

WELCOME TO IMC's EASTER NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING EASTER

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14.04.22 Maundy Thursday

- a service of worship at Yealmpton
Community Methodist Church **at 7:30pm**
with the Lord's Supper

15.04.22 Good Friday in Ivybridge

- a service of worship at **10:00am**
followed by Hot Cross Buns

a gathering **at 2pm** to carry the cross and walk
together to the Beacon
(with prayers along the way and simple worship
at the top)

17.04.22 Easter Morning Praise

usual time of **10:30am**
Celebration Worship for all the family!



*Sharing Life
Sharing Faith*

From Amanda

Can a fish live out of water? Can a person get younger instead of older? Can a person turn their head around 360 degrees?

Impossible I hear you shout! Well, you might like to look these stories up in the Guinness Book of Records for some highly unlikely stories that actually turned out to be true. Often when we come across a seemingly impossible story, we accept it as just that – impossible! But what happens when God gets involved?

Whether or not you're a fan of the 'Mission Impossible' films, Paramount Pictures have made millions from the daring exploits of Ethan Hunt, making seemingly impossible missions possible. But even Tom Cruise on a good day would be no match for what happened on Easter morning!



Bunnies and chocolate eggs, daffodils and spring lambs, divert our attention away from the real purpose of us celebrating this most holy of days – God's rescue mission to save planet earth. For the amazing claim that Christians make is that Jesus Christ died on the cross on Good Friday to rescue us from sin and death and then came back to life three days later to give us the opportunity to have His new life within us, and the promise of eternity in our hearts. Now that's what I call a rescue mission! Impossible I hear you shout! No, not for God.

As our journey through Lent reaches its conclusion, we are led once more to the cross and then on to the empty tomb. But far from this being an impossible story, we testify to it being true – for in the words of the song "Jesus Christ is alive today, I know, I know its true – Jesus lives and reigns in me, that's how I know its true!".

Here's your mission, should you choose to accept it. Trust God to do the impossible in your life this Easter.

Easter Blessings
Rev Amanda



FAMILY & FRIENDS

It's Easter!!! Time for hot cross buns, chocolate eggs and simnel cake; for enjoying the signs of new life all around as we see flowers blossom, and watch baby chicks and new-born lambs playing. It is also the time where we can have fun as a family with so many craft and cooking ideas. I am sure you all have your own family traditions, but these are a few of mine you may like to give a go!



These gardens are so easy to put together, just by using a plate or tray. Fill with little stones, moss and soil from the garden, and make crosses from sticks. You can make the tomb from an empty yoghurt pot or small seed pot, and go on the hunt to find a large stone to cover the entrance until Easter morning! You can decorate with flowers and grass or even sprinkle cress seeds and enjoy watching your garden grow!



It wouldn't be Easter without an egg hunt! You can use real chocolate ones or the little plastic ones, and fill them with sweets. You can also place little slips of paper in them with the Easter story written on, a few verses at a time, so after all the eggs have been found, you can piece the story together. Place around the garden, or if the weather is not so good, hunts indoors are still great fun!



Why not decorate your own eggs to put on display?! You can hard boil them, then paint them and even add varnish for a shiny finish. They look lovely in bowls around the place and remind you of the new life we have in Jesus.



MARCH/APRIL 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 and welcome to this months news. For anyone new to IMC we produce this section monthly and would love to hear from any and all of the congregation who have news to share. Judy or Val would be pleased to hear from you and we can be contacted as follows : **Judy 01752 894829 and Val 01752 893614.**

It was a delight to share in the dedication service for baby **George** recently - and to see all the family sharing in this important occasion. We hope as he grows that he might find a place here with his **Great Grandma Rosie M.**

April 29th sees the **50th wedding anniversary** of **Linda and Peter Fox** and we send love and warm congratulations for your Golden Wedding celebrations. We hope your plans for a celebration cruise manage to come to fruition and, **Linda**, we hope you have fully recovered from your operation at the end of March.

Many congratulations are also in order for **Harry Parker Brown** who has just been awarded a place at Moorfields Bible College to study for a BA(Hons) in applied Theology. This is fantastic news **Harry** and we wish you every success as you tackle this next demanding phase of your call to serve God.

We were hoping that **Kim and Dan's** baby (**Chris and Mike Gentle's daughter**) might have been born in time for this edition of news but as yet - no news!! However we do send warmest congratulations to **Kim** as she has accepted the post of a GP at Modbury Health Centre beginning December 2022. We hope all goes well **Kim** and when the job starts you will soon find your feet and enjoy the new role.

Dave Rowe has taken early retirement from this month and we wish you a very happy and enjoyable next stage of life **Dave**. We know this next phase will be as busy as ever as you tackle the complicated IMC heating system among other tasks but enjoy good times with the family as well.

We also send best wishes to **Anna** who is hobbling after breaking a bone in her foot whilst out running (and they say exercise is good for you!!! :-)) . Do hope by now **Anna** that all has progressed well and life is getting back to normal.



A very warm welcome back to **Christina Mann** who has resettled in Ivybridge after some time away. It's great to have you back **Christina** and hope you and **Hilary** soon settle back in to Ivybridge and especially IMC.

Diane England, who many will remember from her time worshipping with us, has now moved up country from Grosvenor House to live close to her daughter. We send love and prayers **Diane** and hope the move has all gone well.

Some good news - **Karen** has completed her gruelling cancer treatment, rung the bell and is now recovering without daily hospital journeys. We do hope you soon recover your strength and energy **Karen** and send love to you and your family.

We would ask your prayers for **Jean and Malcolm** as **Malcolm** is also walking the journey through cancer treatment and is quite poorly. Thinking of you both and sending our love to all the family as you deal with this illness.

Covid is striking down folk at IMC recently and if you're one of it's victims we do pray you recover fully and soon.

Food Bank

Due to the many national and international events surrounding us at the moment, the demand is growing on local food banks and Ivybridge is no exception. We are currently giving out more to clients than we are being donated so our warehouse is beginning to look a little empty.

If you are in a position to help and are willing to do so please take a look at the Ivybridge Food Bank website, choose the "Give Help" tab and choose "donate food" from there. This is a list of what is most needed and your help will be much appreciated. **Thank you.**

From the Editor

If you would like to include anything in the May **Newsletter**, please let me have details by Wednesday 13th April 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



APRIL 2022 Services



IVYBRIDGE

April 3	10:30 am	Revd Amanda Roper Communion
April 10	10:30 am 6:00 pm	Mrs Jean Walsh Revd Amanda Roper Be Filled
April 17	10:30 am	Revd Amanda Roper All Age Worship
April 24	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Dr Phil Walsh Songs of Praise

BITTAFORD

April 3	11:00 am	Revd David Youngs Communion
April 10	11:00 am	Mr Mike Cade
April 17	11:00 am	Miss Teresa White
April 24	11:00 am	Mrs Mary McNaughton

5. The Third Chapel (the Present Church)

The second chapel was not large enough to cope with the number of new Methodists in Ivybridge, and it became clear that a larger building was needed. There was insufficient space to increase the size of the building in Chapel Place, and the congregation looked for another site in the growing village. John Allen very generously agreed to fund the complete cost of providing a new building, and took out a 1,000 year lease from Baron Blachford on the site of the present church, with a yearly rent of five pounds. The lease is dated 7th April 1874, and is held by the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit.

John Allen engaged a well known Plymouth firm of Architects, Messrs Norman and Hine, who had recently designed the Guildhall in the city, to draw up plans for the chapel.

When Messrs Allen decided upon building the chapel, they determined that it should be worthy of its purpose; and when they chose Messrs. Norman and Hine as their architects, they left them perfectly untrammelled by any consideration of means - free to carry out that which they believed would most conduce to the object in view.

The foundation stone was laid on 15th July 1874 by Mrs Edward Allen, daughter in law of John Allen. After the ceremony, everyone adjourned to Mallet's Assembly Rooms for a public tea. It was described by a newspaper as "probably the most numerously attended tea meeting that has ever been held in Ivybridge, upwards of 300 persons, the great proportion being strangers, sitting down".

When the building was completed, the lease was transferred to the trustees of the chapel on 10th December 1875, shortly before the building was opened.

The opening ceremony was described in several newspapers, and we can quote from one of the shorter tributes!

On Wednesday, Messrs Allen and Son, who own the paper mills in the village, which is known as the "Garden of Devonshire", formally handed over to the Wesleyan denomination, represented on the occasion by the Rev. Morley Punshon, ex-

President of the Conference, a chapel which has cost them between £5,000 and £6,000, and is complete in every respect. It is in all probability the most handsome Wesleyan place of Worship in the United Kingdom. Carte-blanche was given to the architects, Messrs. Norman and Hine, of the Plymouth Guildhall, and they have produced a beautiful chapel with several special features. In the Early Pointed style, of the French rather than the English type, the building is cruciform in plan, consisting of a nave, chancel, and transepts, with organ chamber filled with a fine instrument.... At the north-west angle is a tower, which, with a spire carrying a gilded cross, reaches to a height of 100 feet. Dark blue limestone, Portland stone, and red Mansfield have been used externally; Bath stone internally. On stone corbels at the foot of the principals of a roof of open timber work are (in the nave) figures in Bath stone representing apostles, prophets, and martyrs; and in the chancel angels with musical instruments. The symbolical rendering of the "Te Deum" is completed by the "Agnus Dei" in the central light of the chancel. The chancel and passages are paved with Mintons' tiles - chocolate and green, with fern border. The pulpit, octagonal in form, is of Bath stone, and four of its panels are inlaid with tiles representing the Evangelists. The font is of red Plymouth marble, polished. The chancel walls are richly decorated, the vine, fruit and tree, painted on a gilded ground, and the lily and pomegranate being conspicuous. The chancel window and the windows in the road facade are filled with stained glass of brilliant geometrical patterns. The opening of the chapel was attended by the principal Wesleyans in South Devon.

The building caused a flurry of letters to the local newspapers, not all of them complimentary!

Ritualism in the Chapel

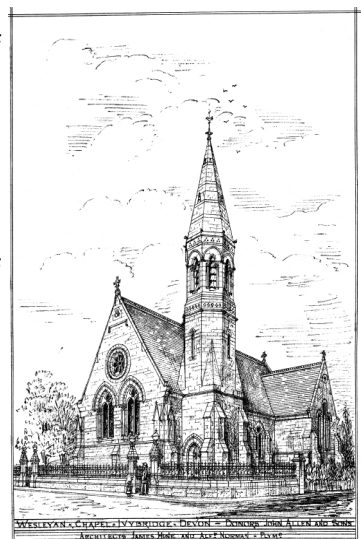
Sir, - We hear a great deal about "Ritualism" in these days, and are accustomed to connect it with a certain party in the Church exclusively. But there are many indications that Ritualism is by no means confined to any party, in the Church or out of it. It would seem to be "in the air", a growing fashion, so to speak, for the "Evangelical" party are rapidly becoming leavened with

it, and so are several sects of Dissenters, especially the Wesleyan Methodists.

The most remarkable instance of this fact that I have ever come across is the new Wesleyan Chapel at Ivybridge, in course of erection at the cost of the Messrs. Allen, and now nearly completed. To all outward appearance it is a church, and that on a High Church model. First, it is ecclesiastically arranged: it is cruciform, having nave and transepts, and a well-defined "chancel", also a lofty tower and spire at the south-west angle. The east window is filled with stained glass, with a figure of the "*Agnus Dei*" in the central light, and the "dim religious light" of the extreme High Churchman is secured to perfection by filling all the other windows with a "cathedral glass". The "chancel-arch" is supported by a carved figure of an angel on either side, thorough-going graven images (poor Chancellor Phillpotts!) and the corbel of (I suppose) the "vestry" door is a graven representation of the Rev John Wesley's head! Most wonderful of all are the "altar" arrangements, which are "Catholic" in the extreme. The raised dais is there as in a church, and *mirabile dictu*, a "foot-pace" of ample dimensions, exactly as in the most full-blown "Tractarian" Church!! Why, not many years ago, in the neighbouring town of Modbury, when the chancel there was being restored in memory of the late revered vicar, Mr Oxenham, a "foot-pace" was part of the design, but was actually and literally suppressed, as being *too advanced*, by the influence (it was said at the time) of an ecclesiastical, but Protestant lady; and there it may be seen to this day sunk to the level of the surrounding pavement. But our Ivybridge Methodists are not so squeamish:

Externally, the place is a model of Ritualism; every gable is crowned with a huge stone cross (they are six or seven in number), and there is a most gorgeous gilt one on the top of the spire! What is the world coming to?

- I am sir, yours obediently, Q.



Engraving of the new church, published in the Annual Report of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee, 1876. Note that there are trees on the left. This was the church lawn: the hall wasn't built until the 1930's, as the Sunday School used the old chapel for its meetings. Also note that there is no central entrance. You came in at the foot of the tower, or by a door out of sight on the lawn.



The earliest photograph that we have of the present building. It is taken from an illuminated address to John Allen's sons, when they left Ivybridge to live in Plymouth in June 1910.



This photograph was taken in the 1950s, shortly before all the back wall of the altar was re-plastered. The Lord's prayer, the ten commandments and the creed are just visible.

Note: From 1876 – 1937 there was only 1 toilet, in a small room off the Preacher's vestry! It was Victorian, with lovely floral decorations in blue.

Football Ministry Reborn

I have written previously in the newsletter about the Cambodia for Christ - sports ministry, an initiative of a Cambodian man, Pov Phearun, to do something to prevent the teenage boys in his village to the south-east of Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, from falling prey to drug pushers and recruiters for criminal gangs. Phearun founded a football team for the youngsters, provided training, enrolled the team in a league and supplemented the sports activities with evening classes to teach the boys English language and computer skills. Phearun shared his faith with the youngsters and a number of them became Christians.

For much of 2000 and 2001, Covid-19 restrictions put a stop to Phearun's activities. Moreover, he suffered a personal tragedy and felt like giving up or running away to a different part of Cambodia. However, God had other ideas and Phearun became convinced he should stay and restart the football ministry towards the end of 2001. He is now running three teams, two for boys and one for girls, and he has appointed assistant coaches and team leaders.

Cambodian Communities out of Crisis is supporting Cambodia for Christ financially and we are working on twinning the teams with a football club in the Midlands who also have a girls' team. We hope the British club will help with the cost of boots, shirts, shorts, training equipment and so on. Eventually, we should also like to help Phearun develop the educational side of his ministry by providing funds for the purchase of textbooks and computers.

We praise the Lord that He did not allow Phearun to give up and has instead blessed him with even greater opportunities than before to provide Cambodian girls and boys with the opportunity, not just to play football, but also to hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and see it in action in the lives of Phearun and his assistants. Please pray that this ministry will flourish, expand and bear much fruit.

Myers Cooper



Pov Phearun

POEMS for FAITH

April, 2022

Bio

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge (1861-1907) was a London born novelist, essayist, reviewer and poet. She published her poetry under the pseudonym Anodos (Wanderer) to hide her connection as a great-grand niece to the revered poet/philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge for fear of tarnishing the family name. As a committed Christian she felt it was incumbent on her to aid the poor and so chose to teach Literature and Grammar at a local Working Women's College.

Background

The ten lines of this month's poem leads us through Good Friday to Easter Day and beyond. In Coleridge's rhyming verse she puts herself in the shoes of the disciples, soldiers, Mary etc. Why? To help herself come to terms with the shortcomings and victories of her own personal faith.

Poem

Good Friday in my heart! Fear and affright!
My thoughts are the Disciples when they fled,
My words the words that priest and soldier said,
My deed the spear to desecrate the dead.
And day, Thy death therein, is changed to night.

The Easter in my heart sends up the sun.
My thoughts are Mary, when she turned to see.
My words are Peter, answering, 'Lov'st thou Me?'
My deeds are all Thine own drawn close to Thee,
And night and day, since Thou dost rise, are one.

Coleridge M.E., 'Poems' (London: Elkin Matthews, 1908) p.148-149) - Public Domain

Reflection

What would you title this poem? (In Coleridge's book of Poems, published posthumously, it's simply numbered CLII).

Action

I suggest that you take some time to put yourself in the shoes of the thieves crucified with Jesus, with Mary the mother of Jesus, with the angel at the tomb, with doubting Thomas, and allow this to deepen your faith as you pray

into it. Attempt to put yourself in the shoes of a Ukrainian refugee having to flee their homeland for the UK. Be part of their going from crucifixion to resurrection by praying, giving, perhaps even opening your home to them.

Copyright: Mark Roper, March 2022



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

April 8

Easter reflection
with Rev Amanda Roper

Meetings after Easter:

April 29

Elis Norton, director of Youth for Christ in Ivybridge,
will talk about youth work here,
especially the Bridge Project.

The dates for the rest of the Summer term:

May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24, July 8

The programme will include a Jubilee Celebration and our annual
Cream Tea, with more details in the May news letter.

We'd like you to wear a mask to our meetings if you are able.

For more information, please ring one of us:

Judy 894829

Val 893614

Sue 896444

Christine and David 892858

Carole 894676

Maureen 945799

Christian Aid Week this year is 15th – 21st May
and we would like to gather your views on how to
gather donations.



As you probably know, door to door envelope collecting has been on hold for the last two years. Last year we used an 'e-envelope' scheme whereby donations could be given online via a link or a QR code. These were published in the IMC newsletter and website and on posters that were put up around the town. Donations given this way were attributed to Ivybridge Methodist Church and we raised around £1770 (including Gift Aid)

A few people have said they preferred this system to calling door to door but obviously we haven't heard from everyone so we would like to know what you would like to do for this year. The options are:

Door to door envelope drop off and collection as we used to do before Covid.

The 'e-envelope' scheme with posters that we would ask you to put up in your road.

'Delivery only' envelopes – this would involve putting a different type of envelope through doors with your address attached so they could be returned directly to you.

We will try and go with the majority view but it might also be possible to do a combination.

Many of you already have roads where you have collected in the past so you can continue with these, whichever system is adopted. However, with all the new houses in Ivybridge there are plenty of roads to cover so please let us know if you would like a road or to change your existing one. Please could you let us know as soon as possible as we need to organise and to order resources. You can catch us in church, **phone 01752 896596 or email: ali.gill99@gmail.com**

Many thanks,
Alison and Steve Gill

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



We meet every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
Next date 26.04.22

We will be looking at Mark this time.

Meet at Joan's flat, No. 20 Grosvenor Crt
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.

Last one in the Season of Renewal –
a Lent course for everyone

Renewal

Tuesday 5th April at 1.30pm - Celebrating
the Kingdom

For more information, please speak to
Amanda 01752 651910



**3rd Sunday each
month**

@

10:30am



Tea and Toast served from 10am

Be Filled

An evening to be refreshed
by the Holy Spirit



2nd Sunday each month

6:00pm

Ivybridge Methodist Church

Church Workdays
Second Saturday
in the month

Songs of Praise Service - 24th April 2022 @ 6 pm



Great news, for those of you who have enjoyed our Songs of Praise evenings in the past, we will be back subject to no sudden Covid restrictions on Sunday 24th April at 6 pm.

Accompanied by the organ, your favourite Hymns and Songs in café style worship, with coffee/tea and cakes.

If you can bring any cakes or biscuits that would be lovely. Please invite your family and friends. All are most welcome, and we very much look forward to you joining us. Amanda our Minister would normally be joining us but she is unable to make it on this occasion. If we are able to, we propose holding these Songs of praise services every quarter.

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