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Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us
**You came from Heaven to Earth
to show the way
From the Earth to the Cross
my debt to pay
From the Cross to the Grave
from the Grave to the Sky
LORD I lift Your Name on High**

Popular Hymn



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IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH



Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

Dear Magazine Reader

We had the privilege of visiting the Holy Land back in 2012 and this is a picture of me outside the traditional site of the empty tomb.



In this magazine you will see details of the services over **Easter** which are hot off the press and I'm so grateful to Chris, our long-suffering magazine editor, for hanging fire so we can get the details to you! The only major change to the Easter arrangements is that there won't be a Good Friday procession as we're still not allowed to meet in large groups outside.

The long run-up to Easter (called Lent) is a great time to seek the Lord and prepare to ponder the death and resurrection of our **Lord Jesus Christ**. Unlike other religions and belief systems the Christian gospel is represented by a cross. This is where our Saviour laid down His sinless life and took upon Himself all our sin. It was only through the blood of Jesus Christ that we can be made right with God. The Bible says that, **"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** (*Romans 3:23*) But praise God! Our loving, heavenly Father knew we were lost, knew we couldn't save ourselves, knew that we needed mercy and He provided Himself in and through Christ as the verses in Romans 3 continue..."**and all are freely justified through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."** (*Romans 3:24*) What wonderful news. So as those who love and follow Christ we don't just focus on an empty cross, but an empty grave! We don't have to visit an ancient pile of bones, or a tombstone or a memorial! As the angel said to the first confused disciples on that first Easter Day, **"He is not here: He has risen, just as He said."** (*Matthew 28:6*) - Hallelujah!

The cross is empty – the tomb is empty
but our hearts are full, our lives are full and so is our fullness of joy!

As the old hymn says by Alfred H. Ackley:

He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

[illegible]

Easter 2021 Services

It gives us great pleasure to confirm the Easter arrangements for 2021. All main services will be held at IMC and will also be available via livestream on YouTube and possibly via zoom too (unless otherwise stated)!

Palm Sunday 28th March

10.30 am Service led by Revd Dave Martin

6:00 pm Testimony Service led by Revd Mark Lawrence
(Mark encourages you to come with a Bible verse, testimony or story of answered prayer so that we can encourage one another. This service will only be in the church and not livestreamed or Zoomed).

Tuesday 30th March

1:30 pm Mid-week Holy Communion - in Church only

Thursday 1st April

7:30 pm Tenebrae service including Holy Communion

Good Friday 2nd April

10:30 am Service led by Mr Mike Cade

Due to government restrictions there will not be an official walk of witness, but there will be details of a Trail, these will be sent out, via email and posted on the IMC website, as soon as they are confirmed.

Easter Sunday 4th April

10:30am Celebration of Holy Communion Service
led by Revd Mark Lawrence

For this service you will need to book via imcbookings@gmail.com or call 01752 894083.

**IMC General Church Meeting
(also known as AGM!)
Wednesday 21st April at 7:30pm**

(Important information that needs your response – see below!)

Dear IMC Friends,

We are going ahead with our GCM/AGM for the above date. If you are connected with any ministry within the life of the church can I encourage you to write a few words so that we can collate them all and share them around please? Can you send you report/update (no more than a sheet of A4) to **Lindsey Reid at linzreid@yahoo.co.uk** by **Tuesday 6th April** please? We will then try and send them out to you on or around the 15th so you've got time to read them all before the meeting. We shall also print a few copies and leave them for collection at the Sunday service on 18th.

This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage one another and to look to the future. The Leadership Team will oversee the meeting and share their vision for the way forward as we prepare to welcome Revd Amanda Roper from September. These reports/updates will also help Amanda get a feel of where we are and to see what the Lord is doing amongst us. We are also seeking to update our IMC email database in line with current GDPR legislation. If you would like to be included in further email updates and receive zoom links, etc. you **must** forward your email address to Lindsey at the above address otherwise you'll be left off!

We do hope you'll be able to either come along or share online so that we can build one another up in love.

Yours in Christ,
Revd Mark Lawrence
On behalf of the IMC Leadership Team



Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Compassion staff & volunteers have been working hard to provide updates on the general situation in our field countries, and we're keeping our website up to date with the latest information on local restrictions and the delivery of letters and gifts.

Even in difficult times there has been so much to celebrate. Our church partners have delivered hundreds of thousands of food packages, medical interventions and hygiene kits to support children and their families. What's more, they've been unleashing their creativity in continuing their ministry to children in new and innovative ways.

At Key to Life Church Kisumu (KE0434) in Kenya, Abraham is not able to attend the project because of local restrictions, but is receiving care and support from project staff at home.

At AIC Kanzinwa (KE0759) in Kenya, Mutuku is able to attend project activities in small groups.

Today, I'm delighted to be able to share a specific update about how your sponsored children's projects are operating. You can read a full explanation of what this means on the Compassion UK blog. A very small number of our church partners haven't been able to share an updated status at this time, mostly because of internet connectivity issues. Please be reassured that our work continues, even if a particular project isn't listed, and your sponsored children are still receiving love and support.

You can also see live updates over the coming months if these statuses change in the Compassion UK App.

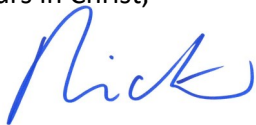
I know it has been a long season of uncertainty both for you and your sponsored children. I hope that knowing more about how they are receiving care and support right now brings you comfort and encouragement in this season.

Your sponsorship means that your sponsored children are being cared for



by staff, volunteers, and a church community who know and love them. Thank you so much for your continued and faithful support.

Yours in Christ,



Nicholas Boalch, Director of Supporter Experience
Compassion UK



SPRING HARVEST 2021

This year Spring Harvest will be delivered on-line due to the pandemic lockdown restrictions around public gatherings.

All the details can be found here: <https://springharvest.org/>

Not only is this a way for Spring Harvest regulars to get their annual fix, but it is also a much cheaper way of others experiencing what Spring Harvest (one of the largest inter-denominational Christian conferences in Europe) is all about. This year (as always) Spring Harvest will bring you some of the world's best worship leaders, speakers and Bible teachers. You can expect to see all the best bits of the usual programme: Big Start, Bible teaching, celebrations, excellent children's and youth content and much more; all based on this year's theme 'Unrivalled: Why we worship'.

There are two types of tickets – they cost £55 and £75.

The **£55** ticket allows you to access the whole Spring Harvest event (live and recorded up until the end of April) from two different devices (so you could share this with a friend).

For an additional **£20** you get access to the event from three different devices (so you could share with two friends) and it also gives you a year's access to a new Christian streaming platform (EC-Go) that is run by Essential Christian (the parent company of Spring Harvest). This is a brand-new online hub for Christian resources. As well as yearlong access to the Spring Harvest event material, it also includes new teaching, live worship music, home group materials, kids work resources & much more.

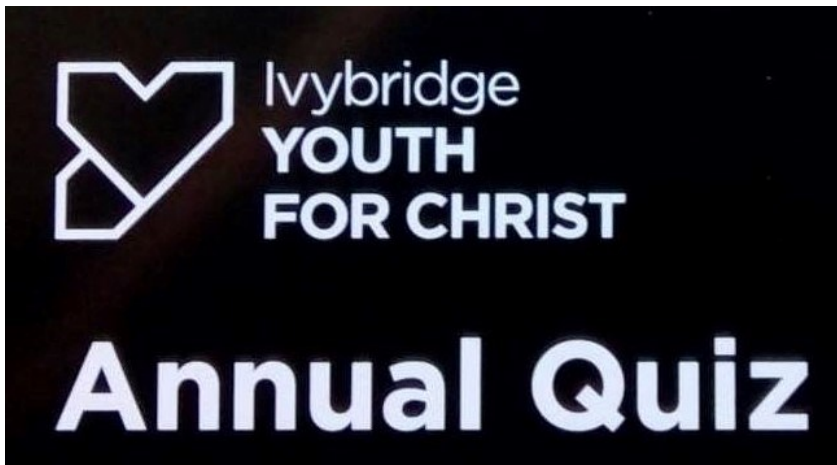
Many thanks, *Dave Rowe*

IVYBRIDGE YOUTH FOR CHRIST ANNUAL QUIZ

7 PM - Saturday 17 April 2021 - via Zoom

There have been online quizzes throughout the year
but this one is for the trophy!!!!

**WE'D LOVE YOU TO JOIN US AND HELP RAISE
FUNDS TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE
CHARITY WHILST HAVING FUN**



- 1) Make a £5 minimum donation for a team at
[**https://ivybridge.yfc.co.uk/donate/**](https://ivybridge.yfc.co.uk/donate/)
- 2) Then email: [**admin@ivybridge.yfc.co.uk**](mailto:admin@ivybridge.yfc.co.uk)
to get the Zoom code.

No team limit - play alone or as part of a team

Every Prayer a Powerful Weapon

After many years of helping to improve the standard of education of Cambodian school and university students, 2020 saw a shift in the focus of Cambodian Communities out of Crisis. We believe that the Lord led us to an insignificant village on a no-through-road between the Mekong and Bassac Rivers to the south-east of Phnom Penh with a view to working with a small, independent church to share the gospel with the predominantly Buddhist inhabitants, assist the church's ministry to children and teenagers and help relieve poverty and suffering in the area.

We discerned that there was a powerful demonic stronghold in the village and some of us suffered various attacks as soon as we started to oppose the powers of darkness. We know that 'the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds' (**2 Corinthians 10:4**) or, in the words of Doug Horley's song,

Step by step, we're moving forward

Little by little, taking ground;

Every prayer a powerful weapon

Strongholds come tumbling down and down and down and down.

So we should like to ask you to pray about the latest obstacles that we and the church face in moving forward in this vision:

- ✝ The land on which the church's simple wooden building is situated is to be sold. The church has no title to the land and no security of tenure.
- ✝ The church is not registered with the Ministry of Religion or the local authority. The police will not permit it to meet in a public building unless this state of affairs is rectified. It may be that if the church is forced to meet in small groups in homes or under trees this could result in renewed growth as has happened in China and elsewhere.

✝ Up to 19 February, Cambodia had seen only 484 cases of Covid-19. Following the escape from quarantine by certain infected persons who had recently arrived in the country, a rapidly expanding outbreak occurred, for which Cambodia was unprepared. By 12 March when this article was written, the number of cases had increased to 1,225. Various locations have been locked down, schools closed and churches banned from holding meetings. Our team based in Phnom Penh is unable to visit the village and even when restrictions are lifted villagers may be unwilling to meet the team while they perceive there is a risk to their health in doing so.

What great opportunities to see God at work! Thank you for your prayers and IMC's continued financial support.

Myers Cooper





APRIL/EASTER NEWS

If you have anything you would like to include in the **Church News** please let Judy Jago know by ringing her on **01752 894829**

Once again we get to celebrate the birth of a new baby - this time a new Grandson, **Ezra David**, for **Jenny and Tony Merriman** and we share their delight. We send congratulations and every blessing to **Ezra's** parents **Rachel and Ben** and look forward to meeting **Ezra** once regulations allow. The early days were tough for Mum and Baby but thankfully all is now progressing well and we pray they enjoy each and every day (assuming they get enough sleep!!!) as a new family.



Not too far behind the Duke of Edinburgh, our very own Sue Ridge celebrates her 99th birthday in the middle of April. Sue we send our love and many congratulations on this great birthday and look forward to celebrating your centenary next year.

Warmest congratulations to **Dr Kim Gentle** who has just passed all her exams to become a GP and now can put MRCPGP after her name! Well done **Kim** - its been a long road with non stop hard work but you've survived well!! **Kim** is working as a Registrar at South Brent until next February then will move to a new post. We wish you every blessing **Kim** as you look towards your new future.



In March's news we reported that **Kathy Blackwood** hadn't been well - since then she has been in hospital, undergone several operations on her ankle, come close to losing her foot but now, thankfully, is home and is progressing well. There will be many months of casts and air boots but, we pray, not too much pain and a return to easy walking and swimming as quickly as possible. Sending love and prayers for speedy healing **Kathy**.

We continue to pray for those awaiting operations and those recovering from a time in hospital (also for those who are caring for them). Pray too for those holding and caring for friends and family in the terminal stages



of cancer, with all the heartache and grief that goes with that time.

Time is flying by and a reminder that **Mark and Carolyn's** last Sunday with us will be **May 2nd** and Mark is preaching at both services on that day. There may well still be restrictions on the numbers we can have in Church so please watch out for details of booking places for services as the time comes for us to be back in Church.

Very hot off the press, Nigel Phillips had a successful operation today 20.03.21 and is now recovering in ICU. Joy and he thank you for all your prayers.

Look up

..... said the robin on the fence post.

I was pegging washing

But looked up.

I saw white wisps, rain remnants,
drifting on blue,

And buds fit for bursting

And Spring touched my face.

Look up! called the blackbird on his gable.

Out fetching potatoes

I stopped and looked up.

I saw a silent fog ceiling,

Trees, holding their breath.

I held mine, too.

Still your rush, they said.

Try looking up

Through the blue, or through the grey,

To other things:

To trust and joy,

To Creator's promise.

Christine Moulder

Spiritual Gifts and the Body of Christ

One of the most famous picture-descriptions of the Church is given by St Paul in **1 Corinthians 12**. The Church, says Paul, is the Body of Christ. This inspired picture tells us up front, that the Church is something quite different from other organisations on earth. It is not a hierarchy, as in industry or commerce, it is neither a democracy nor a dictatorship, as in politics, but an organic living entity. It is like a body, made up of many parts, each essential to the functioning of the whole. The entire concept has passed into everyday language in the use of the word 'member' (of an organisation), which literally means limb. In **1 Corinthians 12**, Paul draws an immediate conclusion from the picture language: that no part of the **Body of Christ** can do without the other and that every member of the body is vital for the functioning of the whole.

In the film Apollo 13, there is a scene that speaks into this view of the Church. The astronauts have survived a disaster and are being brought home, but CO² levels are rising and they will die before they get back, unless the air is purified. Mission Control is trying to solve the problem, but every solution anyone comes up with cannot be achieved for one reason or another. As the technical people argue, someone strides into the room with a bundle of wires, pieces of plastic, tubes and other apparent junk and says: 'we gotta find a way of making this fit this, using nothing but that'. In other words, they have to use what's on board – and they do!

I believe that's how the church should be. We should do the job using what we've got! Each small unit of the Body (e.g. IMC) already has what it needs for effective mission. The only problem is, I suspect, that not everyone is being used. Yet, if everyone were enabled to play their part, if everyone used their God-given gifts and talents for Jesus, the church would automatically do the work that God had planned for it. **Ephesians 2: 10** reminds us we are all here for a God given purpose, which God determined in advance of our lives. **What a thought!**

This thought has implications for how we go about determining our mission. Do we base it on a pre-determined strategy - or look at things that have worked elsewhere - or do we look at who we've got and make every effort to use them all to the full? Deciding what we're going to do and then finding people to do it, can be described as 'task-driven'; discovering the gifts everyone has and then using them, would be called 'gift driven'. This is not to throw planning away, but to plan in a different way.

Of course, the Body needs organisation, which is why one of the gifts is Leadership and another Administration, but the essential first step is to engage the whole of the Body. Paul is clear on this: **The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"** In deciding the mission of the church, all gifts are needed, even scary gifts like prophecy, discernment, healing and deliverance. Without them, the body lacks its full functionality.

Romans 12 is one of the other main passages on this. Paul, having explained Christian doctrine in 11 chapters, breaks out in praise of God's salvation plan at the end of that chapter. He then asks the question: what's our response to this? The first response (12:1) is to give ourselves wholeheartedly to God – the word used is 'sacrifice' ourselves. The second (12:2) is to allow our thinking to be transformed, so we can hear God's will for our lives. The third (12:3-8) is to use the gifts God has given to 'every one of you'. That's very surprising in a way. You might have thought he would say: your response is to get out there and tell everybody! That's part of it, of course, because one of the gifts is evangelism, but it's one of about 30 and they're all needed. Paul is saying, everyone needs to start using their gifts. I find it interesting that, with 5 chapters in Romans yet to go, on practical responses to God's grace, Paul starts with everyone using their gifts.

The problem, you may be saying, is that sounds a bit chaotic. Suddenly, everyone starts using their gift: how is that going to happen? It's true that making the change from task-driven to gift-given church can be a bit chaotic, but remember that the giver of the

gifts, **the Holy Spirit**, is second to none in bringing order out of chaos (**Genesis 1: 1-2**). It will take time and need care, but it will be transforming and delightful to see the flowering of so many gifts and, remember, as that happens, the church automatically turns in the direction God wants for it.

There is a 'mythical rule' about churches that 20% of the people do 80% of the work. If that's in any way true, should we not be asking why? Is it possibly because we have not understood how the Body of Christ is intended to work, with a wide variety of gifts contributing to the life and vitality of the whole? It sometimes seems that we have a mixture of hierarchy, democracy and dictatorship – some sort of human compromise perhaps, that keeps things ticking along. The change from task-driven to gift-driven church is not only liberating but essential if we are to let leadership lead and engage the whole of the body.

If you're wondering what exactly a spiritual gift is and how many there are, the next edition will have more on that.

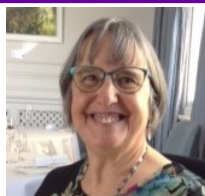
Phil Walsh

Visit our website at
www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk
where you can see a **colour version** of this
Newsletter.

From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the **May Newsletter**, please let me have details by Wednesday 14 April in any of the following ways:

- ◆ send it by email to: **imc33chris@gmail.com**
- ◆ ring me on: **01752 892341**
- ◆ post it through my letterbox at: **33 Julian Road, Ivybridge PL21 9BU**
please put your name on it





OpenDoors

tearfund

Dear Friends

We have all struggled in different ways during the Covid-19 lockdowns. However, we particularly need to remember our brothers and sisters around the world who have been subjected to the most horrendous situations because of the pandemic. Many Christians have not received the little government aid that has been distributed because they are Christians. They haven't been allowed to leave their homes to earn a living and in some cases have been 'sitting ducks' to those who want to cause them harm. We not only want to support them in prayer, but do something practical too. At our last Leadership Team meeting we want to launch an **Easter appeal** to give via **Open Doors** and **Tearfund** to ensure that the least of these brothers and sisters of ours are given vitally important aid and encouragement so that they can simply live. The Tearfund donation will go to their special appeal for Yemen as the untold suffering continues to unfold in this manmade humanitarian disaster. We have recently received a legacy as a church and we are tithing this (£2,534) to honour the Lord and give to His beleaguered people. If you feel able to contribute then you can either give at our services over the Easter period or via bank transfer (as per details below).

Please pray into this and give what you can to help those who are suffering right now as a result of persecution, unjust regimes, and political neglect.

May God have mercy on these precious individuals through us.

Yours in Christ, Revd Mark

On behalf of the IMC Leadership Team.

BACS Account Number 08262683 sort code 53-61-57

Account: Ivybridge Methodist Church Trustees

Please mark payments Ref: Easter Appeal

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