

# MAY 2020 Newsletter

*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadows of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deathly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day. (Psalm 91)*



IVYBRIDGE  
METHODIST CHURCH

*Sharing Life  
Sharing Faith*

## Dear Magazine Reader

I'm sure you're as sick as me about all the COVID-19 talk, so I'm not going to talk about that!

Instead I want to talk about joy! It has been my privilege over the last few months to visit a lady by that name. She was a most delightful and positive person. She was lovingly cared for at home by her devoted family. Her every need was lovingly catered for. Each time I visited I was offered hospitality and a friendly welcome. I would go through to the back bedroom to talk to and pray with Joy. Before I could even ask how she was she'd ask me how I was doing! What a joy she was! But Joy was sick. Each time I saw her she would look more and more thin and frail. Eventually I couldn't see her as the social isolation was in place. I spoke a few times to her on the phone, but it was clear that she was fading. Eventually her daughter-in-law called me one morning to say that Joy had died.

With all that the nations have had to endure and are enduring you might be tempted to think the same! Joy has died. Not a bit of it! I believe the Joy I mentioned is very much alive and now in the immediate presence of the Joy-maker Himself – Jesus Christ! I believe Joy had faith in the One who not only brought joy, but life, healing, forgiveness and hope too - in abundance.

As I write this article we're in the thick of the social isolation/lock-down, call it what you will. However, this morning via Zoom the congregations of Ivybridge, Yealmpton and Bittaford Methodist Churches met online once again. I have to say that these gathering are the highlight of my week!



This morning there were 68 devices present with an estimated congregation of around 100 people! What a joy and delight as we talked together, drink tea and coffee together, worshipped together despite the time-lapse and chaos(!), read the Bible together, prayed together and gave thanks to God, that despite the difficulties **He was with us** and there was an irrepressible joy in our hearts. It was clearly evident from all the smiling faces of children, families, the middle-aged, the singles, the widows, the widowers – the lot – all being together before our Loving Heavenly Father! **Joy has not died** – it is very much alive in this wonderful expression of the Body of Christ. If you want to join with us you'd be most welcome.

There is a wonderful verse in the Bible which says, "**The joy of the Lord in my strength.**" (*Nehemiah 8:10*). If you're worried that joy is dying in you, join with us and may you experience that joy of the Lord that the world can't counterfeit or reproduce, because it comes through being in relationship with the One who created it in the first place.

### ***Blessings in the Joy-giving Jesus***

*Rev Mark Lawrence*

**Andrew Lawrie** asked that this **thank you for prayer** be put in the newsletter:

Many of you will know that I suffered a minor 'stroke' (bit more complicated) in early April and spent a week in Derriford and have been off work for a while. All is now well with me although I have had to promise Sue that I will take it a bit easier in future! Many thanks to all who prayed for me so that I have had a full recovery. It could all have been so very different and meanwhile I await a short operation in London sometime in future to ensure the same thing does not reoccur.



## MAY NEWS

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

Welcome to May. We don't seem to be getting much information during this time, so please contact Judy if you have anything you would like to put in the newsletter. In the meantime keep well and safe.



**Lyndsey Reid's** mother, **Beryl** is 95 in May. Very many congratulations **Beryl**.

It's **Heather Bailey** 60th birthday in May. Many congratulations Heather. Should think you will be celebrating properly next year .

### "Now I Know What Hell Feels Like"

Sitting on a thin mattress on the floor of their home in a Phnom Penh slum, 3-year-old Molita delicately touches the scars that cover her mother's back. In November 2014, when Molita was an infant, the owners of a neighbouring market stall attacked her mother, MOUNG SREY MOM, with highly concentrated acid. They doused nearly half her body, leaving penetrating burns covering SREY MOM's back, arms, legs, and half her face, melting off her right ear. As the acid continued to seep into her skin for days after the attack, SREY MOM, then two months pregnant, had a miscarriage. SREY MOM's body had largely shielded Molita, who was with her at the time, from the bulk of the attack, but two burn scars run down Molita's face—just missing her right eye.

In 2017, reflecting on her life after the attack, SREY MOM said: "Now I know what hell feels like."

Perpetrators of such attacks are mostly private actors seeking to inflict pain, permanently scar, or kill the victims. While the Cambodian government has passed legislation to curb the availability of acid used in such attacks and to provide accessible health care and legal support to victims, perpetrators rarely go to prison and victims rarely receive adequate health care or meaningful compensation.



In 2012, Cambodia passed an **Acid Law** requiring state hospitals to provide medical care free of charge for acid attack survivors. In practice, however, the law appears to be routinely ignored. Every hospital staff person interviewed by **Human Rights Watch** when investigating the phenomenon of acid attacks said that the victim would need to pay, and none indicated any knowledge of this clause of the **Acid Law**. In May 2017, even the head doctor at the burn unit at Preah Kossamak Hospital—the largest public hospital in Cambodia and the only one with a dedicated burn unit—was unaware that acid victims have a right to be treated free of charge.

Acid violence is rarely directly fatal. Rather, victims live on in physical, emotional, economic, and social suffering. Victims are often left with severe and permanent disability, and may depend on family members for ongoing care, sometimes for the rest of their lives. Groups that have worked extensively with survivors say that suicide, attempted suicide and chronic depression are pervasive.

[Extracts taken from a **Human Rights Watch** report published in February 2019]

**Please pray for:**

the healing of physical and emotional scars;

improved access to prompt, free and long-term medical and psychological care;

justice for innocent victims;

victims to have encounters with Jesus—Saviour, Healer and Lord.

*Myers Cooper*

## IMC's Finances During Covid-19 Lockdown

Before writing a few words about the church finances, I would like to express thanks to Andrew Lawrie, IMC Treasurer, who has recently relinquished this role. Andrew has managed and looked after the church finances for a few years now. He has done an excellent job and has handed over an easy to follow process. Andrew, a huge thank to you.

The leadership team have asked me, as the new treasurer, to have a look at IMC's finances with regard to the Lockdown. I have reviewed the cash flow through to the end of this calendar year, taking into account the impact of there being no church collections, rental, other incomes etc. My conclusion is that IMC's finances will be sufficient even with this reduced income. This is due to the large number of church members who regularly give by standing order and who also gift aid their giving. THANK YOU.

The gift aid tax repayment for this last year *1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020*, looks as though it will be over **£12,000** – this is the extra 25p IMC gets from HMRC for every £1 that has been gift aided. This claim is currently being prepared for submission.

If, as a regular attender of IMC you would like to make a contribution to the church finances, you can do this by making an on line transfer to the church bank account – **sort code 53-61-57 account number 08262683**. In addition, if you would like to gift aid your contribution, past and future contributions, then please either post or email the declaration below. HMRC accept all types of formats for recording the gift aid declaration, be it emails, texts etc.

If you are an existing regular giver but do not gift aid and would now like to do this (you must be a UK tax payer), please complete the details below and send to me by post, email or text.



## CHARITY GIFT AID DECLARATION – Multiple Donations

I would like to Gift Aid my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Ivybridge Methodist Church.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in any given tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

### My Details:

Title: .....

First Name: .....

Surname: .....

Full home address: .....

Postcode: .....

Date: .....

### Please notify Ivybridge Methodist Church if you:

want to cancel this declaration  
you change your name and or address  
you are no longer paying sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional higher tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment Tax Return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code accordingly.

Thank you for supporting IMC.

*Robin Duckering,*

Treasurer, IMC

**robin.duckering@gmail.com 07934 887672**

The following is from **David Moulder** and is the first in a series of articles about IMC's past. When we next print a newsletter I plan to print these as one document for you to keep. (*Editor*)

## **The First Methodist in Ivy Bridge**

William Sherwell was born in 1780 in Modbury, the eldest child of William and Elizabeth Sherwell. He was baptised at St George's parish church on 2nd June 1780. He married Ann King on 19th April 1802, and they had 12 children, 10 boys and two girls. He became a Methodist in 1806, and a Methodist local preacher the following year.

He moved to Ivy Bridge some time before 1811, and according to his memorial plaque in the present church, he was "the first Methodist in Ivy Bridge". He started a Sunday School in June 1811, and Sunday School anniversaries are numbered from then, the centenary being held in 1911, when a commemorative medal was made. We assume he started a church at the same time, which met in a house, or rented a room somewhere.

William's older children were baptised in Modbury, but his younger children were baptised in Ashburton, the main church of the Ashburton circuit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Ivy Bridge became a part of this circuit in 1813, when the first church opened in Chapel Place.

William was a man of many trades, and in 1825 there was a court case brought by one of his staff, where it is recorded that he was a tailor, chemist, haberdasher, grocer, cutler and draper, as well as a local preacher. The list of his trades caused great mirth in the court. William won the case.

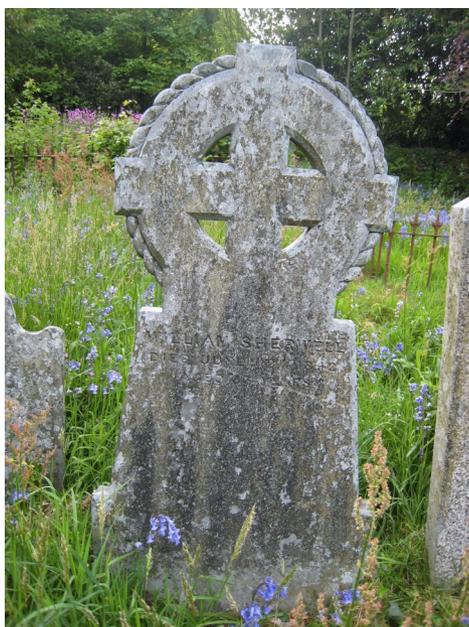
William died in unusual circumstances on 12th June 1842, on the way to preach at Lee Moor. He and his wife are buried at St Petroc, Harford.

William's memorial plaque on the wall of the present church is shown below:

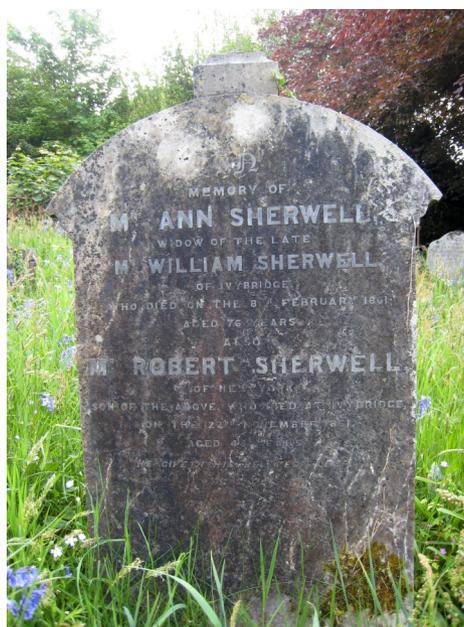


TO THE MEMORY OF M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> SHERWELL,  
 THE FIRST METHODIST IN IVY BRIDGE; HE WAS  
 FOR NEARLY 36 YEARS A LABORIOUS, USEFUL,  
 AND HIGHLY ACCEPTABLE LOCAL PREACHER AND  
 CLASS LEADER. HIS RELIGION WAS SUSTAINED  
 AND DISPLAYED IN HIS GENERAL INTERCOURSE  
 WITH SOCIETY, IN THE HABITUAL CHEERFULNESS  
 OF HIS TEMPER, AND PRE-EMINENTLY IN HIS  
 CATHOLIC SPIRIT; WHICH LED HIM TO LOVE  
 ALL WHO FEARED GOD, WITHOUT DISTINCTION  
 OF NAME OR PARTY. HE FINISHED HIS COURSE  
 SUDDENLY; AND WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN,  
 WHILE ON HIS WAY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL,  
 ON SUNDAY, JUNE THE 12<sup>TH</sup>, 1842, IN<sup>y</sup> 63<sup>RD</sup>  
 YEAR OF HIS AGE.  
 HE BEING DEAD, YET SPEAKETH.

He died about 50 yards from Morley clay works at Lee Moor on Dartmoor, where he was going to preach, and shortly after he had said to a friend whom he met, "God bless you; I am expecting a glorious day".



**William's grave at Harford**



**Ann's grave at Harford**

A very dear friend shared these two articles with me and I wanted share them with you:

***(From Christus Vivet)***

Friendship is no fleeting or temporary relationship, but one that is stable, firm and faithful, and matures with the passage of time. A relationship of affection that brings us together and a generous love that makes us seek the good of our friend. Friends may be quite different from one another, but they always have things in common that draw them closer in mutual openness and trust. Friendship is so important that Jesus calls himself a friend - "I do not call you servants any longer, but I call you friends" (**John 15:15**). By the gift of his grace, we are elevated in such a way that we truly become his friends.

**Encouragement – St. Francis De Sales**

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear, rather look to them with full hope that as they arise, God – whose own you are- will deliver you out of them.

He has kept you hitherto, do you but hold fast to his dear hand and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand he will bear you safely in His arms.

What need you fear, my child, remembering that you are God's and that He has said "All things work together for good to those who love Him".

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then. Put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations and say continually

"The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart has trusted in him and I am helped; He is not only with me but in me and I in Him" What can a child fear surrounded by such a Father's arms?

*Blessings Editor*

## Trevi House Charity Sky Dive Event

**Pamela Shead**  
**on March 27th I started raising money**



Every 16 minutes a child is taken into care.

Only 10% are reunited with their mum.

My daughter, Hannah, is the CEO of a charity based in Plymouth that is working hard to give more children a chance to stay safely in their mothers care.

Trevi House offers rehab support to around 20 families each year. The mother is offered treatment for addiction and trauma plus parenting support. Children are cared for in the specialist on site nursery.

Trevi also has a Sunflower women's centre that offers vital aftercare, plus a range of other services to vulnerable women in Plymouth.

This month, Trevi has opened a residential assessment centre for families in the court arena.

All Trevi services work to the philosophy that everyone deserves the chance to have a better life, and that with the right care and support, a lasting recovery is possible.

I am jumping to help raise money for a charity that changes and saves lives.

Donations will go towards a charitable bed for a family that cannot get funding due to current budget cuts. Thank you for reading and I am grateful for every penny donated!

I already have a "Just Giving" website page:

**Pamela Shead Sky diving Event**



Ivybridge  
**YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST**

Youth for Christ have a new website which is now live and can be found at:  
<https://ivybridge.yfc.co.uk/>

## Jesus Walks on Aegean Sea

**Amid the great turmoil of refugees flooding into Europe come amazing reports of miraculous intervention**



One Iranian family thought they had lost their three-year-old daughter when she fell overboard from a crowded boat heading for the Greek island of Lesbos.

Her parents fell to their knees crying out to God for help when, suddenly, she appeared in front of them. Amazed, they asked her what had happened. She told them that she began to sink, she saw a man clothed in white walking on the water towards her who rescued her.

When the refugees landed on Lesbos, they were met by Christian volunteers offering food, clothing and shelter, and sharing the Gospel with them. When they heard the story of Jesus walking on the water (***John 6:15-21***), the little girl cried out: “That’s the man who pulled me out of the water!” Her Muslim parents dedicated their lives to Christ and went on to found a Farsi-speaking church in Athens.

It goes to show that the One who walked on water in Galilee is alive today! The Gospel is really true. There is nothing more inspiring or more important to consider than Jesus dying for us all, taking the burden of our sins upon himself before rising from the dead and giving eternal life to those who believe in him.

The tragedy in Britain today is that too often we are fed with a watered-down version of the Gospel which fails to produce passionate disciples transforming the world around them. Real discipleship goes deeper: it emerges from encounters with Christ in the depths of soul-searching desperation when the raging seas threaten to overwhelm.



What is more, the Gospel that brings full forgiveness and freedom also commands total commitment. It is so much more than signing up to a set of beliefs. It is dying to our personal hopes and ambitions and living only for him who gave his life for us (*Mark 8:35*).

**Report of boat-crossing miracle courtesy of missionaries working with Hellenic Ministries in Greece. This article by Charles Gardner first appeared in the Prophecy Today section of HEART Christian newspaper (Dec/Jan 2019-20) which can be ordered by calling 01903 209383 or via [www.heartpulpitations.co.uk](http://www.heartpulpitations.co.uk). You can sign up for a free weekly Prophecy Today online magazine at [www.prophecytoday.uk](http://www.prophecytoday.uk).**

### Sew Scrubs to Help the NHS

A number of friends are busy sewing scrubs for the NHS, and these have been distributed to hospitals already BUT MORE ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. I have been asked to co-ordinate a group, locally in Ivybridge, for yet further sewers for scrubs.

This has been featured on BBC news radio and TV (and Youtube <https://youtu.be/Za8R9ytZxlg>).

The Fabric and pattern is provided and will be delivered to any volunteers' homes. I just need a cohort of volunteer sewers. I am sending a heartfelt plea for more sewers- just to do one set or two sets of scrubs.

If someone feels unable to do this but would like to contribute in a simpler way - we need drawstring bags made from pillowcases, for NHS staff. Perhaps someone has old pillowcases to donate. This a nationwide initiative and there is face book group apparently (for the love of scrubs).

I think it would be wonderful if IMC could help in this important task and I have been asked/put forward to co-ordinate the fabrics/pattern/transport links.

*Thank you, in Jesus, Fiona Macleod*  
*fiona.mary.macleod@gmail.com*

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

If you would like to include anything in the June Newsletter, please let me have details by Friday 22nd May 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***

Blessings,  
*Chris Reed*

Mark kindly put out an email asking for stories of your lockdown experiences. This is the first one I have received. Thank you Kate and Robin. Keep safe and well. *Editor*

This is what Kate and I have made from pieces of pottery that we have found in the garden over the last 10 years - as and when we dig them up we have put them aside for a project such as this! It is on an outside wall leading down into our garden.

**Robin and Kate Duckering**



# Church Contacts



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**Mrs Alison White** Tel: 01752 691039

**Room Bookings:**  
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**House Group Information:**  
Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

If you have any items for the  
**June Newsletter**  
please get them to the Editor by  
**Friday 22nd May**  
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  
[mrmerit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerit@icloud.com)



## MAY NEWS

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

### Some News late in:

Tis the month of May and we are still in lock down which for many couples brings huge disappointments as their weddings are cancelled. We would have been celebrating with two couples **Tom Duckering** and his fiancée **Jo** and **Lucinda Jago** and her fiancée **Andy** but the celebrations will be postponed. **Lucinda and Andy** have booked the **26th September 2020** and **Tom and Jo** are waiting for the first available opportunity to get married in their church within the new regulations and they would value prayer that something may change in the near future to enable this to happen. They have rebooked the church and reception venue for next May - same time, same place idea - with all their friends and family present We send commiserations for present disappointment and for much joy to come.



One thing that doesn't stop and that's birthdays - **Helen Skinner** is celebration a big one. Given that she is working long hours at the Nightingale in London we can only hope Helen, you are able to celebrate with the family at some point. We send much love and wishes for many happy returns as well as ongoing prayers for protection and safety.



There are many of our members who are key workers and at this time we want then all to know how appreciated and prayed for they are!!



Another thing that cheers our days is new baby news - and we send congratulations to **Beth and Ben Vleminckx** (Rachel & Malcolm French's daughter) who are celebrating the birth of **Noah Benjamin** who was born on **March 22nd** weighing 9lbs 1oz. **Noah** is now settling well and we wish you both much joy as you grow together as a family.

And already mentioned earlier , Lyndsey Reid's mother, **Beryl** is 95 in May and **Heather Bailey** is 60 in May. Many congratulations to you both.