



# IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

**Sharing Life**  
*Sharing Faith*



"If God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and  
thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you."

Luke 12:28

# March 2018 Newsletter

## ***Letter from Carolyn***

As I write this article, Mark and I are preparing for a visit to South Africa to stay with two of our Methodist Mission Partners, Steve and Jane, both ministers, who live and work close to Johannesburg. I am going on behalf of the World Methodist Church and Methodist Women in Britain to visit



and get involved with some of the women's projects there and also to engage with the local church fellowships, many of whom are made up of refugees from many countries, especially Zimbabwe. While I work alongside Jane, Mark will work with Steve and in true African style we are preparing to be very flexible about what we actually do while we are there and are ready for anything!

I read an article in the January Christianity Magazine entitled, 'The short term mission trip that changed my life.' Four people tell their stories about how going on mission overseas changed everything for them, altering their attitudes, values and for some the course of their careers.

We first experienced short term mission overseas back in 2005 when we had the privilege of visiting a church connected to our own fellowship in Romania. I still remember the shock of meeting people living in extreme poverty and yet showing us generous hospitality. In the years following we were able to experience short term mission trips to Kenya, India and other places and these trips helped form the basis of our call to overseas work which led to us spending a year in South America. We still have a passion for the great commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:18–20 -

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Meeting and ministering with and to people from other countries and cultures in their own environment is a powerful antidote to the prevailing culture of our society which promotes self-interest, consumerism and the pursuit of pleasure and comfort. We can learn so much from our Christian brothers and sisters who have nothing materially and yet know the deep



riches of a close walk with Jesus. People who know a deep inner joy despite outwardly difficult circumstances; those who have to rely on Him day by day to meet their every need and yet cause us to be humbled by their extravagant generosity. Once you have experienced that, you can never be the same person again.

Not many are called to long term service overseas, but many people can experience the joy of a short term visit. Mark and I are planning to organise a trip, possibly to Kenya, for a week next February and we would like a group of you to come with us. We have a friend who is a pastor near Kisumu with whom we have worked several times before, and he is willing to help us organise this and engage whoever comes in working in the local church and community. We will also try to make contact with Compassion in Kisumu and find out if we can visit the child sponsorship project there. Please pray about whether God is calling you to come with us and if He is, that He will provide the necessary resources to enable you to do that and begin saving up. If you are able to come I promise you will never be the same again.

If you are not able to come, but have resources, why not sponsor someone else to go? You can also become more aware of the wider church and other cultures by subscribing to a charity working overseas such as MAF, All We Can or Compassion and by signing up to some of our Mission Partners' mailing lists on the World Church Relations page of the Methodist Church website.

In addition, if you are going on holiday abroad this year, why not engage with the local culture and search out a local church and join them for worship. We always try our utmost to find a local expression of church wherever we go, by researching it online before we travel. We have had some of the most wonderful experiences even on holiday just by sharing worship with other believers, even if we haven't understood a word, and have been an encouragement to the believers in different places just by seeking them out.

Another resource which has helped shape our world view is a book called 'Operation World.' This is a massive resource, printed only once about every 10 years and it covers every nation in the world telling you facts and figures about each nation and also answers to prayer and pointers for prayer. There is a website with regular updates too. We would really recommend every home having a copy of this – then whenever you hear about a story on the news you can look up the country concerned and it really helps to focus your prayers in a meaningful way. As our children were growing up it also helped us give them a wider world view by enabling us to explain how life is in different parts of the world.



So my encouragement to you as you read this, is to lift up your head, look around you and discover what is going on in the wider world. Become aware of the issues and joys experienced by your brothers and sisters in other nations and cultures. Email or talk to us if you would like to talk more about coming to Kenya - your life will never be the same again!

*Carolyn Lawrence*

[Markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:Markcarolyn1983@gmail.com)



Me with some excited orphans in Kenya in 2009



Mark and I with our friend Pastor Paul (and a random child!) when he came to visit us in Uganda in 2016.

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

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

- ♥ send it by email to -  
*[contact@jennyhansford.co.uk](mailto: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*



# March Worship

## **IVYBRIDGE**

Mar 4	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Freedom in Christ - Rev Mark Lawrence
Mar 11	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
Mar 18	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence Prayer Service - Mrs Gill Cowsill
Mar 25	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Freedom in Christ - Rev Mark Lawrence

Apr 1

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

10:30 am  
6:30 pm  
Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion  
ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney

Apr 8

10:30 am  
6:30 pm  
Dr Phillip Walsh  
Freedom in Christ - Rev Mark Lawrence

## **BITTAFORD**

Mar 4	10:30 am	Mrs Brenda Youngs
Mar 11	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Mar 18	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
Mar 25	10:30 am	Middleton
Apr 1		<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
Apr 8	10:30 am	To be arranged

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

# IMC Youth Work

## News for this term :

### New term new opportunities



Hi Church

**Thankyou** to all who read this section. We value your support and prayer greatly for this challenging but life transformational work God has called us to.

In this report I would like to tell you a bit about what we have been up to, but also introduce some awesome new initiatives this year.

Firstly, we had a great December with loads of Christmas Parties as well as smaller events like making sweets at Tony's house. At the KidsFest Party we had 21 children, most unchurched. It was lovely to see them and share this amazing story of Christmas with them. No matter how many times we tell it there is always something new.

With Kingdom Kids on Sunday we have started a new syllabus which the young people are really enjoying and we are seeing them getting enthused in their faith. We even had a younger child wanting to join us to make our lighthouses.



This report would go on forever if I went though all eight groups I am involved within the week! Although the work is hard sometimes, it is always worth it when you see children and young people getting to know Jesus for themselves.

#### NEW YEAR PLAN

So in the new year we are making quite a few changes. Our Bible Study group is changing its name to **Youth Fellowship** to encourage people who don't understand what Bible Study is to try it out and see what they can learn. With this group I believe God is calling us to look out, so we have started **#plusONE** events in the term where young people who are unsure about a bible group but are keen to meet new people, have some fun and get to know



us as leaders as well. These evenings will be easily accessible with events like **Bowling, Inflata-nights, and Pancake Pictionary!** We hope that through these events we can love some of them into the kingdom. Please do pray that through these, young people will start to understand Jesus for themselves. Also, do invite any of your young people who don't usually buy into the church groups as this could be a group that's just right for them. (See flyer on page 19)

### **THE SOLARFLARE BEACH PARTY**

We have a date! It is **29 June, 6:30 - 9:30 pm**. We are still confirming finer details and will get them to you ASAP. If you feel you could be part of the setup, pack down or event team we would love to hear from you.

### **Personal note!**

Some of you have heard, we are super excited to be expecting a baby on 19 June, but this will mean Becky will not be able to volunteer for Monday Youth Fellowship, so if you fancy being involved with that we would love to hear from you.

### **Prayer points:**

- ♥ Another female leader for Youth Fellowship by June;
- ♥ The Beach Party plans to come into place and that there will be fantastic weather on 29 June;
- ♥ More female leaders across all groups;
- ♥ The Children and Young People will grow in their faith and share it with their friends;
- ♥ New Children and Young People will start a personal relationship with Jesus.

*Phil Blunt*

## **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](mailto:angb35@talktalk.net)





# March News

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

Congratulations are on the agenda this month.

Firstly to Christine and Brian Treharne as they celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on the 2 March. It really doesn't seem that long ago we were sharing cake to mark their 50th - but we all agree that time does fly, don't we?! Chris and Brain, we hope you have wonderful celebrations with the family and our love and many blessings for many more years to celebrate.



Congratulations and happy birthday to Roy Davis as he notches up another decade birthday - hope you celebrate well Roy and don't feel a day older.

Back in January Anna Bush moved into her new home and we hope by now Anna you are well settled and it's beginning to be as you want it to be.



Jenny Light asked us to send her best wishes to all her friends at IMC. Jenny lives at the Bethany Christian Care Home in Lipson and takes an active part in all that it has to offer even though life can be tough for her too. She values our prayers and particularly enjoys the daily devotionals which build up and encourage faith for all the residents.

Jenny, we remember you in prayer and pray you will continue to find all the strength you need day to day.

It's good to know that Marilyn Warren is back home after a stay in hospital and we hope your health continues to improve and you're soon able to get back to all you enjoy. Also we rejoice with Kathy Hayes who has come through very difficult patch of ill health but now seems to be on the road to recovery.



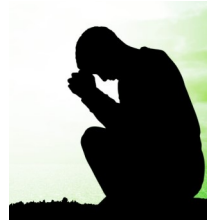
Please continue to pray for Kirstie and Nikolas Blackwood (Cathy's daughter and grandson). Nikolas is still undergoing tests. They have been moved from emergency





accommodation to temporary, but they cannot have visitors. Please pray that they will get suitable permanent accommodation soon and that Kathy will have less stress, as she also deals with considerable pain.

Others of our friends are still struggling with ill health and we would ask your prayers for Chris Welsh, Terry Farndell, Joyce Pope and Jutta Berger. Also we pray for those who are caring, supporting and loving all those who are ill or struggling with other problems - it can be a very tough place to be.



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 March : 14 April : 12 May**

## Sunday 18 March

After our morning service we invite you to stay behind for a bring and share lunch together. This will be followed by our church AGM and all are welcome to join us.

### **It could be you!**

We are seeking new congregational reps for our church council and also praying about who might be able to join our church leadership team as a steward.

If you feel that God may be calling you to one of these roles, please speak to one of the stewards, or to Mark or Carolyn for more information.



**BRING AND SHARE  
LUNCH**

# 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.

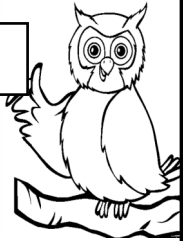
*David Bithell*

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

## Spring 2018

### 9 March

A very special concert  
with the wonderful Flanders and Swan Duo!  
*Please bring your friends.*  
(See page 25)

### 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!**



There will be a Taizé service  
at The Priory  
on Palm Sunday  
25 March  
at 6:30 pm

## **LORD TEACH ME TO PRAY**

I cannot pray **OUR** if my faith has no room for others and their need.

I cannot pray **FATHER** if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

I cannot pray **WHO ART IN HEAVEN** if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray **HALLOWED BE THY NAME** if I am not striving with God's help to be holy.

I cannot pray **THY KINGDOM COME** if I am unwilling to accept God's rule in my life.

I cannot pray **THY WILL BE DONE** if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot pray **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD** without extending honest effort for it, or if I would withhold from my neighbour the bread that I receive.

I cannot pray **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US** if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray **DELIVER US FROM EVIL** if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

I cannot pray **THINE IS THE KINGDOM** if I am unwilling to obey the King.

I cannot pray **THINE IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY** if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

I cannot pray **FOR EVER AND EVER** if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot pray **AMEN** unless I can honestly say  
"Cost what it may, this is my prayer"

Author unknown.

Copy made from news-sheet picked up at the Discovery Centre (Plymouth Central Hall)





## TUESDAY LUNCHES

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.

## Muskathon

I will be taking part in a 42km/22 mile walk in Kenya in June, with Compassion. Many people sponsor children with Compassion, but for those who don't know - Compassion is a Christian charity that raises children, and therefore their families, out of poverty through the children being sponsored.



While in Kenya we will be visiting several Compassion projects, taking part in a sports day AND a huge plus I will get to meet the two children that Miles and I sponsor. So all very exciting.

For this particular Muskathon they are raising money to buy and install solar panels, so 1500 families will have electricity. If you would like to donate money towards this project I and Compassion would be very grateful.

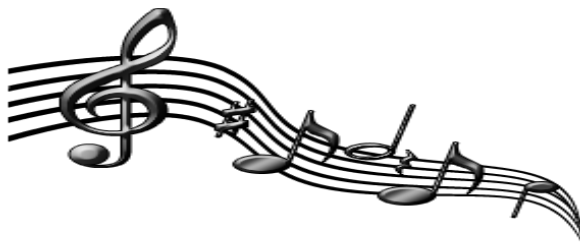
If you would like to donate online go to <https://challenges.compassionuk.org/profile/456/madeline-allen>, and donations can be made there. Or if you prefer you could put a donation in an envelope and give it to me or Miles. If you could put on the envelope your name and if it can be gift aided that would be wonderful. I will also have a sheet if you would like to sponsor me that way.

To anyone who makes a donation thank you so much.

*Madeline Allen*

  
Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**<sup>®</sup>  
in Jesus' name

# **Burraton Male Voice Choir and Modbury Gospel Singers**



**Saturday 10 March  
Ivybridge Methodist Church  
7:00 pm**

Tickets cost £5 and  
are available on the door.



In aid of Ivybridge Youth for Christ  
Charity number 1118117

The Burraton Male Voice Choir are a well-known local choir who have performed in venues such as the Royal Albert Hall.

Modbury Gospel Singers are a community choir who sing mostly gospel. They sing locally but occasionally spread their wings and will be 'Singing for Water' in a mass choir event in Bristol in July 2018.



# Calling all ladies!

You are invited to a social evening

When? Saturday 24 March from 7:00 pm

Where? At the Manse

What shall I bring?  
Some food and drink to share



No agenda ... just chance to get together and catch up.

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

Ladies ...



Stilettoes 2018 is nearly here! This will be held on Saturday 28 April 2018 and will once again be at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall presenting a theme of "Relentless", building on the challenges of previous years, to step out in faith, relentlessly following God's leading. Worship will be led by PCC and NPCC, and the two guest speakers this year will be Sophia Barrett and SeaJay Liebscher.

Sophia was born in Sydney to Chilean parents, and is a Senior Minister, alongside her husband Glyn, of Audacious Church in Manchester. They have two children - Georgia (15) and Jaedon (12). Sophia has a degree from the University of New England (Australia), and also graduated from Alpha Crucis in Sydney with Glyn. She has a heart to see people live full and extraordinary lives and is insightful, unconventional and always speaks with wisdom. Her messages communicate truth and, delivered in her unique style, are guaranteed to make you laugh. She loves people, great stories, all things beautiful and sparkly, and wholenut chocolate!



SeaJay Liebscher, with her husband, Banning, founded Jesus Culture; a ministry of worship, events and leadership development. They also planted and pastor the church Jesus Culture Sacramento. SeaJay has a desire for everyone to know the fullness and love of God, to live their lives in the complete freedom of knowing and being known by Christ. She is redefining women's ministry and her passion is to see women embrace their true selves, abandoning the notion of "perfection" and realizing that the best you is the authentic you – all the while staying connected with Jesus and the Word in the most vulnerable way. SeaJay carries a message of bravery and vulnerability and is a champion of *all*.

We had a group of 13 ladies that went to last year's event, and we all had an amazing day. It's wonderful to meet with hundreds of other ladies from all over the area to worship God together, add to that two amazing speakers and this is a day not to be missed! If you haven't been before and are not sure, I know if you speak to any of the ladies who were there last year they will convince you that this is an event not to be missed!





The cost of the day is £25.00 and worth every penny, but if we can get a group of ten or more ladies going we will get the many benefits of a group booking, including 10% discount on ticket price and, new for 2018, pre-registration - meaning we won't need to queue and sign in on the day; we can just walk right in having already received our wristbands!

This is my third year of going and I cannot recommend this day highly enough. So ladies, if you'd like to know more speak to me or one of the others who went last year, I'm sure they'll already be talking to you about this wonderful event and how you really shouldn't miss it!

I will happily organise tickets again this year, but I will need to know as soon as possible if you would like to go, and will also need the money in advance! Let's see if we can organise even more ladies to go this year. Once we know numbers and who's going we can organise transport so no-one needs to miss out!

So ... put this date in your diary - **Saturday 28 April** - organise your ticket and start getting excited about having a really wonderful day of fantastic fellowship, terrific teaching and wonderful worship! I look forward to hearing from you. It's going to be amazing!

*Jenny Hansford*



The poster features a vibrant, multi-colored geometric background in shades of blue, purple, pink, and red. In the top left, a black circle contains the word "Stiletto's" in white script. The word "Relentless" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font across the center. Below it, the text "Stiletto's Women's Conference" is in a smaller script, followed by "Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018" in a bold, white sans-serif font, and "- Plymouth Methodist Central Hall -" in a smaller script. In the bottom left, there are icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, with the handle "@Stiletto'sSW" below them. On the right side, there are two circular portraits of women. The top one is Seagay Liebseher, with her name in script and "Jesus Culture, Sacramento." below it. The bottom one is Sophia Barrett, with her name in script and "Audacious Church, Manchester." below it.

Stiletto's

# Relentless

Stiletto's Women's Conference  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018**  
- Plymouth Methodist Central Hall -

Facebook Instagram Twitter  
@Stiletto'sSW

Seagay Liebseher  
Jesus Culture, Sacramento.

Sophia Barrett  
Audacious Church, Manchester.

Big Church Live  
- Presents -

A Night of Worship with



BETHEL MUSIC

# LEELAND

WRITERS OF "LION AND THE LAMB"



Supported by  
Pat Barrett (Housefires)  
Writer of "Good Good Father"

Friday 16 March  
at  
St Matthias, Plymouth

Doors open 6:45 pm  
Starts at 7:30 pm

Tickets are £12.50 and are on sale now at  
<https://bigchurchtickets.com/events/leeland/plymouth-march-16-2018>

Hello from Kenya!

I have been on my VSO adventure for three weeks now and have settled into the town of Machakos.

I am living with my host Mum and my Kenyan counter-part named Hawi, and we have enjoyed going to church on our Sundays. There is a very high number of churches within the town, and the neighbourhood I live in has more than seven!

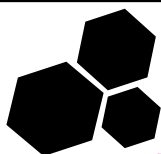


The services tend to be around three hours long, and are filled with singing and dancing. Although a few songs are in Swahili, I was surprised to hear songs I knew, such as 'I stand amazed in the presence' and 'Water you turned into wine.' Like any church I have had the pleasure of attending, everyone was incredibly welcoming and kind.

I am looking forward to returning to Ivybridge Methodist Church to tell you more about my Kenyan experiences.

God bless

*Meg x*



**YOUTH  
FELLOWSHIP**

**#plusONE**



**WIPEOUT**  
You are invited to:  
Inflatanight  
12 March 5:30-7:30 pm

## Taxi Driver

When I arrived in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh in 1991, I found that the only form of public transport available to me was the cyclo, a three-wheeled, pedal-driven rickshaw with the driver perched on a high seat at the rear. Cyclos were soon supplemented by moto-dups, or motorcycle taxis. By the turn of the century, tuk-tuks were beginning to appear. These were two-wheeled covered trailers with the towbar mounted on a motorcycle.



In 2014, the BBC broadcast a series of programs entitled A Cabbie Abroad, in which London taxi driver Mason McQueen visited three countries where he learnt to drive the local variety of taxi. One programme featured Mr McQueen driving a Phnom Penh tuk-tuk belonging to Mr Touch Polo (family name Touch, given name Polo). The BBC were not exactly generous with the fee they

paid Polo. Later that year, a team from Cambodian Communities out of Crisis (CCC) happened to use the services of Polo's tuk-tuk and I recognised him from the programme. We became friends and while on a further trip to Cambodia in 2016, we invited him to come to church with us. Polo heard the gospel and received Jesus Christ as His Lord and Saviour.

Since then, God has blessed Polo with sufficient funds to upgrade his tuk-tuk to a purpose-built, LPG-powered variety imported from India. Polo has installed a solar panel on the roof to power fans, lights and a stereo system.

During my visit to Phnom Penh last December, Polo asked CCC for help with his son Sokleang's school fees. Like many Cambodians, Polo wanted to give his son the opportunity to receive a better education than the state system could provide. Polo could afford to pay 50% of the cost himself so we agreed (in faith) to grant him the rest.



Polo has not asked, but we should like to help him in one other way: to buy his wife an electric sewing machine to replace the hand-operated machine she



uses in her home-based tailoring business.

Please pray:

- ♥ for Polo's growth as disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and his witness to other tuk-tuk drivers;
- ♥ for the rest of his family to know the Lord;
- ♥ for the Lord's long-term provision of funds for Sokleang's school fees: at present US\$200 / £150 a year, but likely to rise as he progresses through school;
- ♥ for funds for the purchase of the sewing machine.

*Myers Cooper*



## PROGRAMME FOR MARCH



**Monday 12 March - 1:30-3:00 pm at IMC**

Seasons

Extreme Seasons

**Saturday 24 March - From 7:00 pm**

Social Evening at the Manse,

11 Badgers Close, Ivybridge, PL21 9TN

Bring and share food and drink.

(See poster on page 15)

**Monday 26 March - 1:30-2:00 pm at IMC**

Seasons

Rhythms of Grace

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)



**Methodist  
relief and  
development**

Many of you will know that I have been appointed as a trustee of the Methodist relief and development charity, All We Can on behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain. The name of the charity is taken from the quote of John Wesley:

“Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.”

All We Can works with some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world in countries such as Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Burundi, Malawi, Uganda and India and you can read more about their work at [www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk)

Their mission and aims are to see all people reach their full potential and are rooted in the words of Jesus in Scripture and in the teaching of the Methodist Church. Since attending trustees' meetings and getting to know more closely the way they work, I have been impressed by the staff's love and commitment to the Lord, their professionalism and integrity as they seek to serve 'the least of these.'

Each year, AWC produce resources for various times of the church year, including Harvest. This year the focus of the Harvest service will be on the country of Malawi. I have been invited to visit the projects in Malawi in August this year as the church resources are put together so that I can help support the work of AWC and talk first hand to people about the people and places our donations seek to help.

As a trustee I am asked if I am able to make a contribution to the cost of my travel so that valuable charity funds are not diverted from those who need it most. I do not work in paid employment, I therefore need to try to raise some money towards this and if anyone feels they would like to make a contribution I would be most grateful and happy to hear from you. If I am able to take this trip I will be delighted to share stories from the projects with you all and hope



that as a church we may be able to make use of the AWC information and stories to enhance our Harvest later this year.

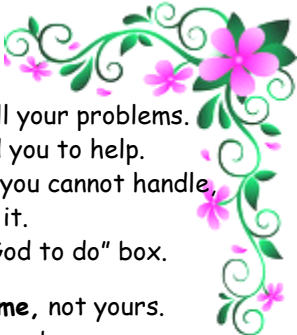
If you are able and willing to make a donation or have any questions about the charity or the trip please feel free to email me or speak to me. Even if you don't feel able to help with this visit, please do look up the work that the charity does and find out a bit more about them and please consider using some of their wonderful resources in some of your church services and personal devotions in the coming year.

Blessings to you all,

*Carolyn Lawrence*


[Markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:Markcarolyn1983@gmail.com)

01752 651910



I am God, and today I will be handling all your problems.  
Please remember that I do not need you to help.  
If life happens to deliver a situation that you cannot handle,  
do not attempt to resolve it.  
Kindly place it in the "something for God to do" box.

All situations will be handled in **my time**, not yours.  
Once the matter is placed into my box,  
do not hold on to it, worrying about it.  
Instead focus on all the wonderful things  
that are present in your life now.



If it is a situation you think you are capable of handling,  
please consult me first to make sure it is the proper solution.

Remember - I neither slumber nor sleep -  
so there is no need for you to lose any.

Rest in peace and remember,  
I am only a prayer away.

Author Anon



## Prayer Day Report



On Saturday 20 January, Gill and I organised a prayer day for the church and set up various stations around the sanctuary to enable people to engage with God in different ways. These included the opportunity to pray for our community, our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, for individuals known to us, to remember loved ones we have lost, to give thanks to God, to ask for forgiveness and to pray for the problems facing our world. As part of the day, Mark and Gill also led groups on two separate prayer walks around the area to pray in different places in the village. We ended the day with tea and cake before heading home.

During the day around 30 people came in either for a short time or for a bit longer and those who came said that they really appreciated the space and the peace to be able to spend time with God.



Personally speaking, I felt that I had almost had a retreat day as it is rare that I would set aside time to pray and seek God in my busy life at home and I feel I need a focus like that at times to encourage me to make prayer a priority.



As I prayed and read the Bible, I felt that God spoke to me in different ways and particularly as I was led to pray for Ivybridge Methodist Church, I was asking God to break any strongholds holding back the moving of the Holy Spirit amongst us. I sensed that there were a few things God laid on my heart about IMC and as the Holy Spirit brought them to my mind I was able to pray about them.





I am in the process of producing a little booklet as a Christian Journey Guide and once I have had these printed I am hoping that everyone will take the opportunity to assess before God where you are in your journey and seek God's strength and guidance for the next step so that we can all move forwards on our individual and corporate Spiritual journey.

I pray that we will experience an outpouring of the Holy spirit, resulting in purity, a hunger for God's word, a desire to live a holy life, desire to worship, healing of relationships, a desire to allow Jesus to transform lives not just enhance them, for an openness to the things of the Spirit and a release of the power and gifts of the Spirit. For a fresh vision of God's glory and all He wants to achieve in and through us, and a passion for the lost and a desire to draw people to Jesus.

If there are any issues in your own life for which you feel you would value prayer then do make contact with us so we can come and see you to pray.

Blessings,

*Carolyn*

[Markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:Markcarolyn1983@gmail.com)

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





## Church Sound

As many of you will be aware we have recently had a new sound desk installed in Church and whilst there is still some tweaking and adjusting to be done, I am sure you will all have noticed the vast improvements that it is beginning to make. However please do bare with us as we continue to tweak and adjust.

The majority of the work has been carried out by Neil Bailey and his son Ryan who have both put in many hours, mostly in their own time, to get to the current position and continue to work with us on Sunday mornings and evenings, as well as band practices on Thursday evenings.

We are all very excited by the benefits the new system will give us in the short and long term and of course all of the sound team and others are on a steep learning curve.

However I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of those involved on the sound team, the worship group and I am sure the whole Church family, to express our very grateful thanks to Neil and Ryan for all the hard work, time and effort they have put in.

I must also mention John Montgomery who has also put in a lot of time in helping here and not forgetting Paul Courtney and Carla Patrick and the worship group, who have been involved in getting their instruments and voices set up properly on the new system.

A big thank you to all involved.

*David Bithell*

Steward.

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

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



## **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

# 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

## April Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

**Saturday 10 March**

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)