

JANUARY 2020

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.



We have seen is glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

You are the most excellent of men and women and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever. *Psalms 45:2*



IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith
Newsletter

Dear Magazine Reader

May I start this edition praying God's richest blessings upon you for 2020, which, I believe, is a significant year in many different ways.



During January it is our tradition to have a service in which we can rededicate ourselves to God.

In the *Methodist Worship book* it gives an explanation of what we do and why we're doing it before we renew our Covenant as per below:-

'God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law. The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience. In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ. For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God. We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us, to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.'

Then the minister goes on to say: Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us again accept our place within this covenant, which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ's disciples. This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work. Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Then we pray: Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

And we all respond by pledging:

I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose. Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

You will notice that in this edition we have published the voting results of the proposals of the Methodist Conference for 2020. Some of you might be pleased at them, others of us are deeply concerned. The Church is split on this issue, but I am determined to continue to preach and teach Christ and Him crucified. Christ's love is for all. He came to die for us to free us from sins curse and shame, not condone it. If we doubt the full horror of our sin before a Holy God remember the cross and its cost. As I write this article I am reminded of that verse in **1 Peter 4:17**

"For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

The Gospel of God continues to be good news for those who acknowledge their sin and turn from it in true repentance believing in Christ alone for forgiveness and freedom.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." **(1 John 1:9)**

May the Holy Spirit purify us so that we can be unashamed at the coming of the Lord Jesus.

*Yours in Christ
Rev Mark*

Following on from my opening article I thought it might be helpful to declare this! You might like to adopt it for yourselves at the beginning of 2020 as we seek to be a blessing to God and in love and obedience fulfil our renewed covenant with Him. This is adapted from the Freedom in Christ course material which some of you participated in a couple of years ago.

Blessings
Rev Mark

MY PERSONAL BELIEF STATEMENT

I am the LORD your God. You shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:2,3)

- ✠ I recognize that there is only one true and living God (***Exodus 20:2,3***), who exists as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that He is worthy of all honour, praise and worship as the Creator, Sustainer, Beginning and End of all things (***Revelation 4:11; 5:9,10; Isaiah 43:1,7,21***).
- ✠ I recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (***John 1:1,14***). I believe that He came to destroy the works of Satan (***1 John 3:8***), that He disarmed the rulers and authorities, having triumphed over them (***Colossians 2:15***).
- ✠ I believe that God has proven His love for me, because when I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (***Romans 5:8***). I believe that He delivered me from the domain of darkness and transferred me to His kingdom, and in Him I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (***Colossians 1:13,14***).
- ✠ I believe that I am now a child of God (***1 John 3:1-3***). I believe that I was saved by the grace of God through faith, that it was a gift and not the result of any works on my part (***Ephesians 2:8***).
- ✠ I choose to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might (***Ephesians 6:10***). I put no confidence in the flesh (***Philippians 3:3***), for the weapons of my warfare are not of the flesh (***2 Corinthians 10:4***). I put on the whole armour of God (***Ephesians 6:10-17***), and I resolve to stand firm in my faith and resist the evil one.

- ✠ I believe that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (**Matthew 28:18**), and that He is the head over all rule and authority (**Colossians 2:10**).
- ✠ I believe that Satan and his demons are subject to me in Christ because I am a member of Christ's body (**Ephesians 1:19-23**). I therefore obey the command to resist the devil (**James 4:7**), and I command him in the name of Christ to leave my presence.
- ✠ I believe that apart from Christ I can do nothing (**John 15:5**), so I declare my dependence on Him.
- ✠ I choose to abide in Christ in order to bear much fruit and glorify the Lord (**John 15:8**).
- ✠ I announce to Satan that Jesus is my Lord (**1 Corinthians 12:3**), and I reject any counterfeit gifts or works of Satan in my life.
- ✠ I believe that the truth will set me free (**John 8:32**), and that walking in the light is the only path of fellowship (**1 John 1:7**). Therefore, I stand against Satan's deception by taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ (**2 Corinthians 10:5**).
- ✠ I declare that the Bible is the only authoritative standard (**2 Timothy 3:15-17**).
- ✠ I choose to speak the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**).
- ✠ I choose to present my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living and holy sacrifice, and I renew my mind by the living Word of God in order that I may prove that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect (**Romans 6:13; 12:1,2**).

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

Service led by
Rev Mark Lawrence

7 January



JANUARY and Early February 2020 Worship



IVYBRIDGE

January 5	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Covenant Service
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence
January 12	10:30 am	Mrs Carolyn Lawrence
	6:30 pm	NO SERVICE
January 19	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence
	6:30 pm	NO SERVICE
January 26	10:30 am	Dr Phil Walsh
	6:30 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence
February 2	10:30 am	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
	6:00 pm	Taizé
February 9	10:30 am	Mr Paul Whitell
	6:30 pm	NO SERVICE

BITTAFORD

January 5	11:00 am	Rev David Youngs - Communion
January 12	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Covenant Service
January 19	11:00 am	Dr Phil Walsh
January 26	11:00 am	Mr John Pointon
February 2	6:00 pm	Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion
February 9	11:00 am	Mr Mike Cade



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’.



Just to give you an idea what happens at these

We hope you can join us!

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.



The next **Taizé Service** will be held
at **Ivybridge Methodist Church**
on **2 February at 6:00 pm**
Churches Together in Ivybridge

IMC Monday Night Football
No football in January. Watch this space for the next match.
Dave Rowe





JANUARY 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**

We are past the shortest day and looking to Spring - what a lovely prospect. We hope you all had a Christmas that brought joy and memories.

Mike Gentle is retiring in January and we wish him all blessings and joy as he gets to do all the things that work maybe prevented - possibly more sailing **Mike**? Enjoy the new way of life and have fun trying new things.



Lovely news of two of our families as engagements are announced. **Kate and Robin Duckering's** son, **Tom**, is engaged to **Joanne** (who comes from Tasmania) and getting married next year and **Yvonne and David Bithell's** daughter, **Kirsten**, is engaged to **Mark**. We send our congratulations and wish both couples much happiness as they plan their futures together.

As we read this **Joan Jones** will have moved to a nursing home near Hatherleigh to be nearer her daughter. **Joan** was regular member at Bittaford and of our Wise and Wonderful group but has had a lot of ill health lately meaning we haven't seen her very much. You go with our love, prayers and blessings **Joan**.



On the moving theme **Christine Wroe** has moved to Paignton recently and seems to be settling well. We hope all is well **Christine**.

Sadly both **Jean Walsh** and **Sue Proudfoot** have lost family members recently and we send our love and sympathies as you deal with life without them - never an easy time.

*THOSE WE love
don't go away
THEY WALK BESIDE US
every day.*

Back on 5 December **Kathy Blackwood** had a complicated operation on her leg and ankle, it will be a while before she knows if its been successful. She wants to pass on her heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards, plants/flowers and visits. We hope, **Kathy**, you are recovering well and life is getting back to normal. Mostly we pray you re pain free too.



Paul Morgan too had a stay in hospital in early December and, **Paul**, we hope you are fully recovered now and hospital is but a distant memory!



We also send best wishes to **Margaret Ewers** who is no longer able to come to Church and to **Dennis** who is looking after her. We remember you in prayer and are sad we no longer see you.



There are so many folk who work very hard to keep the Church running and people looked after, so singling people out to say thank you to is never easy (or right) but **Dawn Martin's** banners at the front of Church are magnificent and really look great in the Sanctuary. Thank you so much **Dawn** and we are delighted to be able to share in your wonderful talents.

A huge thank you also to the **Girls Brigade** who once again have made a beautiful Advent wreath for the Church and who each year help with the Mother's Day posies and this year helped to wrap up all the gifts for the Lucky Dip at the Advent market.



Working very quietly in the background **Maureen Scoble** and **Nigel Phillips** have completely reupholstered over 25 chairs during October & November and we are so grateful for their commitment to repair, not throwing out. **Thank you very much both of you.**

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.



Finally, an apology to **Marilyn Davis** and her family for getting her daughter-in-law's name incorrect in the December issue. It is **Emma, not Andrea.**

From the Editor

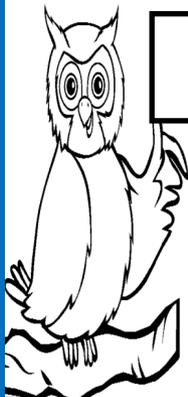
If you would like to include anything in the February Newsletter, please let me have details by Tuesday 11 January in any of the following ways:-

- ◆ 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

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to this newsletter, without you there wouldn't be one. If anyone has any suggestions for improving this publication, please let me know. Have a very happy and healthy new year.



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**

3rd January 2020

New Year Party

17th January

**Being a district councillor
with Vic Abbott**

31st January

**The Butterfly Trust, working in China
with Lyn Gould**

14th February

Speaker from the Live Well Team

28th February

Film Day

13th March

Mrs Carolyn Lawrence

27th March

Yealmpton Gospel Choir

Please contact one of us for more information:

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

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



So Many Angels and the Knitted Ones too

Wow – well done “IMC knitters”. We have managed to knit over **554 angels** (another 20 have been declared since the Sunday morning service).

Special “thank you” go to:

my house group who helped cut out, laminate and tie on all of the labels
Pam, Jean, Veronica and my mum for knitting nearly 400 of the angels between them
and to **everyone else** who has knitted these beautiful angels. Over **554** people will have been blessed by IMC this Christmas time.

Thank you once again, Nicky Rowe



Methodists Enjoying Life Together

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.
Thank you to those who have signed up their acts.
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.

Dear Friends

I was profoundly moved to receive this plea for help from a British friend in Cambodia. I share it with you because neither I nor Cambodian Communities out of Crisis have the resources to help practically. Would you stand with us in prayer that the Lord will provide for the need my friend describes?

Myers Cooper

'In 2011, the cousin of our guard was killed in a terrible accident near our village and my husband went to the funeral. He discovered that the deceased man had five daughters who were now completely orphaned as their mother had died in 2007, and as the man's new partner did not want them, the relatives were planning to separate them and take them to work with their families. The oldest sister was 18 at the time and was beside herself—she felt she was now the head of her household, and she wanted to keep her family together. She and the next sister down (aged 16 at the time) had taken themselves out of school and started work in a factory to be able to send money to their elderly grandparents so their three younger siblings could go to school.

'My husband heard about the dangerous situation the two older girls were in at the factory and the plight they found themselves in and offered to take them both in, give them vocational training and support them to send money home to the elderly grandparents to cover the food, education and medical costs of the three younger siblings.

'To cut an eight-year story short, the older sister lives with us still as the official guardian to the three younger siblings now aged 13, 16 and 19, who also now all live with us. The 13-year-old and 16-year-old are both in Cambodian high school and study English at New Life Church, and the 19-year-old is in her second year of a social work degree at university, and she takes English classes. We pay for everything they need out of our allowance. The second-eldest sister is now married and the manager of a restaurant, as well as mother to a one-year-old daughter whom we all adore. We continue to give the eldest an allowance which allows her to ensure the health and well-being of their now very elderly grandparents.

'Since 2013, a foundation in the UK has helped pay for the extra costs of having foster daughters so we have been blessed with just enough financial support for our allowance to cover our expenditure. Unfortunately last week we received news that the foundation has changed its criteria and from January 2020 they will no longer cover the £5,000 we need next year to cover the costs of raising our foster daughters and providing them with an education.

'As you can imagine, this is a serious blow. We do not live an extravagant life and our budget has nothing left to trim. It is no longer a matter of what we cut, but who, and we cannot accept that as an acceptable solution.

'I was praying about possible solutions, such as finding a paid, part-time job, and I suddenly thought I could try and find a grant to cover the girls' costs in 2020 while we try and raise more financial support over the year, especially as we are due to go on furlough in June.'



Cambodian High School Students

Myers

A vibrant promotional graphic for a radio program. The background is bright blue with white diagonal rays emanating from the center. Large, glossy pink splatters are scattered across the image. The text is arranged as follows: 'big Games' in white bold font on a pink splatter in the top right; 'the big Start' in white bold font on a central pink splatter; '23rd Feb 10th May' in white bold font; 'Sunday' in large white bold font; '9-9:45am' in white bold font below 'Sunday'; 'big Breakfast' in white bold font on a pink splatter in the bottom left; and 'big Stories' in white bold font on a pink splatter in the bottom right.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

January to April 2020

Epiphany



The Revealing of God through Jesus in John's Gospel
Chapters 1 to 14 with DVD

We meet at 10 am for a chat and coffee and finish 12 noon
in 20, Grosvenor Court
All ages welcome.

January 14th	<i>John Chapter 1</i> Jesus the Word of God
January 28th	<i>John Chapters 2 & 3</i> His First Miracle Water into Wine
February 11th	<i>John Chapters 4 & 5</i> Jesus the Living Water
February 25th	<i>John Chapter 6</i> Jesus, the Bread of Life
March 10th	<i>John Chapters 7, 8 & 9</i> Jesus the Light of the World
March 24th	<i>John Chapter 11</i> Jesus the Resurrection and the Life
April 7th	<i>John Chapters 12, 13 & 14</i> Jesus the Servant King

11th January

Work Day 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!!



St Luke's Hospice Plymouth

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A Compassionate Friend is someone who looks out for others and 'makes a difference' to those with a life limiting illness or affected by loss. There's no limit to the ways in which you can do this but essentially, it's about lending a helping hand or a friendly ear.

A Compassionate Friend is not a professional counsellor or health expert, but a good listener who shows their neighbour, friend or peer they care.

From stopping by for a cup of tea or a chat to helping with shopping or a few chores, simple but heartfelt gestures help people stay connected to friends and the community.

Through our awareness session, a Compassionate Friend learns a little bit more about how taking the time to LEND a helping hand or friendly ear can make a difference and then turns that understanding into action – anyone can be a Compassionate Friend.

The next awareness session is at the:

Town Council Hall, Erme Court, Leonards Rd, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ
on the **7th January** from **2:00pm to 4:00 pm**

To book your place call **01752 964250**.

St Augustine

**Pray as though everything depended on God,
and work as though everything depended on you**

**God bless
David Moulder**

Marriage & Relationships Report

Thank you to all who took the trouble to complete the voting slips in relation to this report. There are a range of views expressed which are an honest expression of what people believe is the appropriate way forward in the light of their understanding of the scriptures and of our God. This vote does not determine any actions by this church, but will go to the District Synod and should, together with other deliberations, inform the decisions of the Methodist Conference in July 2020.

In total 83 voting slips were returned and the views expressed were as follows:

Church should adopt the summary understanding of the principles of good relating.

Agree : 68

Disagree : 9

Don't Know 6

Church should adopt the understanding of co-habitation outlined in the report.

Agree : 53

Disagree : 26

Don't Know 4

Conference should consent to the marriage of same sex couples in church and should permit the trustees (church council) of individual churches to register the premises for the marriage of same sex couples.

Agree : 40

Disagree : 40

Don't Know 3

Amendment of Standing Orders to incorporate revised statements on Marriage.

Agree : 44

Disagree : 33

Don't Know 6

Divorce, remarriage and respect for conscience.

Agree : 58

Disagree : 22

Don't Know 3



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

6th March 2020

ZIMBABWE

World Day of Prayer

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk



I am currently representing IMC, along with Angela Brimblecombe from Yealmpton, on the World Day of Prayer Committee. There are two meetings a year, in January to prepare and March to discuss how it went. It will be the turn of IMC to host this in 2022 and I would like to be uninvolved by this time. (Assuming I am still here and fully compos mentis). Please consider whether you could take a place on this Ecumenical Committee.

Mercy

Caption Competition

Please can you send me, hand me, put in my pigeon hole in Church captions for this photo : These will be judged (not sure by who yet) and there will be a small prize for the top five (not sure what yet).



As you can tell it's all planned. Depending on how many I get and space in the next newsletter, I will publish as many as I can in the February Newsletter.



Flourish and bear Fruit

SOUTH DEVON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



"A vision for Christ-centred education in Devon"

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2020

Visit our website to find out about our vision, ethos, curriculum and opportunities for giving:

www.southdevonchristianschool.org

or email us at admin@southdevonchristianschool.org

South Devon Christian School in the making

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.
He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends its roots by the water.
It does not fear when heat comes, its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

JEREMIAH 17:5-8

South Devon Christian School will be a place where we want to put God at the centre of everything we do and teach. We believe that to educate a child is to disciple them. Since we are created in the image of God, we want to nurture the whole person: mind, body and spirit. Therefore, our discipleship of the pupils will address three main areas: sustained academic growth, nurturing of their characters, and the modelling of a relationship with our loving Creator. We see this threefold approach as the means of raising a generation who will be equipped to lovingly serve God and others through their roles and careers in the wider world.

As you find out about this vision, please prayerfully consider whether you might be a part of it. We hope to open in September 2020 but there are many things to put in place first.

We would love to hear from you.

Church Contacts



Prayer Line
07801 956695

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

If you have any items for the
February Newsletter
please get them to the Editor by
Tuesday 11th January
at the latest please.



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