

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the **LORD**, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The **LORD** watches over you - the **LORD** is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The **LORD** will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.

(Psalm 121 NIV)



IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

Dear Magazine Reader



I pray that by the time you read this the easing of the so-called 'lock-down' will be even more obvious. We are seeking, once advice has been received, to restart as many of the different ministries as possible. With God's help and an attitude of faith we can do anything! It is so important that we keep on keeping on despite the challenges. I really believe that it is vital to commence human-to-human fellowship at the earliest possible opportunity. Many of our folk are suffering for the lack of these basic human needs:

Company – Fellowship – Community!

We may have taken these things for granted before, but not now! How we need one another and that is true fellowship! I need you and you need me! That's how God has made us! We are not an island. There will be no social isolation in the Kingdom of God. There will be no two-metre separation rule there either.

The other week in our zoom Sunday morning meeting we looked at what we call in 'church-speak' as the '**Grace**'. This is a blessing Christians use which we speak over one another. We choose to bless because God blesses us with His goodness and His presence. We receive, we share and then we give. That's another biblical principle.

2 Corinthians 13:14 says,

'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all'.

The fellowship of the Holy Spirit breaks down barriers of gender, race, socio-economical background, theological perspective, political affiliations – you name it! We are a wonderfully diverse bunch, but, if Jesus Christ is our Lord and we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us we are one. That is so wonderful and a tremendous testimony in our divided world. As I write this article there are many people who are very angry about racism – and rightly so – it is an affront to human dignity and the worth of all human beings who are made in the image of God. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit melts these divisions away once we realise, that in Christ we are family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We have the same Heavenly Father.

The Bible says,

‘...walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.’ (Ephesians 4:1a-3)

By God’s grace may we be ‘eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit’ as we seek to re-establish our human-to-human contact and encourage each other in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit who is never socially distanced!

Yours in Christ,
Mark



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/>

For Such a Time as This – Update from Carolyn

Last year at conference when I was elected as Vice President Designate for the Methodist Church in Britain, I really felt that like Esther, I was being called **‘For such a time as this.’** Little did I know at the time just what ‘such a time’ it would turn out to be! By the time you read this, our virtual Methodist Conference will have taken place and I will have been inducted to begin my year of office. As I write this article, I am having to prepare to carry out this role in a very different way to that which was planned. With so many uncertainties ahead I am having to lean on God and trust that he has still got a plan in all this confusion! The verses that God gave me for the year ahead are from **Isaiah 43 vs 18-19** and little did I know how prophetic they would turn out to be.



‘Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.’

Many people have been and continue to struggle as they travel through the desert wasteland of Covid-19 and more than ever we need to hear God’s voice encouraging us that he is with us in all of the confusion, loneliness, disappointment and loss and that as it says in **Romans, ‘NOTHING can separate us from the love of God.’**

My election to this role and induction was meant to be a big celebration with a large crowd of witnesses including my friends and family. I can’t help feeling disappointed about the change of events and am left wondering how my year of office will proceed if I am not able to visit Districts and churches as planned so I would value your prayer for that.

Please also pray that despite the change and the difficulties that God will still use me to bring encouragement, inspiration and support to the churches across this nation and that he will still work through this year to bring people to know Jesus, to help people to grow in their faith and to help churches in their mission to others around them. Stand with me in believing that God’s purposes will not be thwarted despite the peculiar way things have turned out and that I will be enabled to bring glory to Jesus in all that I say, do and write and that we will indeed witness God doing a new thing amongst us and those streams in the wasteland bringing life, strength, healing and wholeness wherever they flow.

Carolyn Lawrence

BITTAFORD CHURCH NEEDS YOUR “LIKES” AND SUPPORT



To help fund the replacement of the roof and installation of roof insulation at Bittaford Methodist Church we have entered the Calor Rural Community Fund competition. There are more than 600 projects in the running so Bittaford Methodist Church needs your support more than ever if we are to get through to the finals and be awarded £2,500 towards our project.

Public supporting is now open until 5pm on 16 July 2020, so don't miss out on your chance to show your support – it could make a difference in getting our project through to the next round.

It's simple – head to <https://communityfund.calor.co.uk/bittaford-methodist-church-roof-replacement> before 5pm on 16 July 2020 to show your support by hitting “Like” or “Share”. Our project will receive 1 point for each “Like” and 1 point for each “Share”. And if you hit “Support us” then 10 points are awarded for each pledge and Bittaford Church will receive all pledges made through crowdfunder.co.uk.

Once the Public Support stage has closed the projects with the most public support points will make it through to the finalist stage. Finalists will then be scored by a panel of impartial judges who will select the winners and these will be announced on 19 August 2020.

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



As you may know, many folks (I think nearly 50+ children) within IMC sponsor children through Compassion. Here's an update of what is going on in Kenya. Firstly this is what Compassion says about Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) develops around the world, we are continuing to be proactive in ensuring protection for all Compassion staff, volunteers, partners and beneficiaries, and minimise disruption to critical operations and the children that we serve.

Compassion around the world

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it feels like there is something new for each of us to adapt to every day. And Compassion's frontline church partners across the globe are adapting too. During this pandemic we're making some temporary changes to how your donations are used and distributed; this means we can respond with context-specific solutions. Compassion is empowering local churches to redeploy sponsorship funds that are ordinarily used for group activities at the local church, so they can meet urgent and critical needs of families with children and youth registered in the programme. This includes necessities such as food, clean water, shelter, clothing, household items, and even medical care and trauma counselling.



Update on Kenya

Projects offering limited programme activity. There has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 among sponsored children's family members. The government of Kenya has put in place restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including the banning of public gatherings, the indefinite closure of schools and educational establishments, and limitations on travel. A curfew is in effect from 7pm to 5am. All group activities at Compassion projects are on hold, and your letters and gifts may take longer than usual to deliver. Our National Office is providing our church partners with information about disease prevention and how to respond if children are affected by COVID-19 which is being passed on to children, youth, and their families. Staff and volunteers at our partner churches are continuing child protection oversight, health care support, and non-group activities as needed. In Kenya, the government have requested for security reasons that all non-financial donations, including food and hygiene support, are provided through the government's centralised COVID-19 Response Fund. Compassion Kenya are therefore supporting children's families with direct transfers of funds to buy food and medical supplies. We are transferring funds using the M-Pesa app for safety of distribution and so that there are clear records.

Information taken from Compassions website.

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**

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

Methodism in Ivybridge

3. The First Chapel

We know that the Sunday School began in 1811. We assume that the congregation was founded the same year, presumably meeting in a house, or renting a room somewhere. By June 1812 they were already planning to build a chapel.

Sir John Rogers provided a plot of land for the building. The contemporary description of the site is rather hilarious: the chapel was “fix'd to be built at the head of a dirty lane (which is to be improved) just below Williams' house towards Miss Powell's backside”. That lane, duly “improved”, is now known as Chapel Place. The chapel was built the same year, 1812, at a total cost of £220. It had 40 free and 80 appropriated seats, that is, seats which were paid for. We have no other information about the chapel.

Regulations required the chapel to be registered with the Bishop of Exeter. This was done the following January:

To the right Reverend father the Bishop of Exeter or his Vicar General.

We whose names are undersigned do certify that a newly erected house known by the name of the Methodist Chapel situate in the village of Ivybridge, the parish of Ermington and county of Devon is set apart for the worship of Almighty God by certain of his majesty's Protestant subjects dissenting from the Church of England, and beg that it might be registered accordingly.

The letter was signed by four men, including **William Sherwell**, (the “first Methodist in Ivybridge”, as described in an earlier chapter), and **William Fowler**, the first named preacher/minister of the local circuit, Ashburton.



The chapel then duly appeared in the 1813 Exeter Diocesan Registry of Licences granted for Meeting Houses of Protestant Dissenters.

There are a few records of baptisms of children from Ivybridge, carried out by one of the ministers in the Ashburton Circuit. In 1836 and 1837 **Henry Brown** baptised children, and in 1837 two sons of **Richard Sherwell** were baptised. Richard was the eldest son of **William Sherwell**.

But, apart from that, no church records have survived from before 1851. The earliest record we have is the minutes of a Sunday School meeting, held on 3rd September 1851. The Sunday School minutes are more or less continuous since then.

And in that same year, the national census collected information on places of religious worship, and the Schedule for Return of Places of Religious Worship not belonging to the Established Church includes the following:

Name or Title of Place of Worship:	Ivybridge Chapel
Parish:	Ermington
District:	Plympton St Mary
County:	Devonshire
Religious Denomination:	Wesleyan

When Erected:	1812
Whether Separate & Entire Building:	Yes
Whether Used Exclusively as a Place of Worship:	Yes
Free Sittings/Other Sittings:	40/80

Estimated No. Attending Divine Service Sunday March 30 1851:

Morning	- 72
Afternoon	- 65
Evening	- 90
Number of Scholars	- 24



JUNE/JULY 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

Firstly some special news which just missed the last edition - James and Rosie (John and Sara Hladkij's son and daughter in law) gave birth to Effie Luna in April. Effie is Sara and John's 5th grandchild and a sister for Rex. By now I'm sure life will have settled somewhat for you all and we send many congratulations and best wishes for the future.



More good news for the Hladkij family as Jasmine gained her first post as a qualified PE teacher at Dartmouth College. All being well Jasmine will begin in September but is going in, in July for her induction and "getting to know" the school. We are delighted for you Jas and send every blessing and good wish for this next adventure.



Just to finish off the Hladkij family news - huge congratulations to Sara - now the Mayor of Ivybridge. It will be a busy year Sara and we wish you all wisdom, compassion and energy that you need to fulfil this role.



Some more lovely baby news this time for the Ion family as Becky and Richard added Isla Lois to their family - and big brother Zac is apparently loving his new sister. Isla weighed in at just over 11lbs and is Fiona and David's 5th grandchild too. We send our warmest congratulations to you all and hope the happy parents manage to juggle sleep, little brother and life in general just now.



Some extra special baby news - Kate and Robin Duckering are now the proud grandparents of Oscar English Hedley born to daughter Anna and son-in-law Warren in mid June. Oscar was born early but is putting on weight and it's lovely to say Mum and baby both doing well!! We send sincerest congratulations to Anna and Warren and hope Kate and Robin are able to see Oscar soon.





More good news for the Duckering family as they have just heard that Tom and Jo's wedding will be able to go ahead in July with a small wedding party. Covid-19 has meant disappointment for many special occasions but its so lovely the wedding can go ahead.

It would be good to pray for those amongst us who are struggling with health problems, Gill Cowsill has been suffering with debilitating back pain for some time but now feels things are slowly improving, Sandra Dudley had a nasty fall and is badly bruised, David Ion is struggling with a recurring shoulder problem and there others who are in chronic pain and ongoing struggles to stay well. We are sad not to see folk face to face but hope they are blessed by knowing we will pray.



Church

Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence

Tel: 01752-651910

email: revmark@live.co.uk

Room Bookings:

John and Pam Montgomery

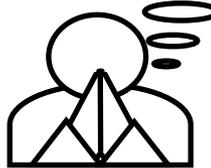
Tel: 01752 894083

email: imcbookings@gmail.com

Youth Work:

Mr Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

IMC Prayer



Prayer Line

Senior Stewards:

Mr Reg Marriott

Tel: 01752 893614

Mrs Alison White

Tel: 01752 691039

House Group Information:

Mrs Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Two extracts in anticipation of 'Joan's Life Story', part of her description of her 9 years in Israel. (Photos from the editor via the web.)

The Land – Ha Aretz

It was a word constantly being heard on Israelis' lips. They were thrilled to be there again and love the word. They had longed for 'their' land through centuries of exile in foreign lands where they were despised and rejected, scorned and made fun of, persecuted and blamed for things that went wrong, and constantly moved on. Finally, the Shoa/Holocaust in the Second World War, which saw six million Jews murdered and many others worked and starved to death, was the catalyst for the restoration of Israel to their homeland, as God's ancient people.

What with our dispersed sites of ministry and the regular visits of our three children and others, we did a great deal of driving up and down the country and this was a tremendous joy and privilege for us. I love the country, so small but with such a variety of nature, landforms and climate. As you know Israel forms a land bridge between Africa, Asia and Europe and each of these areas has influenced it environmentally and politically, and I believe God chose this land for his Purpose for the salvation of the world – and the Apostles were able to take the Gospel throughout the known world via the Roman roads and other ancient highways on foot. For me, getting to know where all the different sites mentioned in the Bible were and the nature of their territory has been a huge blessing. It has made the Bible come alive.

Israel has some amazing special areas. The Jordan Valley with the Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth. Jerusalem is 3000 feet above sea level, so driving down to the Dead Sea or Jericho is amazing. About halfway down you pass a notice saying 'Sea Level', yet you are driving through hills where sheep graze. In the autumn/winter season this is all brown

pasture but the minute the rains come the whole area takes on a green hue and you realise that the sheep have been feeding on 'brown' grass. Also Jerusalem could have been covered in snow (it happens every year in January/February time – one year during our time it was especially heavy and caused a huge

number of trees to fall down under the weight) but Jericho is basking in sunshine and warmth. This tempts people to escape the cold of Jerusalem. The Galilee region, being also below sea level, was pleasant in the winter with lovely views of Mount Hermon covered in snow (providing most of the water for Israel)



but impossibly hot and humid in the summer. In our early years we made the mistake of visiting during August with some of our family and finding that the only comfortable place to be was under water!

The sea of Galilee region would sometimes flood but in drought years the water would get very low. In one drought year some kibbutz members were looking for and found the ruins of a first century boat in the shallows, preserved in the mud. This made countrywide news and was proclaimed the 'Jesus Boat', but overnight this was changed to an 'Ancient Boat' by the religious authorities! It has been preserved and is on show in the kibbutz nearby.



In the northern region of Dan is a wonderful country park with lovely vegetation and wildlife because of the water running through it. There you can see kingfishers like the ones we have in Britain. But in Israel there are two other types of Kingfishers: over the Sea of Galilee you can see large flocks of black



and white or Pied Kingfishers, medium sized; and along the Mediterranean coast road you see Smyrna Kingfishers on the telegraph wires. They are larger with large chocolate-brown beaks and blue and brown feathers. I loved the birds in Israel. The Jordan or Rift Valley was one of two migration routes from Africa to Europe for birds, amongst these were Storks



and raptors (Eagles) going north in spring to breed and south in autumn to enjoy the sun in the Southern Hemisphere. They would save energy by rising on the thermals up the cliff edge of the Rift Valley in large flocks flying in amazing aerial circles – a sight to behold! Others were native to Israel and we had Hoopoes and Jays on our lawn in Jerusalem, and in the area of the birth of John the Baptist, En Kerem, Bee Eaters were a common sight. Hummingbirds and Kestrels were to be seen in our garden and baby Kestrels were born above our stone outside staircase every year and learnt to fly from our rooftop over our lawn, especially visible when we breakfasted there on Saturday mornings. This was the only day and time of day we could use our garden because of the road noise and early setting sun! The greatest advantage for birdwatching in Israel is the fact that the vegetation of bushes and large trees is sparser, so you cannot only hear the birds, as you can in Britain, but you can also see them.

The flowers of Israel are also amazing partly because of the uncertainty of the rain. If you have plenty of 'first rains' in the autumn (they pray for rain during Succot, or Tabernacles, usually in October) then you get flowers in the spring. But sadly some years, when there is too little or no rain in the autumn, there are no flowers.





In a good year the Almond tree is the first sign of spring. In February the whole country displays a 'white bride' here and there, as the Almond blossom is white. Then in succeeding weeks the flowers appear. Not one or two here and there,



but whole carpets of red anemones, say on the hills of Galilee, and accompanied by carpets of white daisies and yellow flowers in the Jordan Valley and Wadi Kelt – a dry valley flowing with



water in spring. In the desert, red wild Tulips come up through the cracked earth and in most parts of the country you can see cyclamen, especially under the trees in the 'Gate of the Valley' (Shar ha guy), a wooded rocky area on the main road (now a four lane or more wide motorway) up to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv and the airport; an amazing switch-back of a ride. Then on Mount Carmel there is vegetation all year round because of the nightly dew, and in the spring all these flowers will be seen. Mount Gilboa, where Saul and Jonathan died, had famous Black Irises. The Golan Heights is another unique area.



The climate feels like Britain – damp and misty with apple orchards and cows. One time I saw a field full of Cranes! And there is an area set aside with the most amazing viewing stand where you can photograph the vultures flying parallel to you – they nest on the cliff side opposite. Coming onto the tarmac of the



airport in Tel Aviv you can smell the orange and lemon blossom and see plenty of Palm trees. The coastal strip is full of citrus farms, the fruit is a winter fruit supplying vitamin C for us when we need it. Going up to Jerusalem, remember it is on mountains 3000 feet high, you pass a very fruitful agricultural area. There are fields of sunflowers, then cotton, then grain, peach orchards, and finally on the foothills they grey-green of the olive trees dominates the rocky area. Olive trees are very abundant, especially on the hills of Samaria to the north and Judah to the south, the area around Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron. We had two in our garden and I learnt to preserve them. They are an acquired taste, but eaten sparsely with cheese you come to love them: I did.



Extracts from Joan Bulman's 'Life Story'.
Photos via the web by the Editor.



From the Editor



If you would like to include anything in the **September Newsletter**, please let me have details by **Wednesday 19th August** 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

At the moment I don't plan to have an August Newsletter. If anyone would like me to publish one, please just send me things. If not, I hope by the September, we might be back to printing one. You never know. Wishing you all well.

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



We're starting an online (via zoom) Alpha course on 7th July please print off (it's on-line) and pass on the poster and tell you friends and neighbours to contact Phil or myself.
Many thanks.
Blessings, Mark

