

# IMC NEWSLETTER



IVYBRIDGE  
METHODIST CHURCH

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*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all, without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

*James 1: 2—5*

*Sharing Life*  
*Sharing Faith*

## *From Amanda...*



Dear Friends,

With Autumn well and truly here and Harvest festivals all but finished, the next occasion to turn our attention to is Bonfire Night. But have you ever thought what the word 'bonfire' really means? Why don't we just use the word 'fire'? It actually means 'bone fire' – because a bonfire was originally a fire made up of lots of bones of animals (this dates from the time when people in this country believed that by burning animal bones in a big fire they could get God to protect them). And I wonder if you knew that in the Book of Common Prayer 1662, there used to be a special service for November 5th? It was a service of thanksgiving for the fact that the attempt by Guy Fawkes to blow up and kill King James I and the whole English Parliament was foiled.

Rich history indeed, but I'd like us to spend a moment to think about fire. It can be very useful. We use fires to heat our homes and in many parts of the world fires are still used for cooking. When people first discovered how to extract iron from iron ore, fire was an important part of the process. Coal fires were used in steam trains and in steam ships, to heat the boilers to make the steam which powered the trains and the ships. These are all fires which are controlled by people, and used by them for what they want to do.

However, the Bible describes God as "a consuming fire", and fire often appears as a symbol of God's presence. This is not a fire that we can control or use for our own means. The Holy Spirit has

also been associated with fire. John the Baptist predicts that Jesus will be the One to 'baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire' and when the Holy Spirit began His ministry of indwelling the early church, He chose to appear as 'tongues of fire' resting on each of the believers.

Fire warms and provides light, cleanses and purifies - may this time of year remind us to let the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in our hearts, a flame to burn away those things which are bad, and make us holy and fit for service. May we keep fanning His flame, and may it spread through us, to others.

*Christ's blessings,  
Rev Amanda Roper*





## CHURCH NEWS

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

So the year progresses on and soon we'll be thinking about Advent - won't mention the other word as it's a bit early for some!! It seems we are a little short on news this month - we do appreciate when folk drop us an email or give us a bit of paper with news on as it helps us to get to know each other a little better.



We send belated very happy birthday greetings to Lindsey Reid who celebrated a big birthday in October and had a special time with their lovely family. It sounds to have been a great birthday Lindsey and we send love and all best wishes for many happy returns!!

Tim Grayling is away to foreign climes very shortly as his next role takes him to Ethiopia. Tim, we pray all goes smoothly and we look forward to seeing you on your visits home. We also look forward to hearing about life, all the health projects you'll be involved with and of course the weather!!



Many congratulations to Jasmin Hladkij on gaining a Masters in Education. Studying for this and running a demanding teaching job as well speaks volumes about the hard work and determination that's brought you this far. Well done Jasmin and we wish you every success in your future career.



After a couple of falls meant hospital stays for Joan (Bulman) she has decided its time to move into Ivydene and Joan, we pray you are feeling much better and when the move to Ivydene actually takes place we pray the settling in is straight forward. Hope to see you soon as you are well enough. Sending love and prayers.

We praise God that Linnie is improving week by week and although it's still hard going at times she is amazing at persevering. Please continue to pray for Trevor and Mary and Gill and Simon as they continue to live through some tough times. There are others amongst who are awaiting test results and those who struggle to make families work. God knows who they are as we pray for all those in need.



### **CHEWSDAYS at IMC**

Chewsdays are good news days.  
Take a seat, have a bite to eat  
Make and meet friends here,  
In a welcoming atmosphere.  
Home cooked food  
That tastes Oh so good!  
The café at IMC  
Is the place you want to be  
On a Tuesday at twelve-thirteen!!



### **Church workdays—second Saturday in the month**

We meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12 midday approximately, so feel free to come for whatever time you can spare. There is always a break for coffee, cake and fellowship half-way through the morning.

For more information, contact Joy Phillips



# November 2022 Services



## IVYBRIDGE

Nov 6	10:30	Revd Amanda Roper Communion
Nov 13	10:30	NO SERVICE
	6:00	Revd Amanda Roper "Be filled"
Nov 20	10:30	Revd Amanda Roper All Age service
	6:00	Gill Prayer
Nov 27	10:30	Jean Walsh

## BITTAFORD

Nov 6	11:00	Revd David Youngs Communion
Nov 13	11:00	Sue Bolt
Nov 20	11:00	Phil Walsh
Nov 27	11:00	Bev Smerdon
	3:00	Revd Amanda Roper Songs of Praise

## **Ivybridge Food Bank**

Ivybridge Foodbank celebrates its tenth year this year, and although I am a relative newcomer to the team, there are some volunteers who have been with the Foodbank since or very near to its beginning.

Pre Covid the Foodbank was a relatively small operation. If we had 7 clients in a week we thought we were really busy. Now we regularly have 20 in a week and at our busiest saw 33 referrals processed in one week. Since the start of the Covid pandemic we have fed 6040 individuals, 3072 have been children.

We have amazing support from around the area. From local supermarkets, churches in Ivybridge and beyond, individuals, schools and many more. We have also benefitted from grants and generous financial donations.

Without the support of IMC and The Exchange we would be without a base to operate from so we owe a huge gratitude to all our supporters.

Now, post Covid and the rapidly rising cost of living, muscles are flexed and plans in place to meet an expected rise in demand. We are seeing a small decrease in donations at our donation points and an increasing number of referrals where individuals and families just do not have enough income to meet all their basic bills.

Please continue to support the Foodbank with your donations and also with your prayers. Please pray for the team that they will remain strong and well through the winter time to continue serving the poorest in our community. That we will always have enough to fulfill referrals and those who need the Foodbank will find it easy to connect with us.

This is only a small snapshot of the work of the Foodbank. If you would like to know more go to [www.ivybridgefoodbank.org.uk](http://www.ivybridgefoodbank.org.uk).

Everyone will have different reasons for their involvement in the Foodbank. For me, as well as a desire to live in a community in 2022 where nobody should face food poverty, when I get to meet my Lord Jesus Christ face to face I would like to hear Him say the words of Matt 25 v40.

**"Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."**

I hope you are finding being part of the Bible Book Club invigorating! By now, you have read and studied both Philippians and James. November sees the challenge of reading 1 Thessalonians together, with its message of end times to prepare us for the season of Advent. It will take 5 weeks to read, and so flows into the beginning of December. After which, we will take a break from the Bible Book Club for Christmas.

IMC *Bible* BOOK CLUB



### **Be Filled**

PLEASE NOTE that the November 'Be Filled' service is the last of 2022. There will be no service in December.

### **CAROLS IN THE CARPARK**

SAVE THE DATE! 'Carols in the Carpark' Dec 11th at 6:00 p.m.

The **Angel Tree** charity sends Christmas presents to children from a parent in jail, through the Prison Fellowship. If you want to contribute, please contact Lindsay Ellis on 07790 160822 or Pam Shead on [pdshead@virginmedia.com](mailto:pdshead@virginmedia.com).

Bible Study with Joan at 20 Grosvenor Court is cancelled until further notice. We thank God that Joan is recovering from her falls.

## **SUPPORT IMC WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE**

IMC is now registered with AmazonSmile and GiveAsYouLive, which are two easy ways to support the life of the church at IMC within Ivybridge.

If you purchase items on-line then you could potentially use either of these avenues that will then give a small donation to IMC.

To generate donations through AmazonSmile, you need to register using this link – <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1192612-0> you will then receive a confirmation email. Then every-time you make a purchase on Amazon you need to ensure you access the Amazon website through AmazonSmile.

For GiveAsYouLive, like AmazonSmile they will make donations to IMC from your purchases online. To do this, please go to [signing up to Give as you Live Online](#), and IMC will receive a donation every time you shop at any of their 5,500+ registered stores, including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Currys, [Booking.com](#), Marks & Spencer and Just Eat.

It is completely free to sign up to both of these schemes.

Thank you for supporting IMC.

Robin Duckering  
Treasurer

## **Letter from the Editor**

Dear Friends,

Over the last six months as acting editor of the Newsletter, I have been inspired by the way IMC members are so active, both spiritually and practically. It has been lovely to receive articles for the Newsletter that testify to the way Jesus is working in and through our church.

Do you have a testimony about the way your faith guides and strengthens you in your service to God? Would like to share it with others with an article the Newsletter?

If you do, contact me by email at [pennygadd51@gmail.com](mailto:pennygadd51@gmail.com), or talk to me about it at the Sunday morning service.

Blessings

Penny

## WESLEY'S COFFEE SHOP

Open on Saturday Mornings 10am -12 midday in the Cafe selling various drinks, cakes, scones and toasted tea cakes.

Wesley's was the brain child of one of our previous Ministers who, even 20 years ago, felt that coffee and cakes were beginning to be unaffordable for families and also, that as there was then a lot of foot fall in and out of the Church on a Saturday and passing the Church, it seemed a good idea the Church should be open and welcoming. Over the years we have had changing clientele and changing volunteers ably serving at the counter.



We also ensure that where ever possible (if we're not run off our feet) no-one gets left to sit on their own - its a place we want everyone to feel comfortable in. We keep our prices as reasonable as we can and are so grateful to all the folk who provide lovely cakes as well as give of their time.

Covid of course stopped us in our tracks and when we were able to begin again as with many other volunteer run services we were struggling to have enough volunteers to ensure a reliable service but ensuring no-one is on too often.

We would like it to be a once in 8 week rota but as with us all, life happens, and just at the moment we are down to one week in five which is a big ask - even though being there is great fun.

If anyone feels able to offer a Saturday morning to help out please see Val or Maureen who will happily tell you how it all works. You do NOT have to be a master baker (or any sort of baker) to help out.

# 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.

## Autumn Programme

Nov 11th	A visit from Sara Hladkij, Mayor of Ivybridge
Nov 25th	<i>'Telling my Story'</i> Memories and memoirs: sharing and keeping them
Dec 9th	A Christmas celebration, complete with carols, readings and mince pies

## **And heading into 2023**

Jan 6th	Greeting the New Year with a tea party and, who knows, maybe a game or two!
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<b>Subsequent dates</b>	Jan 20th
	Feb 3rd and 17th
	Mar 10th and 24th

For more information, please ring one of us:

Judy 894829	Val 893614	Sue 896444
Christine and David 892858	Carole 894676	Maureen 945799

## Church Contacts

**Minister:**

**Revd Amanda Roper**

**Tel: 01752 651910**

**email: [mandaroper@btinternet.com](mailto:mandaroper@btinternet.com)**

**Senior Steward:**

**Reg Tel: 01752 893614**

**Room Bookings:**

**Pam and John**

**Tel: 01752 894083**

**email: [imcbookings@gmail.com](mailto:imcbookings@gmail.com)**

**House Group Information:**

**Helen Tel: 01752 892810**



**IMC Prayer  
Line**



**Prayer Line  
07801 956695**

**Church Address:**

Fore Street

Ivybridge

PL21 9AB

**Ivybridge Methodist Church registered charity 1192612**

*Visit our website at*

**[www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk](http://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

**[mrmerit@icloud.com](mailto:mrmerit@icloud.com)**