



# DECEMBER 2019



**For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a Son is given  
And the government shall  
be upon His shoulders**



**And His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counsellor**

**The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father,  
the Prince of Peace.  
(Handel's Messiah)**



**IVYBRIDGE  
METHODIST CHURCH**

*Sharing Life  
Sharing Faith*  
**Newsletter**



***"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 11:14 ESV)***



*As I write this article we are awaiting the arrival (advent!) of our second grandchild who is a boy! So we hope to have an amazing visual aid at Christmas when our grand-son will be with us and just over a month old. Christmas is all about waiting and expectation. I have to confess a few years ago I suffered from the common ailment of 'Christmas-fatigue'. I threw the baby out with the bathwater, so to speak! I got so sick of the all the subtle and not-so-subtle pagan, shallow, materialistic rubbish that the whole thing sickened me. However, I had taken my focus off Jesus and just got grumpy about the worldly tack associated with this time of year. It wasn't wonderful to me, but just a pain and I became quite Cromwellian and wanted to ban the whole thing! I've worked through that now. Last year I really enjoyed each and every opportunity to focus on the wonder of God becoming human. This central Gospel truth is so amazing. That God loves us so much that He became human/flesh and dwelt among us. We are that special and precious to Him that He came to us, to free us from sin and its consequences and that He came, not just to show the way, but to be it! When we put Jesus back into the centre of our Christmas preparations, festivities and lives it all makes sense! God will also guide us away from the terrible excesses and false expectations too. With his help we can resist the endless pressure to spend and over-spend so that we can honour Him first and foremost in this way as well.*

*I do pray that you will be able to join with us and actively participate in all the celebrations at IMC over this Advent period so that we can build one another up and focus together on the Word Who became flesh and who still dwells among us through His Holy Spirit.*

***As the hymn-writer said, "O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray: cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today!" ( Phillip Brooks)***

*It is my prayer that each one of us will 'see His glory' in a new and wonderful way this Christmastime and allow Him to enter in to our hearts, minds and lives afresh or perhaps even for the first time.*

*With every blessing in the Incarnate Christ,  
**Rev Mark***



# DECEMBER/ CHRISTMAS Worship



## IVYBRIDGE

December 1	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - ADVENT 1 Discipleship - Lectio Divina - 3 (page 7) Phil and Jean Walsh, Rev Mark Lawrence
December 8	10:30 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence - ADVENT 2
December 15	10:30 am 4:00 pm	Rev Dave Martin - ADVENT 3 Rev Mark Lawrence - Christingle Service
December 22	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - ADVENT 4 Rev Mark Lawrence – Carol service
December 24	11.15pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
DECEMBER 25	10:00 am	Rev Mark Lawrence – Family Service
December 29	10:30 am	Rev Alison Richardson

## BITTAFORD

December 1	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion ADVENT 1
December 8	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion ADVENT 2
December 15	11:00 am	Mrs Gillian Higgins - ADVENT 3
December 22	11:00 am	Mrs Brenda Youngs - ADVENT 4
December 24	6:00 pm	Carol Service - Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
December 29	morning	There will be transport available to the 10:30 service at IMC



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*



# 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.**

**The Christmas Tree Festival at  
St John's this year will be held on  
the weekends of:**

**Saturday 30 Nov and Sunday 1 Dec  
Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December  
Saturday 10:30am to 4:00 pm  
Sunday 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm**



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

**Service led by**  
**Rev Mark Lawrence**

**3 December**

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Ivybridge Methodist Church

**December 6th and 7th**  
**at 7:00 pm**

Ivybridge U3A Choir  
Cheryl Stead mezzo-soprano  
Notability: Jim Whyte

Tickets available at the Watermark

**Adults £7.50**  
**14 and under £3.00**



children's hospice  
**SOUTH WEST**

Registered Charity No. 1003314

## **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.

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 dates are:**

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**

### **Next Church Work Day is 14 December**

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.



First one in the new year is 11 January 2020

**Excellent coffee and cakes from Wesley's mid morning!!**

## DECEMBER 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**



It's a delight to welcome three new babies this month - a record I think.

**Marilyn Davis's** granddaughter **Elizabeth Margaret** was born in early October and is doing well. Many congratulations to son **Andrew** and daughter-in-law **Andrea**.

**Sara and John Hladkij** became Grandparents again - this time to their first granddaughter, Emily Alison, who was born on 21 October. Many congratulation to **John** and **Alison** and we hope **Daniel** enjoys having a baby sister.



**Reuben James Anderson** was born a week early on 16 October, weighing 7lbs 3oz but is settling well. We send much love and congratulations to Mum and Dad **Becky** and **Nick** and big brother **Elijah** and look forward to meeting **Reuben** very soon.



Also, we think we missed another grandchild for **Sara and John**. **Ben and Eva's** first child is called **Kamiel Edward** and was born in Bruges on 14 June, so lots of trips to Belguim for the family!!

It's been a difficult time for a few of our folk lately :

**Pat Fox** fell and broke her ankle whilst travelling north and though it's improving life is a tad difficult. **Pat** we pray it heals soon and your mobility gets back to normal.



**June Watson** also had a fall and was pretty shaken up and bruised. We hope by now **June** you are beginning to feel more like you and things are easing.

**Mercy Matthews** had a nasty fall in early November and spent time in hospital but hopefully by the time this goes to print, Mercy, you will be home and recovering.

**Linda Hardaway** is awaiting surgery. Please know we are praying for you **Linda** and hope it all comes together very soon.



Several other folk are struggling with health problems at the moment and please know we will pray for you. We especially pray for **Kathy Blackwood** as she awaits a date for surgery - hopefully before Christmas.



We send our very best wishes to you all with prayers for health and strength to be restored fully very soon.



More news from **Mercy** - her great granddaughter recently entered a street dance competition and came first out of 400 competitors. What a great achievement, sounds like she will go far with talent like that.

Many happy returns to **Jill Hornsby** who celebrated a big birthday in November. Happy birthday **Jill** and sorry it's belated.

Many congratulations and many happy returns to **Gill Cowsill** as she celebrates her 60th birthday just after Christmas. **Gill** has already taken part in a tough coastal walk to mark this special birthday and we hope the rest of the celebrations go well and are lots of fun **Gill**.



**Andrew Lawrie** recently completed a gruelling bike ride across Dartmoor to raise funds for St Luke's and he writes:-



Thank you to those who supported me for Tour de Moor ride on 13 October. In the end I received over **£800** of sponsorship towards St. Lukes'. It was a hard 36 mile ride this year - coming into Princetown we had hard wind, rain and hail. I got soaked through and almost gave up.

**Sue** came with a spare set of clothes so I was able to complete the ride. Not sure about next year!

**Well done Andrew and I guess next year all will feel different!!**

We were sad to hear that **Sue Flood's** brother died recently following a long illness. **Sue**, it's a hard time for you and the family and we send our love and sincerest sympathy as you come to terms with your loss.



**Two items of late news.** Both on **3rd December** in the evening.

The **Men's Fellowship** are having an Indian Meal evening at Nandon's, two course meal for £9.95. If you would like to join in this event please sign up on the notice board in Church. Meeting at **7:30 pm**. More information is available from **Barry** on **01752 952643**.

Secondly **Beverley Ash** is raising money for a trek across the Sahara next year in aid of **Dame Hannah Rogers Trust**. She is holding a Bodyshop Party at IMC on 3rd, starting at **7:30pm**. Small donation on the door. Raffle with Amazing prizes. Refreshments at the end of the demonstration.

**All info on these two is subject to change and has been gleamed by the Editor, so not necessarily completely correct.**

# **M**ethodists **E**njoying **L**ife **T**ogether

The next event will be

**IMC'S GOT TALENT !!!**

**Saturday 11 January 2020**

**4pm to 8pm**

We are sure you all have your acts lined up already  
but if not it's time to decide.

Please sign up your act, with a contact name and phone  
number, on the sheet that will be on the notice board in  
the Concourse by **15 December 2019**.

Tickets are **£5** a family ticket and **£2** individual ones.  
This price will include light refreshments.

Tickets are available from:

**Maureen Scoble on 01752 894203**

There will be a rehearsal date before the big event, most  
probably the Saturday before.

**Ladies! Don't forget** you are invited to a Swishing  
evening at the Manse on

**Monday 25 November at 7:30pm**

If your not sure what it is, all the details were in your  
November Newsletter. If you no longer have a hard  
copy, it's available to view on line (this way you can  
see it in it's full colour format) or please ask Carolyn  
for more details. **Enjoy!!**



## 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

### 22 November

Making Christmas Wreaths  
led by Gill Ricketts

### 6 December

Victorian Winter  
with Tony Rea and friends

### 3 January 2020

New Year Party

### 17 January

Being a district councillor!  
with Vic Abbott

### 31 January

Lynn Gould  
from the Butterfly Trust,  
working with women in China

### Dates till Easter:

14 and 28 February and 13 and 27 March

**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.**



## 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.

## Secondary School Group Work

We still meet a good group of teenagers each week with **Wired**, our Youth Group and **Youth Fellowship**, our Discipleship Group and then we join with **Youth For Christ** with the younger School Christian Union.

This Sunday we took **Youth Fellowship** to Adrenaline Inflatables and Trampoline Park and offered for them to bring a Plus One. We met 10 young people there, one of which hasn't been to church in a long time but made a commitment to Jesus at a beach party quite a few years ago. Isn't God good.

## Light Party 2019

We had a lot of fun on the 31st October providing an alternative to Halloween with our **Light Party**. We had a **Disco Bouncy Castle**, **Mega Slide**, **Candy Floss**, **Chocolate Fountain**, **Glitter Tattoos** and so much more. As a friend said, if we are going to do justice to the kids, we need to provide more sweets than they would get on the door and more fun than Halloween parties because Jesus Light always wins over darkness. We had kids over the two light parties, 44 to the younger age group 11 to the older. Lots of these were unchurched families and just wanted a safe place where they could bring their kids.



## The BIG START

We also kicked off our new style of family service the **BIG START**, where we provided breakfast and an action-packed, fun-filled service with **Kids Songs**, **Games**, **Prechtastic** and so much more challenging them to try praying.

We had two new families try this, unfortunately, one thought it was at 10:30 but still enjoyed that service. This family heard about it through one of our kids being so excited about **Big Start** she was telling her friends. As a youth worker that is a place I want to be where, young people are so excited about Church they can't help but tell their friends. ➡

### Primary school Group Work

Our Kids work is still going well. With regularly seeing over 30 kids a week. This term we are doing the theme, **Little People who do Big Things**. It has been awesome to talk through some of the characters in the Bible who God used, even though they were young and unexpected.

I think this is a challenge for me and the church as a whole. So often we invite the kids to be involved once they have got to a certain age. But maybe, just maybe, God could do some Big Things through our Little People, like our little girl who was so excited about The **Big Start** she told all her friends at school and a family came to Church from that.

### Phil's gone back to school

Like I said last time, I have gone back to school to study for a degree in Theology. I am enjoying my day a week studying and really going deep into some of the challenges in scripture and the church. I have already found the things I'm learning impacting my everyday job.

### 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 especially WIRED and Kingdom Kids**

If you feel God calling you to join our team or volunteer for one of the events above, (you can be aged between 18 and 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](mailto:phil_blunti4e@hotmail.co.uk)

### 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 on 01752 690302  
or email: [penspencer100@gmail.com](mailto:penspencer100@gmail.com)

# **Christmas Services**

**at**

## **Ivybridge Methodist Church and Bittaford Chapel**

**We would love you to come and join us for any or  
all of our Christmas Services.**



### **Christingle Service**

Sunday 15 December at 4:00 pm

### **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 22 December at 6:30 pm



### **Carols at Bittaford Chapel**

Tuesday 24 December at 6:00 pm

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies



### **Midnight Communion Service**

Tuesday 24 December at 11:15 pm

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Wednesday 25 December at 10:00 am

A short family service to celebrate **Jesus'** birthday.



I am sure you will remember that Jenny put the following article in last years December/January Newsletter, but I liked it so much I thought it should go in again.



*Within all the tinsel I hope you find  
Christ's peace this Christmas*

**I HAVE SEEN CHRIST**

I have seen Christ  
in the neglected face of an unloved boy;

I have seen Christ  
in the gentleness and faith of an old man;

I have seen Christ  
in the quick hands of a nurse  
who knew I needed her before I asked;

I have seen Christ  
born again in spirit  
in the joyful song of a bright faced child;

I have seen Christ  
when my heart was breaking  
in the compassionate eyes of a friend;

I have seen Christ  
in the forgiveness of a loved one;

I have seen Christ  
in the anguish of a mother for her dying son;

I have seen Christ  
in a dustman and a doctor.

God grant  
that they may have seen Christ in me.

Joan Rowbottom, from "A Touch of Flame", an anthology



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



**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.

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

Look out in the Newsletter for the programme for next year.

***From the Editor***

If you would like to include anything in the January Newsletter, please let me have details by Friday 6 December at the very latest, in any of the following ways:-



- ♦ send it by email to: [imc33chris@gmail.com](mailto: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***

***Thank you all for your support and patience as I take on  
and continue the editing of this newsletter.***

***Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and peace filled  
Christmas and God filled New Year.***

***Blessings, Chris Reed***

### 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**



There is a **Taizé Service** on  
24 November at 5pm at St John's Church

then the next one will be held at

**Ivybridge Methodist Church**  
on **2 February at 6:00 pm**

Churches Together in Ivybridge

### 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.

The only MNF's game in December, that I am around for is:

**West Ham v Arsenal on Monday 9th.**

If you need to contact me you can on [dave.nicky84@gmail.com](mailto:dave.nicky84@gmail.com) or call me on **07801 712381** if you want to be kept up to date with future events.

*Dave Rowe*



## 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](http://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](mailto: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).

## 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.

*Blessings, Carolyn and Mark*



### Quiet Morning

**Saturday 18th January 2020**

**9.30 am – 12.00 noon at IMC**

On Saturday 18th January we are again opening the church for people to spend some quiet time with the Lord.

The morning will offer an opportunity for quiet individual prayer and the hope is that whether you stay for 10 minutes or the whole morning you will feel enabled to spend some time in God's presence and will leave with a sense of His peace in your heart. Various prayer stations will be set up to help you focus on different themes but this is not a 'prayer meeting' it is a time for individual peace and rest where you are free to just come and 'be'.

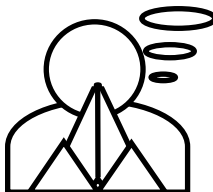


### We hope you can join us!

Just to give you an idea what happens at these mornings.

Note from the Editor. I totally love these mornings The first one I went to, I planned to stay for half an hour and spent the whole morning. Very good for the soul and very calming.

# Church Contacts



**Prayer Line**  
07801 956695

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

## **Senior Stewards:**

<b>Mr Reg Marriott</b>	Tel: 01752 893614
<b>Mrs Alison White</b>	Tel: 01752 691039

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

## **House Group Information:**

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

If you have any items for the  
**January Newsletter**  
please get them to the Editor by  
**Friday 6 December**  
at the latest please.



Visit our website at  
***[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk)***

Where you can see a colour version of this Newsletter.  
If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website you can do so at  
[mrmerrit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerrit@icloud.com)