

MARCH 2020

Newsletter

So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today - to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul - then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your corn, new wine and olive oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

Deuteronomy 11:13-15



IVYBRIDGE

METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

Dear Magazine Reader

Welcome to our March edition of the IMC Magazine.

As I write this article I'm looking ahead! I've noticed that it's Mothering Sunday on 22nd March. Quick, if you read this at the beginning of March and you had forgotten, you have plenty of time to sort out something appropriate! For some of you reading this, your mother is only a distant memory – either good or bad, but hopefully good. For others it is someone who is still present and part of your lives.

In John chapter 2 there is an interesting dialogue between Jesus and His mother. They'd gone to a wedding in Cana. It could have been some relative of theirs as a problem developed and Mary consulted Jesus about it. At the wedding reception the wine had run out. Yikes! This was not a good situation to be in. We don't know if not enough was ordered or this was a particularly boozy do which had caught the organisers off-guard! However, Mary knew that Jesus was no ordinary man and she spoke to Him about it. His reply was intriguing. He said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' (**John 2:4**)

If I'd spoken like that to my mother I might not be writing this article now! However, such was their understanding of one another that Mary didn't seem to bat an eyelid. She simply says to those in charge, 'Do whatever he tells you'. (**John 2:5**) The result is amazing. Jesus turns about 120 gallons of water into top quality wine. Despite the potential head-ache the following day we're told, 'his disciples believed in him.' (**John 2:11**)

Whether Mothering Sunday is a good, bad or sad day for you for whatever reason, we can know that Jesus is able to turn past and present troubles into something beautiful. He can redeem the past and bring hope out of our present challenges, fears, disappointments and plans. But only if we're prepared to do whatever he says.

As a church, as individuals and as families may we be enabled to put Jesus at the centre of our lives knowing that through Him we can know God as our Father, our loving parent, who cares, who helps and who is always present.

Yours in Christ, Rev Mark





March and early April



IVYBRIDGE

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 - Week 2 (Page 6)
March 15	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
	6.30 pm	Spring Discipleship Evenings: The Holy Spirit - Week 3 (Page 6)
March 22	10:30 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence
		Mothering Sunday - All-Age Worship
	6.30 pm	Spring Discipleship Evenings: The Holy Spirit - Week 4 (Page 6)
March 29	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
April 5	10:30 am	Rev Dave Martin - Palm Sunday
	6:30 pm	Spring Discipleship Evenings: The Holy Spirit - FINAL WEEK

BITTAFORD

March 1	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
March 8	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
March 15	11:00 am	Local Arrangement
March 22	11:00 am	Mr Mike Cade - Mothering Sunday
March 29	11:00 am	Rev Terry Higgins
April 5	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs - 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

13th March

Mrs Carolyn Lawrence
Nuts about Brazil!

27th March

Yealampton 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.

Have you a story to tell?

Do you, (or did you) have a job you really enjoyed? or a hobby? Have you done, or learnt about, something unusual? Would you like to tell us about it?

We are Wise and Wonderful, IMC's fellowship for third-agers. We are a friendly bunch, and we would really love to have your company one Friday afternoon when we meet (dates available in this magazine).

Please get in touch if you would like to talk about it.

Many thanks

Christine Tel: 01752 892 858

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

Service led by
Rev Mark Lawrence

10th March

The next Ivybridge Methodist Church Council AGM
will be held on **Sunday 26th April 2020**
immediately following the Sunday morning service.

All reports for this meeting to be submitted
electronically by 12th April to Sandra Dudley on
rands.dudley@btinternet.com

Saturday 14th March

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

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.

- 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.
- 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





TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

January to April 2020

Epiphany

The Revealing of God through 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.

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



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



The next **Taizé Service** will be held
at **The Priory**
on **19th April at 4:00 pm**

Churches Together in Ivybridge

THANK YOU to all at IMC

I am sad to no longer be using your hall but wanted to say
THANK YOU for always being so kind and friendly, Jess
(previously Wednesday evening Pilates).



MARCH 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**

Hello All

News time once again and thank you to those who have passed items into us.

By the time this goes to print **Mark** and **Carolyn** will be safely back from **Brazil** and we will have been able to share in the flavour and experience of it all. Good to have you back.



Linda Hardaway will hopefully have had her long awaited hip operation by now and be on the road to full recovery. We hope all went well **Linda** and that you are out of pain and feeling stronger. We send blessings and prayers for a quick return to normal mobility.



Elizabeth Turner is in hospital in Exeter and we ask for prayers for peace and healing for her.

Kathy Blackwell is recovering slowly from her surgery and is now wearing an air boot instead of a cast. Thankfully it can be removed at night which is much more comfortable and **Kathy** is happy to be partially weight bearing now. We send love and prayers that, all be it slowly, you will get full mobility back soon **Kathy** and the healing will be complete.

Terry Farndell has had a rough time health wise lately and **Terry** we send prayers for a return to full health soon.



Some of you will remember **Joan Jones** who lived at Waterside and worshipped with us for a while before going to Bittaford. We heard from the family that **Joan** died in hospital in February after an ongoing illness. **Joan** was a faithful member of **Wise and Wonderful** until her health failed and we send our love and condolences to her family.



Gwen Reed has a big birthday on **March 10th** and we wish you a very, very happy birthday and hope it's a lovely day. Sending love for a special birthday.



Please continue to pray for those who are struggling with life and its complications, in their own lives and in the lives of those they love!!

Annual Quiz in Aid of Ivybridge Youth for Christ

Saturday 28th March 2020

7:00 pm for 7:30 pm start - at Ivybridge Watermark

Tickets £6 on the door (no cost if just attending for AGM)

Our annual fundraising quiz is back with a new exciting final round. Could you be in one of the teams battling it out to win the coveted trophy! Come as a team (6 people) or we can make up teams on the night. Parking is free at the Watermark after 6 pm and the bar will be open from 7 pm for drinks and snacks.

All proceeds will go to extend the work that takes place with young people in schools and skateparks!

The Ivybridge Youth for Christ AGM is part of the evening but only a very small part!

Do you love Jesus and long to see young people reached for Him? We are looking for a new Trustee or 2 - we meet roughly 4 times a year and have an annual away day. Please call **Elis Norton** on **01752 898546** or **07966 911560** to chat about this vital role or speak to **Kate Duckering** (IMC) who is our current Chair.

Look forward to seeing you at the Quiz.

Elis Norton

admin@ivybridge.yfc.co.uk

07966 911560



**Ivybridge
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**


You are what you eat?

We hear a lot these days about the way our eating habits affect our planet and many news reports and magazine articles would have us believe that the most ethical way we can eat is by choosing a vegetarian or vegan diet. In fact some pressure groups are pretty aggressive in their campaigning to encourage people to stop eating meat of any kind. But are things always that simple?

I'm no expert but have read a lot around this subject and have noticed that there are a lot of ethical issues around some ingredients used in vegetarian diets that are not being highlighted. We are bombarded with a confusing array of products to supposedly help us eat more healthily and I guess that most of us rarely, if ever, look more deeply into where these products originate or the affect their production has on the local people, environment and economy.

So for example take coconuts. A product that is now available in a bewildering array of formats. According to the UN the demand for coconuts is growing at 10% annually. The amount spent on coconut products in the U.K has risen from £3.4 million in 2014 to £25 million in 2017. And yet behind this seemingly miracle food item lie serious ethical issues. As coconut consumption has soared, the production in countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines has increased and the people who grow them are often living below the poverty line while a few fat cats glean the financial rewards. Also, in some countries monkeys are trained to harvest coconuts - either captured from the wild or bred in captivity for the purpose. They are forced to work gruelling hours, kept on tight leashes and suffer cruelty at the hands of their owners. That's not to mention the effect of over production on the price of coconut for locals or the food miles associated with transportation.

Then there is soya. A product used in many meat alternatives. Soya production is one of two main causes of deforestation in Brazil, along with cattle ranching.

Quinoa is another ingredient hailed as a wonder food and much of our quinoa is imported from Bolivia where it is the staple diet of many poor Bolivians. Due to the increasing demand on this product and associated price rise (the price has tripled since 2006), 

many Bolivians can no longer afford this basic ingredient and it now costs more than chicken in Lima. There is pressure to turn land over to production creating a quinoa monoculture instead of diversity in farming. The exportation of such huge amounts of the product is damaging the food security of that country.

Peru has cornered the world market in asparagus which is depleting their water resources while labourers live and work in substandard conditions. And again there are those food miles.

So what's the answer? How do we eat ethically and responsibly? I don't think that we need to go vegetarian or vegan to achieve that and can enjoy all things in moderation - as the Bible teaches us, God has made all foods clean and we are free to eat whatever we wish. I believe that we need to think carefully about where our food originates and try to limit our dependence on imported food. The meat I buy from our local butcher comes from local farms and has been well looked after to strict welfare standards. It is a little more expensive than supermarket meat but superior quality so we can eat less of it. We can try to seek out locally produced and seasonal fruit and vegetables to cut down the food miles of our meals. If we do buy imported products, let's look to buy Fairtrade goods as much as possible and organic produce that has less of an impact on our environment. And grow our own where possible! And as around 30% of food in households in the U.K. is purportedly thrown away we can look at ways of cutting down waste and using everything up. If we buy a bit less we are likely to have less waste anyway.

I believe that if we start eating more ethically we may end up having to eat a little less but our diets will be healthier, we'll spend a bit less, and we'll be playing our part in helping this beleaguered planet and its people. As Christians, this is one important way that we can demonstrate our love for God and for our fellow human beings and our stewardship of this wonderful world.

Carolyn Lawrence



**For more information about these issues:
Check out Joanna Blythman, Food Writer
Ethical Consumer website.
Fair trade Foundation**



A MAJOR EVENT FOR 2020

SAN REMO 100

Commemorating the Centenary of the San Remo Conference where a Mandate was given to the UK to implement the Balfour Declaration and bring about a Jewish State in Palestine

SAN REMO

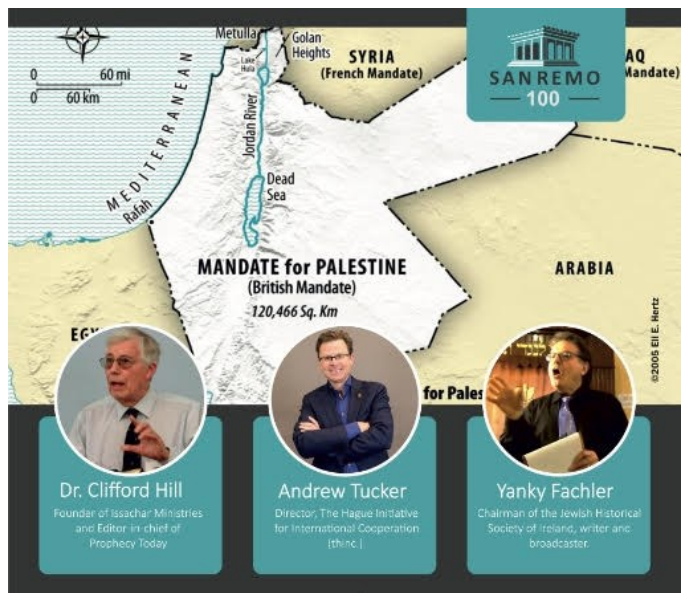
PATHWAY FOR PEACE

WHEN
SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
12:30 to 5:30 pm



Be part of a Vital Christian Event

- Understand the significance of San Remo
- Acknowledge where Britain went wrong
- Give thanks for what went right
- Rejoice in the re-birth of Israel
- Commit ourselves to ongoing action



WHERE: Emmanuel Christian Centre, Marsham Street,
Westminster SW1P 3DW

An event organised by Love Never Fails: an alliance of UK Christian pro-Israel organisations

WWW.LNF.ORG.UK/SANREMO ✉ **SANREMO@LNF.ORG.UK**

Biblical Overview (Based on the Infographic Bible)

I came across this in the Infographic Bible

<https://www.theinfographicbible.com/>

and have made some minor adjustments. It gives a really good overview of the Bible. Why don't you print it off and keep it in yours?

With every blessing to you as you get into the Word! *Rev Mark*

THE OLD TESTAMENT

LAW

Genesis	The beginning of everything.
Exodus	The slavery of sin; the rescue of God.
Leviticus	How to relate to a Holy God.
Numbers	How to receive God's promises
Deuteronomy	How to live in relationship with God and others.

OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVE

Joshua	Taking the land and the need for holiness.
Judges	Drama in the land, illustrating relationship with God.
Ruth	A story of faithfulness, courage and redemption.
1 Samuel	Choosing a man to be king instead of God.
2 Samuel	Saul and David: the first kings.
1 Kings	The kingdom divided.
2 Kings	The final kings: a nation in decline.
1 Chronicles	The story so far – part 1.
2 Chronicles	The story so far – part 2.
Ezra	Return from exile; rebuilding the Temple.
Nehemiah	Return from exile; rebuilding the walls.
Esther	An ordinary girl becomes queen and saves her people.

WISDOM LITERATURE

Job	If there is a God of love, why is there suffering?
Psalms	A compilation of songs expressing the realities of life.
Proverbs	Truth-filled sayings of wisdom.
Ecclesiastes	What is really important in life?
Songs of Songs	An intimate insight into the joy of physical love between a husband and wife.



MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah	God's character and rescue plan.
Jeremiah	Prophesies regarding the consequences of national sin.
Lamentations	A lament for the disasters befalling the nation.
Ezekiel	Prophesies of exile and national disgrace.
Daniel	Faith in God in the face of lethal opposition.

MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea	How God feels when we reject His love.
Joel	Sin eats life like locusts but God brings life through His Holy Spirit.
Amos	Prosperity breeds complacency.
Obadiah	Warnings against pride; God is just.
Jonah	Mercy outweighs justice.
Micah	Judgment and hope pointing people back to God.
Nahum	God's majesty and justice require a response.
Habakkuk	Why is there injustice when God is so powerful?
Zephaniah	Israel has been exiled, yet Judah fails to repent.
Haggai	When God brings freedom, don't neglect responsibility.
Zechariah	God works through history, preparing the coming Kingdom.
Malachi	Promises of restoration through the coming King.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

NARRATIVE

Matthew	The Good News of Jesus by a Jew, for Jews.
Mark	The Good News of Jesus by a young man.
Luke	The Good News of Jesus written by a professional.
John	The Good News of Jesus retold and explained.
Acts	Jesus returns to heaven and sends His Holy Spirit.



PAULINE EPISTLES

Romans	God's plan for salvation explained.
1 Corinthians	A letter about love and life in church.
2 Corinthians	Second letter answering questions about morality and church life.
Galatians	A letter to a church that was going off the rails.
Ephesians	A letter encouraging everyone to submit to one another.
Philippians	A letter outlining how Jesus gave up everything because of His love for us.
Colossians	A letter opposing false teaching.
1 Thessalonians	A letter of personal encouragement to keep doing well.
2 Thessalonians	A letter discussing the return of Jesus.
1 Timothy	A letter from Paul to his God-son, encouraging him as a leader.
2 Timothy	A letter setting out the requirements for leaders and teachers.
Titus	A letter instructing Titus on the role of those leading church.
Philemon	A letter to a friend whose slave had run away.

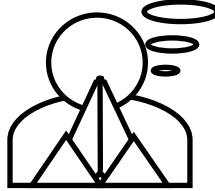
GENERAL EPISTLES

Hebrews	A recounting of the whole Bible story.
James	We are saved by faith, but faith must result in action.
1 Peter	Encouragement to a church facing opposition.
2 Peter	A corrective to wrong views about the second coming.
1 John	The truth, love and light of God.
2 John	Jesus came physically in person, not just a spirit.
3 John	A personal letter to Demetrius.
Jude	Similar to 2 Peter, correcting views about the second coming.

APOCRYPHAL EPISTLE

Revelation	How it all ends, with a recreation of how God intended life with Him to be.
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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
April Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Friday 13th March
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

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

VICE PRESIDENT DESIGNATE

DIARY DATES FOR PRAYERS



As I am sure you are all aware Carolyn has become The Vice President Designate for The Methodist Conference . She will have her induction on 27th June and will then be the Vice President for a year until June 2021.

Each month Carolyn will send me her diary dates, events and notes so that we can all pray for her. These will be subject to change from time to time.

Blessings Editor

Date	Where I'm going	Notes
March 2020		
7 th	JPIT day Conference in Derby	Renewal and Rebellion: Faith, Economy and Climate
9-10 th	Connexional Leaders Forum, Leeds	Meeting of leaders from the Methodist Church around the UK.
16-17 th	Methodist Church House (MCH), London	Various meetings for planning my VP year
28-30 th	Methodist Council, Leamington Spa	The governing body of the Methodist Church in Britain.
April 2020		
2 nd	SAT-7 head office, Chippenham	Visiting to find out more about their work as they are my named charity for the conference offering.
6 th	MCH	Media training day.

An Opening Door and a Battle to be Fought

Cambodian Communities out of Crisis (CCC), which IMC has faithfully and generously supported over many years, is on the threshold of undertaking a new ministry in Cambodia.

A year ago, I wrote about the Cambodia for Christ (CfC) sports ministry, founded and led by Pov Phearun, which has been successful in sharing the gospel with young people through their involvement in a football team with the added benefit of keeping them away from drugs and criminal gangs.



Phearun & Family



English Courses

CfC is based in the village of Chheu Teal, south-east of Phnom Penh. As well as managing the football team, Phearun also runs evening classes to help the village children and young people learn English, an important skill to acquire in Cambodia.

CCC now has the opportunity to work more closely with CfC with the long-term aim of helping them buy land for a practice pitch and erect a building that can be used for classrooms for the English courses and other subjects. CCC is also looking at ways of working with Phearun's church, Chheu Teal Light of God Church. We anticipate forming a team of women led by our Country Director Ms Huot Chanthoeun to work with the widows, orphans and poor people of Chheu Teal and take the gospel to the surrounding villages where there is no Christian witness.

Please could you pray for the CCC Council, which will meet on Saturday 14th March to pray, seek the Lord, discern what His will is and decide on how to move forward?

In December 2018, our International Director was looking forward to preaching at the Chheu Teal Light of God Church when he had a heart attack. I preached at the church on 15th December 2019 and eight days later suffered a head injury. A friend of CCC recently went to Chheu Teal to record a segment for a video he was creating.



The following week, he experienced severe tooth problems which required extensive dental surgery. Phearun's wife and son have both been ill; his wife had to be admitted to hospital.

Coincidence? I do not think so. I suspect that there is a demonic power over the village or a wider area that does not want to be forced to loose its hold over people in darkness there and it will do all it can to hinder, frustrate or harm those who dare to oppose it in the name of the Lord Jesus.

In **Ephesians 6:16**, we are told to take up the shield of faith with which we shall be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Roman soldiers would advance against an enemy in testudo formation, holding their large shields around and above the group. We are to advance against the evil one in united faith, our shields interlocked and impenetrable by his flaming arrows of sickness, accident or anything else. Would you stand in faith with Phearun, Chanthoeun, her team, the church and the CCC Council as we seek to proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus in word and deed and push back the powers of darkness in Chheu Teal and the surrounding area?

Myers Cooper

IMC Monday Night Football


Dates for **March** Football evenings:

9th March	Leicester City vs Aston Villa
16th March	Everton vs Liverpool

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.

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*





SOUTH DEVON SINGERS
directed by David Haines

DARE TO KNOW

RENAISSANCE TO ENLIGHTENMENT
IN MUSIC AND SONG

Friday 13th March 2020
7.30pm

Methodist Church, Fore Street
Ivybridge PL21 9AB

with

Alfie Pugh *percussion*

Dr Daniel King *Department of History
Exeter University*

£8.50 (£7 concessions £3 children)

01626 870 107 or 07960 103 394

southdevonsingers@gmail.com

www.ticketsource.co.uk/southdevonsingers

interval refreshments

Artwork: Laura McHugh

Charity No. 1144469

World Day of Prayer The Priory

6th March 2020
at 7:00 pm



ZIMBABWE
Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk

I am currently representing IMC, along with Angela Brimblecombe from Yealmspton, 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 April Newsletter, please let me have details by Friday 13th March in any of the following ways:-

- ◆ send it by email to: imc33chris@gmail.com
- ◆ ring me on: [01752 892341](tel:01752892341)
- ◆ 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

Christmas Offerings

Following on from my article in last month's magazine please find below a thank you letter from Mercy Ships.

Yours in Christ
Rev Mark

Welcome
ONBOARD!



Mr A Lawrie
Ivybridge Methodist Church
Fore Street
Ivybridge
PL21 9AB

Ref: 900108345

14 January 2020

Dear Mr Lawrie,

I want to thank you for your kind donation of **£402.09**, this will change lives.

May I take this opportunity to personally welcome you as a Partner Church! We want to support and serve you in every way possible. If you visit www.mercyships.org.uk/church you'll find church resources for all ages, such as our MAKE HISTORY pack (introduced by TV's JB Gill), a home group devotional, children's activity packs, videos, and slides for use on Sunday. You'll find our Bible Reading Plans on your smartphone – simply search the Bible app for 'Mercy Ships'.

I also send out a monthly 'Church News' email with prayer requests and updates. If you don't yet receive this, just email churches@mercyships.org.uk



Your generosity will provide urgent care for patients like Salamatou and Mariama, whose legs were so twisted they'd never been able to leave their village and going to school was painful and difficult. Kind and compassionate donors like you delivered the operations that Salamatou and Mariama needed, returning their hope. Now they have a bright future once more.

Your support will help transform thousands of lives through free surgery. Your support will help train and mentor local medical staff and effect tangible, sustainable change long after Mercy Ships have left. 2/3 people have no access to safe, affordable surgery. You can change these terrible odds.

Thank you once again for your support and prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Richards
Church Partnership Manager

Mercy Ships UK Ltd, The Lighthouse, 12 Meadowway Court, Stevenage, SG1 2EF
t: 01438 727800 e: info@mercyships.org.uk
www.mercyships.org.uk [facebook.com/mercyshipsuk](https://www.facebook.com/mercyshipsuk) twitter.com/mercyshipsuk
Registered Charity No. 1053055, Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC039743, Company No. 3147724 (England and Wales)





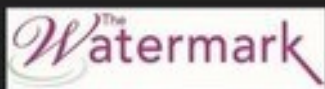
The Ivybridge Theatre Company

THURSDAY 12TH - FRIDAY 13TH 7.30PM
SATURDAY 14TH 2.30PM & 7.30PM. MARCH 2020



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

By Oscar Wilde



Box Office 01752 892220

Tickets £8.50

www.ivybridgewatermark.co.uk

ITC is a Registered Charity No. 1096297 & affiliated to N.O.D.A.

IMC Youth Work News:



Hi Church

Thankyou so much for all your support whether in volunteering or praying, we do value everything this church does especially personally, those involved in the youth work.

Kids

Please continue to pray for our kids work which comes with its challenges and seem to see a small drop in numbers over the winter to the summer. But around 20 to 30 young people engaging with the groups each week and hearing what God has to say to them.

This year we are hoping to invite a few of them to **SPREE** our residential in Westpoint in Exeter. Please pray that the right young people come and God really touches their lives in a powerful way.

In **Kingdom Kids** we are going through a series on what the church means to us as kids and is the main Church just for Adults or can we engage as young people too. We really want to see the young people engaging with Jesus wherever possible.

Holiday Club

By the time you receive this newsletter the **Holiday Club** will have passed but please pray for the kids who have engaged with the activities. This is a big leap of faith and we would really like to see many of the Ivybridge Families engaging with these events and seeing what God has for them.

Youth

Both **Wired** (Youth Group) and **Youth Fellowship** (Discipleship group) are still going well with over 20 young people every time engaging with us and we do believe making a few steps closer on their walk with Jesus. We do seem to be following a trend across rural churches where the families with teens are going into the city



for Church but engaging with rural churches for the weekday groups which is a real selfless ministry for our church and a kingdom heart of seeing God's kingdom grown and not just our local church. But I have heard it said in our church "We don't have any youth" let us remember they were never ours to start with they are always God's and we still do work with them even if not on Sunday mornings. Also for the young people who aren't yet Christians, church, as we are comfortable with, is a very weird place for young people who have never been.

Rock Solid

As you probably already know we work together with Elis, from **Youth for Christ**, on Wednesdays with a lunchtime **Christian Union** in Ivybridge Community college called **Rock Solid**. There has been a large number of young people coming every week without fail. Racing each other to get there first and engaging well with the teaching. A young person from that group said to us the other day since I have become a Christian my depression has stopped! How cool is that. **God is so good.**

We are also starting to plan our next **PARTY IN THE PARK** on **13th September 2020** watch this space.

Thankyou again for all your prayer and support.

Phil

Prayer Requests

Planning for summer events:

BEACH PARTY, FUNDAY FRIDAY, PARTY IN THE PARK

More volunteers on a regular basis

The Young people who come to find Jesus for themselves

The right young people to sign up to **SPREE** residential

If you feel God calling you to join our team or volunteer for one of the events above, (you can be aged between 18-110) we will be able to find a place for your gifts from just listening to leading, serving tuck shop to washing up. Please do chat to **Phil** on **07816 910 152** or email ***phil_blunti4e@hotmail.co.uk***

SPREE

SOUTH WEST

Westpoint, Exeter



Find out more:

www.spreesw.org





Youth and Kids Groups

Kidsfest is a primary school club with games, Bible stories, quizzes, snacks
FREE TO ATTEND
Wed 3:45-5pm term time

WIRED is our church youth club including Tuck shop, Disco, Xbox, Sports, Crafts for secondary school young people
£1 to attend
Thurs 7:15-8:30 Term Time

Discipleship

Kingdom Kids and **Kingdom Youth** are our church sunday groups.
Games, Crafts, activites, snacks

Youth Fellowship is our youth house group for young people
FREE TO ATTEND
by invitation or request
A great way go deeper in the Bible
See termly flyer