

April 2018

Vewsletter

Letter from Mark

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By the time you read this article 'Easter' will be upon us or already have passed! Either way, it is an on-going truth which we can fully embrace whatever time of year as we are Resurrection People, if we've fully renounced our sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ — who alone is the Resurrection and the Life!



Like life itself the events of Holy Week, with the growing sense of foreboding and testing, apparent defeat and failure, give way to the greatest victory the world has even seen – through Christ! The final enemy is totally defeated and crushed forever more. This victory was a tremendous cost to God. He was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, His Own Son, His Own flesh and blood. He was in Christ, God's word says. He didn't send His Son off to do His dirty work for Him, but was there at the Cross of Calvary. He took our sin, so that we, by His grace working through faith, won't have to suffer the righteous consequences of our sin. He became sin for us, so that we might become His holy children.

There is a growing trend in some places to bypass Good Friday. Many go to services on Palm Sunday and then rock up on 'Easter' Sunday for the further celebrations. That's great, but you can't have the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus without the cross. He didn't ride on His donkey to the empty tomb on the Resurrection Day — He had to go via Gethsemane and then to the mock trial, then to the Roman flogging and then to the humiliation of the cross. There was no convenient spiritual bypass for Him. There was no express check-out, He willingly went through the whole process of redemption in order that the Bible prophecies would be fulfilled and so that the will of His Loving Heavenly Father would be completely satisfied. Through His obedience we can be completely made free to enjoy an unhindered relationship with the Holy God who made us. What an amazing God we have! This is unlike any other so-called 'god' or religious system. We don't need another man-made religious system — we need a Saviour and He is fully revealed in the One who is Truth, Life and the only Way — Jesus Christ.

May God grant you faith to accept, follow and obey Him – whatever the season.

Rev Mark



April Worship

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Apr 1	10:30 am 6:30 pm	EASTER SUNDAY Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
Apr 8	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Phillip Walsh Songs of Praise (<i>Incorrect in last Newsletter</i>)
Apr 15	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion Freedom in Christ
Apr 22	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Paul Courtney Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
Apr 29	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Andrew Day Freedom in Christ
May 6	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion Freedom in Christ
May 13	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Miss Hazel Baker ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
		<u>BITTAFORD</u>
Apr 1	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Apr 8	10:30 am	To be arranged
Apr 15	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs
Apr 22	10:30 am	Miss Sue Bolt
Apr 29	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
May 6	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs
May 13	10:30 am	Rev Donna Leigh

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

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the May Newsletter, please let me have the details by Tuesday 10 April 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



Methodist Women in Britain Plymouth & Exeter District Annual Event

Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15 November 2018 at Sidholme Hotel, Sidmouth

Leader: Mrs Carolyn Lawrence

Subject: 'Chosen People, Called to Proclaim'

There are still a few places on this conference, so if anyone is interested, contact Carolyn for a booking form.

She'd be delighted to have some of my family with her.

Important Notice regarding your Newsletter!

Vewsletter

Although every effort is made to get your newsletter to you as quickly as possible, there are times when circumstances beyond our control mean that you don't get it as soon as we would hope. Consequently sometimes you don't get to see notifications of events in time, and for this we apologise.

Therefore, to those of you who place a notice of an

event in the newsletter ... please could you try and get it in the previous month's edition so that no matter when people receive their copy they will always know well in advance when events are going to take place. Please be aware that to do this will require extremely good forward planning on your part because you will need to get your notification to our Editor at least two months in advance. For example, if your event is due to take place in July, you will need to get your notification to Jenny by **10 May** in order for it to get into the June edition. Please also be aware that there are occasions when there is a double month edition of the newsletter, and then you will need to get your notification in three months in advance if at all possible.

Currently we delay placing the newsletters in church until the Pastoral Visitors have had a chance to deliver a copy to each person on their list, but this means that if a visitor or someone new comes to IMC on the first Sunday of the month, there are no current newsletters available for them to have. We are therefore planning to change this by getting the newsletters into the church on the first Sunday of the month.

It can be very tempting to grab yourself a copy when you see them there, but could we ask that if you usually receive yours through your Pastoral Visitor please be patient and wait for your copy as usual. If however you do need to pick one up from church early, please let your Pastoral Visitor know that you already have a copy when they come to deliver yours so they don't give you a duplicate, or if you don't see them please bring the duplicate back to church and place it on the stand with the others so that someone else can have it. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please talk to Carolyn or Jenny.

Don't forget that your newsletter is available on the church website even before it goes to the printers and in full colour, so you can always check it out really early at www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk!

Report on South Africa

Our visit to South Africa came about because as the British Officer for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, I was offered a trip on behalf of the British Methodist Church at some point in my five year appointment.

I had begun to correspond with one of our Mission Partners, Rev Jane Day, and was interested particularly in the leadership programme for women she had instigated, so myself and Rachel, our young women's rep for MWiB arranged to visit to find out more about it. Jane's husband Steve, is also a minister so Mark came too and while Rachel and I accompanied Jane and worked with her, Mark worked alongside Steve in his ministry.

It was great to be welcomed into their home and to find out about their life in South Africa as well as some of the issues facing them and the nation.







We began the week by taking an open top bus tour of Johannesburg which was a great way to gain an overview of the city. We could have hopped on and off all day but we only stopped at two places — Constitution Hill and the Transnet Building to get a view of Jo'Burg from above. Jo'Burg has several names but the one we kept hearing was 'City of Gold' because it developed around a gold rush in 1886.

We also paid a visit to the apartheid museum where we learned about the history of South Africa and some of the suffering, heroism and tragedy of the apartheid years as well as the signs of hope for the future of the nation.

The main reason we were visiting South Africa was to find out about Magnify, the women in leadership programme, written and delivered by Rev Jane Day. The programme aims to equip, encourage and empower women to serve God wherever they are in God's mission. Rachel and I attended a 'Magnify' day exploring spirituality, which was held at a wonderful retreat centre set in beautiful gardens.







We read some of the amazing stories of women who have done the course and have been enabled to realise their worth to God and how He has gifted them and gone on to do some amazing things in a leadership role. Another thing that was inspiring for us was that in a nation where there is still a lot of segregation and division, even sometimes in the churches, that the Magnify programme is pulling together women of all backgrounds, races and nationalities in a common bond of sisterhood that must surely put a smile on God's face.

Mark and I both had the privilege of preaching in two different townships on the Sunday morning and it was very humbling to be welcomed into churches where Europeans would never usually visit. We both enjoyed the joy and exuberance of the African worship and the warm welcome we received.





Mark also enjoyed his visit to one of the local prisons where he was able to share in prayer and Bible study with some of the inmates who were hungry to know more of God's word.

During the week we also engaged in leading devotions and prayers in various places and also enjoyed a meal and Bible study with a group of Zimbabweans who had moved to South Africa seeking work.

We came away from this week feeling we had really engaged with the people and the nation of South Africa and blessed by all the encounters we had. Everyone kept asking if we were going to visit Cape Town and the safari parks



but this trip was about meeting the locals, learning about their lives and culture and ministering to and with our South African brothers and sisters so the tourist trip will have to wait for another time!!

If you want to read a bit more detail then go to my blog at www.carolynlawrence.blogspot.co.uk

If you want to pray for South Africa here are some pointers (some of this is based on information from Operation World) -

- ▼ New President Cyril Ramaphosa that he will deal with corruption in the Government and lead with integrity and wisdom.
- ♥ High crime rates fuelled by poverty, desperation, lack of justice and illegal firearms – pray for the police, those working with children and young people at risk, the jobless, prisoners and the hopeless and desperate.
- Continued legacy of apartheid inequality, poverty, racism.
- For the church to lead the way in unity and reconciliation.
- ▼ The nation is 75% Christian so pray that the believers will unite to seek to address injustice and poverty.
- ♥ Pray for healing and unity especially where some Christians were seen as slow to denounce apartheid and divisions remain.
- Pray for the refugees and migrants living in or travelling through South Africa and those who seek to help them.

Carolyn Lawrence



Work Days are normally held on the second Saturday of the month from 9:30 am onwards, but please note the changes in the dates for the next two months.

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 -

7 April (the first Saturday of the month) **19 May** (the third Saturday of the month)



APRIL - JULY 2018

Monday Afternoon Bible Studies 1:30-3:00 pm in the Concourse All women welcome

This term we will be looking at the book of Acts and thinking about mission.

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

23 April

Understanding the change

14 May

The nature of the change

11 June

Your change

25 June

Change in your community

9 July

The sound of change

23 July

The power for change

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

Carolyn Lawrence

Email: markcarolyn1983@gmail.com

Tel: 01752 651910

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

www.mwib.org.uk



Spirit-healing Scripture Prescription

Here are 21 different verses from the truth of God's word, which will help you improve your spiritual wellbeing and take control over your thoughts and feelings.



Try this prescription: Read, pray, think about and, if possible, memorise each one and take 3 times a day for a week (hence 21!) and continue if necessary. Take them – morning, noon and at night (before you go to bed). Memorise them, if you can, so you can put them in your head and recall them when bad thoughts come, if not keep this sheet handy.

- "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- Jesus says, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)
- 3. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18)
- 4. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1)
- 5. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is His good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)
- 6. If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)
- 7. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.(1 John 1:9)
- 8. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)
- 9. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)
- 10. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world". (John 9:5)
- 11. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)



- 12. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die (John 11:25)
- 13. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)
- 14. The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour. (Isaiah 61:1-3)
- 15. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)
- 16. "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). (Matthew 1:23)
- 17. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. (Revelation 3:20)
- 18. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:4)
- 19. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)
- Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13)
- 21. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

If you would like further help please contact Rev Mark Lawrence.

Telephone 01752-651910 Mobile 0752 779 6319

mail revmark@live.co.uk

Compiled by Rev Mark Lawrence 06.03.18 – Version 3



April 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 to Spring - well we can but hope!! We hope you all survived the snow without too many worries and we really do look forward to all that the post Easter season has to offer us.



Apologies for taking a month off Roy Davis's life by giving him a birthday in March instead of April! Roy we really hope you enjoy your real birthday this month.

Belated congratulations to Vic and Geraldine Abbot who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary last month. We hope you had a very special day.



It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of some of our friends. Our warmest love and deepest sympathy go to the families of Chris Welch, Bill Blackett and Les Horne at this very sad time.

It was a real privilege to share in the thanksgiving service for "a life well lived" by Chris. We will miss her, but we know she is now with her Lord.

Bill died shortly after suffering a severe stroke and his family were with him. Isabel and Rachel both live near Saffron Waldron and Bill had moved to be nearer them. Bill was a very important part of the growth of IMC in the early days and we remember him with great fondness.

Some will also remember Les Horne who attended IMC before his move to Windward nursing home some time ago. Sadly he has passed away and his funeral service was at the end of March. He was faithfully visited by Sally and others and to them we send our sympathy as they feel his loss.





By the time this goes to print Linnie Davis will have been into hospital, had an operation on her knee and be back home again. That's the hope and the plan and, Linnie, we wish you all the best and know we will be praying for you during this time.

Jenny Hansford will also be going in for her second knee operation at the end of the month, and we will be praying for you too, Jenny, that all goes well with the operation and your recovery.

Joyce Elliott is still poorly and we would ask for prayers for her along with Kathy Hayes and all those undergoing tests and procedures at the moment.



Please continue to pray for Kirsty and Nikolas Blackwood as Kirsty is still in temporary accommodation sharing with another girl, awaiting suitable permanent housing.

We still love to hear YOUR news, and sometimes our antennae aren't strong enough to pick it all up! So please, to ensure we don't miss anything, email Val or Judy on valmarriott@hotmail.com so, as a church family, we can keep up with what is happening in your life!

Ladies, don't forget the Stilettos Conference at the end of this month - Saturday 28 April, at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall.

Since I wrote to you in last month's newsletter I have received notification that I will be having my second knee operation just a week before this conference so sadly

this year I will not now be able to join you. As you can imagine I am very disappointed to be missing out, and cannot recommend this event highly enough, so please don't you miss out!

I am really sorry that I'm afraid I will not now be able to organise tickets either, but you can get your own ticket by going online to stilettosconference com

going online to <u>stilettosconference.com</u> Please, please ladies, don't miss out—get your ticket now!

Jenny Hansford

Stilettos





Fiona and David Ion and family would like to thank you all for your prayers, love and support during a difficult time. God always has an answer for us - His plan.

Rachel is delighted to have her first post as Consultant Obstetrician at Southmead Hospital Bristol.

PLEASE READ: IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Car Parking

You will be aware that we have been very fortunate in being allowed to park for many years in the Highlands Surgery car park

on Sunday mornings. This naturally is extremely convenient as other available car parks either require a charge or a long walk.

However, unfortunately we are not all parking in accordance with the requirements of the Doctors and this has been highlighted to us. The following therefore needs to be strictly applied when parking in the car park on Sunday and at any other time.

- Please only park in the designated spaces on the left hand side.
- ♦ There are some spaces indicated as staff parking and with hatching. It is ok to park here on Sunday mornings/evenings.
- Please do not park at any time in the space marked 'Doctor on Call'.
- Please do not park on the double yellow lines up the right hand side or on the curbs, the latter are being damaged by parking.
- There are disabled spaces immediately on the left after entering the car park.
- Please do not park in this car park during the day on weekdays, unless visiting the surgery.

We are also able to park there on Saturdays and in the evenings during the week, but only after surgery hours, and on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings late night surgery finishes at 8:00 pm. Please abide by the above guidelines.

It is unfortunate that we have to be reminded of these points, but there is a danger that **if we abuse it we might lose what is a real benefit**. It has been

mentioned that we often see random cars parked there also, which is nothing to do with the Church and this has been highlighted to the surgery.

Many thanks for reading this.

David Bithell

Steward





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



Summer2018

April 13

Welcome to The Little Screen Wise and Wonderful's own cinema!

April 27

"The Pilgrim Fathers, then and now"

May 11

A visit from the Newton and Noss WI choir

May 25

Sandra Dudley talks about the world of amateur dramatics

<u>June 15</u>

Cream tea at the Manse by kind invitation of Mark and Carolyn

June 29

Annual outing! Where this year? ... TBC.

July 13

Favourite things: stories, poems, memories and memorabilia

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 and all are welcome!

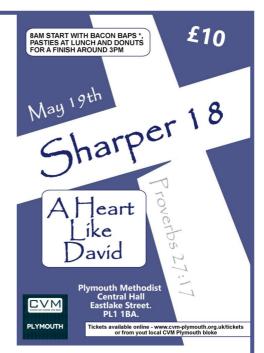
Calling all men!

The ladies have their "Stilettos", Conference, but do not despair, we have our own conference too

Sharper 18!

What is Sharper? This is an annual men's conference put on by CVM Plymouth. It's a fantastic day of men's ministry, great speakers, bacon rolls and pasties, games and worship all for just £10!

A real empowering day for men at all stages of life. This year we will be looking at King David and lessons Christian men can learn from his life.



Why Sharper?

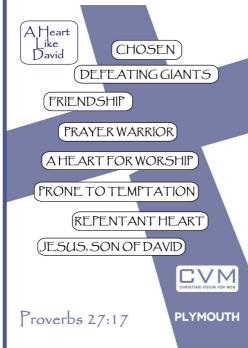
This group is based on the biblical principle of Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

This year's Sharper Conference will be held on Saturday 19 May from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall.

We really hope you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you.

Tickets from www.cvm-plymouth.org.uk/ tickets

or contact Chris Crouch 07917 766733



Songs of Fraise

Sunday 8 April 2018

at 6:00 pm

Accompanied on the organ by Phillip Squire with Neil Bailey and Carla Patrick

Your favourite Hymns and Songs in café style worship with coffee/tea and cakes.

If you can bring a cake or biscuits that would be great.

Look forward to seeing you.

Religious Freedom in Cambodia

This month's fact: Article 43 of the Constitution of Cambodia states that "Freedom of belief and religious practice shall be guaranteed by the State, provided that such freedom and religious practice do not impinge on other beliefs or religions, on public order and security."

The law requires all religious groups to register with the Ministry of Cults and Religions. Groups must inform the government of the goals of their organisation, describe its activities, provide biographical information on all leaders, describe funding sources, commit to submitting annual reports detailing all activities, and refrain from insulting other religious groups, fomenting disputes, or undermining national security. Registration requires approvals from numerous local, provincial and national government offices, a process which can take up to 90 days.

The establishment of a 'place of worship' requires that the founders own the structure and the land on which it is located. The building must have a minimum capacity of 200 persons, and the permit application requires the support of at least 100 congregants. By contrast, an 'office of prayer' may be located in a rented property and has no minimum capacity requirement. The permit application for an office of prayer requires the support of at least 25 congregants. Places of worship must be located at least two kilometres from each other.



'Preaching the gospel at a rural primary school in Cambodia'



In 2016, the Ratanakiri provincial government dispersed a group of approximately 50 ethnic minority Jarai Christians who had gathered for a Bible study session, saying they had not obtained proper permission from the local authorities. Soon afterwards, provincial police briefly detained three ethnic Jarai and ordered them to delete photographs of prayer meetings stored on their phones. Local media reported that authorities broke up the gatherings because of fears the group was focusing on political issues.

Please pray:

- for the preservation of religious freedom in Cambodia;
- for church leaders who have to deal with bureaucratic procedures and local officials demanding bribes;
- for an open door for the gospel in schools and village gatherings;
- for freedom from harassment;
- for the light of Cambodian Christians to shine before others, that they may see their good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5: 16).

Myers Cooper



Advance Notice!

Tuesday 1 May at 7:30 pm at the Manse



We are hosting a meeting for anyone on the
Prayer Ministry Team
and anyone who is interested in becoming a part of the team.



HELP NEEDED PLEASE!

Tuesday Lunches needs someone to wait on tables between 12:00 and 2:00 pm. If you feel led to help in this way, please speak to Pam Montgomery, Sara Hladkij or Mercy Matthews; or call in at the Café and speak to Christine.

Thank you.

Church Contacts

Minister:

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

Senior Steward:



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

May Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

<u>Tuesday 10 April</u>

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