

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Love is patient, **Love** is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **Love** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

(Corinthians 13 4 to 8a NIV)



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH


Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

The opening hymn at the annual Methodist Conference begins with the words, ‘And are we yet alive, and see each other’s face?’ This hymn held extra poignancy at this year’s conference as most members were meeting via Zoom and we didn’t see each other’s faces very much at all!

According to the BBC Bitesize website there are seven characteristics of living organisms and I think they can help us reflect on whether or not we and our churches are alive.

Movement

Within our churches and as individuals, I wonder if we have the form of religion without the power of the Holy Spirit to help us move and pulse with life?

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September 2020 - Face masks – a new phenomenon!

They seem to evoke all sorts of responses from the rational to the bizarre! As you know, it is a Government requirement to wear them on public transport, in shops, in churches and the like. For some it has proved a 'bridge to far' and they have withdrawn from public worship with us, which is such a shame. However, for most of us the need for fellowship and worship over-ride any barriers and we continue to meet together as a church community. You'd be most welcome to join with us.

In the Bible it says, "Let every person be subject to the government authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment." (*Romans 13:1-2*)

The fact is, we may not like some of the things the governments say or do, but for those of us who are Christians we are urged to pray for our rulers and those in authority so, "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (*1 Timothy 2:1-2*)

There is one true Saviour. No government or politician can save us, but only Jesus Christ. He is loving towards us and has shown it, not just in the pages of the Bible but in the hearts and minds of those who have truly been open to Him. He sees under the masks we wear, not the ones that seek to shield us and others from a virus, but the ones that we place over ourselves because of fear, shame, wrong-doing or spiritual pride. Whilst it is right to obey the authorities on the issue of mask wearing, it would be a tragedy to live life behind any emotional or spiritual masks. God invites us to be open and honest with Him because He loves us and wants to set us free from all that seeks to hold us back from being free in Him.

So keep safe, and may you know the freedom that comes only through Christ. If you'd like to discuss this further or have any questions or comments do let me know.

With every blessing, Rev Mark Lawrence
0752 779 6319 / revmark@live.co.uk



September Worship



Due to the current restrictions all services are liable to change,
please check the IMC website for more accurate details.
Services will be available via Zoom and invitation only in the
Church building, until further notice.

IVYBRIDGE

September 6 10:30 am Rev Mark Lawrence - Communion

September 13 10:30 am To be confirmed

September 20 10:30 am Mrs Val Marriott

September 27 10:30 am Mrs Jean Walsh
4:00 pm Possible Circuit Meeting

BITTAFORD

September 6 11:00 am Rev David Youngs - Communion

September 13 11:00 am Mr Mike Cade

September 20 To be confirmed

September 27 11:00 am Miss Sue Bolt
4.00 pm Possible Circuit Meeting



From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the **October Newsletter**, please let me have details by Wednesday 16th September 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**

PL21 9BU

please put your name on it



Road, Ivybridge

DO YOU STILL WANT A HARD COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER?

I was thinking (not always a good idea) that since a lot of people have been viewing the Newsletters on-line over the last few months, whether they would like to continue to do this, rather than having a printed copy. If you would like to stop receiving a hard copy please let your Pastoral Visitor know or Carole Mitchell direct on: **carole.mitchell60@yahoo.com** or phone **07880 760962**. This will not mean that you won't still get a Pastoral Visit, just that you won't get a hard copy of the Newsletter. When we know how many people need a hard copy we will be able to decide if we can print the Newsletters in colour, or perhaps print them in colour occasionally, depending on numbers. Thanks to all Chris

I chose the passage on the front of this Newsletter for a couple of reasons. One, was that I read it this week in my Bible in a Year, that I am doing and it reminded me how very special it is. Also, Nicky Gumbel quoted a missionary, who he had heard of, who each day would read the list sixteen characteristics of love from this verse. For the word 'love she would substitute her own name. When she reached a characteristic that she knew was not true of her, she had to stop. Her aim was, one day, to get to through the whole list.

Jesus Makes the Impossible Possible

My name is Lyta from Freedom Church, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

I want to share with you my journey with Jesus.

I was born and raised in a Buddhist family. When I was 18 years old I found out that I had blood cancer. It ruined my life. I became full of fear and was hopeless and the hospital became like my home. The doctors said I had only three months to live. My parents tried everything to help me. They took me to hospitals in Thailand and Vietnam. But I was still not better. We worshipped several spirits. We tried Buddhist ceremonies to find healing for me. But nothing helped. Two years later, I was still alive but very sick.

My brother invited me to a home group. That evening, I accepted Jesus as my saviour. The people in the small group prayed for me and I decided to come to church on Sunday. I still remember my first day. I got so much love and encouragement from church people. They welcomed me, hugged me and said, 'There is still hope for you.' I really loved that day. I began to volunteer in church and my leaders gave me the opportunity to lead a team. My life was changing completely. I felt loved and a new confidence. I got leadership skills. When I went to see the doctors again they couldn't find any cancer in me. By faith, I was healed. I was so excited. My family, my parents and people in church celebrated with me.

Meanwhile, I had met my future husband, Visal. He was in that small group that prayed for me. Two years later, when I was 22, we decided to get married. We went to the doctors again to check my health. They said that we were not able to have a baby because of the medicine that I had taken. This was a hard time for both of us. We had to choose what the doctors had said or choose to trust God. From then on we saw miracle after miracle. We believed that if God could do it once He could do it again. So we chose to trust God! We prayed and fasted and we never gave up.

At the end of 2019, we felt called by God to plant a church in Phnom Penh. We were really excited for this. At that time I found out that I was pregnant. We were blown away and everyone was celebrating with us. Our miracle daughter Maya is nine months old. God had healed me and blessed us with a baby. She is so healthy and strong. I can testify that Jesus makes the impossible possible if we trust Him and believe who He says He is. Faith combined with action, faith combined with prayer.



Transcribed from: [youtube.com/watch?v=TkyzM8FO-8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkyzM8FO-8o)

Myers Cooper

Dear Friends

It is a great pleasure to inform you that we are baptising 3 people in the Erme River on Sunday **30th August** at around **3pm**. The location is in Longtimber Woods, Ivybridge which is about a 5-6 minute walk north of the railway viaduct at the picnic benches. We've baptised people before at that beautiful spot. Social distancing shouldn't be a problem as there is plenty of room to spread out! After the baptisms we hope to bring our packed teas and go to Victoria Park to have a socially distanced picnic to celebrate.

If you'd like to come along you'd be most welcome and if you sense the Lord calling you to be baptised in the river too, do let me know.

Please pray God's blessings and protection on the people to be baptised and for fine weather. However, even if it's raining we'll go ahead with the baptisms, but not the packed tea!

**With every blessing,
Mark**

Ivybridge Food Bank

We have survived lock down - and it's been a good, busy and rewarding time. We have also learnt a lot and have adapted many of our systems to cope with regulations and safety.



One thing we have valued immensely is having a team that does the Tesco pick ups twice a week on a rota. Sadly (also happily) those willing volunteers are now picking up their normal lives again and so we would like to put together a 4 weekly rota to meet this need.

So, one week in four, the team on the rota would pick up from Lee Mill Tesco on a Friday and Wednesday morning (though these days are flexible around the volunteers lives to some extent) and deliver to Church. If said volunteers don't have their own keys to church one of the team will meet you there to unlock. It's generally easier if two people do it - so you need to be aware of households/bubbles but one person can do it if that's the choice.

You will be provided with Food Bank identification and Tesco will have a list of names. We don't often get challenged so its never really a problem.

If anyone would be able to be part of this team please contact **Maureen Scoble 894203 or Val Marriott 893614.**

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**



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 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

Not a lot of news this month and we would love to hear from anyone who has news to share.

We want to send many congratulations to **Rosemary McMurrich** who celebrates her 80th birthday during September. We hope you have a great celebration with the family Rosie and have a good year to come. Many happy returns.



Many congratulations to **Helen Skinner** who has recently been appointed to a Specialist Nurse role focussed on setting up new services for people with Epilepsy in North Devon. It sounds an exciting and challenging new position and we wish you every blessing as you tackle it **Helen**.



Many celebrations in the **Lawrie** household as **Heather** gained a 1st Class Honours degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice whilst **Hazel** gained AAB at A Level and is going onto study Psychology at Plymouth University. Warmest congratulations to you both and we wish you every success in the next stage of your lives.

Our warmest wishes go to **Jane Clark** as she has spent some more time in hospital during August and we pray you will fight this bout of problems and get back your strength and energy soon.



After a very different year for most, we want to pray for all the little ones we know starting school in September. They have missed out on some visits and familiarisation and we send love and best wishes to all facing this step and hope they enjoy school once there.



Likewise for those changing schools, heading back to Uni or looking for employment we pray there will be some degree of normality and encouragement as you face new challenges. God bless you all.



BITTAFORD METHODIST CHURCH ROOF REPLACEMENT **further update on fund raising**

Participation in the Calor Rural Community Fund competition helped to raise public awareness of our fund raising campaign but unfortunately our project has not been selected as a finalist. After deduction of fees by Crowdfunder just under £250 was raised. Many thanks to all who made donations through Crowdfunder.

In recent days a Gift Aid tax repayment on donations made to the roof fund appeal has been received and this adds a further £1,275.00 to the fund. Grateful thanks to those who have been able to Gift Aid their generous donations.

However, we are still short of our target of £21,000 so, if after prayerful consideration, you wish to help with our fund raising campaign, then donations can be made via Bittaford's bank account with **Lloyds Bank in Ivybridge** – the sort code is **30-94-58** and the account number is **00017727**. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please contact me for details.

Once again, many thanks for your prayers and support.

*Stewart Edward, Treasurer,
Bittaford Methodist Church*

Carolyn as Vice-President

Below are the dates for September that Carolyn would appreciate prayer for. She updates these dates on the IMC website if you would like more up to date information. If you would like to be included in her prayer list please email her on: markcaraolyn1983@gmail.com



VP Prayer for September:

- ✝ **Tuesday 1st** - Leading a prayer meeting for Evangelism and Growth team
- ✝ **Wednesday 2nd** - Taking part in the Connexional Team new year service and meeting
- ✝ **Sunday 6th** - Leading prayers at Wesley Chapel Service am and preaching at Westminster Central Hall service in the evening
- ✝ **Tuesday 8th** - Taking part in a service with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) in Manchester
- ✝ **Wednesday 9th** - Methodist Women Executive meeting 10:00 to 16:00
- ✝ **Thursday 10th** - Leading a Bible study with a church in Merseyside
- ✝ **Monday 21st to Tuesday 22nd** - Connexional Leaders' Forum - two full days on zoom
- ✝ **Friday 25th to Monday 28th** - 'Visit' to the Northampton District (now online)

Apart from these meetings, a lot of what I do is via writing - emails, letters and articles so please pray as I spend a lot of time on my computer!

Thanks to everyone for your ongoing prayers for all of this.

Blessings Carolyn

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Yes, it's that time of year again – the start of the great 'Christmas Angel Knitting' marathon! Originally, last year was going to be the last, however due to the effects of coronavirus, I thought that Ivybridge will be in even more need of blessing over the Christmas period. So, all you lovely 'knitters', it's time to get those knitting needles clicking again!! Let's see if we, as a church, can in some small way bless as many people as possible in our community this Christmas.



LAST YEAR'S 600!

The Aim: To share God's love and to bless the community we live in with a free Christmas decoration that comes with a message of hope at Christmas-time.

The Idea: Knit lots of angel decorations, attach a message of Christmas hope, and in one coordinated event leave them in (hopefully) hundreds of locations across our community for people to find (this is known as "yarn bombing").

Where did the idea originate? We got the idea from a friend of mine whose church in Fleet in Hampshire joined in last year (she is Sue Butterfield, who used to live in Ivybridge, so many of you probably know her). However, the idea originally came from the North Shields and Whitley Bay Methodist Circuit near Newcastle. In the past three years they (and churches like ours across the country) have knitted over 90,000 angels, and some of them have turned up as far away as South Africa!

What do we want you to do? Get yourself and your friends knitting angels – we need hundreds of them! (Last year we made over 600!).

Where do I get a pattern for the angels? There are already hard copies of the knitting pattern available on the noticeboard in the Concourse at church, or you can download an electronic copy



from: <http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Christmas-Angel.pdf>

or if you prefer crocheting, then you can download a crochet pattern from: <http://www.christmasangel.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Christmas-Angels-Crochet-Pattern.pdf>

What will we do? We will collect the angels from all you avid knitters (there will be a collection box in the Concourse at church from November onwards), and we'll print and attach the Christmas message labels; then on a date in the few weeks before Christmas we will organise the yarn bombing (if you want to be a part of this, please let us know and we'll rope you in). At the time of writing the exact date for the bombing has not yet been agreed.

Happy Knitting ☺

Nicky Rowe – Tel: 01752 690031

Church Contacts

Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence

Tel: 01752-651910

email: revmark@live.co.uk

Room Bookings:

John and Pam Montgomery

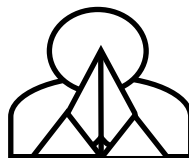
Tel: 01752 894083

email: imcbookings@gmail.com

Youth Work:

Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152

IMC Prayer



Prayer Line

07801 956695

Senior Stewards:

Reg Marriott

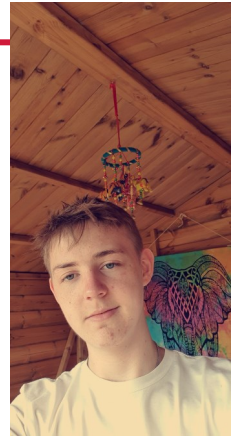
Tel: 01752 893614

Alison White

Tel: 01752 691039

House Group Information:

Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810



My name is **Harry Palmer-Brown**. I'm part of Ivybridge Methodist Church. I have just accepted a placement at **SWYM** (South West Youth Ministries) in IMC. For those of you who don't know, SWYM is all about putting young people into youth work alongside churches to give children a positive Christian role model and reach out to those who don't know Jesus or the love of Jesus. Most of you can look up SWYM if you want to know more, but you can't look up why I'm so passionate about going down this path in youth work.

As a kid I was always getting into trouble and doing things I wasn't supposed to which led to a place I didn't want to be, and most people don't either, but it can be a vicious cycle that is hard to climb out of. I have been very blessed by God and the people who around me who have supported me this past year. They have given me a hang out of the cycle and the opportunity to put all my experience from my past to help young children, who were just like me, to see that there are better options out there and Jesus will always help you if you let him. I feel if I had had access to youth clubs and other similar things I could have prevented a lot of trouble I got into. I want to be that positive influence on them, to let them see my past and how far I've come. Hopefully it will let them realize that God can do wonderful things and can completely elevate your life and put you in a place where things are good. That is what I want for all the kids I work with, to make sure they know that even if they think their future is dull or they aren't good enough for this or that, they will be where they were meant to be with God's love.