



IVY BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the
word of our God will stand forever".
(Isaiah 40:8 ESV)



"He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the
sun knows when to go down".
(Psalm 104:19 NIV)

November 2019 Newsletter

A Letter from Mark

"But from the beginning of creation, God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." **(Mark 10:6-9 NKJV)**



I'm sure many of you are aware of the Conference proposed resolutions which will be adopted or amended at the next one which Carolyn will be helping to chair in Liverpool! She and the rest of conference will need our fervent prayers. In this magazine you will see a brief explanation and voting slip for each of the aspects of it which Reg has kindly put together for us. It is so important that we all vote and have our say to let those in the Circuit, District and Connexion (National Methodist Church) know where we stand as a church. I will make sure the accurate figures are forwarded on.

Many of us feel very passionately about seeking God's will to be done and for His holy will to be obeyed. Throughout history challenges from without and within have come along to test the purity and holiness of God's people. This is another one. We have a choice to make. To follow the world and its standards or to take our stand and remain faithful to His unchanging will and word. Time will tell if that is the case. However, alongside that is the necessity of not being distracted from things which cause us to take our eyes off Jesus Christ and seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness. If we truly want to be an 'inclusive church' then we don't want to be anything other than obedient to the One who is Lord of all.

I am more than happy to talk to anyone who needs further guidance on the issues we're voting on. The slips will be available in the concourse as well as part of this magazine and there will be a box for you to put your slips in to. You have all of November to prayerfully consider these things and then they will be counted and sent on. We will let you know the numbers so that the process is completely open. It is a secret ballot so you don't have to publicly declare which way you voted.

May God continue to lead, guide and direct us in His way.

with every blessing in Christ
Rev Mark



NOVEMBER and Early December Worship



IVYBRIDGE

November 3	09:00-09:45	THE BIG START - Phil Blunt
	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion (with Richard Fisher from Tearfund)
	6:30 pm	Discipleship - Lectio Divina - 1 (page 13) Phil and Jean Walsh
November 10	10:30 am	Service at Watermark Car Park (Relay @ IMC)
	6:30 pm	NO SERVICE
November 17	10:30 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence
	6:30 pm	Mrs Gill Cowsill
November 24	10.30 am	Jean Walsh
	6:30 pm	Discipleship - Lectio Divina - 2 (page 13) Rev Mark Lawrence, Phil and Jean Walsh
December 1	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - ADVENT 1
	6:30 pm	Discipleship - Lectio Divina - 3 (page 13) Phil and Jean Walsh, Rev Mark Lawrence
December 8	10:30 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence - ADVENT 2

BITTAFORD

November 3	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
November 10	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
November 17	11:00 am	Miss Sue Bolt
November 24	11:00 am	Mrs Rebecca Marshall
December 1	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion ADVENT 1
December 8	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

Toy Swap!

Choose pre-loved gifts this Christmas, save money and reduce your carbon footprint.

Saturday 2nd Nov 10am - 2pm
(Drop off Fri 1st Nov 1-5pm and Sat 2nd 9-10am)

This is a community event, please let your friends know

Clean toys in good working order only. We will exchange your toys for tokens which you can 'spend' at the Swap.

Further info: **Sophie Phillips** on s_r_phillips@hotmail.co.uk or **07730 475 958**

Volunteers needed to help sort toys please!



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

Service led by
Rev Mark Lawrence

5 November

RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES NEED YOU!

Were you a Guide or a Brownie – or perhaps a Rainbow?
Did you have fun?



There are lots of girls looking to enjoy what you did but we need more leaders. Could **YOU** help? Could you give a few hours a week to be a Rainbow or Brownie leader?

The Rainbows and Brownies are looking for someone who likes to get involved with activities, is organised and, most importantly, likes to have fun!

If you feel you could help, please contact **Penny 01752 690302** or email: penspencer100@gmail.com



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

8 November

The Breakthrough Trust
with Angus Dugdale

22 November

Making Christmas Wreaths
led by Gill Ricketts

6 December

Victorian Christmas
with Tony Rea

Dates for Spring 2020

January 3, 17 and 31, February 14 and 28, March 13 and 27

Please contact one of us for more information:

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

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

In a busy Church like IMC there is always a shortage of volunteers so below are a few of the opportunities to serve and if you feel they are within your giftings please contact either **Val Marriott (893614)** or **Maureen Scoble (894203)** to find out more or offer your services. They will be very pleased to hear from you.

Wesley's Coffee Shop **Saturdays** about once in 5-6 weeks.
Time commitment about 2.5 hours

Food Bank **Wednesdays** 1:00 to 3:00 pm, help required in the warehouse which involves some lifting.
Wednesdays once in 4 weeks a driver to transport food between the warehouse and the Church.

Church Flowers

Pam Montgomery has been a valued member of the team of ladies who arrange the flowers in church each week. **Pam** has decided to step down from the rota after many years of producing beautiful arrangements. We thank her very much for all her time and talent. We welcome anyone who would like to join the flower rota or just help us for the special occasions of Christmas, Easter and harvest.



Please contact: **Lindsey Reid** on **01752 894579 / 07432 655 666** or email: linzreid@yahoo.co.uk or speak to any of the flower ladies.

Thank you
Lindsey Reid



9 November

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!!

Church Contacts

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

Youth Work: Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
AUTUMN 2019**

We meet for coffee and a chat at 10:00 am in Grosvenor Court, ending at 12 noon. All ages welcome.

- 22 October **Passover and deliverance through the Red Sea**
Exodus 12, 13, 14 and 15:1-21
- 12 November **Difficulties in the Desert**
Exodus 15:vs 22-27, 16 and 17
- 26 November **Moses with God on Mount Sinai. The tablets of stone.**
Exodus 19, 20, 23:10-end 33 and 24
- 10 December **Spying out the Land - Joshua to succeed Moses - Moses' death**
Numbers 13, and 14:1-32
Deuteronomy 31:1-8, 32:44:52 and 34:1-12

A huge thanks to all who've supported our latest fundraisers.

This is how much we've raised:

Party in the Park	£ 176.26
Cambodian Taster Evening	£ 310.53
Brecon Beacons 99 mile Walk	£1,857.25

Total of £2,344.04

As a result, we'll be investing in new technology (computers, phones, printers, etc.) securing salaries and outreach costs for 2019-20.

Thanks again

Elis Norton
Director

P.S. For photos and news of what we do, please Like our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Ivybridge-Youth-For-Christ-1681756722148522/>





NOVEMBER 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**

Writing this in October brings the **Advent market** and **Christmas** pretty sharply into focus. So as you read this we hope you can come to the Advent Market as advertised on page 17. Of this newsletter and share in the Christmas celebrations.

Many congratulations to **Ann Cocks** as she became a great grandma for the first time on 29 September. Baby **Laya** was born to Ann's granddaughter Kayleigh and her husband Jason. **Laya** weighed 6.5 pounds at birth and although she struggled when she was first born, is now thriving and growing well and we pray she continues to do so.



Belated happy birthday to **Chris Gentle** as she celebrated a big birthday in October. We know you had lovely celebrations with family and hope you have a great year to come.



Also we send warm wishes to **Mary Elcock** as she celebrates a special birthday in November. Happy birthday **Mary** and we hope you have a lovely day.

Phil Hodgson has also celebrated a significant birthday recently and we wish you many happy returns and a great year to come **Phil**.

Belated congratulations too to **Pat** and **David Fox** as they celebrated their **50th Wedding Anniversary** in **October** with some lovely times together.



Sandra and **Ron Dudley** are also celebrating a **special Wedding Anniversary** in November and we send many congratulations and hope the celebrations are special.

Congratulations to **Roy Davis** on his retirement - after so many years in business we send you every good wish for a successful transition to the new stage of life and hope you soon enjoy it.



Good to hear **Vicky Luscombe** and **Jane Clark** are home and we pray all continues to go well.



Also one piece of news we missed in October was **Laura Martin** going off to London to study dance and drama. **Dawn** says she is settling really well and loving life. Many blessings for the future Laura.



We still have poorly people to pray for - especially for results awaited and recoveries to "hurry up" remembering God knows who they are as we pray.



HONESTY OVER SILENCE TOUR

On 16 November 2019 at 7:00 pm
Ivybridge Methodist Church
will be hosting
'Honesty Over Silence'
which is touring the UK.

The Tour seeks to open up conversations around topics that many find difficult such as trusting in God when life is painful, dealing with anxiety and depression, learning to look after ourselves, developing our character, and living with thankful hearts even in tough seasons. It will examine the strength in letting go of the need to be in control as well as looking at how we can stop comparing ourselves to others and instead live authentically and honestly as we grow into the people God has created us to be. Much of the material will be taken from Patrick's new book of the same title.

Join Patrick Regan OBE and singer-songwriter Diane Regan on this 2019 tour. Patrick will be exploring themes from his latest book, 'Honesty Over Silence', and Diane will be performing songs around the theme of honesty, faith and hope. This is a great opportunity for us to host an event relevant to many in today's modern society and for people in and out of church to enjoy an inspiring night out.

Tickets £5 from www.eventbrite or contact **Sara Bromage 01752 894198** (All proceeds go to Patrick and Diane's 'Kintsugi Hope' Charity to support their work with people's emotional and mental well-being).

There are a number of free tickets so bring a friend, a neighbour or anyone who you feel might benefit from this evening. Speak to **Sara Bromage** or **Caroline Hodgson** about free tickets, or if you don't have access to a computer.

In the 1970s, **Cambodia** endured a civil war that ended in victory for a faction that proceeded to exterminate over a quarter of the country's population. Now, Cambodians are fearful that armed conflict could return to their nation.

Fact: Exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy has vowed to return to **Cambodia** on 9 November. His arch-enemy, Prime Minister Hun Sen, has threatened to respond with military force. He said Rainsy had claimed to have the support of more than 65% of the armed forces.

"If you [Rainsy] have armed forces then I must fight you. I must fight you anywhere I see you, without needing a warrant," Hun Sen said in a speech to high school students. He warned that anyone showing support for Rainsy would be arrested immediately and face a long jail term.

In 1997, Hun Sen was unafraid to use the army against his co-Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Pray: Please pray for peace and stability in Cambodia; for people who are afraid; for Christians to be peacemakers; for the defeat of the powers of darkness that would promote strife, violence and death; for the Love Phnom Penh Festival (an evangelistic crusade planned for December) to go ahead without disruption.



Cambodians flee fighting in July 1997

Myers Cooper



Parenting Course

In the last Newsletter, there was advanced notice that Carolyn and Mark will be running a parenting course.

These will be held **once a month** on a **Tuesday Evening** at the **Manse** starting on **Tuesday 12 November 2019**.

Future dates to be announced.

If any parents would like to join them please contact Carolyn on: markcarolyn1983@gmail.com

Year of Testimony

The Methodist Church has designated the church year 2019/2020 as a year of testimony. During this time we are encouraged to share testimonies and stories of what God has done in our lives to encourage each other and to enable people to share their faith with others.



I would like to invite as many of you as possible to write down a testimony or story and send them to me - it might be the story of how you came to be a Christian, or something that God has done in your life since - an answer to prayer, a healing or a way He has changed you.

I want to gather as many testimonies as possible to share - some will go in the magazine over the year and some will be invited to share their story in a service. We will be seeking to include two minute testimonies during services over the year so they don't need to be very long. Please be sure to add your name so that we know who it is from.

You can email them to me at markcarolyn1983@gmail.com or put a hard copy in my pigeon hole or through our door.

If you need help with writing out your Christian story, contact me and I can give you a sheet with some pointer questions to help focus your mind.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carolyn

Methodists Enjoying Life Together

The Quiz went really well, what's next? **Watch this space**

Why not get involved in planning these events,
21 October @ 7.30pm at Maureen's house.

Advanced Notices - Saturday 11 January 2020

IMC'S GOT TALENT !!!

An evening not to be missed. Start rehearsing your act now!



Ladies! You are invited to a Swishing evening!

Where? At the manse

When? Monday 25 November at 7:30 pm

What is it?

The idea of swishing is to swap good quality items you no longer use with items from other people. Usually swishing is done with swapping clothes but we are going to start off with an accessories evening to see how it goes. It's a way of saving money, getting rid of clutter and recycling unwanted goods. It's ethical, social and fun!

What do I do?

Bring along between 1 and 5 accessories you no longer use – this could be jewellery, hats, gloves, handbags, scarves, purses or watches.

Also, bring a bottle of wine or something else you'd like to drink!



What happens on the night?

We will put all the items people bring on display and while we have a drink and some nibbles we can chat and look at the things people have brought. Then we will pick a number from a hat and take it in turns to choose an item from the table to take home. If you bring one item, you can take one away with you, if you bring five you will get five turns to choose!

At the end of the evening, anything that remains unwanted will go to a charity shop. We will have had a lovely social evening and everyone will go home with at least one new accessory! What could be better?!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Carolyn



The next **Taizé Service** will be held
at **St Johns Church**
on **24 November at 5:00 pm**

The following one will be at IMC on
2 February 2020 at 6:00 pm

Churches Together in Ivybridge

Discipleship at IMC

Sunday Evening Meetings in Autumn 2019

In what we now call the Great Commission, Jesus said this, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”. Discipleship is both ‘going out’ to spread the good news and ‘being together’ to grow in our understanding and our practice. Perhaps it’s worth saying that going out and being together are designed to enhance each other!

This autumn, our discipleship theme in our ‘together time’ will be ‘Hearing God’. The Sunday evening meeting dates, led by Mark, Phil or Jean, are below and all are at 6:30 pm at IMC.

Listening to God is three evenings on discovering how God speaks to us and gaining confidence in hearing him. We will be looking at how to listen to God for both ourselves and others and will include a time of simple practice each night.

Lectio Divina (Latin for Divine Reading) is an ancient practice dating back to the early Church. In essence, Lectio Divina is a simple way to meet with the Lord, through reflection and prayer, based on the Bible. It does not depend on background knowledge of the Bible, but is a way of allowing God to speak personally to us, through his written word. We shall be working as a group, but you will be able to take this and use it in your personal prayer times.

The topic for the first evening has been left open at the moment.

The dates are:

22 September	:	Listening to God - 1	Phil and Jean
6 October	:	Listening to God - 2	Phil and Jean
27 October	:	Listening to God - 3	Phil and Jean
3 November	:	Lectio Divina - 1	Phil and Jean
24 November	:	Lectio Divina - 2	Mark
1 December	:	Lectio Divina - 3 - Final Meeting	Phil and Jean

Everyone is welcome and we very much hope to see you there!

Phil and Jean Walsh

IMC Youth Work READY, SET, GO!



Hi Church!

Thank you so much for all your support whether in volunteering or praying. We do value everything this church does, especially involving the youth work. Also a massive **THANK YOU** to all our cake makers who have made some awesome cakes for us this year.

Well that started with a **BANG**. We hope you all enjoyed **Party in the Park**? But more importantly we do hope you saw fruit in ways of friends and family who felt comfortable to come and conversations you were able to have. As really Party in the Park isn't focused mainly on our church it is focused on showing Ivybridge what a family of God can look like and who **Jesus** is. What an awesome day around 600 people came and 500 items of meat (and non meat) were given away.



We would love to hear your feedback and ideas for next year's Party in the Park. We may already have a rock band interested in joining us... watch this space.

Secondary School Group Work

We kicked off **Wired** with a fab evening at Rachel and Malcolm's field cooking marsh mellows, playing games and making bread rolls to fill with sausages for hot dogs. We are slowly seeing this group trusting us and enjoying coming back every week.

Light Party 2019

This is the next big thing. On Halloween we will be filling the church with lights, inflatables, candy floss and most importantly the message of **Jesus** being the light of the world. Please let me know if you are able to help and please also tell all the families around you about this awesome party.

31 OCTOBER

5-6:30pm year 1-6 and 6:45-8pm year 6+



The BIG START

Coming up on **3 November 09:00 to 09:45** we are trying out a new brand of service. This will be completely focused around family worship with nothing being more than 7 minutes long. Everything will be action packed but have awesome points about **God** and his love for us there will also be **bacon, (possibly donuts) and unlimited coffee.**

But WE NEED YOUR GIFTS IN DRAMA, ARTS, CRAFTS, HOSTING, LIGHTS ETC



Primary School Group Work

It is always a joy to work with kids finding out about **Jesus**. **Arrows, Spy, KidsFest and Kingdom Kids** are still going strong with lovely kids ready to explore **Jesus**. In today's culture it is always a challenge to make sure we are putting things across in a way that is appropriate but also gets across the wonderful but complex truths of **God** and his word .



Phil's gone back to School

So a lot of you may know but I have started back to Uni 1 day a week to get my degree in theology in St Mellitus College in Plymouth. The church has very kindly given me 8 hours of my contract to do this which I am very grateful for. I am already feeling so blessed by being involved every Tuesday

THE BIG START

3 NOVEMBER

SAVE THE DATE

Prayer Points:

Young people to continue to attend

Young people to come to know Jesus for themselves

Energy for the leaders and volunteers

New volunteers for all of the above events

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 any gifts, from just listening to leading, serving tuck shop to washing up, so please do chat to Phil on **07816 910 152** or email phil_blunti4e@hotmail.co.uk



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



Warm-up
for
Christmas!

Admission
Free!

Advent Market at Ivybridge Methodist Church

Friday 29th November 6:00 to 9:00 pm
and
Saturday 30th November 9:30 to 12:00

Crafts and Christmas Gifts Galore

Seasonal Food and Drink with a Difference



Sharing Life
Sharing Faith



SAT-7 Advent Resources

Our daughter Emily, works for the charity SAT-7 who broadcast Christian TV programmes into the Middle East and North Africa.



They have produced a brilliant Advent Prayer guide which is available to order or to download on their website at:

<https://www.sat7uk.org/pages/advent-resources/>

The booklet takes you on a joyful daily journey through the 25 countries where SAT-7 works, showing how Jesus is at work in people's lives across the region.

Why not have a look around the website to find out more about the way lives are being changed through this wonderful ministry.

IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Advent Songs of Praise Service

Sunday 8 December 2019 at 4:00 pm

Accompanied by the organ and our very own Dave Bithell as MC.

Your favourite Advent Hymns and Carols in café style worship, with coffee/tea, savouries and scrummy cakes.

If you can bring any savouries or cakes that would be great.



**Please invite your family and friends. All are welcome.
Look forward to seeing you there.**



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



Reduce your carbon footprint

Switch to a Green Tariff and raise money for IMC!

One simple thing you can do to reduce your carbon footprint is to switch to a greener energy supplier, and often it is cheaper too!

You'll need a recent bill handy and an online comparison site like U Switch or Simply Switch (others available). If you need some help, you're not alone, as often it can be pretty confusing.

Here are some suppliers to look out for:

Good Energy and Ecotricity – the top choice, most ethical and greenest, building new renewables, but they are a bit more expensive.

Octopus Energy – more affordable, doing lots of interesting innovation projects to try and make our energy system smarter.

Other suppliers that we know good things about Bulb, iSupply, Bristol Energy, Co-op Energy.

If you choose Octopus Energy, I have a code where you can also get £50 credit and I will get £50 credit which I will then donate to the church.

www.share.octopus.energy/loved-star-311



Last year we raised £700 for IMC from people using my referral code to switch to Bulb. Now I've switched to Octopus to try them out too, and am happy to recommend both companies.



If you receive the Warm Home Discount, need paper billing, or would just like some help deciding please contact the SDCE Advice Team for free and impartial advice, **0880 112 3044**, or email advice@southdartmoorcommunityenergy.org, (this is the organisation I work with and will be picked up by me or Jinni in office hours).

Sophie x

(P.S. I find it quite hard to answer energy questions when chatting in the busy concourse after the service and trying to keep track of the children, so I sometimes forget to follow up – it's probably safest to call the freephone number or email me, sorry).

Christmas Angels



Last year's 500!

After last year's amazing success of distributing the angels around Ivybridge, the stewards have requested that we 'do' this project again. So, those of you that participated last year perhaps you could start getting those needles out again, and if you didn't then maybe you could get involved this year.

The Aim: To share God's love and to bless the community we live in with a free Christmas decoration that comes with a message of hope at Christmas-time.

The Idea: Knit lots of angel decorations, attach a message of Christmas hope, and in one co-ordinated event leave them in (hopefully) hundreds of locations across our community for people to find (this is known as "yarn bombing").

Where did the idea originate? We got the idea from a friend of mine whose church in Fleet, Hampshire joined in last year (she is Sue Butterfield, who used to live in Ivybridge, so many of you probably know her). However, the idea originally came from the North Shields and Whitley Bay Methodist Circuit near Newcastle. In the past three years they (and churches like ours across the country) have knitted over 70,000 angels, and some of them have turned up as far away as South Africa!

What do we want you to do? Get yourself and your friends knitting angels – we need hundreds of them! Last year we made over 500!

Where do I get a pattern for the angels? There are already hard copies of the knitting pattern available on the noticeboard in the Concourse at church, or you can download an electronic copy from:

<http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Christmas-Angel.pdf>

or if you prefer crocheting, then you can download a crochet pattern from:

<http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Christmas-Angels-Crochet-Pattern.pdf>



What will we do? We will collect the angels from all you avid knitters (there will be a collection box in the Concourse at church from November onwards), and we'll print and attach the Christmas message labels; then on a date in the few weeks before Christmas we will organise the yarn bombing. If you want to be a part of this, please let us know and we'll rope you in! At the time of writing the exact date for the bombing has not yet been agreed. We will also register our project with the original scheme so that it will be part of this much bigger venture.

Happy Knitting, *Nicky Rowe*, Tel: **01752 690031**

IMC Monday Night Football

During September we initiated a Men's Fellowship activity – Monday Night Football.

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

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

Whilst there were two MNF's in September, unfortunately there was only one in October, and I was away on holiday for that one L.

The next match is on 25 November - Aston Villa vs Newcastle United. Hope to see you then.

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



From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the December Newsletter, please let me have details by Monday 11 November in any of the following ways:-

- ♦ send it by email to: imc33chris@gmail.com
- ♦ ring me on: **01752 892341**
- ♦ hand it to me at Church on a Sunday
- ♦ place it in the “**R**” pigeonhole in the Church Concourse - ***please put your name on it***
- ♦ post it through my letterbox at: **33 Julian Road, Ivybridge - *please put your name on it***



Blessings, Chris Reed

IMPORT NOTICE RE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

I know in the past there has been a joint December and January Newsletter. I hope to try and do two separate ones this year, knowing that as soon as I have I will realise that Jenny was right to do them together 😊. So please can anyone wishing to put something in the January Newsletter get it to me by 6 December latest for printing before Christmas. Thank you

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

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 Report of the Marriage & Relationships Task Group 2019

The traditional teaching of the church, and within the evangelical tradition is that marriage is part of:

God's Plan

Marriage has a divine origin and is part of the pattern of God's good creation, deeply written into our existence. When asked about divorce Jesus said:

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"

God's Purpose

God created male and female to live in union with each other – companions who were different and designed to work together, to complement each other, and to procreate. Such marriage provides a solid foundation for family and society, and God blesses such a union (**Genesis 1:28**).

God's Word

Within the evangelical tradition it is argued that is impossible to redefine marriage without compromising the authority of the Bible. Clause 4 of the Methodist Deed of Union states:

'The doctrines of the evangelical faith which Methodism has held from the beginning and still holds are based upon the divine revelation recorded in the Holy Scriptures. The Methodist Church acknowledges this revelation as the supreme rule of faith and practice.'

The Marriage and relationships report

This report seeks to re-define the church's position on marriage and relationships and the 2019 Conference provisionally passed a number of resolutions (Resolutions 10.2, 10.3, 10.7, 10.8 and 10.9). Conference has asked church's to consult on these resolutions which are laid out below.

Please indicate on the voting slip (last page of newsletter) whether you agree, disagree or don't know against the resolutions.

10.2 Statement: A summary understanding of the principles of good relating

"All significant relationships should be built on self-giving love, commitment, fidelity, loyalty, honesty, mutual respect, equality and the desire for the mutual flourishing of the people involved."



It is through that self-giving, rather than through self-seeking, that the self flourishes and begins to experience life in all its fullness (though it needs to be recognised that the universal Church's historic emphasis on self-sacrifice has often been misunderstood and misused [e.g. by abusive partners] in a way that is destructive of the wellbeing of the ones abused [often women])."

10.3 The Church should adopt the following understanding of co-habitation

"The Church recognises that the love of God is present within the love of human beings who are drawn to each other, and who enter freely into some form of life-enhancing committed relationship with each other, whether that be through informal cohabitation or a more formal commitment entered into publicly.

As a Church we wish to celebrate that the love of God is present in these circumstances, even if that grace is not responded to or even discerned by the people concerned.

The Church has an important calling, therefore, to point to the presence of God's love within such relationships, and to encourage people to respond to it in the renewing and deepening (by whatever means) of their commitment."

10.7 That the Guidance on the Understanding of Marriage in the Task Group report be adopted. This 'understanding' incorporates the following elements:

- The church welcomes everyone who enquires about intended marriage, and looks for an openness to God and not necessarily a developed Christian faith.
- The Methodist Church believes that marriage is a covenant relationship between two people, within God's covenant of love with them. Through it, they may experience, explore and express God's gracious love.
- Marriage is an exclusive relationship, freely entered into with a life-long intention of uniting two people in body, heart, mind and soul in ways that are appropriate to each partner. Through such marriage children may be nurtured, family life strengthened, and human society enriched.
- The Methodist Church recognises that amongst its members different views are held about the interpretation of the Bible and Christian tradition as to whether those being married may be any two people, or may only be a woman and a man. The Methodist Church has decided to respect and make practical provisions for both positions.



- Where there is a desire to use places of worship for marriage services or for services of blessing for a marriage previously solemnised, the managing trustees of those premises should actively consider whether they wish to do so solely for marriages of mixed-sex couples, or for marriages of same-sex couples.

10.8 That Conference consents to the marriage of same sex couples and permits the Trustees of the church to register the premises for the marriage of such sex couples.

10.9 Amendment of Standing Orders so that they incorporate the following statements:

Marriage

The Methodist Church believes that marriage is given by God to be a particular channel of God's grace, and that it is in accord with God's purposes when a marriage is a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of people who freely enter it.

The Methodist Church welcomes everyone, whether or not a member, who enquires about an intended marriage in any of its places of worship.

Divorce, Remarriage and Respect for Conscience

Divorce in a court of the land, and matters of sex or gender do not of themselves prevent a person being married in any Methodist place of worship.

Under no circumstances does the Conference require any minister to officiate at or participate in the marriage of a particular couple, should it be contrary to the dictates of his or her conscience to do so.

Couples who wish to be married at premises that are not registered for those purposes or where the minister is not able to officiate for reasons of conscience shall be referred to the District Chair.

You are asked to vote on each of the provisional recommendations and return the slip to the box in the concourse. Additional voting slips are available in the concourse if there are two or more members of the church congregation in the household.

You will find the voting slip on the back page of this newsletter. Please detach it and put in the box in the concourse.

REMAINING FAITHFUL

www.remainingfaithful.network

REGIONAL GATHERING

Are you concerned about Marriage and Relationships within the Methodist Church?



Come and worship, hear vision for the way forward, network, pray and share together

Organised by Methodist Evangelicals Together

Saturday 9 Nov 10.00am – 1.00pm
Plymouth Central Hall
Plymouth PL1 1BA

Further details from pmchoffice@btconnect.com 01752 660997

met | Methodist
Evangelicals
Together

www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk



The Church should adopt the summary understanding of the principles of good relating outlined as **10.2**

AGREE

☐

DISAGREE

☐

DON'T
KNOW

☐

The Church should adopt the understanding of co-habitation outlined in **10.3**

AGREE

☐

DISAGREE

☐

DON'T
KNOW

☐

The Guidance on the Understanding of Marriage in the Task Group report outlined as 10.7 should be adopted. Conference consents to the marriage of same sex couples and permits the Trustees of the church to register the premises for the marriage of such sex couples **10.8**

AGREE

☐

DISAGREE

☐

DON'T
KNOW

☐

Amendment of Standing Orders so that they incorporate the statements in **10.9** on:

Marriage

AGREE

☐

DISAGREE

☐

DON'T
KNOW

☐

Divorce, remarriage and respect for conscience

AGREE

☐

DISAGREE

☐

DON'T
KNOW

☐