

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful to God's house. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honour than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honour than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and hope in which we glory.

(Hebrews 3:1-6)



Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

Dear Magazine Reader

Last month we talked about joy –
this month I want to focus on
hope!



Hope is a wonderful thing and without it we can't survive. We all need it and the prospect of it is literally life-giving! I guess like me many of you will be longing for the day of freedom! The hope of seeing loved ones, the hope of gathering together – especially as a church family to worship and fellowship together again, the hope of going on holiday and seeing the sea! The list goes on and on!

When I was a child I would often use the phrase 'I can't wait for...' and my grandma, who lived with us, whom I loved very much, used to respond, "Well you'll have too!," which wasn't what a young boy wants to hear as it's too brutally honest! I feel like a little boy again with all this lock-down malarkey! Hopefully(!) by the time you read this it will have started to ease.

The Bible talks about hope, but not a possible, 'I-wish-it-would-happen' hope, but a true and living hope. It is centred on the Person of Jesus Christ – whom is the living embodiment of hope. Hope in the present and the sure hope of what's to come. That is real hope. But how is this possible? The other Sunday in one of our Zoom Sunday morning services we looked at this very subject and there were a couple of verses which encapsulated it. In one verse it says this, 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'. (**Colossians 1:27**). What in earth is that talking about? Exactly! It is talking about the believer in Christ, who has allowed Jesus to come in to their lives so that their lives become His!

In other words, when they trust in Christ, He comes to dwell within us by His Holy Spirit. A spiritual birth occurs and with that spiritual birth comes His divine presence within – the hope of glory! I experience it day by day. When we are feeling hopeless, God can enable us, through His presence with us and within us to lift us up and help us to carry on as we trust Him day by day. Once we've given our lives to Him our lives are in His hands – we are His and the wonderful truth is – we know that the best is yet to come. So if you're feeling fed-up, miserable and/or hopeless – look up! Ask the God of hope to come and live within and for His light to drive out the darkness of hopelessness.

And here's a blessing for you which we used at the end of one of our online services:

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.' (*Romans 15:13*)

So dear magazine reader, I pray that you will know this hope despite the current challenges and when this is all over, we can gather together again and encourage one another.

Blessing in hope,
Rev Mark Lawrence

Christian Aid Week 2020

As there will be no Christian Aid Collection this year, you can, if you wish, donate on line to: caweek.org

Many thanks, Paul Morgan

**POVERTY
LET'S END IT**





MAY/JUNE 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

I'm a bit more on the ball this month and it's lovely to be able to share new baby arrival news. **Joy and Philip Hodgson** became first time Grandparents in **May**, when son **Tom** and wife **Tessa** gave birth to a little girl, **Isla Rose**. Obviously they've seen lots of photos and internet snaps of her but are looking forward to that first cuddle.



Birthdays next and we send love and congratulations to **Sue Pengilly** as she celebrates a big birthday in **June**. No doubt celebrations will be muted Sue but we do hope you manage to make the day special and catch up with friends and family in the not too distant future.

Bert Paddock - an old friend of the Church, celebrates his **90th** in **June** as well and we hope **Bert** you might enjoy some celebration of this great birthday.



Harry Palmer Brown (Pam Montgomery's Grandson) is **18** this month too and **Harry**, we wish you a very happy birthday and many happy returns. Being officially an adult should be fun - and hope it is for you.

Carole and Treve celebrated their **55th wedding anniversary** in **May** (it's Emerald in case you wondered!!) → and we hope you had a special day and send many congratulations. What a lovely achievement.



Congratulations to **Meg Gentle** on gaining a place at York to do a Masters in Social Work. Sounds like a big change **Meg** and getting back into academia fun if challenging. We wish you every success and prayers for good health and all the strength you need.



This month should also have been **Carolyn's** induction as **Vice President** of the **Methodist Conference for 2020-2021**. Although she will be virtually inducted and carry on all the work the role entails we send commiserations that the celebrations will be very different to those planned. We will pray for you and wish you every blessing for all God calls you to do and say during this coming year.



Also **Matt Bowker** (**Jenny Hansford's** son) and **Hannah English** have had to postpone their **June** wedding until sometime next year - the disappointment is tough and we do hope that you'll soon have new dates for your special day.



Please can you also pray for my husband, **Ian and his family** as they grieve the loss of his mum, **Pam**. Some of you will know them and some will have heard me pray for them on a Sunday in Church. She died on 15th May.
(Editor)

Also as many will already know **Mark and Carolyn's** daughter **Jo and husband Ayo** became the proud parents of Joash on 4th May, a little bother for Arianna. They were able to be in Manchester and so have had the joy of seeing him. We send lots of love to you all and many congratulations to the new parents and pray all continues to go well for both families.



“Injustice for the Debtors”

Deep household debt might soon push Cambodia into a crisis as job losses caused by COVID-19 make it even harder for families to repay loans: experts and debtors say.

While at the time of writing the country has officially only registered 122 coronavirus cases, thousands of garment workers lost their jobs when their factories closed. Thousands more from the tourism and service sectors are also jobless or earning far less money than they were six months ago. For some, this crisis could have devastating consequences, including loss of family land, often a fast track to abject poverty.

Hy Sokhom, who drives a tuk-tuk, is one of millions of Cambodians who, on average, are the world’s most indebted borrowers. Usually, his wife and adult daughter sell noodles at a school in Kandal province’s Kien Svay district, but the school closed in mid-March as part of measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The family lost \$10 in daily income. Before the coronavirus, Hy Sokhom brought home about \$20 a day. Now, \$7.50 is a good day.

The couple’s two sons lost their jobs in Bavet near the Vietnam border when the casinos closed under similar measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. The family lost \$300 in monthly income the sons sent home.

Covering the \$400 monthly instalments for their \$18,000 loan—for a new tuk-tuk, home renovations and the cost of their sons’ move six months ago to Bavet—seems impossible.

They also must make monthly payments to two microfinance institutions of about \$50 each, bringing their monthly total to \$500.

“I want [the bank and microfinance institutions] to help assist us with a two to three month moratorium,” Hy Sokhom's wife Keith Mom said. “They could collect money from us as normal when [this] is over.” But their bank is insisting the family make the regular monthly instalment, she said.

“When we borrowed money from them, they asked us everything in detail. When we have problems [with COVID-19], they have not asked us anything. It’s only that we have to pay them money,” Hy Sokhom said. “It’s injustice for the debtors.”



Civil society organisations say that 2.6 million Cambodians owe an average of more than \$3,800 to microfinance institutes. This, they say, is “the largest amount in the world.” According to a joint report released by the NGOs Licadho and Samakum Teang Tnaut, this amounted to more than \$8 billion in total as of December 2018. The country’s GDP per capita was just \$1,384 in 2017, according to the report.

Please pray:

- ✚ for Cambodian families who have lost income as a result of the coronavirus outbreak and for whom there are no furlough or Universal Credit payments to provide a safety net;
- ✚ for those struggling to make debt repayments;
- ✚ for those at risk of losing land provided as collateral for a loan;
- ✚ for compassion and flexibility on the part of lenders;
- ✚ that people in desperate straits will encounter Christians who can encourage them to put their trust in the Lord.

[Based on reporting by VOA Khmer: bit.ly/3bICYGR]

Myers Cooper

Picture caption: Hy Sokhom and his wife Keith Mom (right)



Below is the next instalment from **David Moulder**.


Beginnings of Methodism

John Wesley was born in 1703, and died in 1791.

His brother Charles went to Oxford University, and John followed him. While there, Charles started a small group which was nicknamed the Holy Club. It met for Bible study and prayer, and John joined it, and became its leader. The group were called Methodists because they were so methodical in their meetings, Bible studies and prayers. After finishing his degree John became an Oxford don, and a Church of England minister in 1728.

John and Charles Wesley set off for America in 1735, with the idea of preaching the Gospel to Native Americans. During the voyage the ship was struck by a terrific storm. John was very afraid. He prayed with the English passengers, one of whom brought him a baby to baptise in case they were all about to die. Shortly afterwards he was at a service with a group of German Moravians when an enormous wave engulfed the ship, and water poured down into the cabins. While the English passengers screamed, the Moravians continued singing, men, women and children apparently unconcerned. Later he asked a Moravian why they weren't afraid. He replied that even the women and children were unafraid; as they weren't afraid to die. John realised they had something he didn't, complete trust in God. They were prepared for death because they knew that God wouldn't let them go. John was deeply impressed.

His time in America was unsuccessful in many ways, and he and Charles returned home two years later. John was bothered by the thought that he didn't have complete faith in God. Still under the influence of the Moravians they met in London, the Wesleys joined a 'Religious Society', and in May 1738 both underwent a deep spiritual experience. John famously described this in his Journal on 24th May 1738:



"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Flowing from the complete assurance they now felt in God's love and forgiveness, the brothers lived out their lives in a way that went on to influence millions. Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns, and John used his organising talent to turn the movement into a structured organisation which was the beginnings of the Methodist Church.

John knew George Whitefield from the days of the Holy Club. Whitefield had a similar conversion experience to the Wesleys a few years earlier, and had gone on to preach in large open-air meetings. Wesley preached the first of his open-air sermons at Whitefield's invitation in Bristol in 1739. As an Oxford don and an ordained Church of England minister, Wesley had a reverence for the 'proper' places of worship and was uneasy about preaching in the open air. But since many working class people felt excluded from the churches, field preaching became a key feature of the Methodist revival. More and more preachers were trained, and either travelled around like Wesley, or remained local preachers. Travelling preachers moved round a circuit of churches, preaching in each, and were paid by the circuit.

Wesley organized groups of believers into societies, which met at different times to the Church of England. Each society was made up of several classes, with about a dozen people in each, which met every week.



The Methodist Church wasn't established as a separate denomination until after Wesley's death. He had insisted that Methodists attend their parish church regularly, as well as going to Methodist meetings. He didn't want Methodism to become a break away movement. The Methodists called their buildings chapels; the word church was used for the people who worshipped there. Nowadays we use the word church for the building and the people.

Although Wesley declared, "I live and die a member of the Church of England", the impact of the movement was so strong that it made a separate Methodist body inevitable. In 1784 Wesley had got legal status for his Conference, which led towards the separation of Methodism from the Church of England. He ordained ministers for America, because there was a shortage of clergy to administer the sacraments following the War of Independence. The Bishop of London refused to ordain ministers, and Wesley felt he had to act.

Disputes about the status of the travelling preachers and the administration of the sacraments were resolved by Methodist leaders, who in 1795 issued the Plan of Pacification, which allowed their clergy to administer the sacraments to their own members. It led to a decisive break with the Church of England.

Wesley first visited Devon in 1739, when his brother Samuel, who was headmaster at Blundell's school in Tiverton, died. He visited Ashburton in 1766, but never visited Ivybridge, probably because he usually travelled across Dartmoor to Tavistock, and then onwards to Devonport. We know details of his travels from his detailed diaries. From his diaries, we also know that he preached more than 40, 000 sermons, travelled the length and breadth of England, and covered more than 250,000 miles, when roads were often no more than muddy tracks.

Progress Report on the Bittaford Church Roof Fund Appeal



I am delighted to announce that AllChurches Trust Limited has recently awarded **Bittaford Methodist Church** a grant of **£1,500** towards the cost of replacing the roof and installing roof insulation. All worshipping at Bittaford are most grateful for this generous grant.

Donations have been received that will cover the VAT that will be incurred. However, given that material costs have increased and the Circuit Property and Facilities Officer has recommended that roof insulation be installed, the cost of the work has now increased to **£21,000**.

Your prayers for the success of this important and much needed work would be appreciated. If you feel you are able to donate to the appeal, cheques should be made payable to: **Bittaford Methodist Church** and sent to:
Stewart Edward, 4 Lower Brook Park, Ivybridge, PL21 9TZ

Thank you
*Stewart Edward, Treasurer,
Bittaford Methodist Church*

During lockdown I have been sorting out my stock of yarn/wool and I have a large amount I no longer need including packs that would knit into jumpers etc to single balls. There are many different colours and thicknesses.

For voluntary donations to either the Bittaford Church Roof Fund or Animals in Distress I am happy to give away the yarn/wool. If any one is interested please phone me on **01752 698785**.

Kathy Blackwood



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

Thanks for praying for our **Online Quiz** the other week. It was very well received with lots of people saying it brought a lot of fun to their week!! Over 20 teams took part and around **£300** was raised (and growing!!).

Thanks to everyone who helped, gave and took part.

Please pray for **The Bridge Project Online** in **Ivybridge**. I am starting to make contact with parents of some bored teenagers who would like to connect with us online via Zoom. We naturally need to stay safe online and get completed parental permission forms to do this work. Please pray for good relationships, creative activities, guided conversations and that the admin process would go smoothly.

Pray that young people would feel supported with every contact and inspired to think about faith in God.

Pray also for opportunities to connect with the young people in the other areas of The Bridge Project (**South Brent and Yealmpton**) too.

*Every blessing,
Elis*

Ivybridge Youth for Christ
16 Tom Maddock Gardens, Ivybridge, Devon, U.K. PL21 0WE

Office: (01752) 898546
Mobile: 07966 911560



A huge thank you to all those who very kindly sent me cards, flowers orchids and even a bottle of bubbly! for my 'special' birthday in April. It was so kind of you all and very much appreciated.

My lock down birthday was obviously different than originally planned but due to wonderful family and friends I had a great day, even had a zoom party, cake and dinner arrived on the doorstep! How very blessed I am.

Yvonne



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 sewing 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*

*Visit our website at
www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk*

Where you can see a **colour version** of this Newsletter - in fact you are looking at it now 😊.

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website you can do so at **mrmerrit@icloud.com**

Church Contacts

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



Prayer Line
07801 956695

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

From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the **July Newsletter**, please let me have details by **Friday 19th June** in any of the following ways:-

- ♦ send it by email to: imc33chris@gmail.com
- ♦ ring me on: **01752 892341**
- ♦ post it through my letterbox at: **33 Julian Road, Ivybridge PL21 9BU**
please put your name on it



Blessings,
Chris Reed

Albania

On Sunday morning the 10th May, you may have heard Nick Wakeley talking on Church Zoom about how they are helping feed folks in Albania during this current crisis. If you want to support them in this work, then you can transfer money into the IMC NatWest account, saying it is for Albania. These funds will then be sent to them as a gift from the IMC church family.

So far, as a church family, we have given them £1248.

Thanks to this generous gift they were able to help eleven families this week with food.

Message of thanks from Nick and Sar

We would like to send everyone at IMC a very big thank you for the generous contribution towards feeding poor families in our region. It's literally a life-preserving gift to many families in crisis during the Covid 19 shutdown!

I enclose a photo of one delighted recipient. Her mother is eight months pregnant and her father has just gone back to work after ten weeks of no income. They are a Christian family and therefore are not eligible for muslim handouts/ food parcels. These are given only if people promise to attend the mosque. As it's Ramadan there are lots of handouts for muslims.

We are giving to any family we know about in need regardless of religious persuasion. But you surely knew that anyway! 😊😊

We are very touched by your generous response to the needs here.

With grateful hearts, Nick and Sar

See picture below:





SUPPORTING IMC FINANCIALLY DURING THE LOCKDOWN

The easiest way to support IMC financially during this time is to make an on line transfer to IMC's NatWest bank account **sort code 53-61-57 account number 08262683.**

Please remember, 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