

The Freedom in Christ course is for every Christian, from those who have been Christians for a long time to those who have only just made that decision, from those who are progressing steadily to those who feel stuck.

It is designed to help you:

**Break through to a greater level of spiritual maturity**

**Uncover any areas of deception holding you back**

**Resolve personal and spiritual conflicts**

**Learn strategies to renew your mind and break free from negative thinking and unhelpful patterns of behaviour**

The course does not focus on how to behave but on how to believe. After all, Christ has already set us free (Galatians 5:1) and given us everything we need (2 Peter 1:3). It's just that sometimes it doesn't feel like it!

Many sense that they have not reached their full potential for God. Perhaps they feel 'stuck' in habitual sin, negative thoughts, fears, unforgiveness or condemnation. Yet they really want to grow and mature. This course will help you grasp the amazing truth of your new identity in Christ, teach you to uncover and resist the enemy's deception, and help you move on. It's not a 'quick fix', but it is likely to revolutionise your Christian life.

### **How can I get the most out of it?**

Do your best to get to each session (see dates and themes below). There is a Participants' Guide (£3.99), as well as recommended reading by Neil Anderson, that reinforces the course, entitled **Victory Over The Darkness** and **The Bondage Breaker**.

Make each session a spiritual priority and ensure you come along to **The Steps To Freedom In Christ Day** on **Saturday 16 June**, which is a kind and gentle



process during which you ask the Holy Spirit to show you any areas of your life where you may need to repent. It has been a life-changing experience for many participants.

All dates are Sundays (except the Steps To Freedom Day) and start at 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm.

**Part A – Key Truths**

29 January	Session 1 - Where did I come from?
4 February	Session 2 - Who am I now?
25 February	Session 3 - Choosing to believe the truth

**Part B – The World, the Flesh and the Devil**

4 March	Session 4 - The World's view of the truth
25 March	Session 5 - Our daily choice
15 April	Session 6 - Demolishing strongholds
29 April	Session 7 - The battle for our minds

**Part C – Breaking the hold of the past**

6 May	Session 8 - Handling emotions well
27 May	Session 9 - Forgiving from the heart

**Part D – Growing as disciples**

3 June	Session 10 - Walking in freedom every day
24 June	Session 11 - Relating to others
1 July	Session 12 - Where are you heading?
15 July	Session 13 - Staying on the right path

It is my prayer that God will continue to move amongst us as we seek to move forward with Him together. Hope to see you all there.

Yours in Christ,  
*Rev Mark*



Do you need a lift to Tuesday Lunches?  
No worries!

The Ring & Ride mini bus will come and pick you up from your own home and take you back again. And all for only £3.00! So don't stay home alone.

Ring: 01752 690444 and come along for a delicious lunch in good company.



# 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 2018

### 5 January

New Year Party

### 19 January

Mercy Ships:

“Bringing hope and healing to the world's poorest”  
with ships engineer Iain Colquhoun

### 2 February

The Devon Air Ambulance  
with Tony Cannon

### 23 February

Myers Cooper tells us about his long  
association with the people of Cambodia

### 9 March

A very special concert  
with the wonderful Flanders and Swan Duo!  
*Please bring your friends.*

*This event will be in aid of a charity nominated by the Duo.*

### 23 March

Desert Island Discs.

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!**



**Residential Weekend**  
**Friday 20 April - Sunday 22 April 2018**

**The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU**

**Cost £170**

## **‘Oceans of justice, rivers of fairness’**

Arrival and registration Friday 4:00 - 6:30 pm  
Programme starts with dinner at 6:45 pm on Friday  
and ends after lunch at 2:00 pm on Sunday

For further enquiries email [swanwick@mwib.org.uk](mailto:swanwick@mwib.org.uk) or ring 0300 030 1517

**All women in sympathy with our aims are welcome at any MWiB event:**

- ♥ bringing women together to know Christ and to make Him known
- ♥ encouraging, equipping and enabling women to serve God in the church,  
the community and the world
- ♥ connecting women in Britain with women worldwide

**The keynote speaker and leader for the weekend will be Rachel Lampard MBE  
Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2016-17**

Speaking to the Conference gathered in London, Rachel Lampard said:  
"We live in a world where we need 'oceans of justice', where in the UK more than  
1 in 4 children live in poverty, and 2 million people die each year because of a lack  
of safe water or sanitation.'

Rachel is Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team and has worked for the Methodist Church as Secretary for Parliamentary and Political Affairs since 2000 with responsibility for the Church's engagement with political issues in a range of areas.

**There will also be a variety of workshops; time to make or renew friendships;  
time to relax together or find quiet space; time to share in conversation and to visit  
the Market Place.**

If you require a crèche or children's programme, please contact the registrar by  
31 January 2018 so that this can be arranged. Reduced rates are available for children.

There is a variety of single and shared accommodation, all with en-suite facilities.

Booking forms available from Carolyn

## Your Local YFC News

I'd like to share an update that I gave about The Bridge Project at the South Hams Civic Service last month that was very kindly held at IMC, and also thank you for your hospitality.



The Bridge Project started three years ago as the Church's response to some of the youth needs in Ivybridge Town Centre. We became aware that, following Government cuts and the subsequent closure of the Youth Centre, there could be a greater possibility that our young people could drift into anti-social behaviour. So, the Salvation Army, the Methodist Church and Youth For Christ decided to get to work with support from Ivybridge Town Council and the local Police.

And now, three years later, a group of 3 or 4 volunteers venture out every Friday night for 9 months of the year to serve free hot chocolate and biscuits to young people at the Skate Park. We finished our season last month, having started in March.

We have 16 people on the rota in all, mostly volunteers, many of whom have been at work during the week and give up their Friday night to care for our young people. And that's the heart of what we do, we care. We care because God cares, and we represent Him. He cares about the things that young people are struggling with and we do it to show them a little of that care.

When Jesus came to Earth, He came to serve and not to be served. We try and do the same, to serve young people a little love and understanding along with the hot chocolate and biscuits.

Many young people face all kinds of challenges in life and many do genuinely struggle to cope, not knowing even if they want to go on living. Anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and such-like are all too commonplace amongst our young people as well as in their family situations.

Some of the young people are encouraged by us to seek help from their GP, Young Devon or other places where they can receive support. On occasions, we have provided additional support outside of the Friday night service at some of our Church based youth groups, but we also see the need for some



young people to be supported regularly in mentoring type relationships and are looking into this. We are also considering whether we can develop the work to cover more weeks of the year.

We finish in November to avoid the harsher weather but we'd very much like to offer something in the Winter months that will provide warmth and shelter to those who want it. This is as well as maintaining the option of having that outside chat on their territory which so many young people currently feel comfortable with.

The Big Red Van that we use to transport our gazebo, refreshments, table and chairs is now very old and very unreliable. We really need to replace it soon and we are aiming long-term for a mobile youth unit of some sort like the one that they use at the Quay in Kingsbridge. We will need around £25k to do this properly and we've already started looking at grants to help. However, this may not be enough and so the offering at the Civic Service was gratefully accepted and will go in a separate Bridge Project account to help towards this goal. We were given £390 at the Civic Service offering which is fantastic. If you would like to support The Bridge Project please label any donations clearly for that account.

We don't charge for our services but on occasion it's been heart-warming to serve young people who have insisted on giving some of their money to help us with our next vehicle.

Thank you for your support, I hope Christmas comes early for our young people and that we reach our goal sooner rather than later. God bless you as you give and thanks again."

With love and prayers,

*Elis Norton*

Director,  
Ivybridge Youth For Christ,  
16 Tom Maddock Gardens,  
Ivybridge, PL21 0WE.

To sign up for our weekly prayer email please contact us on [ivybridge@yfc.co.uk](mailto:ivybridge@yfc.co.uk)

You can also see what we do on [www.yfcivybridge.org.uk](http://www.yfcivybridge.org.uk) and on Facebook as well as ring us on 01752 898546 / 07966 911560



# December News

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

Happy Christmas to you all.

With apologies for the lateness of this first piece of news! Congratulations to James and Rosie Hladkij on the birth of their son Rex Charlie in September. And congratulations also to the proud grandparents, John and Sara.



There are several people with decade birthdays recently, and this month we would like to wish Sue Lawrie a very happy birthday as she celebrates one, and hope you have a lovely day Sue.

Jane Clark also hits a big birthday and hopes to celebrate with a weekend in London - including tea at the Ritz. We hope it's a fabulous weekend Jane and wish you many happy returns with our love.

Another happy birthday wish goes to Barry Jury as he celebrates his 65th birthday on 7 December. Enjoy your day Barry and hope it's a great one.



On 9 December Andrew (Marilyn Davis' son) is marrying his fiancée Emma here at IMC. We wish you both many blessings on your special day and hope it's a day of joy and memories in the making.

Congratulations to the whole Food Bank team who have been awarded the Nick Cummings Community award for their contribution to the people of Ivybridge and surrounding area.



Bon voyage to Matt Hodgson as he sets out on his travels again, this time to Italy. Travel safely Matt and we look forward to hearing about the lovely places you find.

Your prayers would be valued for Jenny Light who is in hospital as this goes to print awaiting investigations and for those awaiting appointments or suffering ongoing health problems. Please also continue to hold Chris Welch and her family in prayer.





## PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER



### **Monday 4 December at 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.

### **Tuesday 5 December - Advent Carol Service at the Church**

Speaker Val Marriot. Followed by tea and mince pies.

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

Carolyn Lawrence

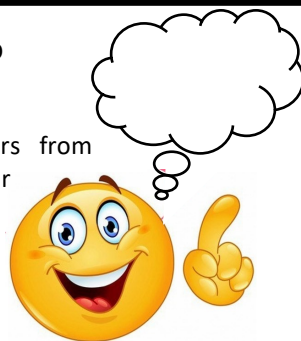
Email: [markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:markcarolyn1983@gmail.com) Tel: 01752 651910

or visit the Ivybridge Methodist Church Website

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

Have you thought of paying a visit to  
Wise and Wonderful?

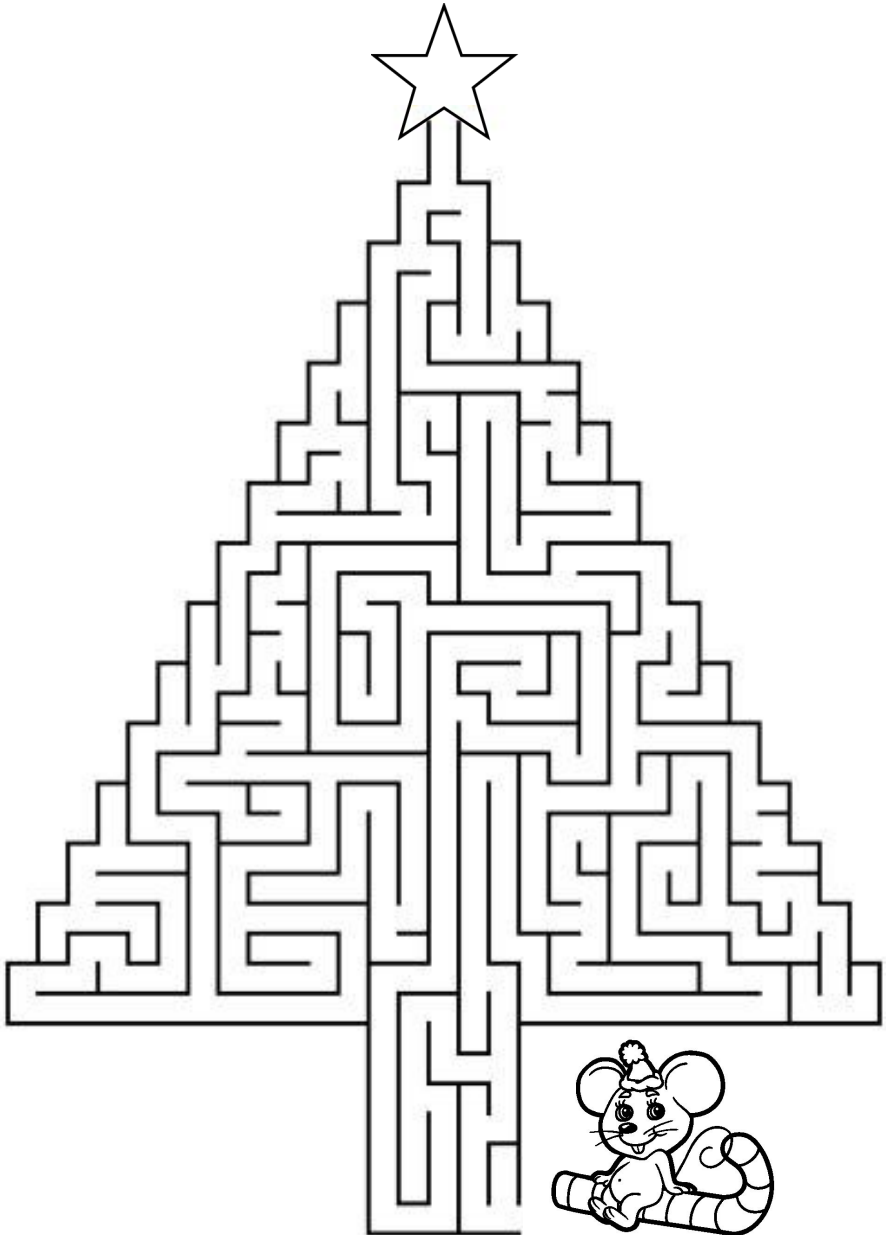
The Spring programme includes three speakers from very different spheres:- Cambodia, the Devon Air Ambulance, and Mercy Ships. And, on 9 March, we are hosting a super duper concert by the amazing Flanders and Swan Duo! Full details are elsewhere in this newsletter - look for the owl.



We are an open fellowship, with a good core of “regulars”, but no formal membership, and we hope you will just drop in when something on the programme interests you. You will be very welcome.

Children -

Can you help Christmas Mouse climb the Christmas Tree and reach the star at the top without crossing any lines?



Hello! Just to let you know that in late January 2018, I will be going to Kenya to volunteer for International Citizen Service. On my placement there I will be working on projects in education, sustainable agriculture and local business development, as well as living with a Christian host family in the town of Machakos. Before I depart I have been set the task of raising £1,500 to go directly to the charity, for which I have signed up to run the Bedford half-marathon in December. I would really appreciate your prayers, as well as your donations to my charity box at the back of the church, or you can donate on my JustGiving page:-



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/meg-gentle1>

Thank you,  
*Meg x*



## TAIZE SERVICE for ADVENT

to be held at St John's Church  
on Sunday 10 December at 5:00 pm  
at the end of the Christmas Tree Festival

## Wishing you all a very happy Christmas

*Jesus, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God  
something to be used to His own  
advantage; rather, He made Himself  
nothing by taking the very nature  
of a servant, being made in human  
likeness.*

Philippians 2:6-7



# Church Contacts



## Minister:

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

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## House Group Information:

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## Youth Work:

Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the  
**February Newsletter**  
please get them to the Editor by  
**Wednesday 10 January**  
at the latest please.

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



Visit our website at  
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If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website  
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