

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

When Jesus spoke again, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have light of life.' The Pharisees challenged him, 'Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.' Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I pass judgement on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I stand with the Father who sent me.'

John 8 12:18



**IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH**

Friends,

We give thanks to God for **Mark and Carolyn**, for the 5 years that they have been with us and for all their work over this time. We give thanks for the preaching of the word, the pastoral work, the building of links with schools and with other congregations in the town, and even for the jokes which started many a sermon.... We ask God's blessing on them as they move to Market Drayton.

We are now entering a transition period of four months and look forward to welcoming Amanda and her husband Mark to Ivybridge in September.

Within the leadership team we have been reflecting on what IMC is called to be in this community at this point in time. **Individually we know that each of us is:**

Called to put God at the centre of our thinking, our hopes, fears and aspirations.

Called to continue to develop our relationship with Jesus, so that we may know him as Lord and Saviour. This call to know Jesus as Lord, is not about a pat phrase or easy words but is a call to know Him deep within ourselves.

As a church we know that we are:

Tasked with preaching the news of Jesus.

To facilitate worship

To help each other grow in discipleship and in our relationship with God.

To engage with our community and express the life of Jesus in this place.

It might seem that we are already doing this, but I believe that God has more for us as a church which will result in the church being renewed and drawing more people into a relationship with Jesus.

What will this renewal look like? I don't know. It may be through the building up of the church as a community, perhaps one with a focus on healing and wholeness. It may take an entirely different form, this is down to the sovereign will of God. However, what I do know is that if we will seriously and consistently pray to be changed individually in our thoughts and our attitudes, and pray for God to be at work in our church, then we will see extraordinary things happen in our church and community.

I have no great skill at praying. I know others who are far more eloquent in prayer, but that doesn't matter because God hears the intent of our hearts, not the inadequate sentences that come out of our mouths. Can I encourage us all to pray for ourselves, and for each other as Paul prays in *Ephesians* that **"God may give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation to know Him better"**. Can we pray for our church and community that the Spirit of God may move here in renewing power.

May the Lord bless you in your walk with Him

Reg

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**



JUNE 2021 Services



IVYBRIDGE

June 6	10:30 am	Mr Paul Courtney
June 13	10:30 am	Revd Andy Chislett-McDonald Communion
June 20	10:30 am	All Family Worship Mr Phil Blunt
	6:30 pm	Possible Prayer Service TBC
June 27	10.30 am	Mrs Jean Walsh
	6:30 pm	Revd Andy Chislett-McDonald Communion

BITTAFORD

June 6	11:00 am	Revd David Youngs - Communion
June 13	11:00 am	Mr Mike Cade
June 20	11:00 am	Mr John Pointon
June 27	11:00 am	Revd Andy Chislett-McDonald

An article kindly given for the magazine by Mercy (not written by her)

A Woman's Soul

Maybe she's putting you off. **Maybe** she's a bad friend. **Maybe** she is keeping you in her back pocket for a rainy day. It's entirely possible.

Or **maybe** she's busy. **Maybe** her plate is completely full. **Maybe** she's coping the best way she knows how. **Maybe** she's stressed. **Maybe** she's maxed out. **Maybe** stuff isn't going her way, and she's saving her energy.

Maybe she really did miss your text.

Maybe she is overwhelmed with kids, family, and bills. **Maybe** she's trying her best, but her best isn't much right now. **Maybe** anxiety is getting in the way and rearing its ugly head, as it so often does.

Maybe it has nothing to do with you at all. **Maybe** it's about her.

There are a million reasons she might be falling short. **Maybe** it really is that things have run their course. It's a sad part of life, but it is, nonetheless, a part of life. Only you can make that call.

But, then again, **maybe** it's something else. **Don't forget** to give the benefit of the doubt. **Don't forget** to cut her some slack. **Don't forget** to forgive. **Don't forget** sometimes friendship means loving each other through the tough seasons, and the rainy weather, and all the ups and downs.

May we hold each other in the good times and in the rough times even if that means giving space... I see you sister.

To those I have been too busy for - I love you, I'm sorry.

To those who have been distant from me - I love you, I understand.



JUNE NEWS

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

June is here and hopefully we'll feel the warmth and see the sun we feel we should at this time of the year!!

Belatedly we'd like to wish three people very happy birthdays:



Margaret Blackhurst, Heather Bailey and Duncan Knowles

all celebrated significant birthdays in May. **Margaret** celebrated her 95th birthday and had a lovely time with family. We hope you all had lovely days and in this era of partial easing managed to have special celebrations.



Within our congregation people are supporting and praying for folk who are dealing with end of life times and I would ask your prayers in support of these friends. There are also friends in the midst of investigations who are spending a lot of time waiting for results - it would be good to pray for some movement in those situations. Please would you also pray for those whose minds are not at peace and who are struggling with the complexities of life within Covid and as we come into new times post lockdown. Life is hard and exhausting when anxiety and fear take over and we do pray that God's healing love will make a difference as we pray.



We continue to pray for **Mark and Carolyn** as they enjoy time together and as Carolyn's VP year is nearing it's end. This will be a VP year like no other and, **Carolyn**, we pray it has been fulfilling and interesting in spite of the restrictions. Take care.

Tim and Colette Grayling are back from Nepal for a while and now isolation has finished we hope they're able to enjoy life here a bit more. They plan to return as things settle down and Covid eases there.

Many congratulations to **Tim Ricketts** who has passed his finals in Medicine and is now heading to Bath for the next two years. Here he will experience several disciplines and hopefully they will cement his



thoughts as to which specialism he will settle into as his Medical life progresses. Brilliantly done **Tim** - it's a tough life getting this far!!



We send our sincerest sympathy to **Pam Shead** and her family on the death of **Nigel**, son, brother and uncle. We pray you will know God's comfort and blessing as you deal with all the arrangements for the next steps and as you all adjust to life without **Nigel**.

THANK YOU

Mark and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our leaving gift. We would also like to say thank you to all those of you who have taken the time and trouble to send us individual greetings and gifts. We are blown away by the love, kind comments and appreciation we have received as we lay down this season of ministry and look to move on in the summer. Thank you all for your support, prayers, fellowship and welcome over these past five years. We will take with us such happy memories and blessings of what God has done amongst us.

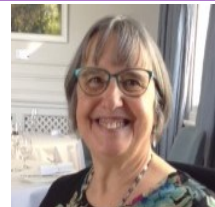


With our love and thanks,
Carolyn and Mark

From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the **July Newsletter**, please let me have details by **Friday 18th June** in any of the following ways:

- ◆ send it by email to: imc33chris@gmail.com
- ◆ Put it in the pigeon hole in Church - ***please put your name on it***



Free Subscription!

Most of you will by now realise that we are streaming our services through our own YouTube channel (IMC Livestream). This has brought a number of advantages:

you can still “attend” the service without physically coming to church;
you can still “attend” church even if you are not available when the service is live;

it is a very low risk way of seekers experiencing our services;

it allows you to revisit a service/song/sermon after the event;

it also provides us with a platform to deliver other video messages

Currently the URL for our channel is:

SUBSCRIBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPCJEHX2WTC8hsGSWkDcaZA>

Not very easy to remember or tell to someone new, I think you’ll agree!!
Now, we can get what is known as a “custom channel URL” which would take the form of www.youtube.com/ourcustomchannelname where our custom channel name would be something like IMC_Live_Stream (i.e. something that is easy to remember). To get such a URL allocated to us we have to meet a list of criteria. The good news is that we have already taken action to meet all these criteria except one. The outstanding one is that we need to have more than 100 “subscribers” – currently we have 72. I would therefore encourage you to subscribe to our channel (if you haven’t done so already). This may, of course, raise some questions in your mind if you are not used to this concept:

How do I subscribe? You simply click on the button that you will see when you visit our channel

What does subscribing mean, will it cost me any money? Subscribing only means that when we post a new video you will be notified via your subscriptions feed. It will NOT cost you any money.

So, if you could subscribe to our channel, then you’ll not only be amongst the first to know when we post new videos, you’ll also be helping to promote the ministry of IMC, and **it won’t cost you a penny!** If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Dave Tel: 01752 690031

Dave.nicky84@gmail.com

Love in Deed and Truth

Thank you for your prayers for the village church in Cambodia that I wrote about in the April newsletter.

Stringent lockdowns in response to the Covid-19 outbreak that started in February have prevented the church from reopening in any form, either centrally or in homes. However, the Lord has provided an opportunity to show the love of Jesus to some needy families in the village.

The closure of markets, strict lockdowns of people who have been in contact with those who have tested positive and the inability of factory workers to go to work has resulted in some severe hardship.

A member of the church (Phearun, the young man about whose 'Cambodia for Christ' sports ministry I have written previously), although locked down in his home, has taken the initiative to organise a distribution of food to 50 families in the village and the Lord has provided Cambodian Communities out of Crisis with funds that we have been able to send to Phearun and another church member to contribute to this project. Each family has received rice, noodles, canned fish, eggs, salt, sugar, cooking oil and sauces, garlic, fruit and soap.

We in no way want to produce 'rice Christians', but please pray that the recipients of these gifts might discern the Christian compassion behind them and that this effort might lead to more opportunities for church members to share the good news of Jesus with their neighbours. *Myers Cooper*



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

25th May to 10th August 2021

JOSHUA

Entering and Claiming the
Promised Land



**We meet in the Church at 10 am for coffee/tea and
a chat, finishing by 12 noon.**

Please wear a mask and bring your own drink.

May 25th	Joshua Chapter 1:1-18 Joshua installed as Leader
June 8th	Joshua Chapter 2 Rahab and the Spies
July 13th	Joshua Chapters 5 and 6 The Fall of Jericho
July 27th	Joshua Chapter 7 Achan's Sin
August 10th	Joshua Chapter 8 The Ambush of Ai

ALL ARE WELCOME

**Please be aware that there are currently restrictions
on the number of people who can meet at this kind of
event, being 6 people. If you want to come along
please contact imcbookings@gmail.com**



Wise and Wonderful



**We usually meet fortnightly in the IMC
Café on Fridays from
2:30 pm until 4:00 pm**

Have you been wondering about Wise and Wonderful? Well, so have we! But not just wondering, we've been thinking too, and we have a plan!

Assuming there is no hitch in the government's famous "road map", (so we are free to meet by the end of this month), we will be hosting a get-together on July 9th , hoping to restart meetings in the Autumn.

So you are cordially invited to Afternoon Tea on Friday 9th July, in the IMC hall and café, at our usual time of 2.30.

The invitation is for everyone who might be interested, whether or not you have visited us before. We'd like a rough idea of numbers for tea on July 9th, so if you hope to come, it would be helpful if you give one of us a call. We also want to make sure enough people are interested in the group, before we restart, so we'd be glad if you ring and tell us, if you are.

We always aim to run a varied programme of "in house" and social events, talks, occasional films and a couple of Summer outings.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Judy 894829

Val 893614

Sue 896444

Christine and David 892858

Maureen 945799

Church Contacts

At present we have no Minister until Amanda Roper joins us in September.

If you need a Minister you should contact the Circuit Minister who is based at Elburton Methodist Church



Senior Stewards:

Reg Tel: **01752 893614**

Alison Tel: **01752 691039**

Room Bookings:

Pam and John

Tel: **01752 894083**

email: imcbookings@gmail.com

House Group Information:

Helen Tel: **01752 892810**

Youth Work:

Phil Tel: **07816 910152**

Church Address: Fore Street, Ivybridge, PL21 9AB

Ivybridge Methodist Church registered charity 1192612