



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



This is real love - not that we loved God,
but that He loved us and sent His Son
as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

February 2018 Newsletter

Letter from Mark

I hope you find this February edition of the IMC magazine inspirational, encouraging and challenging.

I write this article at the beginning of January when everything is restarting after the Christmas/New Year break.



The word the Lord gave me at the beginning of the year was a wonderful word – **restoration!** I am praying into what this means with regard to being a child of God, what this means as a minister and what this means for the churches I oversee.

I know that central to spiritual restoration is a good relationship with our Father God, who is a good, kind, patient, loving, faithful and merciful Heavenly Father.

Central to a good relationship with God is communication with Him - prayer and listening to Him as we read His word and give it time to permeate our being and effect our character and nature. That is why I want to encourage us all to focus on prayer and seeking God together.

By the time this magazine has been published we would have had our day of prayer on Saturday 20 January. I pray that it has been a time when folk encountered God in the busyness of their lives and stopped and listened and obeyed His calling.

Of course, you don't need a special day to do that as we should be endeavouring to live day by day in His presence. However, times of stopping and listening can be so life-changing.

Opposite are words written by those who attended the 24 hour prayer event back in the Autumn which were 'assembled' and put on the prayer tree by Paul and Nic and collated for us by Dawn. I'm grateful to them and all those who wrote on their 'leaves' on the prayer tree their thoughts and words to encourage, inspire and challenge us. Spend a few moments to read, pray and reflect on these words.

With every blessing,

Mark



Prayer Tree 'Words'

I pray that Christ will have His home in your hearts that you have roots and foundations in love , power to understand how broad, long, deep is Christ's Love.

Revive thy work O Lord, now let us thirst for thee
and longing for the bread of life may our spirits be.

Hymn Lyric

Pray that strongholds will continue to be broken in the lives of individuals and relationships built up in the love of God.

For teenagers to find faith and fellowship here.

Draw us together with other churches in Ivybridge as we worship
the same Father God.

Having been firmly rooted, now being built up in Him,
established in your faith, just as you were instructed
and overflowing with gratitude.

Colossians 2:7

More support for mums, widows and single parents.

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back, lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

Isaiah 54:2

Healing ministry to increase sensitive understanding humility

From the Editor ...

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





February Worship

IVYBRIDGE

Feb 4	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Freedom in Christ - Rev Mark Lawrence
Feb 11	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
Feb 18	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Edgar Daniel Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
Feb 25	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Philip Walsh Freedom in Christ - Rev Mark Lawrence

BITTAFORD

Feb 4	10:30 am	Mr Peter Goodfellow
Feb 11	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Feb 18	10:30 am	Miss Sue Bolt
Feb 25	10:30 am	Rev Andrew Day

Speakers for March were not known at the time of going to print

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

The Woman's World day of Prayer

Friday 2 March at IMC - 7:30 pm.

The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Suriname and is entitled "All God's Creation is very good".

Any instrumentalists and/or singers able to join Angela to lead the music please contact her on 895364 or email angb35@talktalk.net



Meg's ICS Trip to Kenya

I would like to thank everyone from IMC who has donated so far! Your money is going towards a fantastic cause, and will bless so many people around the world.

I would especially like to thank my anonymous donator from a Christmas card. I am sorry I cannot thank you personally, but I am truly grateful. Thank you,

Meg^{xxx}



Christmas Collections Update

We are thankful to God and all those who donated to the following appeals as we collected money on behalf of various charities to show His love to others. Here's what was collected and for whom:



Christingle Service – £155.51 for the Open Doors Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon appeal. To find out more information go to <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/fundraise/muskathlon/supporting-syrian-children/>

Carol Service - £412.44 + £30 CAF cheque for All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development fund) Appeal for the Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Myanmar. To find out more information go to <http://allwecan.org.uk/give/current-appeals/rohingya-refugee-crisis-appeal/>

Christmas Day - £278.33 including Christmas Card donations + £20 CAF cheque – split between the Bible Society Appeal to supply Bibles to displaced Iraqi Christians, and Christians Against Poverty in this country. For more information go to: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate/appeals/give-the-bible-to-iraqi-christians/> and <https://capuk.org/about-us/the-cap-story>

Once again thank you so much if you were able to give towards this sums and we pray that every pound given will bless others and make life more bearable for those who suffer.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Lawrence

(On behalf of the IMC Stewards and Finance Team).



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 -

10 February : 10 March : 14 April : 12 May

Africa Gospel & Culture

1-3 June 2018
Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Explore African theology and social and economic issues through stories, art, music and worship

Speakers:

Mrs Mathilda Johnson
Vice President, World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women

Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon
General Secretary, Anglican Communion Office

Book Now!

Booking forms available from Carolyn



Mid-week Holy Communion

First Tuesday of each month

1:30-2:00 pm in the Concourse

Service led by
Rev Mark Lawrence



PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY



The next two sessions in our series - Seasons . Bible based studies helping us to recognise the different spiritual seasons that come and go in life – times of activity and fulfilment as well as times of stillness and rest.

Monday 12 February - 1:30-3:00 pm at IMC

Seasons

Embracing the rhythms of life - Summer

Monday 26 February - 1:30-2:00 pm at IMC

Seasons

Embracing the rhythms of life - Autumn

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

You are invited to a concert by the

Flanders and Swann duo

On Friday 9 March

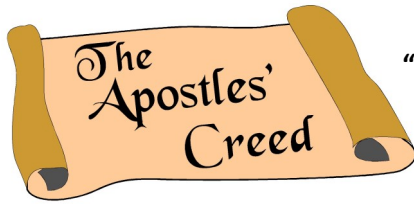
2:30 - 4:00 pm

in IMC Church Hall

Free entry, with donations
invited to a charity
to be nominated by the
Duo.

Event organized by
Wise and Wonderful





Line 10 -

"I believe in the holy catholic church"

What is the holy catholic church and why should we believe in it?

Let us look at those three words to help us understand what the Apostles' Creed is saying to us from the Word of God on which it is based.

Holy : Catholic : Church

1 Holy – What is holy?

Holiness is much mocked and maligned in our cynical society. To be called 'holy' can be an insult meaning you're sanctimonious, judgemental and/or legalistic. A Kill-joy!

But that is not what the Bible says. Far from it. God is holy (Hebrew *Kadosh*) – sacred; set apart; pure; undefiled; clean; free from defilement, profanity, idolatry.

"Who is My equal? Says the Holy One." (Isaiah 40:25)

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God Almighty" (Isaiah 6:3)

And the Holy, Holy, Holy God is looking for a holy people. *"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'"* (Leviticus 19:2)

It's not just an Old Testament thing, there are many references to holy and holiness in the New Testament too.

NT – Greek - *hagiasmos*

Holiness – sanctification – work of the wonderful Holy Spirit – He is Holy too!

"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no-one will see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14)

"It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

(1 Corinthians 1:30)

Holiness is on God's agenda for His people – the Church.

2 Catholic

Catholic does not mean a denomination, but in its truest sense it is speaking about the whole true church (the Church Universal) made up of those who are born-again believers, the saints, which the Creed mentions later. There are many human institutions which claim to be church but are not. I've spoken about this before. There is the true Church – the real Body of Christ, and there



is another one - the **apostate church**, that which pretends to be church, but isn't; that which claims allegiance to God, but is more interested in the world and the flesh. It seeks to infiltrate and soil the holiness, devotion and allegiance of the saints of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, but is false, counterfeit and a cheap imitation, not the pure bride of Christ, but a harlot in a bride's dress.

3 Church

In these last days we must be on our guard dear friends. We really need discernment of spirits, which is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10)

I read the other day from 2 Corinthians 11:4 where Paul wrote to the new Greek church – *“For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.”*

Different Jesus : Different spirit : Different gospel

This is Paul writing only a few decades after the real Jesus has ascended into heaven. This letter could have been written as early as AD55, and counterfeits were already there! Even more so 21 centuries later!

So the big question is - How can we discern what is true and what is false? There is no easy answer. In Hebrews we are told, *“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”* (Hebrews 5:14)

Sound doctrine! This is reading, knowing, believing and obeying the Word of God! No short-cuts – no easy answers – a lifestyle of seeking and surrendering to the Holy Spirit. Regular, systematic study of the Bible – reading, rereading and reading again – all of Scripture! We need a hunger for God and His Holy word.

The Apostle Paul writing in 1 Timothy 1:3-11 to a young pastor Timothy says, There are many voices saying many things contrary to the word of God. However, if our desire is to truly love God, to bring Him glory, to love His Only Begotten Son (which includes His Body – the Church) and to be open to His wonderful Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Truth – He will keep and guide us.

Love for Him is the key – that is why Paul says in verse 5 - *“The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith”.*



As we read earlier this flows from seeking to advance the work of God. What we believe affects who we are, that is why the Apostle Paul goes on to say later in the same letter to Timothy - *"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."* (1 Timothy 4:16)

During my ministry I have always tried to encourage individual believers to be part of their local church and to serve the Lord Jesus through the local expression of His body. For various reasons some have chosen to 'go it alone'. A few have had legitimate reasons, because they have been badly hurt by supposed Christians or genuine ones who are rude and ignorant!

I met with a local pastor the other day and we were talking about various attacks to our faith. The greatest (sadly) comes from those of our own number, who have turned on their leaders with cold, merciless, murderous, hatred and utter disdain for the one who is trying to lead them in holiness and truth. I commented that the most vicious spirits of all are the unclean religious ones who occasionally manifest through church folk. The devil loves nothing more than for Christians to be fighting with Christians.

However, some use this as an excuse not to bother with being in fellowship – this is dangerous and counter-productive. The devil's strategy is to divide and conquer. The truth is that we cannot be right with the real Jesus Christ if we are not an active part of His body. You cannot love Jesus and not love His Body - the Church.

As divided and messed up, in places, it is – it is still the Body of Christ, here on earth. We are the Body of Christ! We're either part of the problem or part of the answer! It's our choice!

That is why this line is an essential part of the Apostles' Creed – and not just an afterthought or additional add-on. Part of true doctrinally-pure, Christ-centred, Holy Spirit-led, whole-life discipleship is expressed through our belonging to God and to one another as the Holy, Universal Church. That is why I'm trying to encourage as many as possible here at IMC to become full members – an intentional act of saying – I'm in! I'm with you! I'm standing up to be counted as part of this Church, which genuinely seeks and is part of the true global Body of Christ –the holy, catholic church – by doctrine and by a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith.

"I believe in the holy, catholic church."

Amen.

Where to find comfort in the Psalms

When you feel abandoned - ***Psalms 10***

When your world seems to be falling apart - ***Psalms 46***

When you are afraid - ***Psalms 23 and 91***

When you feel guilty - ***Psalms 51***

When your family gets on your nerves - ***Psalms 127 and 128***

When you are facing a daunting challenge - ***Psalms 27***

When you are discouraged by the apparent prosperity of the wicked -
Psalms 37 and 73

When you do not feel very thankful - ***Psalms 107***

When you feel as though God has forgotten you - ***Psalms 139***

When you are tempted to lose faith in God - ***Psalms 62***

When you have lost your eternal perspective - ***Psalms 90***

When you feel like you are barely hanging on - ***Psalms 86***

When you are wondering what God expects - ***Psalms 15***

When you want to know God better - ***Psalms 42 and 63***

When you need to be reminded of the goodness of God - ***Psalms 103***

When you need to recommit yourself to serving God - ***Psalms 116***

When you need wisdom - ***Psalms 119***

When you need a reminder of God's mercy - ***Psalms 136***

When you feel like celebrating - ***Psalms 95-100***



Lethal Legacy of Vietnam War Still Blights Cambodia



Fact: More than 40 years after the end of the Vietnam war, chemical bombs dropped by the United States on Cambodia are still being exposed and adversely affecting the health of Cambodian villagers.

Between March 1969 and May 1970, the United States carried out a covert bombing campaign over areas of Cambodia bordering Vietnam in an attempt to destroy sanctuaries and base areas of the People's Army of Vietnam and forces of the Viet Cong, which utilised them for resupply, training and resting between campaigns across the border in South Vietnam. This was followed between May 1970 and August 1973 by a wider bombing campaign covering most of the eastern half of Cambodia. It has been claimed that between 1965 and 1973, the United States dropped about 2.7 million tons of explosives on 113,716 locations in Cambodia (the Allies dropped just over 2 million tons of bombs during all of World War II). There were perhaps 50,000 to 150,000 civilian casualties.

Now, after lying buried for four decades, chemical bombs are still coming to the surface. According to the Cambodian Foreign Ministry, there are 34 locations known to contain chemical barrel bombs throughout the country. In December 2017, Cambodia called in experts from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to analyse the bombs. They confirmed that the barrel bombs were chemical weapons but have not yet identified the exact type.

In one location where bombs were found, 32 Cambodian villagers were hospitalised with skin and respiratory complaints which could have been caused by exposure to CS gas. The Ministry of Health announced that three children in the bomb-affected areas had been born with defects, though the US embassy rejected claims that bombs containing CS gas could have been a cause.



Please pray:

- for the identification and clearance of all remaining bombs, whether chemical or high explosive;
- for the recovery of those whose health has been affected;
- that chemical weapons may never again be used in Cambodia.

Myers Cooper



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

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. (See page 7)

23 March

Desert Island Discs.

Our Summer Programme will start on 13 April

Please contact one of us for more information:

Val 893614

Sara 894198

Judy 894829

Sue 896444

Christine and David 892858

We are an open fellowship and all are welcome!



February News

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

Welcome back to the news spot and we trust the start to the new year has been a good one.

Belated news which just missed the last newsletter is that Ari Benjamin Bale was born in November and we send many congratulations to Rebecca, Simeon and Ezra, who seems to enjoy having a baby brother. We wish you all well, many good nights sleep and we look forward to watching Ari grow in the months and years to come.



We are delighted to announce that before Christmas Rachel Ion became engaged to Alan Davis. Their wedding is planned for September and we send our love and best wishes to you both as you work through all the planning for your wedding and your future life together.

We send very happy birthday wishes to Sharon Walling as she celebrated a big birthday in January. We understand she is celebrating with a special family holiday and we hope all goes well and the time is enjoyed by you all. Many happy returns Sharon.



More recently Kate Duckering celebrated her 60th and much to her delight retired from her post at Torbay Hospital the day after her birthday. Kate we hope you had wonderful birthday celebrations and that you settle into the next phase of life well and happily. Many happy returns.

Several of our friends in church are going through some tough times health wise just at the moment and it would be great if you can pray for them for peace and healing.





Methodist Women
in Britain

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 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

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

March Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Saturday 10 February

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