



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



*"When they walk through the Valley of Weeping,
it will become a place of refreshing springs.
The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.
(Psalm 84:6 NLT)*

September 2019 Newsletter

A Letter from Carolyn

In the book of Esther, Mordecai calls upon the queen to help speak up for her people and says to her, 'Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.' This passage has meant a lot to me in recent years as God has directed me down some unexpected and



exciting paths and given me the opportunity to speak his word into all sorts of situations. Now God has called me to a new and exciting opportunity and just as Esther called upon everyone who knew her to fast and pray as she stepped out in obedience, I will be asking for a lot of prayer support in the coming months.

Some of you know that at the Methodist annual conference in June, I was elected to be the next Vice President of the Methodist Conference for the year 2020-21. Every year, since the time of Wesley, the Methodist church elect a President, who is an ordained minister and a Vice President, who is a lay person, to preside over the conference, form part of the leadership and exercise a ministry of visitation to the districts of the Methodist Church – it is therefore a great honour to be elected.

It is not a position I have sought after but God has clearly directed me to this calling through many people who have encouraged me and asked me to stand to test the call. I said to God that I would be willing to serve in this way if I can use it to bring glory and honour to Jesus and I will do my best to fulfil that call. Many of you know that the Methodist Church is in a time of uncertainty and change and like Esther, I have a real sense that God has called me to this role 'for such a time as this.'

I now have a quiet few months at home before this all begins with my induction at the conference in Telford next June and Mark and I will be seeking your prayerful support in the coming year or so.

In August I marked the 40 year anniversary of becoming a Christian and as I look back over the years I am in awe of the way God has moved in my life and the paths that have led to this time and place. I am reminded that when we seek to offer our lives in obedience to Jesus, no experience of our lives – good or bad - is wasted – seasons come and go but God can use it all in his plan if we are open to him.



This church year has been designated as a year of testimony and we look forward to receiving your written testimonies that we can use in future magazines and in services. I pray as we hear and read testimonies from many of you in the coming year, we will all be encouraged by the way Jesus is still changing lives and making us more like him so that a needy and lost world will know of his love.

*Blessings
Carolyn*



SEPTEMBER Worship

IVYBRIDGE

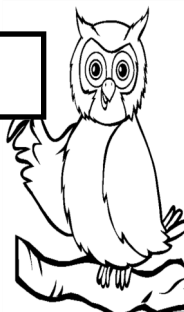
September 1	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence—Communion Discipleship - Opening Meeting (<i>Page 10</i>) Rev Mark Lawrence
September 8	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence NO SERVICE
September 15	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Party in the Park (<i>Page 19</i>) Mrs Gill Cowsill—Prayer Service
September 22	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Phil Walsh Discipleship - Listening to God - 1 Phil and Jean Walsh
September 29	10.30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence NO SERVICE

BITTAFORD

September 1	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs
September 8	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence
September 15	11:00 am	Mr Mike Cade
September 22	11:00 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence
September 29	11:00 am	Mr Mike Cade



Wise and Wonderful



We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.
Meetings are on Fridays from 2:30pm until 4:00 pm
with a charge of £1 each time

Autumn 2019

6 September

"You don't know this about me!"

20 September

Sweden, north and south
with Christine and David

4 October

Rev Mark Lawrence
Kenya Capers

18 October

Christmas Show Boxes
and Workshops for RNIB

8 November

The Breakthrough Trust
with Angus Dugdale

22 November

Making Christmas Wreaths
led by Gill Ricketts

6 December

Victorian Christmas
with Tony Rea

Please contact one of us for more information:

Val 893614 Maureen 894203 Sara 894198 Judy 894829 Sue 896444
Christine and David 892858

We are an open fellowship, and look forward to your visit.



14 September

Work Days from 9:30 am onwards.

Please come along to help with cleaning and
maintenance jobs to help keep our Church fit for
purpose to serve the community.

Excellent coffee and cakes from Wesley's mid morning!!

From the Editor ...

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



- ♥ send it by email to: **imc33chris@gmail.com**
- ♥ ring me on: **01752 892341**
- ♥ hand it to me at Church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "R" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at: **33 Julian Road, Ivybridge**

*Blessings,
Chris Reed*

Brownies will be meeting on **TUESDAYS** in September (NOT Mondays), same time 6 pm to 7:30 pm.
First meeting 10 September (contact 894265)



POP UP CAFÉ A NEW COMMUNITY CAFÉ FOR BITTAFORD

Homemade Cakes - including Gluten Free

Quality Teas and Coffees

Children's Play Corner

Saturday 14 September

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

at Bittaford Methodist Church

More information in the July/August newsletter.



and it's all
FREE!



September News

If you have anything you would like to include in the Church News please let **Judy Jago** know at Church, or ring her on **01752 894829**

Here we are again - back to "normal" after what I hope has been a good summer for most of us. Wouldn't it be great to now have an Indian summer.

Some new beginnings to share this month; firstly, with many congratulations to **JJ Martin** who has just begun a new role as a Production Chemist for a firm based on the Isle of Man. Helen and James have seen him safely settled and we wish you every success **JJ** and hope all is going well.



Huge congratulations too to **Jonathan White** and **Jasmin Hladkij** who have both just graduated from University with amazing results. **Jonathan** is staying in Leeds to continue his career in coffee and photography (and perhaps music!) whilst **Jasmin** is returning to Ivybridge Community College to further her qualifications in teaching PE. **Jasmin** also received the Vice Chancellors award for her input to Student services - what an accolade - well done **Jasmin**.

A different beginning as we say farewell to **Naomi Ricketts** who, after a varied and interesting gap year, is going to Cardiff University to study Physiotherapy. We wish you every joy and blessing **Naomi** and hope all goes smoothly as you settle in to an exciting three years.



More new starts as we send **Rebecca and Simeon Bale with Ezra and Ari** off, with many blessings, to Bangor where **Rebecca** will be studying for a PhD. Sounds challenging and exciting and we look forward to seeing you on your visits back to Devon.



On 6 September **Ben Reid, Lindsey and Roger's son**, will marry his fiancée **Sue-Lyn** at the Eden Project in Cornwall. We send our very best wishes for a wonderful day and pray that the weather behaves and many wonderful memories are made.



Roy and Linnie Davis are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Anna to David Mcgrath at Dunfries House, Scotland on 3 August. Thanks to all who travelled up the M6 and helped make their special day even better.

Staying on the wedding theme - friends are also celebrating Ruby Wedding Anniversaries—both in September.

David and Fiona Ion

Robin and Kate Duckering

We send our love, warm congratulations and many blessing for the years to come to you all.



Matt and Dan Hodgson are also changing direction - **Matt** is leaving Bristol to take up a legal role in Manchester and **Dan** is staying in Bristol but changing his role working with young people. We hope everything goes really well as you step into new things guys and look forward to hearing how things are going. Our prayers go with you.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO LUNCH IN THE CHURCH CAFE



**EVERY TUESDAY
FROM 12.30**

- > Individual needs catered for
- > Reasonable prices
- > Friendly staff
- > Meal served to your table
- > Freshly cooked food

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

AUTUMN 2019

We meet for coffee and a chat at 10:00 am in Grosvenor Court, ending at 12 noon. All ages welcome.

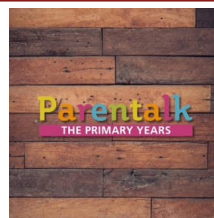
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|--------------|---|
| 10 September | Moses' Early Years
Exodus 1:6-22, 2 and 3 |
| 24 September | Calling to be God's agent to free Israel from Egypt
Exodus 4, 5 and 6:1-13 |
| 8 October | Pharaoh and the 10 Plagues
Exodus 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 |
| 22 October | Passover and deliverance through the Red Sea
Exodus 12, 13, 14 and 15:1-21 |
| 12 November | Difficulties in the Desert
Exodus 15:vs 22-27, 16 and 17 |
| 26 November | Moses with God on Mount Sinai. The tablets of stone.
Exodus 19, 20, 23:10-end 33 and 24 |
| 10 December | Spying out the Land—Joshua to succeed Moses—
Moses' death
Numbers 13, and 14:1-32
Deuteronomy 31:1-8, 32:44:52 and 34:1-12 |

Parenting Course

In the last Newsletter, there was advanced notice that Carolyn and Mark will be running a parenting course.

These will be held once a month on a Tuesday Evening at the Manse starting on Tuesday 12 November 2019. Future dates to be announced.

If any parents would like to join them please contact Carolyn on:
markcarolyn1983@gmail.com



Methodists **E**njoying **L**ife **T**ogether

HARVEST QUIZ

at Ivybridge Methodist Church

Saturday 5 October

7:00 for 7:30 pm start

Tickets £5 Each

which includes a meal of chilli and pudding
(vegetarian option available)

There will be non-alcoholic beer and wine
available to purchase.

Quiz Master our very own **Carolyn Lawrence**

This is an ideal event for families, friends and
neighbours. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

**Enter your team of six (or buy a ticket and come
and join a group on the night).**

Tickets are available on sale in church during September
or from Maureen on 01752 894203 or Joy Phillips

Advanced Notices - Saturday 11 January 2020

IMC'S GOT TALENT !!!

An evening not to be missed. Start rehearsing your act now!

Discipleship at IMC

Sunday Evening Meetings in Autumn 2019

In what we now call the Great Commission, Jesus said this, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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”. Discipleship is both ‘going out’ to spread the good news and ‘being together’ to grow in our understanding and our practice. Perhaps it’s worth saying that going out and being together are designed to enhance each other!

This autumn, our discipleship theme in our ‘together time’ will be ‘Hearing God’. The Sunday evening meeting dates, led by Mark, Phil or Jean, are below and all are at 6:30 pm at IMC.

Listening to God is three evenings on discovering how God speaks to us and gaining confidence in hearing him. We will be looking at how to listen to God for both ourselves and others and will include a time of simple practice each night.

Lectio Divina (Latin for Divine Reading) is an ancient practice dating back to the early Church. In essence, Lectio Divina is a simple way to meet with the Lord, through reflection and prayer, based on the Bible. It does not depend on background knowledge of the Bible, but is a way of allowing God to speak personally to us, through his written word. We shall be working as a group, but you will be able to take this and use it in your personal prayer times.

The topic for the first evening has been left open at the moment.

The dates are:

1	September	:	Opening Meeting	Mark
22	September	:	Listening to God - 1	Phil and Jean
6	October	:	Listening to God - 2	Phil and Jean
27	October	:	Listening to God - 3	Phil and Jean
3	November	:	Lectio Divina - 1	Phil and Jean
24	November	:	Lectio Divina - 2	Mark
1	December	:	Lectio Divina - 3 - Final Meeting	Phil and Jean

Everyone is welcome and we very much hope to see you there!

Phil and Jean Walsh

Year of Testimony

The Methodist Church has designated the church year 2019/2020 as a year of testimony. During this time we are encouraged to share testimonies and stories of what God has done in our lives to encourage each other and to enable people to share their faith with others.



I would like to invite as many of you as possible to write down a testimony or story and send them to me - it might be the story of how you came to be a Christian, or something that God has done in your life since - an answer to prayer, a healing or a way He has changed you.

I want to gather as many testimonies as possible to share - some will go in the magazine over the year and some will be invited to share their story in a service. We will be seeking to include two minute testimonies during services over the year so they don't need to be very long. Please be sure to add your name so that we know who it is from.

You can email them to me at markcarolyn1983@gmail.com or put a hard copy in my pigeon hole or through our door.

If you need help with writing out your Christian story, contact me and I can give you a sheet with some pointer questions to help focus your mind.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carolyn



The next **Taizé Service** will be held
at **The Priory**
on **29 September at 4:00 pm**

Churches Together in Ivybridge

Date for your Diaries

Further Details from Sara Bromage 01752 894198 or Caroline Hodgson

KINTSUGI HOPE, CWR AND LOCAL CHURCHES PRESENT

HONESTY OVER SILENCE

IT'S OK
NOT TO BE OK



**PATRICK
REGAN OBE**
SPEAKER,
AUTHOR



**DIANE
REGAN**
SINGER
SONGWRITER

Honesty Over Silence is an evening of live music and talks, seeking to open up conversations around difficult topics such as trusting in God when life is painful, and dealing with anxiety and depression.

Saturday
16th
November,
7 p.m.
at
Ivybridge
Methodist
Church

MORE DETAILS AT WWW.KINTSUGIHOPE.COM



Discovering
treasure
in life's scars

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

CWR

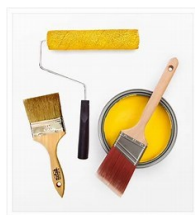
Painting Our Church

On behalf of the church we want to say a big 'Thank You' to all those who kindly gave their time and effort to do such an amazing job of redecorating the entrance, concourse, cafe and hall.

We are so grateful to you all.

Many thanks indeed.

Mark



Finance Update

Back at the start of this year the church was facing a difficult financial situation. We were running at about £12,000 p.a. below what we needed in the General Fund. This meant that we no longer held the reserves that we are required to as a charity. Additionally, we were eating into the Youth Vision Fund reserves at about £11,000 p.a.; such that this fund (which pays for our Youth Worker, Phil) would run out of money sometime in February next year.

In short, we were spending beyond our means; and as we had already reduced discretionary spending as much as was practical, and sought to maximise our other income, this only meant one thing – we had to address our individual giving.

This led to the establishment of the Finance Action Team (often referred to as “the Fatties”!!) and the Giving Campaign that we ran through the month of March.

I am very pleased to report that God has moved through you all, and our giving to the General Fund has increased by £1,000 per month (just enough to cover the deficit we were running), and one very generous, anonymous member of the congregation has offered to cover the shortfall on the YVF through to the end of Phil’s contract in July 2021!

So, I want to take this opportunity to most sincerely thank you all for your generosity, and to praise God for His bountiful goodness.

This has stabilised our on-going financial position, but there will always be the need for “special projects”, especially with a building the age of ours. The next one of these is to refurbish the Concourse, more information on this project is on the next page.

Dave Rowe, Steward
On Behalf of the F.A.T.



2019 Gift Day

In recent years it has been our practice to hold an annual Gift Day in order to fund special projects within the church. Last year we decided not to do this as the general financial position of the church was deteriorating and urgently needed to be addressed. This required a focus on our regular giving, not a special one off. We therefore cancelled last year's Gift Day and launched the successful Giving Campaign that is reported on the previous page.

Having addressed the on-going situation, we still have the need to fund "one-off" projects, so we have decided to reinstate the annual Gift Day. As in previous years, we have decided to align this with Harvest Festival, as it seems appropriate that we should offer something extra back to God and His work in this place as a thank you for the "harvest" He has allowed us all to gather in our various walks of life.

The selected project for this year is the refurbishment of the Concourse, which is looking very tired and is the first point of contact when people visit the church. We want to make this a brighter, more welcoming space. Any giving over and above that needed for the concourse will be used for other building related projects around the church (of which there is never a shortage!!)

We also believe that the more we give, the more God is generous to us, and this applies to us corporately as a church, as well as to us as individuals. Therefore, we have decided to tithe the gifts received on Gift Day to the All We Can "Hope is Taking Root" Harvest 2019 appeal. All We Can is the Methodist Church's relief and development organisation, and their Harvest appeal this year is targeted at helping poor farming families in Cherkos in Ethiopia by providing them with seeds to plant (especially seed potatoes) and training on how to maximise their crops in the uncertain weather conditions that they face.

More details will be shared with you in the services leading up to Harvest Festival; but if you can't wait, then try having a sneaky preview of the video at: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/resources/service-materials/harvest-2019-deepen-your-roots/>

You will find enclosed with this Newsletter a special envelope for your gift. Please pray about the gift that God is calling you to make, and then bring your envelope along with you to the Harvest service at 10:30 on Sunday 6th October. If you know you can't make it to the service then please feel free to put your envelope in the collection in the weeks leading up to the 6th (or indeed after the 6th if you unexpectedly can't make it on the day).



You can make your gift in the form of a bank transfer (though do still complete the form in the envelope so that we can easily distinguish the giving for Gift Day from your normal giving, and also annotate your transfer with "2019 Gift Day" if at all possible) – for this you'll need to know the churches bank account details:

NatWest Bank, City Centre Branch, Plymouth;

Sort Code No: 53-61-57

Account No. 08262683

Of course, good old-fashioned cheques or cash are equally acceptable, please put these in the envelope and then into the collection bag at church.

Many thanks in anticipation of your generous response to this appeal.

Dave Rowe,
Steward

**Royal National Institute for the Blind
RNIB Charity Concert
IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
Friday 13 September 2019 @ 7:00 pm**

The KINGSMEN HARMONY CHORUS is a renowned 4 part harmony chorus from the South Hams who perform to audiences in the South West of England and recently on tour in Europe and the USA. The Chorus have chosen the RNIB as their primary charity for 2019 and will be performing during this concert to raise money for the RNIB. The evening will include the Manor School (Ivybridge) Choir and the beautiful strings of the Mandolin Ensemble of Modbury.

Tickets are available from: Ivybridge Watermark Box Office or Telephone the Box Office on 01752 892220 or online: ivybridgewatermark.co.uk.

Tickets will be on sale at Church on the evening of the Concert subject to availability of seating. Tickets £8.50 per adult / Under 12's £3.00

**ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO THE RNIB (IVYBRIDGE) and Mandolin
Ensemble of Modbury**

Christmas Angels



Last year's 500!

After last year's amazing success of distributing the angels around Ivybridge, the stewards have requested that we 'do' this project again. So, those of you that participated last year perhaps you could start getting those needles out again, and if you didn't then maybe you could get involved this year.

The Aim: To share God's love and to bless the community we live in with a free Christmas decoration that comes with a message of hope at Christmas-time.

The Idea: Knit lots of angel decorations, attach a message of Christmas hope, and in one co-ordinated event leave them in (hopefully) hundreds of locations across our community for people to find (this is known as "yarn bombing").

Where did the idea originate? We got the idea from a friend of mine whose church in Fleet, Hampshire joined in last year (she is Sue Butterfield, who used to live in Ivybridge, so many of you probably know her). However, the idea originally came from the North Shields and Whitley Bay Methodist Circuit near Newcastle. In the past three years they (and churches like ours across the country) have knitted over 70,000 angels, and some of them have turned up as far away as South Africa!

What do we want you to do? Get yourself and your friends knitting angels – we need hundreds of them! Last year we made over 500!

Where do I get a pattern for the angels? There are already hard copies of the knitting pattern available on the noticeboard in the Concourse at church, or you can download an electronic copy from:

<http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Christmas-Angel.pdf>

or if you prefer crocheting, then you can download a crochet pattern from:

<http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Christmas-Angels-Crochet-Pattern.pdf>



What will we do? We will collect the angels from all you avid knitters (there will be a collection box in the Concourse at church from November onwards), and we'll print and attach the Christmas message labels; then on a date in the few weeks before Christmas we will organise the yarn bombing. If you want to be a part of this, please let us know and we'll rope you in! At the time of writing the exact date for the bombing has not yet been agreed. We will also register our project with the original scheme so that it will be part of this much bigger venture.

Happy Knitting

Nicky Rowe, Tel: 01752 690031

Mid-week Holy Communion First Tuesday of each month

Service led by
Rev Mark Lawrence

3 September



Divine Darkness, Divine Light

The Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation
Sunday 24 - Friday 29 November 2019 Cliff College,
Derbyshire

Worship - Teaching - Silence - Reflection
with
Cathy Bird and Steve Radley

The Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation
will cost £495 per person

This includes full board in single accommodation, daily teaching and full use of the facilities at Cliff College.

Bursaries or grants towards this kind of Spiritual Formation experience are often available. Do consider contacting your local church or regional church body.

More information about possible grant funding is available on the Community Website <https://5daycommunityh.com/>

Payment in instalments is also an option.

Thank You's

Thank You Number 1

In the May newsletter, I wrote about some problems that Cambodian Communities out of Crisis (CCC) were experiencing with our bank account in Cambodia. Things went downhill after that and we ended up having to close the account. This was by no means straightforward, involving various documents having to go back and forth in the slow postal service between here and Cambodia. But thanks, firstly to the Lord for protecting His money and enabling us to finally extract it from the bank and use it for His purposes, and secondly to the Bittaford prayer group, who prayed with much faith, week after week, while we struggled with obstructions, delays and bureaucracy.

Thank You Number 2

Without a bank account in Cambodia, we have had to find other ways of getting funds into the country. Some of the money that CCC is given is used to help pay the fees of children at Asian Hope International School and we thank the Lord that it has been possible for us to send this money to the school's parent organisation in the USA with lower bank charges than would have applied if we had sent it directly to Cambodia. We trust the Lord that He will show us how to get money to the other causes that we support.



Thank You Number 3

Thank you, Ivybridge Methodist Church, for your regular gift to CCC, but also thanks to one or more anonymous donors who have sent cash (£200, £30 and £100) in envelopes addressed to me but presumably intended for CCC.

Thank You Number 4

Thank you to everyone in the church who prays for Cambodia, either generally or using the requests in these articles. If you would like to know a little more about the country, why not come to the Ivybridge Youth for Christ Cambodia Taster Evening. Information opposite:-

Myers Cooper

Cambodian Taster Evening in aid of Ivybridge Youth for Christ

Where: Ivybridge Methodist Church Hall

When: 6:30 pm on Saturday 7 September 2019

What: Photographs, information and a simple Cambodian meal



Tickets: Adults £10/Students £5

From: Kate Duckering

Email: kate.duckering@gmail.com

Mobile: 07483 264953

**REMINDER ABOUT PARTY IN THE PARK ON SUNDAY
15 SEPTEMBER. CHURCH SERVICE AT 10:30 AND
FAMILY PARTY AT 12:30 AS BELOW.
COME AND ENJOY THE CELEBRATIONS.**

A vibrant, colorful poster for 'Party in the Park' on Sunday 15th September. The background is a rainbow of diagonal stripes. In the top left, a starburst graphic says 'FREE ENTRY'. The title 'Party In the Park' is in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. To the right, there are logos for 'IMC', 'THE SALVATION ARMY', and 'BOUNCING CRAZY'. Below the title, it says 'Sunday 15th Sept', 'Church Service 10:30', and 'Family Party 12:30'. At the bottom, a list of activities is shown: 'Victoria Park | Escapology | Bouncy Castle | BBQ | Live Music | DJ Jossy | Crafts | Cream Tea | Run by Christians together in Ivybridge |'. There are also images of a bouncy castle and a BBQ grill.

Church Contacts



Prayer Line
07801 956695

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

	Senior Stewards:
Mr Reg Marriott	Tel: 01752 893614
Mrs Alison White	Tel: 01752 691039

Room Bookings:
John and Pam Montgomery
Tel: 01752 894083
email: imcbookings@gmail.com

House Group Information:
Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

If you have any items for the
October Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Tuesday 10 September
at the latest please.



Visit our website at
www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

Where you can see a colour version of this Newsletter.
If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website you can do so at
mrmerit@icloud.com