

Sharing Life Sharing Faith

**Then Jesus came to them and said,
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been
given to me. Therefore go and make disciples
of all nations baptising them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have
commanded you. And surely I am with you
always, to the very end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:18-20)**

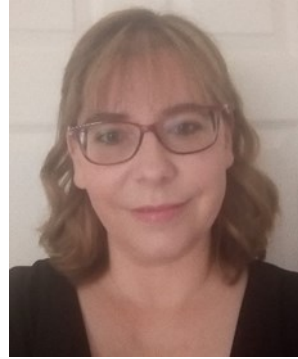
**Within IMC, as part of our commission, we seek
to proclaim the good news and authority of
Jesus and the offer of forgiveness and
restoration of relationship with our creator God
who cares for each one of us.**



**IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH**

Getting to know me...

Dear friends, as your new minister who's soon to be arriving in Ivybridge, I thought you may like to know a little about me. Born and raised in Cornwall, I grew up in Redruth and a nearby small rural Methodist chapel helped shape my faith. I was always aware of Jesus's presence with me as a child, and chatted happily away to Him, but came to fullness of faith in Him as a teenager. I met and married Mark, on his return from missionary work overseas with Operation Mobilisation, after spending some years on board the MV Logos evangelist ship. Following his call, training and ordination to the Methodist ministry, we served the Church together in Basingstoke, Swindon and Greater Manchester. Along the way, we had two daughters, Galilee and Hosanna, and I also completed my ordination training for ministry, and have just stayed seven years in East Sussex looking after three churches, two of which were in ecumenical partnerships with the United Reformed Church. Mark sadly developed M.E. some years ago and so is no longer able to work, but writes poetry and is working on a novel, based on his family history. Rosie, a rescue pup from Bosnia, now completes our family.



I like to craft and enjoy walking the dog. I also enjoy baking and watching films. Being with my family, however, is still my favourite way of spending time. The other thing you need to know about me is that Jesus means everything to me! He is my foundation, and my hope and joy. Please don't be surprised if it is Him that I want to talk to you about when we bump into each other in town, or when sharing a coffee at home! I pray our time together will be blessed at Ivybridge, and above all, we will discover more of what it means to love Jesus and be loved by Him.

Every blessing in Christ
Amanda



From Amanda... on your bike!

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving” (Albert Einstein)

It is time for confessions. To my embarrassment, I have never learnt how to ride a bike. I was always too cautious, and so would chicken-out before launching off. Keeping moving, so I could keep balance, seemed like a great risk! I may not ride a bike, but I know a thing or two about moving! As we join you in Ivybridge, this will be the fifth manse we've lived in as we have moved all round the country, whilst serving the church. Moving house can feel as daunting as trying to cycle for the first time...many of you know how it feels when you find yourself in your new home, so completely surrounded by boxes that you can barely move, and wonder why you let yourself in for this again! Every tiny thing you try to do means finding things which are in any one of several boxes, which are all standing on top of one another. By the time you have unearthed the required items, you have your arms full of ornaments, ramekins, and a fondue set, and nowhere to put them!

It is said that whether you move or not, it is helpful every few years to pack all you own into a removal van, drive it around the block, and unpack it. I am not sure that anyone would actually do this, but it does bring home the point that it is good to have a regular clear-out, to get rid of some clutter and even find things you had long forgotten. The same can be true of our spiritual life together as a church. Every so often it is good to take a long hard look at it. What needs clearing out? Are there areas of unnecessary clutter? Have we become stuck in a rut? What gifts might we have neglected? Which truths have we long forgotten?

With many of us still reeling from the decisions of this year's Conference, September is the start of the new church year and with it comes the opportunity to take stock and to take steps.

We will need to be asking questions of ourselves and of IMC, as to how we remain faithful to the Living and Written Word. It is a strange time indeed to be joining you. The season of change is upon us. If we are to keep our balance, we will need to keep moving... towards Jesus, and that will take courage, resolve and wisdom. So my call to us all this September, is to get on your bike! We need to keep moving. Yes, it can feel like a risk, especially at the start, but we need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, lest we fall.

**Don't be afraid to keep on moving,
for what was before, now has gone,
God wants to accomplish so much more,
but we need to move forward in the Lord.**

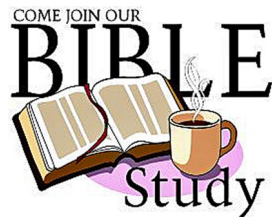
© By M.S. Lowndes, Based on Isaiah 43:18-19

**Christ's blessings,
*Rev Amanda Roper***

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

First date 14th September

**We meet every second and fourth
Tuesday of the month**



**We will be looking at some of Revelation, Ruth and
Isaiah this time.**

**We meet at Joan's flat, number 20 Grosvenor Court
at 10 am for coffee/tea and a chat,
finishing by 12 noon.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

**Please let Joan know if you are coming along so she
has an idea of numbers.**



SEPTEMBER 2021 Services



IVYBRIDGE

September 5 10:30 am Mrs Val Marriott
2.30 pm United Service @ Elburton

If you would like to attend please let Reg or Alison know.

September 12 10:30 am Mr Mike Cade

September 19 10:30 am Party in the Park
Details on page 9

September 26 10:30 am Revd Edgar D. Daniel

October 3 10:30 am Revd Amanda Roper

October 10 10:30 am Revd Dave Martin

BITTAFORD

September 5 11:00 am Mr Tony Kirk
2.30 pm See Ivybridge Information

September 12 11:00 am Revd Amanda Roper
Communion

September 19 11:00 am Mrs Ann Cullum

September 26 11:00 am Revd Terry M. Higgins

October 3 11:00 am Revd David Youngs

October 10 11:00 am Revd Amanda Roper

SEPTMEBER NEWS

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



Do hope everyone is coping with all the new regulations as we move into September and really looking forward to seeing folk back in Church. The extra measures the Leadership Team recommended seem to working well in enabling everyone to sing and be safe in their own space.

Firstly the warmest of welcomes to **Amanda, Mark, Galilee and Hosanna** as they arrive in Ivybridge to carry on their service to God and the Church. We have so looked forward to you arriving and look forward to working and sharing with you into the future.

This month it's a real delight to welcome two new babies - grand-children for Gill Cowsill and Lindsey and Rodger Reid.

Gill and Eric's son **Steve and his wife Kerry** became parents

to **Sebastian William** on 29th June and **Harriet Lowena Maeve** was



born on 14th July to **Lucy and Peter**. Both the little ones sound like they are doing well and we send much love and many congratulations to their parents and grandparents. Hope we'll meet them soon!



Two of our members have had notable birthdays whilst we've not been meeting - **Mary Grayling celebrated her 90th** birthday in June and **Mary Mears her 80th** in August.

We send love and many congratulations to you both and hope, in spite of regulations, that you had lovely days and felt celebrated.



After a year of moving goal posts and disappointments **Matt Bowker** (Jenny Hansford's son) married his fiancée **Hannah English** on August 5th. We send our warmest congratulations to Matt and Hannah, pray many blessings on their new life together. Jenny looked lovely and the day sounds to have been a fantastic celebration.



Still on weddings but a few years on, **John and Sara Hladkij** celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary on September 7th. We send warm congratulations to you both and hope you celebrate well. It was a good day 25 years ago - very happy and a joy to celebrate with you then and now!!

Happy
25th
Anniversary!



A bit belatedly, love and congratulations are sent to **Mike and Lynn Allen** as they celebrated their **40th Wedding Anniversary** a few weeks ago. Hopefully things had moved enough that you could celebrate with family and reminisce about that special day.

A few years further on still - **Mary and Trevor Elcock** celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 1st. Many congratulations from us all and many blessings as you continue your journey together.



Many in IMC will have known Dave Rowe's Mum, **Betty** - and sad to report she passed away in July after a short illness. We send our love and deepest sympathy to all the family and pray you will continue to know God's comfort during this time.

Also **Nicky Rowe** retired from her post as a TA at the end of the summer term and is now able to spend more time with little Millie - so perhaps not a rest exactly Nicky!! No doubt God has plans for the next stage of your life so many congratulations on your next stage and enjoy all the opportunities that come your way.



Heather Pope has also retired, from **S HAMs District Council**, after 21 years so life will be very different for you too Heather. Prayers for continued energy as you sort your Dad's house out and pray you will know God's peace in this difficult time for your family. **Mike Pope** too has had a change of role - now working 3 days a week for The Keysafe Company as a Quality and Audit Manager. So much change for you all and you are much in our prayers.





Lovely news from our young people - **Immogen Pope** achieved A B B at A level which means she can take up her first choice place at Bristol UWE to study BSc (Hons) Social Work for the next 3 years. Well done **Immogen**- not an easy time to be doing A levels!!

Serey Grayling achieved a BA 2:1 in Drama and is working with a professional performer on various projects which can be viewed on You Tube. Congratulations **Serey** and we send every good wish for your future projects, hoping that life is a little more straight forward for you in the future.




George Martin has graduated with a 1st in Fashion and Design and received a special award at the Fashion Awards in London. Wonderful news **George** and sending very best wishes for the next step in you journey.

Tim and Colette Grayling are now back in Nepal where Tim continues his project work there.

Margaret Ewers, who has not been at all well over the last few years, is now living in Selkirk House in Plymstock. Flowers were recently sent to her to celebrate her birthday and we pray, **Margaret**, that you feel settled and are not missing home too much.



 Sadly, we have said a formal farewell to **Phil and Becky** but we're not losing touch completely just yet. It's been a joy to have you both as part of the team for so long and we pray that your next venture will develop and grow and might introduce Jesus to so many more people in Barne Barton. God Bless.

Sadly, just as we were about to go to print we heard that **Jean Wilson** passed away at Abbeyfield where she'd lived since coming to Ivybridge. **Jean and her late husband** had led a fascinating life with teaching abroad a big part of it and for anyone who had time to chat with her it was fascinating to hear about it all. She was a gracious lady and those of us who knew her well will miss her cheerfulness and steadfast faith in Jesus. We send love and deepest sympathy to her daughter Caroline and the wider family.





Please pray for others knowing that they have to face surgery and chemo therapy and others awaiting test results and operation dates. It's a more difficult time to be ill than normal just now and we pray that things will move swiftly for all those waiting.

Party in the Park Sunday 19 September Starting at 10:30am

We are delighted to say we are planning on Party in the Park (subject to any changes in government covid guidance) in Victoria Park on the **19th September**.

In pre-covid times we have held this event that is open to the whole community with open air worship, live music, entertainment, BBQ and bouncy castles. All being well, we are planning to run the event again this September. We see the Party both as a witness to our town and something that families and individuals can come and enjoy after a tough 20 months.

Sound, music, staging, bouncy castles and BBQ are all in the process of being organised, but we could do with some volunteers to help make the event happen. We need assistance with:

Set up early on the Sunday morning and breakdown after 4pm

First Aiders

Helping with the BBQ

Stewarding (both general and on the bouncy castles (time limited!))

If you are able to assist please speak to one of the Church Stewards.

Having a think

It was good fun, making pots of money and having a gang of friends: they came together, in a sort of package deal. But it's not fun any more. We're wary of each other now, because we know one another's secrets: all our cunning schemes, and the rackets we inherited from the old guard. A dangerous game, so you stick together. Sign here and don't look back, because it's too late now.

It didn't take mother five minutes to work out what was going on. "That's not how we brought you up," she said. Nor was it. "I thank the good Lord", she said, "that your father isn't alive to see you now." And she meant it, may God rest her soul.

I just laughed. But I'm not laughing now, mum. That precious conscience you saddled me with is making more and more noise in my head, the older I get. And the sparkle has gone from the eyes of my darling Leah. And I don't know what to do.....

Hiding like this isn't exactly a plan, although it feels oddly like one. And another thing: how did I actually get up here? Considering my present shape, that's a bit of a mystery in itself, you have to admit. But I do remember how urgent it felt: I was a man on a mission!



Perhaps I'm going crazy? That's entirely possible. Been going crazy for a good while. They'll find me one day, wandering in the woods, with leaves in my hair, talking to the birds, and they'll wink at one another. "Told you", they'll say, " he isn't quite right in the head."

So. I got up into this tree without planning to, and now I'm scrambling down again, grinning like the idiot I am. Getting down, simply because He came and looked up at me, with his kind eyes and his own great grin, and invited himself to tea.

And that's the answer! Whatever the question was, that I've been asking myself all these years, here's the answer to it: He's coming to tea! In fact, we are going to have a party, and all my friends will come, and dear Leah will bustle happily about, just like she used to.....

Because suddenly, it's all totally straight forward. I was lost, obviously, and He found me. He knew where I was and came looking for me.

That's He with a capital H, by the way.

Kindly submitted by Christine Moulder

This was a testimony I gave out at church during the summer. It encouraged me to be a part of this situation and I shared it at church in the hope that it would encouraged others. Chris Reed, who saw my testimony on YouTube, suggested I write it down so that it can be shared by anyone who had been unable to access the service online. So here goes.....

Many people might not know that I work as Physio Assistant at a hospital. The patients that I work with are mainly elderly people who are recovering from a period of ill health or have recently suffered a fall. Part of my job is to help them regain their confidence and rehab them back to their previous levels of living or as close as we can get it. The previous week I had had a patient who had been very unwell in Derriford and had not been out of bed for a few weeks and their body was very de-conditioned. The notes recorded a conversation between the doctor and the patient saying that the patient's heart was not strong anymore and if it stopped the staff many not be able to start it again. The patient had said that she was ready to die and ready to go and meet God. Following this conversation, she was sent to the hospital where I work for rehab. During the first session she struggled to sit to the side of the bed unsupported. She required help from two members of staff for everything. Another thing you should know is that I work alongside a Band 6 Physiotherapist who is very knowledgeable and, to be honest, I am a little intimidated by this person. We were both working with the patient one day and we had managed to support that patient to sit and we were using all sorts of aids to help them to stand and not getting very far. The patient was tired and had made very little progress. Following the lead of the physiotherapist we had tried everything and nothing was working. The patient kept saying that she was a Christian and that she was ready to die, she had given up and I know from previous experience, that giving up is quite often the end for some of our patients. If the patient has chosen to really give up there is often not much we can do. From out of nowhere, I remembered the verse **Philippians 4:13** which says "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**". Now I don't see or feel God everywhere like some people. I don't know if I should admit that, but most of the time I find it really hard to hear what he is saying, apart from picking songs for church. He is usually quite clear about that. However, I heard this verse clearly in my head and realised that this verse was not for me, it was for the patient. Despite being a bit nervous about quoting this verse in front of the physio I shared the verse with the patient and she brightened up and **she just stood.**

It wasn't even very difficult for her, she used the aid, but compared to how she was presenting before it looked like a completely different patient. The patient was so happy and said that this was exactly what she needed to hear. The strength of God flowed through this woman and gave her physical strength for about half an hour and enabled us to have a really good physio session with her where we could get her muscles active and engaging again. This was an amazing miracle to have observed. I felt like I was in Bible times and had seen a sick person being healed by the Word of God. I went home on a high.

The following day, I arrived at work to find this patient couldn't remember what I had said, but remembered I had said something that had given her the strength to stand and she had told all the nurses. The nurses were all waiting for me so they could ask me what I had said. They all knew I was about to go on annual leave and according to them, I was the only person who could help her to stand. All the nurses wanted to know what I had said to the patient so I quoted the scripture to them. They said they didn't really understand why it worked, but accepted that this motivated the patient and asked me to write it down for them. I wrote it down 8 times for different nurses. By the end of the day I had heard a couple of the nurses saying this to the patient to help her stand and it worked every time. Other patients on the ward were seeing it as well as all the staff. It was truly amazing, I couldn't believe it.

Part of the sermon on Sunday was about listening out for God when he is speaking so this testimony went perfectly with the message. It's so exciting to see the power of God working and when we see these miracles we should be sharing them with each other. The world around us feels dark and hopeless at times, but this felt like a shining lighthouse that couldn't be ignored. It was so obvious, God was saying I am doing this, can you see it? And thankfully, I could and it was a source of great encouragement and hope that had encouraged me and I felt I should share when given the opportunity which arrived at church the following Sunday. **Please be encouraged by this testimony and look out for times when God is speaking to you, the results can be fantastic.**

Carla



Wise and Wonderful



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

Autumn Programme

September 10th

Welcome back at last! Today is our first session since February 2020, and you are cordially invited to Afternoon Tea. We'd like some idea of numbers, so if you hope to come, it would be helpful if you could ring one of us.

September 24th

We are very pleased to welcome Adam Hart Davis, who will take us through a light-hearted History of the Loo.

October 8th

Round Table Teasers

A range of puzzles to work on, in little groups, including Sort-of-Scrabble, Where did all the vowels go?! True or False....

October 22th

What did the papers say?

Articles which are funny, interesting or really annoying! Please be on the look out for them in your paper or magazine, and bring one along, if you can.

After half term, the dates will be:

November 12th and 26th, December 10th

A NOTE ABOUT MASKS

We'd like you to arrive in a mask, if you can, but to feel free to remove it once you are seated. We'll use the hall as well as the café whenever possible, to create space between us, and we'll do our best with the ventilation.

Please ring one of us: we look forward to hearing from you.

Judy 894829

Val 893614

Sue 896444

Christine and David 892858

Maureen 945799

In aid of

tearfund

Sophie is running (a long way) for Tearfund!



On 9th October, I'm running The Race with No Name, it's 56km across Dartmoor from **Drewsteignton to Ivybridge** (in fact the race HQ will be at IMC on Friday night). And I would be so grateful if you could sponsor me to raise money for **Tearfund** and their amazing work.

As many of you know, **Tearfund** is a **Christian charity** who work in developing countries, tackling poverty at the root cause and working with local churches and organisations on the ground to meet the needs of people to survive and flourish. They also lobby hard for change from governments around the world. They are passionate and committed to reducing the impact of climate change on the world's poorest people.

I am very concerned about the impact climate change is having, so it is very important to me to choose a charity who feels the same. And I think the money we raise for **Tearfund** will make such a difference to real people in desperate need. People whose suffering is exacerbated by climate change which we are causing.

Tearfund's approach is to promote environmental and economic sustainability through a model that ensures natural resources are reused not wasted.

This is the biggest physical challenge I've ever taken on, and it has taken a lot of time to train and commit to it. I would not even have a chance if it wasn't for **Andy, Joy, Nigel and my mum Pat** who have looked after the children and supported and encouraged me, so I am very grateful to them and thankful for the opportunity to try and do this challenge.

I just hope my feet hold up!

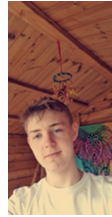
P.S. **Andy** is running too, but he doesn't make a big deal of it like I do!

You can sponsor me here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sophie-phillips39>

Thank you very much, Sophie

Harry Palmer-Brown



I have now officially left Ivybridge Methodist Church. I want to say thank you for the opportunity to spend this year working with our community and family. It has truly been a blessed year. All the support I have been given has been such an awesome experience right from the start, so thank you! It's sad that because of covid I haven't been able to have good conversation with everyone, but I know you're all kind and incredible people. I will miss the whole family.

I want to say a special thank you to my Nan and Gramps for putting up with me this past 2 years, you're both awesome people. I wouldn't be where I am at without your love and support. I also want to say a big thank you to Phil, for seeing something in me and giving me an opportunity when no one else would. I have learnt so much from you this year. You've been the best teacher and friend. On top of this, Becky you've been so kind to me this year and have also gone out of your way for me and Phil many times especially through covid and doing everything online. So, Thank you!

I will be moving to Launceston to work with Oriel Ministries. I hope to do some really good work there and use what I have gained from my year with IMC to help support the community as best I can. It would be amazing if I could get everyone's Support through prayer, the power I have seen in prayer over this year has been phenomenal. If there is anyone who wants to support me in my future financially, I will provide details of my stewardship account, which will be set up when I join Oriel Ministries in September, in the October Newsletter.

I truly can not thank you all or express my appreciation enough for everyone this year.

**For God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16**



Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Dear Friends at Ivybridge Methodist Church

Thank you so much for your kind gift 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.

In May 2019, Athit* and his wife Bouphe*, who have three children, obeyed God's calling to lead a church in a village. They witnessed many miracles and, before long, between 200 and 300 people were regularly attending services. But it angered the local authorities, who eventually imprisoned Athit. Over a year later, after paying a hefty fine, Athit was released.

During this time, you provided food and other practical help for the family, including Athit (the prison does not provide food for inmates). You also enabled Bouphe to receive counselling. "I'm very grateful for the support you've provided for us," shares Bouphe, who had to lead the church in Athit's absence. "You have been with us throughout this journey. Your support is overwhelming, and my heart is leaping with joy."

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

From the Editor

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



Dear Robin

Thank you so much for your kind gift, which you recently sent on behalf of Ivybridge Methodist Church. We are so grateful to have received your donation, which will transform the lives of people living in some of the world's poorest communities. You will receive an official receipt in due course.



Methodist
relief and
development

Your generosity is making a significant difference for people like Dereje, a community leader from Ethiopia. The effects of climate change are felt first-hand by Dereje and the community of Cherkos where he and his family live. Uncertain crop yields due to the changes in the rainy seasons and damaged soil has caused hunger in the Cherkos community. "We used to produce crops twice a year, but because of the weather change we are not producing crops," said Dereje.

With support from All We Can, Dereje is hopeful that the community of Cherkos will see a better economic situation in the future. Dereje said, "it is very important for us to love each other and to work together as a community". We cannot thank you enough for holding together with people like Dereje and the community of Cherkos and making change possible.

Because of your support, All We Can's vital work continues - we remain committed to the vulnerable communities we serve as well as to you our valued supporters. If you have any questions, concerns or just want a chat please do get in touch and reach out to us as it is important we stay connected and together during these times. You can get in touch with the All We Can team on 0207 467 5132 or by emailing: info@allwecan.org.uk.

With heartfelt thanks

Olivia Youlton

Donations Administrator, All We Can



Bittaford Church has a new roof

Following our successful fund raising campaign, work was undertaken during July to replace the time-expired roof at Bittaford Church with a new, insulated, roof. The new roof looks amazing.

The Congregation wish to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to:

RB Roofing – the Roofing Contractor

M Palmer Scaffolding – the Scaffolding Contractor

Chris Phillips for managing the contract

Everyone who contributed to the roof fund

As we have received a generous TAM (Time, Ability and Money) donation from a member of the Congregation and as the Roof Contractor has agreed to leave the scaffolding in place for a few weeks, the opportunity has been taken to repaint the exterior of the Church. So far the front entrance wall has been completed and work is well underway on the rear wall. Over coming months the other walls etc. will be repainted.

Please come and have a look at our “new” Church and join us in a more traditional style of worship at 11.00 am each Sunday – you will be made most welcome.

Stewart Edward
**Treasurer for Bittaford
 Methodist Church**



THANK YOU

Michael & Heather Pope would like to thank everyone who has held the family in prayer, sent cards, phoned, arrived with flowers and generally been so kind and lovely following the loss of Heather’s dad, **John Friend** on 28 May and also the loss of Michael’s mum, **Dot Pope** on 27 June.

Thank you all for your tremendous support during this tricky time. XX

Church Contacts

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Senior Stewards:

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Tel: 01752 894083

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Helen Tel: 01752 892810



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Ivybridge
PL21 9AB

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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