FEBRUARY 2020

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. (John 15:1-4)



Dear Magazine Reader

Welcome to our February edition of the IMC Magazine. I came across this quote by Martin Luther the other day, 'I have often said that whoever would study Holy Scripture should be sure to see to it that he stays with the simple



words as long as he can and by no means departs from them unless an article of faith compels him to understand them differently. For of this we must be certain: no clearer speech has been heard on Earth than what God has spoken.'

Very useful advice especially as there are forces at work which seek to constantly undermine God talking to us and for us to take a stand on His promises and warnings.

As I write this article there are still fires raging in south-eastern Australia. Some Christian friends of ours had a close call, but thankfully were unharmed. Sadly that wasn't the case for some. However, it is incredible that even though the fires were so severe only a few lost their lives. Most people wisely heeded the warnings and escaped, despite losing most of their belongings, and in many cases, their homes.

Throughout our lives we will inevitably face trials of different kinds. Some are life-changing as per above and some are minor, but can still affect us in various ways. The Bible says, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12 ESV)

When we face these trials of different kinds we have a choice to make. We can allow them to tempt us to question God's love and His purposes for our lives. We can allow those difficulties to drive a wedge between us and our Heavenly Father. Or we can choose to trust Him and believe that He sees the bigger picture and will not forsake us — come what may. We can choose to believe according to His word that He will travel with us through those times of trial. I believe the latter with all my heart. It is in those times of trial and suffering that He seems the closest and His word is all the more precious and relevant. The Lord Jesus promised, 'I am with you always, to the end of the age'. (Matthew 28:20b)

As we were reminded by Luther earlier, we can depend on God's word, even if our present situation suggest things to the contrary!

If you're struggling at the moment, may God grant you faith, perseverance, hope and most importantly of all, His beautiful presence.

As a church community we seek to encourage and help one another. If you are struggling and want to talk to someone please let us know. There is no shame in asking for help whatever the problem, be it of your own making or others or the circumstances of life.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His faithful, never-ending love and grace.

Yours in Christ Rev Mark

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

Service led by Rev Mark Lawrence

4th February

As you may know the **Street Pastor** initiative in Ivybridge closed down just before Christmas and we are having a Thanksgiving Service at 3.30 pm on Sunday 2nd February, followed by a cup of tea/coffee and cake/biscuits.



The service will be led by the Rev Mark Lawrence. All are welcome and we are hoping the various Councils, Town, District and County, together with the Churches involved and the Police, will all send representatives together with all the Street and Prayer Pastors.

Blessings David Bithell



February and Early March Worship



IVYBRIDGE

February 2 10:30 am Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

6:00 pm Taizé

February 9 10:30 am Mr Paul Whitell

February 16 10:30 am Mrs Jean Walsh

6:30 pm Mrs Gill Cowsill

February 23 9:00 - 9:45 BIG START

10:30 am Mr Paul Courtney

6:30 pm Spring Discipleship Evenings -

The Holy Spirit (More info. page 14)

March 1 10:30 am Miss Judith Walker - LENT 1

March 8 10:30 am Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

6:30 pm Spring Discipleship Evenings -

The Holy Spirit (More info. Page 14)

BITTAFORD

February 2 6:00 pm Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

February 9 11:00 am Mr Mike Cade

February 16 11:00 am Mr John Pointon

February 23 11:00 am Mrs Di Smart

March 1 11:00 am Rev David Youngs - Communion

March 8 6:00 pm Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion



Wise and Wonderful

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



31st January

Dr Sunirmal Ghosh His Life and Travels

14th February

Speaker from the Live Well Team

28th February

Film Day

13th March

Mrs Carolyn Lawrence

27th March

Yealmpton Gospel Choir

Please contact one of us for more information:

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

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



LUNCH IN THE CHURCH CAFÉ EVERY TUESDAY AT 12:30 EVERBODY WELCOME



BIBLE STUDY FROM THE FREEDOM IN CHRIST COURSE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT ME IN HIS HOLY WORD

Significance, Security and Acceptance Restored in Christ

I Am Significant

I am no longer worthless, inadequate, helpless or hopeless. In Christ I am deeply significant and special. God says:

- ⊕ I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
 (Matthew 5:13-14)
- ⊕ I am a branch of the true vine, Jesus, a channel of His life.
 (John 15:1,5)
- ↑ I have been chosen and appointed by God to bear fruit.
 (John 15:16)
- ⊕ I am a temple of God. (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- ⊕ I am God's fellow worker. (2 Corinthians 6:1)
- ⊕ I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 2:6)
- ⊕ I am God's workmanship, created for good works. (Ephesians 2:10)
- I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
 (Ephesians 3:12)
- ⊕ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
 (*Philippians 4:13*)

I Am Secure

I am no longer guilty, unprotected, alone or abandoned. In Christ I am totally secure. God says:

- ⊕ I am free forever from condemnation. (Romans 8:1-2)
- 1 am assured that all things work together for good. (*Romans 8:28*)
- ⊕ I am free from any condemning charges against me.
 (Romans 8:31-34)
- ⊕ I cannot be separated from the love of God. (Romans 8:35-39)



- ↑ I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
 (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)
- ⊕ I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected. (*Philippians 1:6*)
- ⊕ I am a citizen of heaven. (Philippians 3:20)
- ⊕ I am hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3)
- I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, of love and a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- I find grace and mercy to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)
- ⊕ I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me. (1 John 5:18)

I Am Accepted

I am no longer rejected, unloved or dirty. I Christ I am completely accepted. God says:

- ⊕ I am God's child. (John 1:12)
- ⊕ I am Christ's friend. (John 15:15)
- ↑ I have been justified. (Romans 5:1)
- ⊕ I am united with the Lord and I am one in spirit with Him.
 (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- ⊕ I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
 (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- ⊕ I am a member of Christ's Body. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- ⊕ I am a saint, a holy one. (Ephesians 1:1)
- → I have been adopted as God's child. (Ephesians 1:5)
- I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit in Christ.
 (Ephesians 2:18)
- I have been redeemed and forgiven for all my sins.
 (Colossians 1:14)
- ⊕ I am complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10)

Yours in Christ Rev Mark

FEBRUARY 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**

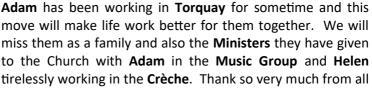


February always means longer days for me and the herald of good things to come - spring and all that means.

We don't have much news this month so please keep feeding it in so we can share with the church family.

Happy birthday and congratulations to **Louise Grindrod** who is celebrating a big birthday this month and we hope it is a special day **Louise** and we send our love to you.

Sadly we have to say goodbye to the **Kimble family**, **Adam**, **Helen**, **Grace**, **Reuben and Jude** who are moving to **Stokeinteignhead** shortly.



of us and we wish you many blessings on the next chapter of your life.

Another house move but this time much closer - **Gill Cowsill has** moved to **Buckfast** and **Gill** we wish you much happiness in your new home and hope the settling in doesn't take too long to sort. We are delighted it's not too far away!!





It's good to see **Jane Clark** back in church after a prolonged stay in hospital - **Jane** we pray all says well for a long time now.

We send our love and sincerest condolences to **Sheila Courtney** and all the family as they come to terms with the loss of Sheila's Mum, **Betty**. **Betty** was a lovely Christian lady who was faithful in service and sharing the love of Jesus and she will be very much missed by all.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Kate Duckering** who had an operation on her foot on 17th January. We hope by the time you read this you are well on your way to a successful recovery. Our prayers to **you and Robin** as he looks after you. Sure he's doing a wonderful job. Editor.





We continue to ask prayers for those awaiting hospital appointments, those suffering with mental health issues themselves and those caring for sufferers and those living with long term health problems - there are probably more than we all realise but as we pray God knows each one.

IMC Monday Night Football

Back in September we initiated a Men's Fellowship activity – Monday Night Football. Don't panic, this doesn't involve actually playing football!! On the Monday evenings when there is a televised live Premier League game, the men of the church and their friends are invited to join me at my house to share a beer or cup of tea/coffee and watch the game. This is simply an opportunity to chill out together and watch some quality football. Husbands/friends of the ladies of the church are also welcome.

You can turn up any time after 7:30pm and the match will finish sometime just before 10:00pm – you are welcome to turn up for as much, or as little, of the game as you want.

17th February Chelsea v Man Utd. 24th February Liverpool v West Ham Utd

If you need to contact me you can on dave.nicky84@gmail.com or call me on 07801 712381 if you want to be kept up to date with future events.

Dave Rowe



Thank God for the NHS—But What About Cambodia?

Towards the end of my recent visit to Cambodia, while suffering from a fever I fainted and cut my head. This necessitated having one of my wounds stitched and I was advised to have a CT scan to check for any internal bleeding, which thankfully was not present. I revisited the doctor who treated the wounds several times for her to clean them and eventually remove the stitches. The previous year, I had supported my friend when he suffered a heart attack in Cambodia and it was interesting to compare our experiences.

When my friend collapsed, he was taken to one of the principal public hospitals in Phnom Penh. They impounded his passport and proceeded to treat him. The equipment seemed primitive and probably dated from the 1980s when Cambodia's health service was in ruins following the ending of the Khmer Rouge regime. He was placed in a hot, mosquito-infested ward and he gained the impression his detention in the hospital was being prolonged in order to extract the maximum amount of fees. The hospital administration seemed unable or unwilling to communicate with the providers of his travel insurance and he ended up having to settle his own bill and reclaim the cost from his insurers later. Only when he had paid the bill was his passport returned—the day before his return to the UK.

I was taken to a private clinic where the staff were attentive and professional on each visit. The treatment room was air-conditioned and spotlessly clean. I knew that my insurance policy would not cover the cost of private treatment but I felt that the moderate charges were worth paying. My experience at the private hospital where I was given the CT scan was similar: air-conditioned rooms, solicitous staff, professional diagnosis. I was even presented with the results of the scan on a DVD.

I was fortunate to have the financial resources to cover the cost of my

treatment. Most Cambodians could not have afforded to do what I did. Yet even state hospitals charge for their treatment. People have died because they were unable to pay.



Families have amassed huge debts in order to pay for the treatment of a loved one. Hospitals provide treatment; they take no responsibility for the personal needs of their patients so it is their families' responsibility to feed them, launder their clothes and attend to their personal hygiene. I invite you to pray for those who find themselves at the mercy of the Cambodian healthcare system and give thanks with me for our wonderful National Health Service. Myers Cooper

Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy

Friday 24 January 10.30 am - 12.30 pm



At the home of Maureen and Bruce Scoble (Ivybridge)

Please contact us if you need the address or for any other Info.

God Bless Helen Norton admin@ivybridge.yfc.co.uk

Saturday 8th February

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!!

Ecumenical Songs of Praise

Where: Abbeyfield, Trehill Road

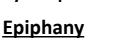
When: Second Wednesday each month

Time: 10:30 to 11:00 am

with refreshments and socialising afterwards Mixture of hymns and songs from the

BBC Songs of Praise Book

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY January to April 2020





The Revealing of God though Jesus in John's Gospel Chapters 1 to 14 with DVD

We meet from 10 to 12 noon at 20, Grosvenor Court All ages welcome.

January 28th John Chapters 2 & 3

His First Miracle Water into Wine

February 11th John Chapters 4 & 5

Jesus the Living Water

February 25th John Chapter 6

Jesus, the Bread of Life

March 10th John Chapters 7, 8 & 9

Jesus the Light of the World

March 24th John Chapter 11

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

April 7th John Chapters 12, 13 & 14

Jesus the Servant King

Sponsor a Slate Appeal

This appeal has been launched by Bittaford Church. We need to replace the roof at an estimated cost of £15,000. To date we have raised about £8,000 and bids are being made to obtain funds from various organisations such as The Rank Foundation, AllChurches Trust and Plymouth and Devonport Circuit of the Methodist Church.

However, we will still need to raise funds, hence the "Sponsor a Slate" Appeal. On the next page there is a sponsor form for your information. **Stewart Edward**

The **Methodist** Church

Plymouth & Devonport Circuit
Registered Charity Number 1134886
The Revd. Mark J. Lawrence BA Hons. Dip. Theol.

PRESBYTER c/o 11 Badgers Close, Ivybridge PL21 9TN

Telephone 01752-651910 Email: revmark@live.co.uk

Minister of Bittaford Methodist Church, Exeter Road, Bittaford, Devon. PL21 0DX

SPONSOR A SLATE APPEAL

The roof of Bittaford Methodist Church needs to be replaced and the estimated cost is £15,000. Can you help us to meet this cost by donating to our "Sponsor a Slate Appeal"? You can have your name (or a name in memory of a loved one) written on the back of a slate if you wish.

Name
Address
Postcode
Name to be written on slate
Sponsorship donation enclosed £
SINGLE GIFT AID DECLARATION I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and authorise Bittaford Methodist Church to reclaim the tax through Gift Aid on my donation of £ I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.
Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss etc)
Surname: Forename(s):
Address Postcode
Method of payment: please tick: Cash/Cheque Bank Transfer

Spring Discipleship Evenings: The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is often mentioned in church services but have you ever sat there wondering who he really is, what he really does and how all that fits with what else we know about God? Over six sessions before



Easter we shall be talking about the Holy Spirit by looking at the questions and topics below. Each evening there will be teaching and an opportunity to share thoughts, ask questions and quietly reflect

23rd February Who is the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean when we say the Holy Spirit is a

person?

8th March What does the Holy Spirit do?

The primary thing the Holy Spirit does is to give us

spiritual life.

15th March The Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus.

22nd March The Holy Spirit gives us gifts and these gifts work

together in the church.

29th March Continuing the theme of the Holy Spirit in 'Songs of

Praise'.

5th April What does 'being filled with the Holy Spirit' really

mean and how does that happen?

All evenings are in the concourse at IMC at 6.30 pm. We look

forward to seeing you!

Phil Walsh

Mark and Carolyn are thankful to God for the safe arrival of their grandson, Maxwell Christopher, born on 23rd November. Their daughter had a long and difficult labour, so they give thanks for the wonderful work of the NHS and also to God for keeping them both safe. The whole family came for Christmas, so it has been a wonderful time of celebration.







Cousins Arianna & Max meet each other

Prayer for Brazil Visit

There has been a change to contact information for prayer support since this newsletter was published. It is now Lynn Allen. Please text her on 07912 852882 and give her your name and mobile number so she can include you with any updates.

As part of my year of office as Vice President, I am offered an overseas visit to meet Christians in another culture. My theme for the year is going to be about growth, personal and corporate, so I asked to visit a country where the Methodist Church is growing so that I can bring back some of the lessons learned to the church in the UK. Mark and I therefore have the privilege of visiting Brazil from the 6th to 18th February. The church in Brazil is a growing church - they have risen from 160,000 members in 2006 to over 250,000 today. We will be visiting rural churches in the heart of the Amazon, as well as churches in the cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

We would really value your prayer support while we are away, especially for our health and protection.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to sharing testimonies of the amazing things that God is doing on our return.

Blessings and thanks, Carolyn



I am currently representing IMC, along with Angela Brimblecombe from Yealmpton, on the World Day of Prayer Committee. There are two meetings a year, in January to prepare and March to discuss how it went. It will be the turn of IMC to host this in 2022 and I would like to be uninvolved by this time. (Assuming I am still here and fully compos mentis). Please consider whether you could take a place on this Ecumenical Committee.

Mercy

From the Editor ...

If you would like to include anything in the March Newsletter, please let me have details by Tuesday 11th February 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 please put your name on it
- post it through my letterbox at: 33 Julian Road, Ivybridge please put your name on it

Blessings, Chris Reed Thank you to all of you that bought "Reindeer" from me before Christmas.
As a result I was able to send a cheque for £228.50 to The Dyspraxia Foundation to support their work.

Orders being taken for next Christmas, providing I can obtain some logs.

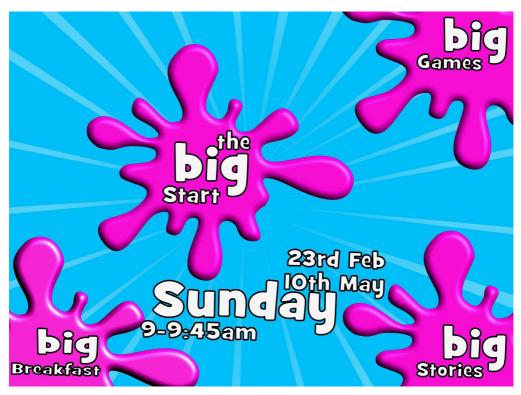


Nigel Phillips



The next **Taizé Service** will be held at **Ivybridge Methodist Church** on **2 February at 6:00 pm**

Churches Together in Ivybridge



Christmas Offerings

We give thanks to God for the generosity of so many within the church and community over the Christmas period as we sought to raise funds for Mercy Ships, Action for Children and the local Breakthrough **Transformation Trust**. Here are the amounts raised:

Carol Service	£577.38
Christingle	£222.96
Christmas Eve	£64.14
Christmas Day	£257.78
Christmas Cards	£84.00

Total £1,206.26

Yours in Christ Rev Mark

Opposite is a thank you letter from **Breakthrough Transformation** Trust



The Reverend Mark Lawrence Ivybridge Methodist Church Fore Street

Ivybridge PL21 9AB Our Ref: JS/DD

Your ref: Donation E-mail:jeremy.stewart@tborg.org

8th January 2020

Dear Mark.

DONATION

Please accept this letter as our very grateful "thank you" for this most unexpected and generous gift. We wish to thank all those in your church who have contributed to this ministry of children's work.

As you may or may not know, we are completely reliant upon the Lord for what we receive and although we do from time to time have fund raising activities, because of the intensity of the work we do with the students, these are few and far between.

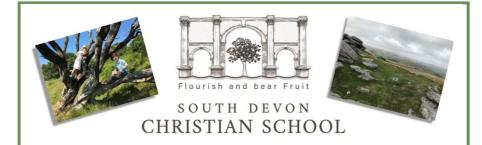
We would like to use this gift of money to underpin our work with the families of our students who need a lot of support and love. It goes without saying that only Christians see the value of this work as Society generally is moving away from the traditional family unit. However, we at Breakthrough see the importance in affirming the traditional Christian family values and are pleased to be able to use this money in this way.

We ask you to remember us in your prayers (especially the students) for wisdom & discernment in all that we undertake, so that Jesus is glorified.

bellery Jeremy Stewart

Accounts Administrator for Breakthrough Transformation Trust

Breakthrough Transformation Trust: Charity Number 1148238 Cannamore House, Avonwick, South Brent, Devon TQ10 9HA 01364 649394



"A vision for Christ-centred education in Devon"

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2020

Visit our website to find out about our vision, ethos, curriculum and opportunities for giving:

www.southdevonchristianschool.org

or email us at admin@southdevonchristianschool.org

South Devon Christian School in the making

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends its roots by the water. It does not fear when heat comes, its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

JEREMIAH 17:5-8

South Devon Christian School will be a place where we want to put God at the centre of everything we do and teach. We believe that to educate a child is to disciple them. Since we are created in the image of God, we want to nurture the whole person: mind, body and spirit. Therefore, our discipleship of the pupils will address three main areas: sustained academic growth, nurturing of their characters, and the modelling of a relationship with our loving Creator. We see this threefold approach as the means of raising a generation who will be equipped to lovingly serve God and others through their roles and careers in the wider world.

As you find out about this vision, please prayerfully consider whether you might be a part of it. We hope to open in September 2020 but there are many things to put in place first.

We would love to hear from you.

Church Contacts

Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence

Tel: 01752-651910

email: revmark@live.co.uk



Senior Stewards:

Mr Reg Marriott
Mrs Alison White

Tel: 01752 893614 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

March Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

Tuesday 11th February

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 mrmerrit@icloud.com