

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

“They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them”...



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

Dear Magazine Reader

We recently had a bit of excitement in our home when, after lighting our gas fire, the chimney caught ignited inside! Earlier in the year a bird had made its nest and the debris had fallen down inside the chimney-breast. When the gas fire was fired-up so did the nest! Within a few minutes there was a roaring sound and then smoke appeared in our lounge and coming out of the brickwork of the chimney! Yikes! We made a 999 call and within 20 minutes the first of four fire-engines came up our quiet close! Eventually there were fifteen fire-fighters tackling the complex situation.



There was a lot of applauding of the NHS during the lockdown, and rightly so, but I'd like to applaud the Fire Service. They were swift, professional, knew exactly what they were doing, everyone carried out their predesignated assignment and we were kept informed. After three hours we were allowed

back in to our home and there was no serious damage, just the smell of smoke! Our gas-fire didn't make it though and is no more!

During all this excitement we were tremendously aware of the prayers and support of God's people. There were people praying for us all over the world – and we felt it! One of our neighbours offered us tea and coffee and others the use of their loos! After all the excitement had calmed down some dear folk from the church came all the way from Avonwick and delivered pizzas to cheer us on our way! How amazing it is to be part of a loving, caring community and church family.



In the morning I had preached from Psalm 112 and experienced the blessings of it. A couple of the verses read,

“Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.” (Psalm 112:6-7)

Whatever we face, whether serious or not, may we know the peace of the Man of Righteousness, **Jesus Christ**, so that despite the unexpected challenges we face, **His** peace will guide and protect us and that we won't be shaken though we're occasionally stirred!



With every blessing
Rev Mark Lawrence

**0752 779 6319 /
revmark@live.co.uk**



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

Dear friends

The article below was written by **Ligia Istrate** who is the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women's young women's rep for Romania. She edits the World Federation Tree of Life Magazine (checkout the WFMUCW website for more info). She wrote the article below in the most recent magazine. It is about women but the message is for us all and is deeply challenging. Ligia's husband is a Methodist Minister in Romania and together they run an orphanage, looking after the children with the love of Jesus and treating them as their own. The orphanage has been threatened with closure and they are trying to raise money to keep it open to prevent the orphans being separated and sent to government institutions around the country. If you want to know more about this do get in touch with me. *Carolyn Lawrence*

I know whom I have believed

I was thinking recently about how people fight or used to fight for the things they believe in. I was born in a Communist country. Faith was forbidden, liberty was something we could not understand, food was mostly a dream. We lacked everything and we lived in fear day by day. Still, many people gave their life for Communism. Why? Because it was something they believed in. The Communist ideology brought disaster, but many people believed that they were building a new, peaceful, good society, where people are equal. The idea was that now we suffer for a while, but soon we will have this perfect society.

Communism was depicted as the peak, a society above all others. The situation was that people did not know what a normal, western society was like, and they thought theirs was the best. People believed what they had been told because they did not know anything else. They did not have a point of comparison because it was not allowed to get out of the country. So, there was nothing beyond Communism. Every thing resumed to Communism. Opponents were quickly killed.

The day for a perfect society never came. More people were killed, more were sacrificed in the name of Communism; sick persons who were not 'eligible' for the new world were sent to camps, intellectuals that had wider thoughts and opinions were forcibly hospitalized in



mental hospitals, Christians were put in prisons. But still, many people still believed in Communism.

I have been reading Svetlana Aleksievici, a Nobel prize winner, about the Soviet women that fought in World War II. Many of them were not obliged to go to war, but they really wanted to. They were Communist, they were Stalinist, they truly believed in the ideology. So, many women left their families, even small children, many were pregnant, and they went to war and most of them wanted to fight on the front line.

They sacrificed everything: family, youth (girls of 16-19 gave their best years to war, and their hair became grey in hours), health (most of them died, and many returned home without legs or arms, many couldn't bear children, many were psychologically affected), career, and so on. They risked everything because they believed in something more than themselves. They considered their own lives unimportant. Communism was a higher entity in comparison with small individuals. There were no regrets.

I was thinking that even though they believed in something bad and false, they were very courageous women. Does this kind of woman still exist? It is so important to have something real to believe in, something that can make the whole of society better and safer and healthier. And it is important to 'fight' for this. Christ gave us something wonderful to believe in and set us an example to build a better society. But many times, we lack the motivation and we lack the courage. It shouldn't be like that; we should stand up for and 'fight' for this wonderful 'ideology' Christ shared with us. We should step in courage to try to make life for others better. And we can take courage from knowing who we are as daughters of the Most High, we know Who stands beside us, we know Who He is and what He can do if we believe.

As Paul wrote to Timothy: **I know whom I have believed (2 Timothy 1:12) and he wrote this when he was in great suffering, but still, it was well with him. We all know in WHOM we have believed. Let us all fight for this.**

Ligia Istrate, Tree of Life Editor



November Worship



Due to the current restrictions all services are liable to change, please check if you are unsure. Services will be available via Zoom and invitation only in the Church building, until further notice.

IVYBRIDGE

- November 1 10:30 am Rev Mark Lawrence - Holy Communion
 6:30 pm Please see page 7 for details
- November 8 10:00 am Rev Mark Lawrence - Remembrance
 Sunday - details to be confirmed
- November 15 10:30 am Mrs Judith Walker
 6:30 pm Please see page 7 for details
- November 22 10:30 am Rev Mark Lawrence - Holy Communion
- November 29 10:30 am Mr Phil Walsh

BITTAFORD

- November 1 11:00 am Rev David Youngs - Holy Communion
- November 8 11:00 am Rev Terry M Higgins
- November 15 6:00 pm Rev Mark Lawrence - Holy Communion
- November 22 11:00 am Mrs Brenda Youngs
- November 29 11:00 am Miss Theresa White

Evening Services

Evening services have resumed with one being held last month. It is hoped that the format for these services will be that on the first Sunday of the month they will be led by Rev Mark Lawrence and will include Holy Communion and on the third Sunday which will be led by different people including Mrs Gill Cowsill and will offer a wide range of ways of meeting and encountering God in our own ways. All are welcome and we just ask that anyone able and wishing to come first contacts Pam Montgomery on imcbookings@gmail.com or phone her on 011752 894083 so we stay within the limit of numbers. We will meet in Ivybridge Methodist Church which offers more room and fresh air to help maintain safety. Masks need to be worn.

The dates of these services will be: **Time: 6.30pm**

First Sunday in November 1st

Third Sunday in November 15th

The Third Sunday - Evening Services

Life offers us a journey, with one another and with the Lord: not a dizzy rush to cover the ground and gather lots of information, but a peaceful encounter with our Guide, and a trek with a purpose. But what IS the purpose of it? And what does such a journey look like? How might it begin, and what do I need, or need to know? And then, as we are travelling together, might a shared evening hour help us on our way?

A group of us – preachers and other friends, all from IMC – are pondering these questions, and we are offering an hour of quiet reflection, teaching, worship and prayer, to explore these questions together. This meeting will be on the **third Sunday** of the coming months, (**except December**), and we are hoping for the pleasure of your company.

Mark is leading an evening Communion on the **first Sunday**, and the intention is for these two services to complement each other. The time will be **6.30pm**, and the dates will appear in the list of services in the newsletters.

We are looking forward to sharing this journey with you.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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

As I write this we are enjoying some lovely late sunshine - how it brightens up life and enables us to see the glory of Autumn in all its gorgeous colours. Thank you Lord for the gift of your creation.

Lovely news in that, this month, we have two new babies to celebrate - **Chris and Chrissie Phillips** have a new Grandson, **Freddie George Mackinnon Lynes**. Freddie was born to **Katie and Tom** in mid October and we send many congratulations to all the family and hope big sister Audrey enjoys her new baby brother.



Rachel and Malcolm French also have a new Grandson - **Lucas William** again born in mid October and we send warm congratulations to parents **Hannah and Dave** and hope that in both cases visits are possible and cuddles available!!

Mercy has become a great great Grandma once again to **Hunter** who was born in September. We definitely think she holds the record in IMC for grandchildren and great grand children and wish **Hunter's parents** much joy in the future.

Tim and Colette Grayling will be seeing life in very different colours for a while as they are now in **Kathmandu** where Tim has a work contract. After a tedious flight they arrived safely in mid October and after quarantining in a hotel will move into their own apartment. We'll miss you both but hope it's profitable time for you in every way.

We have just heard the very sad news that our dear friend **Angela Brimblecombe** has died in Bristol following a massive stroke. We send our deepest sympathies to **Geoff, George, William, Sarah** and their families at this sudden and tragic loss. **Angie** has always been a quiet servant of God and used her gifts in music and with people to share the gospel and give folk a place and a value. She will be much missed.



We continue to pray for those under going treatment for cancer and other health issues and for those under going tests.

Chris Gentle has a badly broken arm and we send commiserations and love to her for a speedy healing.

We pray for families and especially those under stress from relationship and mental health difficulties.



Tribute to Angie Brimblecombe

I am reeling from the news that **Angie**, who is a neighbour and leader of my gospel choir, and more recently became a closer friend, suddenly had a severe stroke and was taken by air ambulance to Bristol hospital, where she sadly died.



They say 'Only the good die young!' A more loving, giving, energetic and radiant person could hardly be found, and she always seemed a picture of health, going on long walks, doing more energetic keep fit class than I could cope with. She had recently started dancing with me in Bittaford church, inspired by Salvation Army tambourine worship.

Angie lead worship at Yealmpton Methodist Church. She taught Piano and she served in many ministries, including Youth For Christ and Healing On The Streets.

In her mid-seventies, she looked much younger than her age. We of faith trust she is dancing in Heaven now, but she will be hugely missed by so many, and especially her husband Geoff, and daughter and young grandson who live locally. She will not grow old as the rest of us grow old.....

Lindsay Ellis



Rain, Rain, Go Away

When I first lived in Cambodia, hardly any rain fell in the six-month dry season, so when the first downpours of the rainy season came they were a novelty and a welcome relief to months of dusty streets and water shortages. The children were so delighted that they would strip off, run out into the streets and cavort around in the warm rain.

Climate change has disrupted this pattern and now some rain falls in the 'dry' season, but still the rainy season brings intense downpours and coping with floods is a way of life for many Cambodians. This year, Cambodia and Vietnam have been badly affected by tropical storms bringing high volumes of rainfall in a short time.

At the time of writing, flash floods have so far claimed 25 people's lives and 74,000 homes have been flooded. 1,600 inmates of a prison had to be evacuated.



A breached dam in Kampong Speu province, Cambodia

In Laos, a hydropower company is releasing water from a dam on the Sekong River. This will flow into Cambodia and could exacerbate flooding there, with the potential to repeat the disaster that resulted from the collapse of a dam in Laos in 2018.

In the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, the insatiable appetite for development land has led to a number of lakes being filled in. They formerly helped to limit flooding in the city but their loss, along with clogged drains, has delayed the subsidence of flash floods.



Please pray



for those bereaved and displaced



for those whose land has been inundated and crops destroyed

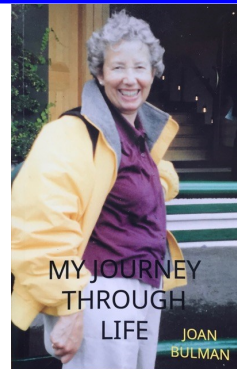


for churches and Christian organisations bringing relief

BOOK REVIEW

**‘My Journey Through Life’
by Joan Bulman**

**Last month, Kate Duckering did a view
of Joan’s book, please see the October
Newsletter**

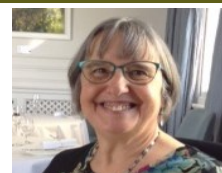


If you would like a copy of her book please contact Joan on telephone number: **01752 691941**. Copies will be charged at £10 each to cover the costs of a further print run.

From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the **December Newsletter**, please let me have details by Monday 16th November in any of the following ways:-

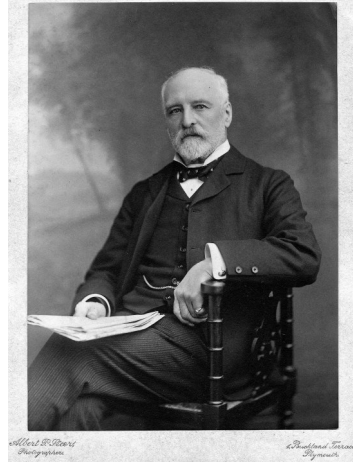
- ◆ send it by email to: **imc33chris@gmail.com**
- ◆ ring me on: **01752 892341**
- ◆ post it through my letterbox at: **33 Julian Road, Ivybridge PL21 9BU**
please put your name on it



Latest article from David Moulder

5. John Allen

John Allen was born on 28th February 1802. His parents originally came from Tregony in Cornwall, but the family moved to Plymouth when he was a child. For nearly fifty years they were members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Plymouth, and supported it both financially and by leadership.



As a young man, John, with his father, opened a malting business in Plymouth, before taking over the Norley Brewery in the city. For many years he was a member of the firm Pope and Allen, Maltsters of Plymouth. This business was sold in about 1857, a few years after he had purchased the Ivybridge paper mills off Mr Ackland, in 1849. His store of rags, which were used in papermaking, was still held in Plymouth, under the name of Watts and Co. He had other business connections, including a prominent role in the management of the Delabole Slate Quarries in Cornwall, where he was Chairman of the Directors.

John was a Methodist, as were his parents: both he and his father were Circuit Stewards in Plymouth, and he was a generous benefactor to Ivybridge. He donated some of the land for the Congregational Church (now the Ivybridge Evangelical Baptist Church), he built a row of cottages (Allen's cottages) next to Ivybridge Methodist Church for some of the workers at the paper mill, and he was a driving force in Methodism in Ivybridge from 1859 until his death in 1877. He contributed to the costs of the rebuilt chapel in 1860, and as it was full to overflowing within 15 years, he very generously paid the complete costs of our present building.



We have a lovely tribute to his character from a report of his death on 17th October 1877:

Mr Allen was a man of thorough business habits working upon his motto, "Perseverantia et fideliter" (perseverance and faithfully) with great consistency. A steady going, straightforward man, never in a hurry, never ostentatious, pursuing the even tenure of his way with great calmness of judgement, and in all his dealings with others successfully combining gentleness and strength.

Church Contacts

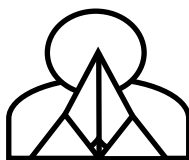
**IMC Prayer
Line**

Minister:

Rev Mark Lawrence

Tel: 01752 651910

email: revmark@live.co.uk



**Prayer Line
07801 956695**

Senior Stewards:

Reg Marriott

Tel: 01752 893614

Alison White

Tel: 01752 691039

Room Bookings:

Pam and John Montgomery

Tel: 01752 894083

email: imcbookings@gmail.com

House Group Information:

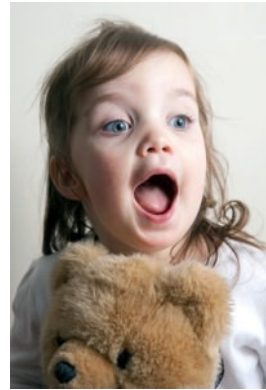
Helen Maddaford Tel: 01752 892810

Youth Work:

Phil Blunt Tel: 07816 910152



Angel Tree

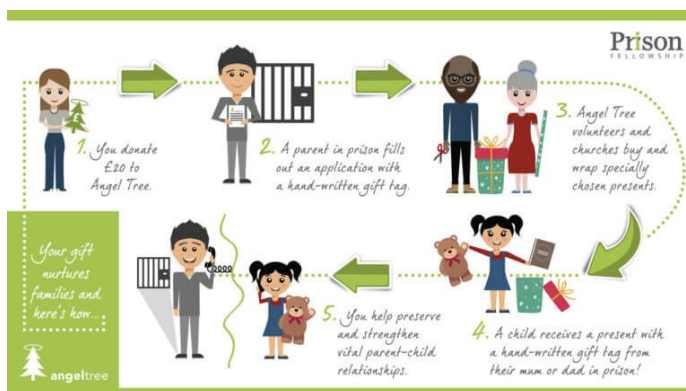


Christmas is especially difficult for prisoners and their children. **Angel Tree** lessens the devastation experienced by their absent parent by providing the children with much needed joy through the unexpected arrival of a gift and a message from their mother or father. For several years **Our** church had supported Angel Tree with Christmas gifts to the three local prisons.

If you would like to contribute again this year please send your donations via

IMC bank Account Number 08262683, Sort Code: 53 61 57

making sure to say it's for Angel Tree or hand to Lindsay Ellis or Pam Shead.



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

If anyone needs any wool to knit some angels, please get in contact with me (Nicky Rowe – 01752 690031) and I will get some to you as someone has very kindly donated some wool for this project.

The angels need to be ready for Sunday November 29th. If at all possible please take them to church on that Sunday. If this is not practical due to the present circumstances then please ring me and I will arrange to come and collect them – socially distanced of course. We need to have them by then so that they can be 'quarantined' for at least 72 hours before we attach labels etc and then they will need to be 'quarantined' again before we can do our bombing. Thanks in advance for all your hard work.