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**Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the
firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field.**

Exodus 23:16a

**Sharing Life
Sharing Faith**

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!**

**Popular Hymn - Text: Henry Alford/Melody: "St. George's
Windsor" by George Job Elvey**

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From Amanda...



Dear Friends

Well, that's the Summer over with for another year!

I hope it was a good one for you - the weather has certainly been kind to us since moving to Devon. We are now entering my favourite time of year. With the changing colours all around, the crisp mornings and cosy evenings, Autumn is most certainly here. And we've got much to look forward to at church – with an **All-Age family style Harvest Festival**, followed by a **bring and share lunch** and a **Light Party** to celebrate in October – what's not to like about this time of year?!

With the seasons coming and going, it is a good time for us to focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. There is much unwelcome change in our world; moral and social changes bother us each day and we're painfully aware our children are growing up in a world far different from the one we once knew. And it's the time of year for personal changes too – with children moving up a year at school and young people leaving home for universities or new careers.

Autumn is also a great time for us to focus on God's wonderful blessings – family, friends, shelter, provision, guidance, care, as well as the bounty of His creation. We have a rich perspective at this time of year and can count our blessings more than ever before. But we can also be challenged in our response to those whose lives do not speak of blessing in the same way; those who are struggling to find peace and security, in the midst of the turmoil of war, disease and natural disaster. We have the opportunity this year at IMC to give at Harvest to the Covid-19 emergency appeal through the work of Compassion.

But Autumn is also a time for us to focus on our commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are found in the book of **Jeremiah 8v.20 - "The harvest is past, the Summer has ended, and we are not saved."** If you have never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there's still time. Come to church and find

out what it means to give your life to Jesus, and you can experience the peace of knowing where you will be spending eternity. And if you are already a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him, through all the shifting seasons of life.

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



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**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.**

Church Workdays

**We are pleased to be able to hold the monthly
workdays once again on the **second Saturday**
of the month.**



**Thank you to all who turned up in September, it was encouraging to
see such a good number.**

**We meet from 9.30 to 12 approx. so feel free to come for whatever
time you can spare. There is always a break for coffee, cake and
fellowship halfway through the morning.**

Future dates are:

Oct 9th

Nov 13th

Dec 11th



OCTOBER 2021 Services



IVYBRIDGE

October 3	10:30 am	Revd Amanda Roper Harvest
October 10	10:30 am	Revd Dave Martin
	6:30 pm	Revd Amanda Roper Communion
October 17	10:30 am	Revd Amanda Roper Communion
	6:30 pm	Prayer/Reflective Service
October 24	10:30 am	Dr & Mrs P Walsh
October 31	10:30 am	Miss Judith Walker

BITTAFORD

October 3	11:00 am	Revd David Youngs Communion
October 10	11:00 am	Revd Amanda Roper Harvest
October 17	11:00 am	Revd Terry Higgins
October 24	11:00 am	Mr Len Woodland
October 31	11:00 am	Mr Keith Angilley

**3RD OCTOBER AT 10:30AM
WE WILL BE CELEBRATING
AT IMC**

HARVEST SUNDAY



Family Service



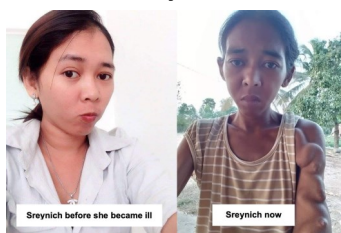
**~ FOLLOWED BY A BRING AND
SHARE HARVEST
LUNCH TOGETHER ~**

How Long, Lord?

It is a while since I provided an update on Cambodia and the work of Cambodian Communities out of Crisis. The reason for this is there seems to have been little in the way of non-Covid-related news and we have been marking time while we wait for restrictions to ease and access to open up again to the community where we are seeking to share the gospel and help the poor and needy. The villagers are fearful about outsiders coming in and bringing infection, particularly the 'Delta Variant' with them, so we have felt it wise to stay away. Yes, we have been able to continue to sponsor the education of children, even if they have had to study online while schools have remained closed, but after receiving a grant that could be used to set up a small Christian Day-care centre, we have had to put the project on hold for the time being.

A question voiced repeatedly in the Psalms is, '**How long, Lord?**' but the Psalms also tell us what to do when we cannot understand why the Lord's timing is different from ours: '**Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.**' (*Psalms 27:14*)

While our Country Director Chanthoeun waits for the Lord to make a way for her to get out and about, she has been making contact via social media with people who need a touch from the Lord. One such person is a young woman in Takeo Province called **Sreynich**. She does not know the Lord Jesus and she has so far found it impossible to believe in a God who could have allowed her to develop a disfiguring illness.



Chanthoeun has shared the gospel with her and we have sent a gift of money to help her pay for the weekly blood transfusions she is receiving. Please pray that she will open her heart to Jesus and that He would graciously heal her of this condition—in His time.

Myers Cooper



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.

Aged 14, Soy* was one of 14 believers imprisoned for six days for refusing to stop worshipping Jesus. Even when pressured to renounce their faith in prison, Soy and the others refused. They were later released but the persecution continued for Soy. She was bullied by her friends and even ignored by her teachers.

To continue her studies, Soy (now 16) moved to the city where your generosity has been an enormous help to her. "I am thankful to my brothers and sisters from around the globe," she says, "because of God's love, I received financial support to buy food and school supplies to continue my studies. Without you, I would not be able to continue my studies."

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 **November Newsletter**, please let me have details by Friday 15th October in either of the following ways:

- ◆ send it by email to: imc33chris@gmail.com
- ◆ Put it through my letterbox or send it to: 33 Julian Road, Ivybridge. PL21 9BU - please put your name on it



OCTOBER NEWS

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



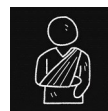
Hello again - so begins real Autumn as the clocks go back towards the end of the month but this season also holds Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas so lots to look forward to.

Lovely news about a new baby - **Isaac Etienne Martini Phillips** was born August 28th to **Lora and Peter** and is a little brother to **Esme** - who is no doubt looking forward to being a big sister! **Isaac** brings Chris and Chrissies grandchild total to six and they are hoping to get to London very soon to see Audrey and Freddie, Esme and Isaac. **Isaac** and family are all doing well and at 8lb 8oz Isaac is a good weight for cuddling. It will be lovely to catch up when they are next down this way. Many congratulations to you all and we send love to **Peter, Lora and their little ones**.



Sadly over Covid we have been out of real contact with many friends and during that time **Sandra and Ron Dudley** decided to move and it seems to have gone relatively smoothly. They actually left Ivybridge on September 14th to live in Yeovil. **Sandra** had been our very efficient Church Council Secretary until a few months ago and we will miss you Sandra. We send many blessings as you begin your next life adventure and hope to hear how you are getting on. Safe journeys and smooth settling in time in your new home.

Broken wrists seem to be getting fashionable in IMC - **Margaret Blackwood** now has had her plaster removed but there's healing still needed and **Helen Maddaford** slipped and fell in the woods and broke her wrist a few weeks ago. Helen is still carrying a plaster around but remains cheerful and positive. We do pray that you both receive full healing and get your wrists back to full use very soon.





Several of our members and their families are going through tough times just now with breast cancer, weak hearts, awaiting test results and long standing chronic conditions - please pray for them and those who care for them that they might know healing and peace.

NEW ADDRESS for Joyce Pope

As **Mum** now needs, unfortunately, more care than we are able to give her, she has recently moved to Willow House, Hillside, South Brent TQ10 9AY. I am sure she would be delighted to receive a note now and again if anyone feels they can do that. She has lived with us in Ivybridge for 19 years and has valued the friendships she has made here. There are two people I would like to especially thank as they have been so kind and thoughtful to Mum. Firstly **Kathy Blackwood** who has shown such loyalty and kindness to Mum, regularly visiting [before Covid] and ringing to have a chat as well as bringing books and little gifts and sending postcards from holiday destinations. Even two days after Mum went into the Home Kathy sent a lovely letter. I can't thank you enough Kathy.

Secondly **David Moulder** who has also been a loyal friend over many years, Mum loved hosting David's bible studies and really looked forward to everyone coming here. David also visited and brought books which he thought Mum would be interested in. Thank you so very much.

Thank you also to the many people who have asked after Mum and prayed for her and also to our very kind friends who have shown us such support at this time.



Ivybridge Churches Together

Taizé Service on Sunday
October 10th at 6.30pm
At St Petroc's Church, Harford

Church Flowers



Pat Watson has been a member of the team of ladies who arrange flowers for Sunday mornings for 15 years. She has now decided to step down from the rota but will continue to provide her invaluable help for the special services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We want to thank her very much for all her dedication and beautiful arrangements that we have enjoyed for many years.

We welcome any new volunteers who would like to join us on the flower rota or come and help for the special services. Please speak to one of the flower ladies for more details.

**Lindsey Reid, Yvonne Bithell, Chrissie Phillips,
Liz Sargeson and Marilyn Warren.**

TUESDAY LUNCHES

We hope to re-start this service to the community
on **Tuesday 19th October** – all being well!

However – we will be needing more volunteers for table service, as some of our helpers are no longer able to assist.

If you feel you could help once a month please contact any of the following:

Tony Merriman, Pam Montgomery, Sara Hladkji



In aid of

tearfund

**Sophie is running (a long way) for Tearfund!
on 9th October. Don't forget to sponsor her.**



You can sponsor her here:

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

Good luck Sophie ☺



Wise and Wonderful



Wise and Wonderful is a fellowship group, open to everyone. We meet at 2.30 pm on Fridays in term time, in the hall and café of IMC.

We ask for £1 each time you come.

Autumn Programme

October 8

Round Table Teasers

A range of puzzles to work on, in little groups, including Sort-of-Scrabble, Spot the Difference, True or False.... Prizes? We hope so!

October 22

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 12

"Fun and Games"

November 26

With the Met Office in Kenya

Speaker Tricia Grace-Norton

December 10

TBC

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 for more information.

Judy 894829

Val 893614

Sue 896444

Christine and David 892858

Maureen 945799

We look forward to seeing you

Church Contacts

Minister:

Revd Amanda Roper

Tel: 01752 651910

email: mandaroper@btinternet.com

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



Church Address:

Fore Street
Ivybridge
PL21 9AB

Ivybridge Methodist Church registered charity 1192612

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