



**IVYBRIDGE**  
**METHODIST CHURCH**



**May 2017**

**Newsletter**

## *Letter from Our Minister*

Dear Friends,

In this magazine you'll see that we are seeking to build on the good work that has been going on in the past and seeking God to grow that work in the future. It's all very exciting! You'll see an article about our vision (page 10) and the different areas of ministry within IMC and which steward is overseeing that important work.



Watch this space as we seek to develop this, but it will only come to fruition if we all get involved as the people of God here in Ivybridge. The church isn't automatic! Yes, Jesus is building His church, but God has designed it so we have the great privilege and joy of joining with Him and our brothers and sisters in Christ. In that way our joy might be complete and we can be fulfilled in our work for Him, because that is our true worship. So all our work flows out of thanksgiving to Him, not trying to curry favour – phew!

I've also included notes from the first two sessions of the Apostles' Creed (page 12) as some of the evening recordings are missing. I know Tony is working on this and I'm very grateful for all his hard work. I hope you take time to read through the notes and look at the biblical references and engage with God's word. The more we can do that the stronger and more effective we'll be to stand against the growing tide of meaningless trivia the world is obsessed with! I will put the rest of the notes in future magazine editions and maybe we can put them on the web too.

Next month (June) we have an amazing group of guys coming to the area known as Tough Talk. I'm trying to arrange an evening meeting for the men somewhere in the area so we can bring male friends, family and work colleagues to hear the Gospel in a 'blokey' atmosphere, which will be cringe-free! Watch this space again! But don't worry sisters as they will be taking part in our 10:30 am Sunday service on 11 June! If you go to [tough-talk.com](http://tough-talk.com) you'll see their website. Well worth a visit. I've worked with them before in Lincoln prison (when I was a chaplain – not an inmate!).

Carolyn and I are delighted that we are going to be fully over here (Ivybridge) as from 1 September! Praise the Lord! We are moving in to the Badgers Close Manse on 3 August and are really looking forward to being part of



this community. As I've said many times before we know this is a divine appointment. God is in control. He has good things in store for us all if we keep fixing our eyes on Jesus, loving Him and one another.

With every blessing in Christ,

*Mark*

Tel. 01548-852073 Mobile 0752 779 6319 Email [revmark@live.co.uk](mailto:revmark@live.co.uk)

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

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

- ♥ send it by email to [contact@jennyhansford.co.uk](mailto:contact@jennyhansford.co.uk)
- ♥ ring me on 01752 894634
- ♥ hand it to me at church on a Sunday
- ♥ place it in the "H" pigeonhole in the Church Concourse
- ♥ post it through my letterbox at 10 MacAndrew Walk, Ivybridge



*Jenny Hansford*



## **Women's Ministry at IMC May Programme**



**Tuesday 2 May from 1:30 pm.**

**Please note the change of day.**

We can't meet on the Monday as it is a Bank Holiday so we will combine our study with Mark's communion service and Mark will lead us in a study on 'What is Healing?' and follow it with communion.

**Monday 8 May 7:30 pm**

A DVD Evening at The Manse, 5 Culver Park, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1LD

If anyone has a good girlie chick flick could they bring it along and we'll decide on the night what to watch.

*Carolyn Lawrence*

Email: [markcarolyn1983@gmail.com](mailto:markcarolyn1983@gmail.com)

Tel: 01548 852073



# May Worship

## IVYBRIDGE

May 7	10:30 am 3:00 pm	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence Easter Offering Service at Elburton
May 14	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Gary Streeter ENGAGE - Mr Paul Courtney
May 21	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mrs Janet Dobinson Prayer Service led by Mrs Gill Cowsill
May 28	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion Rev Andrew Day

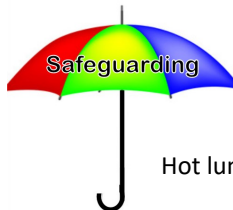
## BITTAFORD

May 7	10:30 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
May 14	2:30 pm	Rev Simon Leigh - Communion
May 21	10:30 AM	Mrs Di Smart
May 28	10:30 am	Mr Justice Abusah

(The June speakers are not known at the time of going to print)

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*The speakers have been taken from Circuit Plan  
and are correct to the best of the Editor's knowledge.*



**This is a reminder about the next  
Safeguarding Leadership Training Course**  
on Saturday 13 May, 9:30 for a 10:00 am start  
at St Thomas Methodist Church, Cowick Street, Exeter

Hot lunch is provided with donations invited to help cover costs  
Please book with Rev Julian Albrow

[julian.albrow@btinternet.com](mailto:julian.albrow@btinternet.com) or [creating safer space@pemd.org.uk](mailto:creating safer space@pemd.org.uk)

Please state any dietary needs at time of booking.



Methodist Women  
in Britain

World Federation  
of Methodist and  
Uniting Church Women



## World Federation Day 2017



### Gender Equality in the 21st Century

*(based on Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality)*

**Saturday 28 October 2017**  
**10:00am – 4:00pm**

at

**Side Door Methodist Church**

Lacey Road, Grimsby, Lincolnshire DN34 5BH

Further information and booking form available from Carolyn  
or

download from: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

telephone: 0300 030 9873

email: [communications@mwib.org.uk](mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk)

## A Fistful of Dollars in Cambodia

**Fact:** The United States Dollar accounts for 83% of financial transactions and more than 90% of banking deposits in Cambodia.



One of the policies of the Khmer Rouge was to ban the use of money, for which there was no use in their extreme communist philosophy. The Cambodian Riel was re-introduced in 1980, but from the early 1990s onwards use of the US Dollar increased, especially for higher-value transactions. The arrival in 1992 of thousands of United Nations soldiers, who were paid in dollars, the establishment of private banks and an influx of tourists all contributed to the dollarisation of the Cambodian economy. During 1991-92, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia spent \$1.7 billion, equivalent to about 75% of Cambodia's GDP at the time.

Chea Chanto, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, claims that dollarisation has made the country's economy vulnerable to external shocks or crises because it limits Cambodia's ability to implement monetary policies and use the exchange rate mechanism to contribute to the development of trade, investment and tourism. The National Bank has a policy of injecting the Riel into the economy, and use of the currency has increased by 17% in daily transactions and 26% in banking during the last two decades.

### Please pray:

- for the stability of the Cambodian economy;
- for the poor who suffer particularly from the effects of a high inflation rate;
- for the two million borrowers from microfinance institutions, on whose loans an interest rate of typically 20-30% is charged.

### Footnote

On the subject of money, thank you for the monthly gift from the church to Cambodian Communities out of Crisis, which is used to help children from very poor families go to school and receive a cooked meal each day. We have just finalised our accounts for 2016 and we praise the Lord that all our overheads were covered by Gift Aid, thus ensuring that the full amount of all donations we received was sent to Cambodia; nothing was deducted for administration.

*Myers Cooper*



# Wise and Wonderful

We meet fortnightly in the IMC Café: see dates below.  
Meetings are on Fridays, from 2.30 until 4:00 pm  
with a charge of £1 each time



## Summer Programme 2017

April 28

“A brief history of the RAF at Harrowbeer (Yelverton)”  
with Michael Hayes

May 12

A speaker from the Children's Hospice South West

May 26

“A walk on Hadrian's Wall”  
with Sue Pengilly

June 9

Quiz round a local church  
with Chris and Brian Treharne

June 23

“With great pleasure”:  
a special mix of music, poetry and stories

July 7

Cream tea in Widecombe!  
Departure time to be confirmed

Please contact one of us for more information:  
Valerie Marriott 893614    Sara Bromage 894198  
Judy Jago 894829    Sue Pengilly 896444  
Christine and David Moulder 892858

**We are an open fellowship and all are welcome!**



# May News

If you have anything you would like included in the Church News please let Judy Jago know at church,

Welcome to our Church family news this month and we hope that summer is now here and we can look forward to some lovely weather!!



Firstly we want to wish Sally Pearce a belated very happy birthday as she celebrated her 70th at the end of April. We hope you celebrated well Sally and don't feel a day older!! Many happy returns.

Gill Ricketts also celebrates a big birthday this month and we hope it's a lovely day Gill and you enjoy all the celebrations. Sending love and best wishes for a happy birthday and many happy returns.



Paul Courtney has just begun the next stage of his professional life, after leaving Exeter Cathedral. As well as running his own Consultancy business, Paul is now working with Farms for City Children. This is a Charity dedicated to enabling children to experience a very different way of life to their normal every day life. Paul we send very best wishes and many blessings on all your new ventures.

Many congratulations to Harry Solomon who has just gained award in a business enterprise competition organised by Plymouth Herald. Harry is part of a team running Wombats, a firm that produces unique cricket bats. Great news Harry and we wish you every success in the future.



We still have poorly people to pray for - Barry Jury, Cecil Downing at Kings Acre, Christine Jago and family members of Duncan and Kirsten Knowles and Christine and Brian Treharne. To you all we send our best wishes and assure you of ongoing prayers for peace and healing.

To all those families struggling with difficulties know we are praying for you too



# ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

*Together for older people*

## The RVS Home Library Service

This is a service that helps deliver library and audio books to people who, through older age, illness, injury or disability cannot visit a library or are too frail to carry heavy books.

Ivybridge Library supports the RVS Home Library Service Volunteers (all of whom are DBS checked and trained to a high level) who deliver the service to communities within its area.

Particular authors and titles can be requested free of charge, while large print books and audio books are available for those with visual impairment.

June is 92 years old, lives alone and has used the service for more than three years. She loves books and reading. A volunteer has been visiting her every month with a selection of books by authors she likes to read and some new authors she hasn't tried before. Over the years June and her volunteer have become friends, and following a discussion about the last set of books, the conversation moves on to a wide range of other subjects. They share a love of their gardens and June shares her greater knowledge and experience with her grateful volunteer. During these visits there is always a lot of laughter.

June says she looks forward to seeing her RVS Volunteer and thoroughly recommends this free and valuable service to others.

If you would like to know more about this service ring -

Ivybridge Library on 01752 893140, or  
Jacqueline Cleaver (RVS) on 07786 635163  
or email - [Jacqueline.cleaver@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.cleaver@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)



This month's Men's Breakfast will be held on  
Saturday 6 May at 8:30 am

The cost of a Full English Breakfast is £3.50 .  
Please let Tony know if you want a breakfast by  
Thursday 4 May on 01752 894265, 07841 015762, or  
email him at [mrmerrit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerrit@icloud.com)

After breakfast testimony by our very own David Bithell.

# IMC

## Building and Growing for the Future



### Introduction

In 2012, IMC published a five-year plan, with a mission and vision statement, along with a range of values that underpin what we do.

In 2017, much has changed and developed but many of these core values remain the same. However, we are committed, as His church, to constantly strive to listen to God and respond to what He has to say to us about His vision for our ministry here in Ivybridge and the surrounding communities.

This revised plan, or over-arching vision statement, aims to set out our mission and vision; re-affirms our core values and goes further in looking at the key areas of church life that we believe help us to fulfil these aims.

We would like everyone who feels they are a part of our church to take time to read, to reflect, to pray and specifically, to ask God where He is calling you to serve in this vision.

### Our Mission Statement

To know Christ and to make Christ known

### Our Vision Statement

To be a 'beacon church' – reaching out in proclamation and service into the communities that surround us

To develop a strong fellowship in the Holy Spirit, based upon power, love and self-discipline

### Our Core Values

These over-arching principles continue to be –

- ♥ Providing accessible worship
- ♥ Sharing God's Good News
- ♥ Encouraging Spiritual Growth
- ♥ Blessing our community
- ♥ Being a Church Family

### What do we want to do?

- ♥ Seek the lost and lead them to Christ
- ♥ Disciple and grow our church community spiritually
- ♥ See growth – both in the numbers of people worshipping but also in the depth of their worship and relationship with God
- ♥ Serve our community



## How we do it

These values are more than just values – they call for action! And in order to deliver these values and live them out we have devised the following key areas of IMC life and ministry for which a member of the leadership team takes responsibility. These are as follows.

Teaching, Discipleship & Evangelism (Rev'd Mark Lawrence, Minister)

Worship (Paul Courtney, Worship Leader)

Pastoral Work and House Groups (Alison White, Steward)

Prayer (Lois Stephenson, Steward)

Finance, Property and Health and Safety (Miles Allen, Steward)

Children and Families (Dawn Martin, Senior Steward)

Youth and Community (Dave Rowe, Steward)

Support and Activities for Older People (David Moulder, Senior Steward)

Outreach and World Mission (Reg Marriott, Steward)

We are now moving in a time where we are seeking God's wisdom and voice for the future and so we are setting out plans for these key areas of our church life. As we do so we are very mindful that God continues to grow and move way beyond our plans and thoughts (Isaiah 55:8). We are committed to continually seeking God's direction and prompting as we move forward as His church, together. Therefore, we are asking you to join with us and pray specifically about how He is calling you to action in these areas and where you can play your part.

We know that God calls us individually and corporately to seek and serve Him. Therefore, echoing Paul's words in his letter to the Ephesians, we pray that God will raise up prophets, teachers, evangelists, servants to His word – all part of the body of Christ – actively seeking to serve Him in the furtherance and building of His Kingdom here in Ivybridge.

We would encourage you to pray, dream and imagine how God could use you and all of us to make His ways our ways as we seek to do His work here in this place.

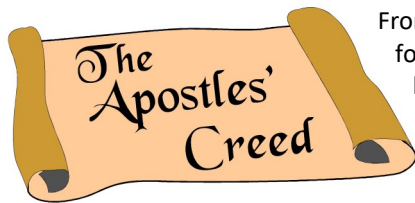


Churches together Taizé Service

at Harford Church

on 18 June

at 7:00 pm



From the very beginning of Christianity, followers of Jesus Christ were people who believed certain things, i.e. the Truth! Those beliefs were gradually formed into what is called a 'creed' ('credo' is the Latin for 'I believe').

Credo, stating what the Bible teaches, became an important test of true Christianity. Today, Christians use creeds all over the world as a statement of their faith.

Credo were in use from the earliest stage of the Christian Church. At first they were in question and answer form for use at baptism. The person wishing to be baptised as a Christian would be asked such questions as, "Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?" The candidate would respond, "I believe."

The series of questions was added to over the years, covering essential aspects of the Christian faith. The Apostles' Creed grew out of these early beginnings around the middle of the 4th Century. It was called the Apostles' Creed as it summarised the teaching of the leaders of the early Church. It is often used today in Christian worship as a declaration of faith. <sup>[1]</sup>

So we need to know what we believe and why we believe it! This is what the Apostle's Creed is all about – to guard the church from error, by affirming the Scriptures and truth of the true and full Gospel!!

Systematic, strategic, satan-proofed, spirit-filled saints is the order of the day!  
Error = believing a lie = deception.

The Apostles' Creed is based on the truth of God's Word and guards against deception – there is a lot of it about! To mention a few:-

Secular humanism

Religions

Freemasonry

Sects = So called Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints (Mormonism), so-called Jehovah's Witnesses (not His witnesses at all, but modern-day Arians, which they had a lot of hence the Creed written back in 4th Century!)

Even within parts of the Trinitarian church there are serious errors – so-called Prosperity Gospel and the subtle but deadly antinomianism which empties local churches and fuels a few selective TV ministries and mega-churches – especially in the US.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Taken from *What Christians Believe* (SGM International)



So there is error = believing a lie = deception  
And then there's the glorious 'Spirit of Truth'!

If you believe the truth it (He) will set you free, *"If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31b-32)

Jesus made that wonderful declaration about who He is (one of His seven 'I am' divine declarations in John's Gospel): *"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No-one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6)

So let's look at the Apostles' Creed line by line.

### Line 1 -

**"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."**

Text – *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (Gen.1:1)

An atheist scientist came to God and said, "We've figured out how to make a man without you." God said, "OK, let me see you do it." So the atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful. But God stopped him and said, "Oh, no you don't. Get your own dirt!"

Text – *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (Gen.1:1)

Quote – "If folks try to leave God out of the beginning, they will never get the middle nor ending right." (Mark Perkins)

### **GOD THE CREATOR** (Genesis 1:1-4)

*"For thus says the LORD – Who created the heavens, God Himself, Who formed the earth and made it, Who established it and did not create it to be a worthless waste; He formed it to be inhabited – I am the LORD, and there is no-one else." (Isaiah 45:18v Amp. Bible)*

God – not to be confused with all the cheap imitations. There are many 'gods', but only the one God, Father Almighty.

Read Hebrews 1:1-3. Also – Hebrews 11:3 *"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."*

**Problem(!):** We cannot talk about Father in isolation from the Son, as Jesus said in John 10:30 – *"I and the Father are one"* (Greek neuter = 'one thing', not 'one person'. The two are one in essence or nature, but they are not identical persons.)



*“So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.” (1 Corinthians 8:4b-6)*

Please note the Creed does not start – “I believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth.” Although this is true – it is fact – it is not a statement of saving faith! You could believe that much – but still be going to hell. How do I know this – acknowledgment of the truth is not the same as a living faith, because we’re told in James 2:19 - *“You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.”*

No – the Apostle’s Creed does not say “I believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth.” It says, “I believe in God, **the Father Almighty**, Creator of heaven and earth.”

I have a confession to make – I’m a Creationist! The God I know and who has adopted me into His wonderful family has no problem in taking six days to create everything. If He wanted He could have done it in six non-seconds – but He took His time over it!

Creator of: Heaven – v.16 – He also made the stars, read Psalm 8

Carolyn went to the World Methodist Assembly in Houston, Texas (representing 80 million global followers of Jesus, mainly serving Him through their local Methodist churches.) The speakers included Rev Dr David Wilkerson (Astrophysicist and Methodist Minister) and Dr Jennifer Wiseman (An American graduate from MIT and Harvard). They were saying<sup>2</sup>:

Stars exploding produce the elements for life ... God’s factories.

Does God care about us though we’re so small? Our worth comes from what God has done, not through our own success, fame, wealth, education or status.

Psalm 8 helps us keep perspective. The stars and moon are the work of God’s fingers, He didn’t even have to use His whole arm! He cares about the details of our lives ... keep your problems in perspective against the vastness of creation.

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<sup>2</sup> Taken from Carolyn’s notes at the Methodist World Assembly, Houston, Texas.



Who are we in comparison to the universe? Thousands of galaxies, each galaxy made of 100s of billions of stars! Awesome.

One of the Apollo astronauts said – “Jesus walking on the earth was more important than man walking on the moon”

Question - How big is your God?

That situation you’re facing right now that seems to fill your horizon – how big is your God?

Doug Horley wrote a children’s song and some of the lyrics said, “Have we made our God, too small, too small...”

**Declaration –**

**GOD IS BIGGER THAN YOUR PROBLEMS!**

**GOD IS BIGGER THAN YOUR SICKNESS!**

**GOD IS BIGGER THAN YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION!**

**GOD IS BIGGER THAN YOUR SINS!**

**GOD IS BIGGER THAN A 1000 BILLION BILLION BILLION GALAXIES!**

He won’t fit into the little box in your head!

**“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.”**

There are three types of heaven – 1st - earth’s atmosphere, 2nd - the heavens, space/universe; and 3rd - heaven itself, the dwelling place of those who are born again after they leave this earth, a physical, real place.

Earth – here!

The Creed uses the name Father. GOD THE FATHER

Obvious statement:

- ◆ You can’t call God ‘Father’ unless you’re one of His children!
- ◆ You can’t be one of His children unless you know His Son.
- ◆ And you can’t know the Son unless the Holy Spirit reveals Him to you. (e.g. No-one was born-again between the Ascension and Pentecost – think about it!)

Read Romans 8:12-17

It is by the Spirit that we cry “Abba” (Abba is the Aramaic for ‘Daddy’, a respectful term of endearment and intimacy). Do you know the Creator God as your precious Daddy?

*“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”* (Romans 8:16)



And did you hear the first bit, because the two are related - *“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship...”* (Romans 8:15)

No longer slaves – but FREE! Are you free? Someone once said, “If you’re not free – you’re someone else’s slave.” The Father’s children are designed to be free in every sense of the word.

**“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.”**

## Line 2

**“I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.”**

What does it mean to actually ‘believe in Jesus Christ’?

In Acts 16 we’re told that Paul and Silas were in jail in Philippi. You might be familiar with the account. Read Acts 16:25-31

To the question from the jailer of “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (16:30)

Paul and Silas replied, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.”* (16:31)

The Greek word for ‘believe’ is *‘pisteuo’*. Sorry – if I’m teaching my grand-mother to suck eggs – but this is really of foundational importance.

Pisteuo =

To have confidence in

To be fully persuaded

To give credence to

To be convinced

To completely trust

To believe like that is a saving faith. When, and only when, it is placed in the person of Jesus Christ. So the Apostles’ Creed is a statement of faith! It is rooted in the Holy Scriptures – we can declare it to one another and to the powers of darkness so they can continue to shudder and retreat from us.

### Who is Jesus Christ?

Well interestingly enough most of Creed is devoted to who He is and what He’s done, more of that in following episodes.

But let us briefly look at the person of Jesus Christ and look at some key texts, but only very briefly.

Colossians 1 is totally awesome! There we read several key things about the Lord Jesus Christ:

He is the image of the invisible God (v 15)

He is the first-born over all creation (v 15)





In Him all things were created through Him and for Him (v 16)  
He is before all things (v 17)  
In Him all things hold together (v 17)  
He is the head of the Church (v 18)  
He is the beginning and the first-born among the dead (v 17)  
He has the supremacy (v 18)  
All the fullness of God dwells in Him (v 19)  
Through Him all things will be reconciled by making peace through His blood,  
shed on the cross. (v 20)

Application – When we pray in the Name of Jesus, we invoke this heavenly, all-powerful authority!

Classic Cosmological Christology!

Realising by revelation from the Father that Jesus of Nazareth, the baby born in a stable by a Jewish peasant teenager, is the Mighty Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe partly squeezed into a human body by the Holy Spirit! The Doctrine of the Trinity – not human in origin. No-one could invent this, but it is a Divine Revelation of the Tri-une Godhead!

We're talking about things far beyond human understanding, but things revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Read Ephesians 3:17-19

So who is Jesus Christ and how come He is God's Only Son?

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

*"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known. (John 1:18)*

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)*

Only Begotten Son. Born of God – begotten – not created

### **Extract from Nicene Creed -**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

"...begotten, not made..." Jesus Christ is not part of the created order – He has always been. He became human at the Incarnation.

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..." (John.1:1)*



Jehovah's Witnesses are badly mistaken about the person of Jesus as they think He is part of the created order, they have mistranslated John's gospel to their error and shame!

Jesus Christ – is God in human flesh!

God only has One Begotten Son – but He has many children whom He has adopted!

Read Galatians 4:4-6

Read Ephesians 1:4-5

Read Romans 8:15-16

Finally

Here's a massive statement – “Our Lord.” What does it mean to say – ‘Jesus is my Lord’?

People like Him being a friend – mate – BBF! People like Him being their Saviour (although many think they can save themselves!)

But to say He's our Lord is tricky! That means He is in charge. He is the boss.

What He says – we do!

Where He sends – we go!

What He demands – we yield!

He is Lord of our time – talents – finances – daily routines – our very lives.

As Thomas declared after the Resurrection at the feet of Jesus – “My Lord and my God” (John 21:28)

In view of the fact that:

He is the image of the invisible God

He is the first-born over all creation

In Him all things were created through Him and for Him

He is before all things

In Him all things hold together

He is the head of the Church

He is the beginning and the first-born among the dead

He has the supremacy

All the fullness of God dwells in Him

Through Him all things will be reconciled by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

We must bow the knee in humble surrender before Him. It is our privilege and duty to call Him Lord! Amen!



*"The eternal God is your refuge,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms."  
(Deuteronomy 33:27)*

As many of you will know Ken and I have lost both our Mums in the last three months.

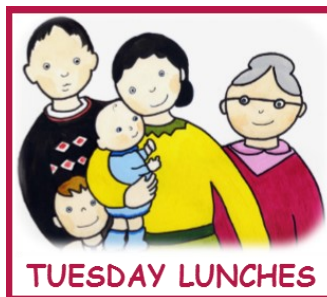
Whilst reflecting, with gratitude, on the many forms of support our church family have shown us during this period this verse sprang to mind. With it came a picture of how those everlasting arms looked in the here and now. They are arms and hands of many shapes and sizes; some work worn; some shaped by sickness or arthritis; some smooth or strong; of men, women, and children, of different ages, with different histories and paths to Faith. All these arms have shown God's love, compassion and support to us during this period. They brought flowers, cards, meals, prayers, hugs and so much more.

Thank you all for being God's 'everlasting arms' and for being family.

*Sara and Ken Bromage*

### **TUESDAY LUNCHES**

Would you be able to spare 2 or 3 hours every 4- 5 weeks to help us with Tuesday lunches? You wouldn't need to cook a big meal, just be around to help make sandwiches or simple snacks and help with clearing up afterwards. We are a friendly bunch to work with and we all join in a tasty, free lunch afterwards.



If you feel you could help, please contact Mercy Matthews by Email:- [bmercy.matthews@homecall.co.uk](mailto:bmercy.matthews@homecall.co.uk) or phone Mercy on 893812.

Thankyou.

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

Tuesday Lunches look forward to producing a  
Midsummer Feast  
on 27 June.

More details in next month's Newsletter

# Church Contacts



## Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence Tel: 01548-852073  
email: revmark@live.co.uk

## Senior Stewards:

Mr David Moulder Tel: 01752 892858  
Mrs Dawn Martin Tel: 01752 690742

## Room Bookings:

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

## House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

## Youth Work:

Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

If you have any items for the

## June Newsletter

please get them to the Editor by

**Wednesday 10 May**

at the latest please.

**Tel: 01752 894634**

**email: [contact@jennyhansford.co.uk](mailto:contact@jennyhansford.co.uk)**



Visit our website at

**[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk)**

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website  
you can do so at [mrmerrit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerrit@icloud.com)