

# APRIL 2020 Newsletter

*It was about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. The curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit'. When he had said this, he breathed his last. (Luke 23:44-46)*

*Then he opened their minds so they could understand Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'*  
**(Luke 24:45-48)**



**IVYBRIDGE  
METHODIST CHURCH**

**Sharing Life  
Sharing Faith**

I'd written this article a few weeks ago, but things have changed completely before we sent it out and I couldn't let it go out without rewriting my message.

These are unprecedented times! We are being isolated from one another physically for the time-being, but no-one and nothing can separate us from **the love of God**. We can also, with a bit of effort, keep in contact with one another via phone, email, text and Skype and we really must do that. I'm also doing a daily vlog on YouTube. If you go to YouTube and enter Rev Mark Lawrence I will appear although there are lots of Rev Mark Lawrences! There's even a Rev Mark J. Lawrence and a Rt. Rev Mark Lawrence! I've done this to try and share a daily word of encouragement with you and so that we can stay connected. If you have any prayer requests, want to talk, etc. do feel free to contact Carolyn and/or myself.

This is a great time to connect with the Lord and spend time in His presence. I would encourage you to read a chapter of the New Testament each day. If you're in a house with others read it together and pray together. **Seek the Lord!** And as we approach Easter, we don't know yet whether we'll be able to meet together, but one thing is certain – **Jesus is alive!**

The death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is central to our faith and to biblical doctrine. The Apostle Paul tells us, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” (**1 Corinthians 15:17 ESV**). Thankfully that is not the case!





## Anxiety-Calming Scriptures

### **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. (CSB)

### **Psalms 4:8**

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. (NIV)

### **1 Peter 5:6-7**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. (NASB)

### **Philippians 4:6-7**

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

### **Isaiah 41:10**

Do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be afraid, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you; I will help you;  
I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand. (CSB)

### **Isaiah 26:3**

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. (ESV)

### **John 14:1**

Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. (HCSB)

to read more, visit [cathymcintosh.com](http://cathymcintosh.com)



## Wise and Wonderful



Wise and Wonderful  
facing these Interesting  
times together!

Dear friends

We've decided that, like so many  
others, we need to suspend our meetings.

The government asks us all to cooperate, as they look for ways to protect the NHS from overload, and of course we are glad to play our small part.

We are in uncharted territory here, and no one can give us a timetable! We just know that we are in for a long haul, so let's do all we can to help and encourage one another. Primarily, could we ring one another for chats? It's very cheering to hear a friendly voice, when we can't get out. If there is someone you'd like to talk to, but you don't have their number, contact one of us: we can probably help you, with that person's permission.

Or just ring one of us if you'd like to chat, or you have a query or a need, however small. Please don't hesitate, because we'd love to hear from you. We're all in the same boat, so let's keep in touch, and cheer one another along, then the time will go that much more easily.

We are contacting the speakers booked to visit next term, and would hope to fix new dates with them in due course. And we will make sure that we keep you up to date with any developments, through the church news letter or a phone call. If you have email and would like us to use it, please give us your address.

Take care, and God bless

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



## APRIL 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

Welcome to April and, dare I hope, Spring? As I write this still the rain pours down and Corona virus is spreading - so we'll see what difference a few weeks makes when you'll be reading this.



There have been a couple of big birthdays to celebrate - **Colette Grayling** was 60 back in March - but she kept it a secret until the day!! **Yvonne Bithell** also celebrates a decade birthday on April 25th and we wish you both very happy birthdays and many blessings for the year to come.

People are on the move too - **Jo and Ian Godfrey with Ozzy, Arlo, Wilbur and Sasha** have recently moved to Modbury and we hope you are settling in well and it's beginning to feel like home. We send love and best wishes for your new life in your new home.



**James and Dani Phillips** with **William and Ben** are moving a bit further - to New York State, for about 15 months as **James** takes up a new role. It's all very exciting and we wish you safe travelling and hope you soon find that life functions smoothly. Hopefully you will have plenty of time to enjoy all the new experiences on offer. **Chris and Chrissie** will be popping over to see them and so hopefully we'll hear how things are going. Take care and may God protect and bless you all.



The **Abbott family** have had a few difficult months with health concerns for **Vicky and Zoe** and we want you to know we are praying for you all and hope that resolutions come soon for you both. Sending love and blessings.

Also we'd ask prayers for **Emma, Sue and Brian Flood's daughter in law**, as she continues to struggle with Mental Health issues. Please pray for healing, strength for those caring for her and for **Adam and Joseph**.



As concern over the virus continues it would also be good if we can be aware of any who might need a bit of extra practical support should we be hit by it.

## **Trevi House Charity Sky Dive Event**

**Pamela Shead**  
**on March 27th I started raising money**



Every 16 minutes a child is taken into care.

Only 10% are reunited with their mum.

My daughter, Hannah, is the CEO of a charity based in Plymouth that is working hard to give more children a chance to stay safely in their mothers care.

Trevi House offers rehab support to around 20 families each year. The mother is offered treatment for addiction and trauma plus parenting support. Children are cared for in the specialist on site nursery.

Trevi also has a Sunflower women's centre that offers vital aftercare, plus a range of other services to vulnerable women in Plymouth.

This month, Trevi has opened a residential assessment centre for families in the court arena.

All Trevi services work to the philosophy that everyone deserves the chance to have a better life, and that with the right care and support, a lasting recovery is possible.

I am jumping to help raise money for a charity that changes and saves lives.

Donations will go towards a charitable bed for a family that cannot get funding due to current budget cuts. Thank you for reading and I am grateful for every penny donated!

I already have a "Just Giving" website page:

**Pamela Shead Sky diving Event**



Youth for Christ have a new website which is now live and can be found at:  
**<https://ivybridge.yfc.co.uk/>**



## Jesus Walks on Aegean Sea

**Amid the great turmoil of refugees flooding into Europe come amazing reports of miraculous intervention**



One Iranian family thought they had lost their three-year-old daughter when she fell overboard from a crowded boat heading for the Greek island of Lesbos.

Her parents fell to their knees crying out to God for help when, suddenly, she appeared in front of them. Amazed, they asked her what had happened. She told them that she began to sink, she saw a man clothed in white walking on the water towards her who rescued her.

When the refugees landed on Lesbos, they were met by Christian volunteers offering food, clothing and shelter, and sharing the Gospel with them. When they heard the story of Jesus walking on the water (**John 6:15-21**), the little girl cried out: "That's the man who pulled me out of the water!" Her Muslim parents dedicated their lives to Christ and went on to found a Farsi-speaking church in Athens.

It goes to show that the One who walked on water in Galilee is alive today! The Gospel is really true. There is nothing more inspiring or more important to consider than Jesus dying for us all, taking the burden of our sins upon himself before rising from the dead and giving eternal life to those who believe in him.

The tragedy in Britain today is that too often we are fed with a watered-down version of the Gospel which fails to produce passionate disciples transforming the world around them. Real discipleship goes deeper: it emerges from encounters with Christ in the depths of soul-searching desperation when the raging seas threaten to overwhelm.





What is more, the Gospel that brings full forgiveness and freedom also commands total commitment. It is so much more than signing up to a set of beliefs. It is dying to our personal hopes and ambitions and living only for him who gave his life for us (**Mark 8:35**).

**Report of boat-crossing miracle courtesy of missionaries working with Hellenic Ministries in Greece. This article by Charles Gardner first appeared in the Prophecy Today section of HEART Christian newspaper (Dec/Jan 2019-20) which can be ordered by calling 01903 209383 or via [www.heartpulations.co.uk](http://www.heartpulations.co.uk). You can sign up for a free weekly Prophecy Today online magazine at [www.prophecytoday.uk](http://www.prophecytoday.uk).**

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

If you would like to include anything in the May Newsletter, please let me have details by Monday 13th April in any of the following ways:-

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



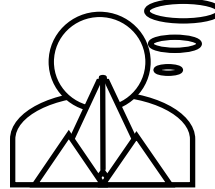
I would like to add my comments about the present situation we all find ourselves in. My love and prayers are with you all. I was reading this, the other day, and liked it and wanted to share it with you all. Quotes from NIV (New International Version) Life Application Study Bible at the beginning of 1 Thessalonians.

But like a golden shaft of sun piercing the winter sky, a singular trust shatters the oppressive gloom: death is not the end! Christ is the victor over death, and there is hope of resurrection through him.

As you read this letter, listen carefully to Paul's practical advice for Christian living. And when burdened by grief and overwhelmed by sorrow, take hope in the reality of Christ's return, resurrection and eternal life!

***Blessings Editor***

# Church Contacts



**Prayer Line**  
07801 956695

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

<b>Senior Stewards:</b>	
<b>Mr Reg Marriott</b>	Tel: 01752 893614
<b>Mrs Alison White</b>	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  
**May Newsletter**  
please get them to the Editor by  
**Monday 13th April**  
at the latest please.



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***[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://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](mailto:mrmerit@icloud.com)