

For I know the plans I have for you,
'plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on me and come and
pray to me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek me and find me when you
seek me with all your heart.'

Jeremiah 29 11:13

Sharing Life Sharing Faith

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

From Amanda...



As a child, November was my favourite month. I loved kicking leaves and playing conkers, and as it was also the month of my birthday, it came with promises of presents. But best of all, the month would launch with a bang as we collected pennies for the 'guy' and waited excitedly for the bonfire in our school grounds. I can still remember the thrill of stepping out into the crisp, cold evening, wrapped up warm, holding a mug of steaming tomato soup, waiting for the bangs and pops to start, as the air would fill with bright lights and sparkles.

These days I have to admit, the thrill is somewhat less. But as I watched the fireworks light up the black canopy overhead last year, with bright whites and blues and reds and oranges, I found myself thinking about the kind of Christianity that would make this level of impact. And I remembered a quote I had read, from a British journalist named Matthew Parris, a professed atheist.

"The New Testament offers a picture of a God who does not sound at all vague to me. He has sent his son to Earth. He has distinct plans both for his son and for mankind. He knows each of us personally and can communicate directly with us. We are capable of forming a direct relationship, individually with him, and are commanded to try. We are told this can be done only through his son. And we are offered the prospect of eternal life - an afterlife of happy, blissful, or glorious circumstances...."

Friends, if I believe that, or even a tenth of that... I would drop my job, sell my house, throw away my possessions, leave my acquaintances and set out into the world burning with the desire to know more and, when I had found out more, to act upon it and tell others" (Matthew Parris, originally published in The Times, in an article entitled 'Why do people debate the future of the church when they have not made up their minds about the existence of God?').

Watching the fireworks explode in bouquet of colours, I thought how beautiful that kind of Christian faith would be. Like fireworks, it would stand out. I think it would be so captivating that people would stop to take it in when they heard about it. When they had seen it for themselves, I think they'd tell their friends. And, as they closed their eyes to go to bed at night, I think the scene would play again before the darks of their eyelids. They'd fall asleep with a smile on their face, thinking about how beautiful it was. Just like fireworks.

Christ's blessings,
Rev Amanda Roper

TUESDAY LUNCHES

We restarted the Tuesday lunches on 19th October. We are wearing masks, and need to be double jabbed for Covid. However, we will not be able to offer this on a weekly basis unless others come forward to offer their help.



Please pray that this help may be forthcoming . Thank you *Mercy*

Contact me on bmercy2017@outlook.com


or Pam Montgomery , Sara Hladkij, or Tony Merriman, if you could offer 2 hours on one Tuesday in each month.

From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the **December Newsletter**, please let me have details by Friday 12th November 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



NOVEMBER 2021

Services



IVYBRIDGE

**November 7 10:30 am Revd Amanda Roper
Communion**

**November 14 10:30 am Miss Teresa White
There will be a minutes silence at 11am**

**November 21 10:30 am Revd Amanda Roper
6.30 pm Prayer Service**

November 28 10:30 am Mr Paul Whittel

BITTAFORD

November 7 11:00 am Revd David Youngs

November 14 11:00 am Local Arrangement

November 21 11:00 am Miss Sue Bolt

**November 28 11:00 am Mrs Janet Dobinson
Communion**



NOVEMBER NEWS

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

We are so very delighted to welcome two new Grandchildren this month - **Lena Sofia** is **Chris and Mike Gentle's** first and **Eleanor Grace** brings **Fiona and David Ion's** tally up to six. **Lena** was born on September 24th and **Eleanor** on October 14th. We send love and many congratulations to **Ben and Kat and Rachel and Alan** along with prayers for babies that remember nights are for sleeping!!



Staying with the Gentle family - many will remember we prayed lots for **Meg** when she was extremely poorly around last Christmas and New Year. She has made a brilliant recovery and, although still dealing with consequences of her surgery, has run two half marathons and in early October she and Morgan became engaged. **God is good!** Many congratulations **Meg and Morgan** and we wish you every blessing as you make plans for the future.



Many, many (belated) congratulations to Pam and John **Montgomery** who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the end of September. It sounds as if they were well celebrated and we send our love and very best wishes for the future.

We would ask you to pray for **Sally, Kathy, Karen** and those who are dealing with some tough health issues at the moment. There are several folk amongst us who have been caring for family members for a long time and so often we don't realise the extent to which peoples lives are affected by caring for others and our prayers are the very best we can offer where we can't do anything practical. We pray too for those in residential homes and those who find it difficult to get back to Church.



POEMS for FAITH

November, 2021

Bio

G.A. Studdert Kennedy (1883-1929) was a child of the vicarage, who himself became a Church of England priest. Recently qualified, he volunteered as an Army chaplain in WW1. Though a non-combatant he received the Military Cross for heroic actions involving running out into no man's land to aid the wounded. He was highly respected by the rank-and-file soldier who affectionately nick-named him 'Woodbine Willie', due to his practice of passing out cigarettes to the troops. On one occasion he advised a new chaplain to: "Take a box of fags in your haversack and a great deal of love in your heart."

Background

The poem below, 'Waste', comes out of Kennedy's awful first-hand experiences of WW1 trench warfare. Understandably, he later became a confirmed pacifist.

Poem

**WASTE of Muscle, waste of Brain,
Waste of Patience, waste of Pain,
Waste of Manhood, waste of Health,
Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,

Waste of Blood, and Waste of Tears,
Waste of Youth's most precious years,
Waste of ways the Saints have trod,
Waste of Glory, waste of God, -
War!**

G.A. Studdert Kennedy, 'The Unutterable Beauty' (Hodder and Stoughton, 1927) p.21 – Public Domain

Reflection

For Kennedy war was a profound waste of all that is good and Godly. But are all wars a waste? Was WW2 to keep Europe free from Nazism/Fascism a waste? Was the conflict to maintain the UK's



sovereignty of The Falklands a waste? And consider can God, in His amazing mercy, turn even our most horrendous wastefulness in war into something redeeming?

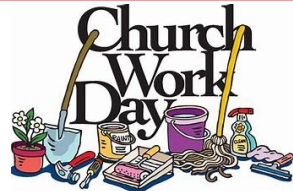
Action

This season of Remembrance is it time to join a pacifist movement like The Methodist Peace Fellowship? Is it time to financially support a charitable agency for combatants like The Royal British Legion? What would Jesus have us do through political engagement to prevent the wastefulness of war?

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Church Workdays

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



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:

Nov 13th

Dec 11th

ARE YOU A CRAFTER?

IMC plan to have a Christmas Craft afternoon.

Open for everyone, whatever craft you like to do, to make Christmas Cards, Decorations or whatever takes your fancy. Please bring along any materials you have to make these. More details nearer the time but put **Tuesday 30th November at 1:30 to 3:30pm** in your diaries.

Please let Amanda or I know if you are interested. Editor

ALBANIA UPDATE from Nick & Sar Wakeley

As promised I am setting out our ministry report for the last year.

1) Financial Report: I confirm that in the last year we received £3,660 from IMC. This has been used to help support our ministry and living expenses, as well as some food gifts.

2) Ministry Report: Over the last year we have continued with all the ministry activities that we covered in some detail in last year's report. These are as follows:

a) Discipling Groups: This continues to be the main focus of our ministry. We have met with groups in four different locations.

b) Practical Helps

i) Food: Albanian people have continued to face huge hardships because of a downturn in the economy and an inability to travel abroad to work, except recently. So we have continued to support poor families with food.

ii) Education & Training: We have recently helped poor families with money to buy school books. We have also helped a young man who had been unemployed to get a driving licence which was pretty well a condition of his new job.

iii) Medical & Dental: We have continued to help in these fields. The following ministries have continued throughout the year. Although each one of them has been curtailed in some measure by travel restrictions.

c) Teaching & Teaching Materials

d) Encouraging Leaders & Wives

e) Hosting Teams

f) Children's Camp

g) Nights of Prayer



Regrettably we have not been able to be in England very much. However we hope to be able to visit Ivybridge in person.

We are very grateful for your support. It is a huge help.

With Best Wishes,
Nick & Sar Wakeley



Christmas for Jessica!
This Christmas many children will receive
gifts given through
Prison Fellowship Angel Tree 2021

Jessica is one of around 200,000 children in England and Wales affected by parental imprisonment every year — more than double the number impacted by divorce in their family.

Beside her bed Jessica spoke to the Christmas card written by her father that was stuck to her wall. The card arrived at Christmas, together with a teddy bear which two year-old Jessica named Barnaby. They were both precious to her, particularly as Daddy had not been home for a while.

At Channings Wood Prison offender fathers have been locked in their rooms daily for 23 hours due to Covid. Family visits have not been possible but through “Angel Tree giving” a father can send a personalised card and present to his children. A donation of £20 is sufficient to fund a personalised gift, an age appropriate book and a message from dad. If you would like to contribute to Angel Tree 2021 please contact:

Pamela Shead : pdshead@virginmedia.com 07757 824892
or Lindsay

Any donations of parcel wrapping material is gratefully received and especially used large postal envelopes that could be re-cycled.

Harry Palmer-Brown

I know some of you have already signed up to Harry's newsletter and are keeping in touch with him. He has now set up his stewardship account and has sent out information about this in his newsletter, which he will be sending out every 3 months. If you would like to be updated on his progress or give a donation towards his work with Oriel Ministries please just email him on:



harrypbrown13@gmail.com

harry@orielministries.org

or phone him on 07473 755183

<https://stewardship.org.uk/partners/20387304>

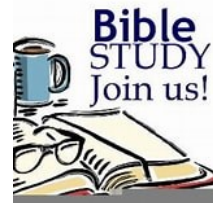
Blessings

Harry

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.

Wise and Wonderful

Like so many other groups, we're back in business again, after long, patient months of waiting. It's so good just to meet friends, and share time together.

"Back to normal" feels pretty extraordinary!

So far, we've enjoyed a Welcome Back tea party, a great talk by historian Adam Hart-Davis, and an entertaining session of Round Table puzzles.

The future programme is shaping up nicely, and everyone is warmly invited.

We meet on Fridays, from 2.30 till 4 in the IMC hall and café.
Here are the rest of the dates for this term:

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|--------------------|---|
| November 12 | Games and fun things to do |
| November 26 | With the Met Office in Kenya
Speaker Tricia Grace-Norton |
| December 10 | Celebrating the Christmas story
with readings, carols and mince pies |

Please arrive in a mask, if you can, but feel free to remove it once seated. We'll do our best with spacing and ventilation.



Please ring one of us if you have a question:

Judy	894829
Val	893614
Sue	896444
Christine and David	892858
Maureen	945799

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Senior Stewards:

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Alison Tel: 01752 691039

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Pam and John

Tel: 01752 894083

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House Group Information:

Helen Tel: 01752 892810



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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