

IMC NEWSLETTER

F
E
B
R
U
A
R
Y

2
0
2
2



IVYBRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding -
indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom;
from His mouth come knowledge and understanding
He holds success in store for the upright,
He is a shield to those whose way of life is blameless,
for He guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Proverbs 2 1:8

***Sharing Life
Sharing Faith***

From Amanda

Many of us struggle with a habit or a tendency towards certain behaviours that we don't actually like. We inherit and develop ways of being from our family and friends and we all 'fall short' and lack the glory of God.



But the good news is that when we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour we can exchange those patterns of behaviour for His good, pleasing and perfect will, as His character is developed in us. The New Year is always a good time to consider these things, especially in the light of our Covenant Service that we have just held. We promised ourselves to God for the year to come – saying we are no longer ours but His. But this doesn't happen overnight; more often than not, it is something that we have to work on in ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit's power and the renewing of our minds by the reading of the Word. The truth is, we can change. It is not a case of "I've always been this way and always will be". This is an opportune time of year to take that truth on board. And if that is true of us, as individuals, it is certainly true of our church too. We are living through uncertain times and if we are to reach our friends and neighbours with the good news we know to be true, then we need to take seriously the fact that 'this church is no longer ours but His'. There are many opportunities ahead but most will involve change and that is never easy, but remember we are not left as orphans, but have been gifted with the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort and renew us. In the months ahead, may we embrace the prospect of being transformed by His presence.

Christ's blessings
Rev Amanda

If you are new to Ivybridge Methodist Church (IMC) we'd like to say **welcome and we are delighted to see you.** Many things have changed so much because of Covid and our systems for ensuring new people know where to access information they might need to know re children's activities, what's on, giving etc are not so obvious.



So - a quick guide to IMC

Methodism relies a lot on its Local Preachers to ensure each Sunday's service has a preacher, so you will find that, at present Amanda, our Minister, is here on the 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings - the 1st Sunday is Communion and the 3rd Sunday is All Age worship. On the Sundays in between our services are led by different Local Preachers who are well known to us.

Sunday evening services are held on the 2nd and 3rd evenings of the month - the 2nd Sunday is led by Amanda and currently focuses on the work and presence of the Holy Spirit (this is at **6pm**) and on the 3rd Sunday a reflective/mediative service which is led by Gill Cowsill and this is at **6.30pm**.

All are very welcome at all of these services.

Obviously we hope you will want to join us on a permanent basis and if this is the case then speak to Amanda or one of the Stewards (they wear lanyards) and they will point you in the direction of Carole our Pastoral Secretary. Carole will then be able to explain the process around putting your name on our Pastoral List to ensure you receive a newsletter each month. Sadly this is a little more complicated than it used to be because of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

At the moment we do not have an official Creche running but the Leadership team will work on that in coming months - in the meantime you are welcome to keep your little ones in Church or take them upstairs where there are toys to keep them happy. For those from 3-4 years upwards the Junior Church meets in the Church Hall.

Notices of upcoming events are in the Newsletter (copies available on your right just as you walk from the porch into the concourse area near the kitchen door) if they are planned in advance - for more short notice events please listen carefully to the notices at the beginning of the service.

There's sure to be something I've forgotten but anyone wearing a lanyard will be very happy to help should the case arise.



FEBRUARY 2022

Services



IVYBRIDGE

February 6 10:30 am Revd Amanda Roper
Communion and Special Prayer Sunday
(Commissioning of the Prayer Ministry Team)

February 13 10:30 am Mr Paul Courtney
6:00 pm Revd Amanda Roper
Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

February 20 10:30 am Revd Amanda Roper
All Age Service
6:30 pm Prayer Service
lead by Gill Cowsill

February 27 10:30 am Miss Judith Walker

BITTAFORD

February 6 11:00 am Revd David Youngs

February 13 11:00 am Revd Amanda Roper
Communion

February 20 11:00 am Mr Keith Angilley

February 27 11:00 am Dr Phil Walsh

REMINDER - Special Evening Worship:

We are privileged to welcome
Rev Derek Balsdon
the Development Worker from
Methodist Evangelicals Together
who will be joining us on **Sunday 30th January**
at **6:00 pm**. Please do come and give him a
warm IMC welcome!

Reminder - There is a new worship opportunity, on the second Sunday of the month which started in January and is at **6pm**, called '**Be Filled**'.

BE FILLED WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT

Alongside worship & teaching on the character and role of **Holy Spirit**, there will be time to simply 'be' in His presence.

Everyone welcome – just come ready to be blessed and discover how to sustain a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life.

For more information, please speak to Amanda.

**Next Church Council Meeting will be at
7:30 pm on Wednesday 9th February.**

Mid-week Holy Communion
Second Tuesday of each month
1:30 to 2:00 pm in the Concourse

**Service led by
Revd Amanda Roper**

**Next One is 8th February
There won't be one in March
due to the Lent Course**

The Leadership Team want to share that there are exciting initiatives underway with the way IMC will be working with children and families, as we move forward into the year ahead. After spending a Saturday together, Amanda delivered some training on how we can become more focused on the needs of those worshipping with us with children, using resources from the 'Family Friendly Churches Trust'. We also shared our desire to become more accessible to those with a wide range of needs, for our heart at IMC is to become a place of welcome to all. We embraced the challenge about how we might achieve this vision. To this end, there will be a few changes that start to seep through in our worship and building, which we will share more about over the coming weeks.



We also want you to know that it is our plan to seek the employment of someone to head up our ministry with families. This will be a demanding and challenging role, so please pray for the right person to be called to work alongside us here at IMC. There are no details yet as to when we will be advertising, or what shape this role may take, but we will keep you informed as we move forward. If you already financially contribute to the Youth Trust, be encouraged to continue doing so, as this will help us greatly in our planning and budgeting for this post, and if you don't yet give to this piece of work, maybe it is something for you to consider – please speak with Andy Phillips to make a one-off gift or to commit to a regular contribution. Exciting times ahead indeed!

From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the March **Newsletter**, please let me have details by Wednesday 16th February 2022 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



Season of Renewal – a Lent course for everyone



Season of Renewal offers a gentle but challenging approach to Lent. It has a traditional feel, but with a fresh approach. The course is divided into six sessions, and includes something creative and practical each week. There will also be a focus on Scripture and times of prayer. The hope is that as you enjoy taking part in the course, it will act as a stimulus for change and growth, both for the individual and the church as a whole.

Here at IMC we will be offering the course through our house-groups, but there will also be the opportunity to join Amanda every Tuesday afternoon in the concourse for those who would prefer to meet in the daytime.

All on Tuesday at 1.30 pm

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st March | 1. Seasons Of Change |
| 8th March | 2. Praying With Jesus |
| 15th March | 3. All Things New |
| 22nd March | 4. Depending on the Holy Spirit |
| 29th March | 5. Made New For Mission |
| 5th April | 6. Celebrating the Kingdom |

For more information, please speak to **Amanda 01752 651910**

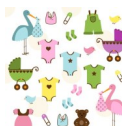


JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWS

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

Welcome to church news in February and we hope Covid is staying at bay and you are all safe and well.

We have three babies to welcome this month which is always lovely - two grandsons and one great grandson.



Julie France and Alison both welcomed their grandsons 5 weeks early which was a shock for all concerned but both **Elias and Felix** are doing well. **Elias** is the son of **Julie's daughter Emily and Casey** and **Felix** the son of **Alison's daughter Hannah and James**. **Rosie McMurrich** is the proud Great Gran (not sure what your title is Rosie!!) of **Oscar** who was born safely recently. We hope you get to see a lot of him Rosie and enjoy many cuddles.

Already these little ones are bringing much joy and as they grow up, I'm sure, will bring much more. We send love and many congratulations to all sets of parents and, as always, pray life isn't too sleep deprived!!



✝ Please would you continue to pray for **Sally** who has completed six weeks of treatment and now has monitoring appointments for a few weeks. We pray for full healing **Sally** and comfort back to your throat!!!

✝ **Karen** too has almost finished her first lot of treatment and we do pray she will feel better as it comes to an end and ask for ongoing prayer for her.

✝ **Richard G** had a nasty fall at home a few weeks ago but after a short hospital stay he is home and looking well. Please pray for ongoing healing and strength to return - in your 90's it may be a bit in short supply but **Richard** is very independent and I'm sure will get over this soon.



✝ As always, there will be those we don't know about waiting for results and operation dates often waiting in pain and great anxiety so please include those in your prayers too.

✝ Some members of the congregation will remember **Dorothy Lucas** who left us when she moved to Windward residential home some years ago - we heard recently that she has died. We send our love and condolences to **Colin and Cynthia** in their time of loss.



Bit of nonsense:

Oh! What happened to the exuberance of youth
I woke up one morning and sadly it had departed
It didn't even say goodbye or hint that it was leaving me to cope
with old age all alone

With all my aches and pains it really is a strain,
to cope with no one here to chat to and have a moan
But somehow or other I just seem to manage
I talk to myself and boss myself around
after all there are others far worse off than me
who cannot go out and rely on a carer to make them a cup of tea

So I just tell myself to be positive and think of what you can do
Keep trying don't cave in you have lots to do
Like mastering this age of technology

So pick yourself up and get on with life
After all tomorrow something more exciting might arrive
And it would be sad to miss it!!

So give thanks and praise for the life you have lived,
It's 2022, a new year, a new beginning.

I'm really sorry, but I lost the name of the lady who posted this
trough my door, apologies Editor

From South Ham's Prison Fellowship:

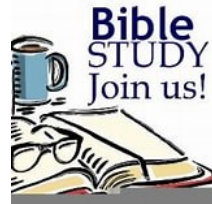
To Ivybridge Methodist Church, with many thanks for your generous contributions towards the work of Angel Tree 2021. The amazing gifts and donations have gone towards enabling us to send almost 200 presents this year. One grateful father was amazed to hear that his children in Eastern Europe have received their Christmas Presents from the dad.

From some very blessed families,
Thank you all!
Pamela Shead

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

We will be looking at Jonah 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.**



As we go to press with this magazine, things remain uncertain with regards to the Omicron strain of Covid. Please be assured that the stewards at IMC will be working hard to keep you as safe as possible when you come into the church building, and will keep you up-to-date with the latest advice and guidelines. For now, we remind you that it is mandatory to wear masks inside, and would encourage you to keep the masks on even during singing. Please do not congregate together in groups, and do dress warmly, due to the increased ventilation that is required.

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

Church Workdays - held 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: Feb 12th and March 12th

I would very much like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks for all of the love, care, prayers and support for my family during the last few months, as we journeyed through my darling Mum Patti Willis' final months.

Mum attended Yealmpton Methodist Church for many years and also loved coming across to Ivybridge on other occasions. She particularly enjoyed the Songs of Praise cafe services, in the couple of years prior to covid, and even though her illness meant she had lost the ability to sing and speak properly she appreciated the love and warmth extended to her, and was blessed by these services.

As a family we are especially grateful to all who helped to make her funeral feel such a special tribute to her, and would especially like to extend our thanks to Alastair Bolt for travelling down to lead the service so sensitively, Reg Marriott for doing the live-streaming, enabling family and friends as far away as New Zealand to "be" with us, John Montgomery for manning the sound desk, Pam Montgomery for stewarding, Phil Squires for playing the organ so beautifully, and of course, Val, Sara, Pam and Sue and others who so kindly helped with the refreshments afterwards.

I apologise if I have missed anyone, it was all a bit of a blur.

I cannot thank the lovely members of my housegroup enough for the loving and prayerful support they have given me over the last few years as Mum's needs increased as her condition deteriorated, you are all loved and appreciated!

On a much brighter note, we are thrilled to welcome a son, Felix, to my daughter Hannah and her husband James. He rather surprised us all by arriving 5 weeks early, on New Year's Day, and we give praise and thanks to God that all has been well despite his premature arrival. He is home and bringing joy to us all and the new little family are doing really well.

Much love , and blessings to you all

Alison White



Wise and Wonderful.....

....is a fellowship group, open to all.
We meet from 2.30 to about 4,
on alternate Fridays in term time,
in the hall and café of the Methodist Church.

SPRING 2022

February 4

Film, with added choc ices

February 18

**Culture Day, with our choices of music, poetry and art.
You are invited to bring something to share.**

March 11

**A visit from the Mayor of Ivybridge
Mrs Sara Hladkij**

March 25 and April 8: to be arranged

A NOTE ABOUT MASKS

We'd like you to arrive in a mask, if you can. 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.

**For more information, please ring one of us:
Judy 894829 Val 893614 Sue 896444
Christine and David 892858 Maureen 945799**

We look forward to seeing you

POEMS for FAITH February, 2022

Bio

George MacDonald (1824-1905) was a Scottish poet raised by a devout Calvinist, Aberdeenshire family. Following ordination he briefly served Trinity Congregational Church, Arundel, West Sussex before leaving ministry due to theological differences and poor health, eventually pursuing a literary career. His three volumes of 'Unspoken Sermons' strongly influenced C.S. Lewis who commented, "I know hardly any other writer who seems to be closer, or more continually close, to the Spirit of Christ Himself."

Background

Our poem this month is aptly entitled, 'In February'. Here, for our encouragement, MacDonald spiritualises the thought that, though we may be seen to be in the relentless grip of winter, Spring is coming.

Poem

Now in the dark of February rains,
Poor lovers of the sunshine, spring is born,
The earthy fields are full of hidden corn,
And March's violets bud along the lanes;

Therefore with joy believe in what remains.
And thou who dost not feel them, do not scorn
Our early songs for winter overworn,
And faith in God's handwriting on the plains.

'Hope' writes he, 'Love' in the first violet,
'Joy', even from Heaven, in songs and winds and trees;
And having caught the happy words in these
While Nature labours with the letters yet,
Spring cannot cheat us, though her hopes be broken,
Nor leave us, for we know what God hath spoken.

MacDonald G., 'The Poetical Works of George MacDonald in Two Volumes' (Volume 2 1893) - Public Domain

Reflection

In the midst of this February's winter cold and storms, have you begun to glimpse any sign of the coming Spring in Nature yet? Even if we can't see anything MacDonald reminds us of the 'hidden corn of the fields'. Do you know where in your garden the Spring bulbs are secretly waiting to come up?

Action

- (1) Consider buying a pot of early Spring bulbs and gifting it to a Christian friend who may feel they are facing a perpetual spiritual winter. Have a chat together about going through similar times and how you hung on to the hope that, in God's timing, Spring is coming.
- (2) Pray for those who are struggling with depression due to SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) and the lack of natural light during this gloomy time of year.

Copyright: Mark Roper, January 2022



Circuit Service Horizons of Hope

Sunday 20th February, 2pm
Pennycross Methodist Church
Please contact the church office:
01752 551514

• **Shining a light on hope** •
www.performingartsmission.com



Artwork © Ken Twist

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