

**The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock!**

Exalted be God my Saviour!

He is God who avenges me,  
who subdues nations under me,  
who saves me from my enemies.

You exalted me above my foes;  
from a violent man you rescued me.

Therefore I will praise you, LORD,  
among the nations;

I will sing the praises of your name.

He gives his king great victories:  
he shows unfailing love to his anointed,  
to David and to his descendants for ever.

**Psalms 18 46:50 (NIV)**



Dear Readers

When Reg asked if one of the other members of the Leadership Team would be prepared to write a short piece for the magazine at our recent meeting, there was a bit of a tumbleweed moment. None of us leapt forward, we put forward various and valid reasons why we could not do it ranging from lack of time, to very poorly relatives to care for, feeling inadequate and having nothing special to offer.

After the meeting, I felt that quiet nudging that God does to us when He wants us to do something outside of our comfort zone and we resist, which led me to do some reflecting, and although I offer no great theology, I felt I should pen an offering.

I've been reflecting a good deal on the church and how things have been over the last 16 months and goodness me, hasn't the last year thrown up some challenges for us all? Something that came to mind was a meeting I once attended, at a previous church which had become rather heated. The source of disagreement was around the choir robes and tradition. After listening to the "debate" for some time, I felt prompted to ask the following question " If our church burnt down and everything material was destroyed (including the robes) what would happen? Would the church in that place cease to exist? Would we cease to worship together? Would we stop trying to reach out to those who don't know the love of our Lord? Is the church the building, or the people, and what is the church's purpose? In response, the meeting went rather quiet!

In some ways, the Covid Pandemic could be seen as a sort of 'fire' equivalent. It forced us out of the building and to find new ways of doing things, and to make changes at a previously unheard of pace. The church didn't cease to exist, we did find new ways to worship together, and I think for many, it has given a deeper appreciation of our church family. For some of us, being able to continue to meet for services and house groups and via Zoom has been a life-line. Our house group has been really blessed and we have all found strength and support through prayer and fellowship as we continued to meet virtually each week.



As we move forward, it would be very easy to slip back into doing things as we have always done them, but maybe God wants us to seize this opportunity for a fresh start. As I walk down to church on a Sunday, I often think about the people I see out and about for whom the thought of going to church on a Sunday morning would not cross their mind. How would they feel if they were to walk into a service one Sunday? What would they see that would make them want to come in to find out more? For many, it would be a completely alien environment; much of the language used for example could sound like jargon. One thing Covid has taught is that church is not just for Sundays, church is not the building, and with that, it is not just for its existing members. God wants us to be outward looking, and the challenge for us is how to do this.

Let our prayer be for God to show each one of us; no matter how ill-equipped or inadequate we may feel in our own strength, what His plans for the way forward are, and what role each of us has to play.

Blessings, *Alison*



## **Thank you for your donations for Christian Aid Week 2021**

Ivybridge Methodist Church raised a total  
of **£1461.50** (not including Gift Aid)

This was through the online e-envelope scheme; the envelopes given out in church and donations from friends and family.

In a year when door to door collections could not take place this is amazing!

Thank you so much for supporting those who are much in need.

*Alison and Steve Gill*



## **JULY 2021 Services**



### **IVYBRIDGE**

<b>July 4</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Dr Phil Walsh</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Mr Paul Whitell</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>All Age Family Worship Mr Phil Blunt</b>
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Revd Dave Martin - Communion</b>
<b>July 25</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Mr Mike Cade</b>

### **BITTAFORD**

<b>July 4</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Revd David Youngs - Communion</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Mr Brian Hart</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Mr Mike Cade</b>
<b>July 25</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Revd Edgar D Daniel</b>

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES. THIS  
IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING (hopefully).**



# **AUGUST 2021 Services**



## **IVYBRIDGE**

- August 1    10:30 am    Miss Judith Walker**
- August 8    10:30 am    Revd Dave Martin - Communion  
                  6:30 pm    Taizé - TBC**
- August 15   10:30 am    Mrs Brenda Youngs**
- August 22   10:30 am    Mr Phil Walsh**
- August 29   10.30 am    Mrs Rebecca Marshall**

## **BITTAFORD**

- August 1    11:00 am    Revd David Youngs - Communion**
- August 8    11:00 am    Mrs Gillian Higgins**
- August 15   11:00 am    Mrs Bev Smerdon**
- August 22   11:00 am    Mrs Brenda Youngs**
- August 29   11:00 am    Miss Sue Bolt**



## JULY NEWS

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

And still the sun shines - what a difference it makes to us all.

A mixed bag of news this time but we received very sad news today which, by now, most will have heard. **Reza Zolali** - who has worshipped with us for several years and was a committed Food Bank volunteer was tragically drowned on June 15th whilst trying to rescue his step daughter from the River Erme. It is shattering news for his family and close friends and we send them our deepest sympathy and offers of practical help where needed.

**Reza** was a committed Christian and loved Jesus so we know he is safe in His arms but his earthly family have a long journey through grief and readjustment and we ask for ongoing prayers for them all.



This time I know it's right - many, many congratulations **Sara Hladkij** on being elected as **Town Mayor** for the coming year. We wish you every success and God's blessings, **Sara**, as you strive to fulfil this role to the very best of your ability (as you always do!!) and hope you don't end up too exhausted.

### Several folk are on the move:

**Joy and Phil Hodgson** are moving to Tavistock to be nearer to their family but until their new house is ready will be renting close to Ivybridge so, regulations permitting' we may be able to say good bye in person. If not, we do pray you enjoy your change of scenery and continue to have a lovely time with your granddaughter.



**Phil and Jean Walsh** are by now, hopefully, settled into their new home in Ivybridge and it's so good to have you nearer. We hope the move went well and the boxes are diminishing quickly.

**Christine and Gary Jago**, along with **Ann**, will soon be moving up to Newbury to be nearer their daughter Lucinda and her partner. It feels like a big change for you all and we send our love and prayers for a successful move and a good settling in. Keep in touch and God bless.

Finally but not least, **Jasmin Hladkij** has moved with her partner to their first home in Lee Mill. Exciting times and we wish you much joy as you get your home to be exactly what you want it to be.

We send our sincerest condolences to **Heather and Mike Pope** on the sudden loss of Heather's Father. **John** was a great supporter of our Christmas Choir, here at IMC for several years and we were always grateful for his humour and his wonderful voice. Again, its a long journey through grief and we will hold you all in prayer at this sad time.



**Dave Rowe's Mum, Betty**, is very poorly in hospital and we know they would value prayers for her husband Derek and for all the family. Sending love to you all.

**Pam Rendle** had a fall recently and has been in hospital with a broken hip. We do hope by now **Pam** things are mending and you and **Wally** can see an easier time ahead.

For those who remember **Wendy Ascroft** we ask for more prayers, as Wendy has been quite poorly recently. She is now recovering at home and I'm sure would value prayers for a return to full good health.

It's good to know Jean Wilson is home from hospital and ask for prayers for continuing healing and for energy to keep meeting all these new set backs. Take care Jean - we miss you.



Congratulations and wishing a very happy birthday to **Penny Gadd** who celebrates a significant birthday this month - as they say, it's just a number, so we hope you enjoy your birthday **Penny**.



Many of our friends are going through tough times with family issues, employment concerns and health issues and so we ask for prayers for them. Please remember that we do pray for all the congregation at Thursday morning prayers as well as individually through the week. No-one is missed out and we thank God for the power of prayer.

### **Trustee Vacancy for Local Charity**

Ivybridge Youth for Christ is seeking a new trustee with extra responsibility as the Treasurer of the charity.

We are entering into an exciting new season of working with young people in our communities.

It is essential that you are a practising member of a local church, and able to agree to the Statement of Faith in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010. You do not need to be a qualified accountant, but competent with numbers and spreadsheets and an understanding of the links between activities, people and finances.

This voluntary position is dependent on suitable references, and a DBS check will be required.

If you would like a copy of the role profile, to have an initial conversation and/or to apply for this voluntary position we would love to hear from you.

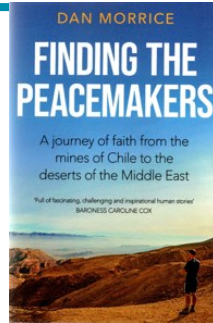
Please contact our Director, **Elis Norton** on 07966 911560 or 01752 898546 or [admin@ivybridge.yfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@ivybridge.yfc.co.uk)



## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **‘Finding the Peacemakers’ by Dan Morrice**

Dan Morrice, is a Christian geography teacher and a travel writer from Bristol. He has recently published his first book with Hodder and Stoughton based on his encounters and experiences amongst Christians who he calls ‘the Peacemakers’.



The book starts by him travelling to Chile to find out more about the miraculous survival and rescue of thirty three miners after they had been trapped in a collapsed mine for 69 days. His investigations and interviews led him to the conclusion that they were not just survivors but also ‘peacemakers’. This was because their endurance and survival had much to do with the attitude they took to each other, encouraged by the spiritual guidance and leadership of one of the miners who was a believer, those people praying for them outside the mine and also the tangible presence of ‘miner number 34’.

Further true stories involve Syrian refugees, ex-football hooligans in the UK and revolutionaries in Israel-Palestine. As it states on the dust jacket ‘Dan discovers how the most unlikely people are discovering Christian faith and rewriting the fractured history of our time.’

He has a particular heart for the marginalised and the refugee and so, linking the fact that Jesus was a refugee, Dan took time out and embarked on a personal trek of 500 miles across the Negev Desert to find the source of hope first hand.

I was initially encouraged to read Dan’s book by my friend who is Dan’s mother so I picked it up for her sake in the first instance. However, I was so glad I did as I found it a truly inspirational read – in fact I read it in one day! I have taken on board afresh the message that with Jesus we can expect miracles and the ability, through his intervention in our lives, to ‘rewrite the narrative’.

*Kate Duckering*

# IMC Youth Work News :



## Hi Church

Thankyou so much for all your support whether in volunteering or praying we do value everything this church does especially personally, those involved in the youth work. As we come to the end of our time at Ivybridge Methodist Church I wanted to update you on the present youth work but also explain a little about what next.

## Our Youth Worker Internship : Harry

It has been an awesome year working with Harry, it has certainly stretched me as a person but I believe it has also been an awesome opportunity for Harry. In the past few weeks we have been working on our presentation styles and watching back recordings of ourselves trying to work at becoming the best youth workers we can be. As Harry moves on I would like to thank him and you for the opportunity and your investment in future youth work. It has been awesome. I know God has some very exciting plans for Harry and I can't wait to see how God is going to use him.

## Kids

It was so exciting to finally come back to church with **Kingdom Kids** and **The Big Start** on 16th May. We realised how much we missed their presence in the church and how lovely it is to do kids work in real life. Although zoom has been a lot of fun, in person is so much better. We have seen a good number back and hope to keep growing the Sunday kids groups by running a few **Fun Day Fridays** in the summer to attract families back but also connect with new families. So watch this space!

## Youth

It has been fantastic to also bring back **Wired Youth Club** and **Youth Fellowship** our discipleship group. We have seen a great uptake to these and have really enjoyed going through our series of questions e.g. Do we have a freewill? Where did God come from? Is there even a God. But we have had some great



opportunities, one of which was a conversation about a zombie apocalypse and if one of our young people was in one they would throw a granny at the zombies and run (sorry granny's). So I asked how old would the granny have to be to be expendable? Leading to a conversation about where we get our ethics from and how do we decide, where we could testify about where we as Christians get our ethics and standards from.

### **Alpha and Housegroup**

We have finished our last **Adult Alpha** which has led to quite a few more signing up to our online housegroup. Which is always encouraging. We have been going through the fruits of the Spirit but we are also doing a **Big Question night** talking about questions like, how seriously should I take the Bible, would a God of love send people to hell etc. It has been great to discuss some of the topics our members are interested in.

We are planning to run a **Youth Alpha** in the next few weeks as we have had some great interest in faith from the Bridge Project and other areas. So again watch this space and if you have young people interested please do contact me.

### **What next for Phil?**

Around 5 years ago we felt God calling us to buy a house in Barne Barton in Plymouth, where we had previously said we would never move. In the past 5 years we have been working as a director of **Pioneers Project CIC** (finds us on facebook) in our spare time with their community work, running a community cafe, redeveloping Ballpoint Barracks and generally talking Jesus with people who were open to it. We have applied for funding to both be community chaplains. We would like to see an active church plant on the estate in the next 5-10 years. We are having conversations with the Methodist church and we are praying that God will clearly guide and lead our steps. So we do value your prayers. At present there is no guarantee of funding but, we are trusting God to provide our every need. Please do pray that God will guide us in the next few steps. We are looking to kick off an Alpha Course in September and we have around 5-10 possibles already, so it is really exciting.

Thankyou again for all your prayer and support.

*Phil*



## Prayer requests

- † **Harry** will be blessed and used greatly in his new position.
- † **We will both** end well as we finish at Ivybridge.
- † **The Young people** will come to find Jesus for themselves  
Young people will sign up to Alpha.
- † God will provide for **Phil and Becky** in their new placement

If you feel God calling you to join our team for a term or volunteer for one of the events above, you might not even have to leave your sofa (you can be aged between 18-110) we will be able to find a place for your gifts from just listening to leading, serving tuck shop to washing up.

**Please do chat to Phil on 07816 910 152  
or email [phil\\_blunti4e@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:phil_blunti4e@hotmail.co.uk)**

*Visit our website at*

***[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://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](mailto:mrmerrit@icloud.com)**

## From your friendly local Town Councillor

Action for Children approached me asking if we could arrange an activity day for a number of families in Ivybridge. This is taking place on **Tuesday, 10th August** at IMC. We will be providing an activity and lunch in the form of baked potatoes with various fillings and Phil with his bouncy castle. If anyone feels called to help I would love to hear from you.

Also, the Tour of Britain cycle race is coming through Ivybridge on **Monday 6th September**. Great opportunity to have some sort of banner plus a display as the riders will be coming right past the church and up Fore Street. Again, anyone with great ideas please contact me.

Many thanks  
*Sara Hladkij*

**The foodbank remains very busy and is short of the following items. We would be very grateful for donations.**

Strong Clean Carrier Bags

Shower Gel

Long Life Milk

Fruit Squash

Sponge Puddings

Shampoo

Long Life Juice

Tinned Fruit



**Thanking you for your ongoing support. The Foodbank Team**



# Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

**Dear Friends at Ivybridge Methodist Church,**

Thank you so much for your kind gift of **£1,705.14** to strengthen our persecuted church family around the world who are risking it all to follow Jesus. Thanks to your prayers and support, our brothers and sisters know they are not alone and can stand strong in their faith.

After her husband was murdered in 2014 for his Christian faith, you came alongside Abebu and her family with money to buy produce to sell at the market. But then Covid-19 hit. The family's income dried up and her church was unable to help. "I was scared," Abebu says, fearing her eight children might starve.

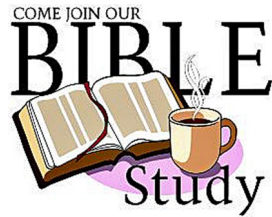
Thankfully, you again helped the family, giving them money to buy food. They are now in a much stronger position: the children are back at school and Abebu is thriving as a farmer and entrepreneur. She is immensely grateful. "To my family who has supported me and prayed to God: we would not be here and would not have anything," she shares.

May the Lord fill you with His Spirit and surround you with His love.

Your sister in Christ,

**Henrietta Blyth** – CEO, Open Doors UK and Ireland

**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.**

**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**

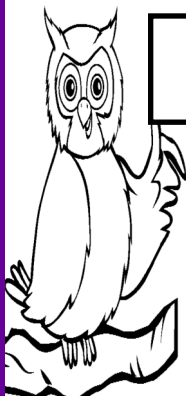
**Please be aware that there are currently restrictions  
on the number of people who can meet at this kind of  
event, being 6 people. If you want to come along  
please contact [imcbookings@gmail.com](mailto:imcbookings@gmail.com)**

***From the Editor***

If you would like to include anything in the  
**September Newsletter**, please let me have  
details by **Wednesday 18th August** in either of  
the following ways:



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



## Wise and Wonderful



**We usually meet fortnightly in the IMC  
Café on Fridays from  
2:30 pm until 4:00 pm  
with a charge of £1 each time**

We were hoping for an Afternoon Tea in July, to mark the welcome return of our meetings, but this is no longer possible, as you know. That's a disappointment, of course, but all is not lost! We have another plan! So you are again cordially invited to Afternoon Tea! The date is now Friday 10th September.

We will be in the IMC hall and café, at our usual time of 2.30.

The invitation is for everyone who might be interested in visiting the group, whether or not you have been before. We'd like a rough idea of numbers, so if you hope to come, it would be helpful if you could give one of us a call.

The dates for the rest of the term are:

**September 24**

**October 8 and 22**

**November 12 and 26**

**December 10**

All our meetings are open to anyone interested: we don't have formal membership. We aim for a varied programme, with talks, social and other "in house" events, the occasional film, and a couple of outings in the summer. Details of the Autumn programme will be in the September newsletter.

**Please ring one of us: 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.

In the meantime, if you need a Minister please contact the Circuit Superintendent, Revd Andy Chislett-McDonald on 07960 050355.



### Senior Stewards:

**Reg** Tel: **01752 893614**

**Alison** Tel: **01752 691039**

### Room Bookings:

**Pam and John**

Tel: **01752 894083**

email: [imcbookings@gmail.com](mailto: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**