

IMC NEWSLETTER



IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER
2022

Now may our God and Father himself and the Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 3: 11—13

Sharing Life
Sharing Faith

From Amanda...

How good are you at waiting? I don't know about you, but it's so easy for me to grow impatient. Rather than rejoicing in all that is good in this very moment, I long for what is not yet. And that's just what this season of Advent is all about. Waiting. But far from being like the frustration of waiting for a bus, it is more like the anticipation of a gift through the post.



You see, Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts and our minds for the coming of God's Son, Jesus Christ. The word 'Advent' means 'to come', and the Advent season focuses on remembering Christ's first coming at Christmas and then also anticipating His second coming and soon return. So we live in between times. He is here, yet we still have a desperate longing for more, for His kingdom to come in all its fullness. Immanuel 'God with Us' has come — the Light of the World has stepped down into our darkness, into sick and hurting humanity. And yet we still have to wait, for it's not yet time for His kingdom to be revealed in all its glory. And so the longing remains.

Many of us use an Advent calendar or an Advent candle to help us with our waiting. We count down the days to Christmas. And of course, Christmas is wonderful for so many reasons, but the most important is the light and hope that Christ brings to our world, and it is only right we expectantly count down to His arrival. For He came to save us, born into this world on the first Christmas so that He could grow to be a man and die on the cross for you and me, that we might know forgiveness and freedom. Now that really is something to celebrate!

So if you are feeling discouraged, if you are tired of waiting, if you feel like giving up, if you've faced too many disappointments in life — then let me point you to Christ and the light and hope that is found in Him alone. If you are able, come to church over this Advent season and meet with

Christians who will testify to how His light and hope has changed their lives.

My prayer for us this Christmas season is that the Lord may teach us to wait with Him, patiently, joyfully, appreciating what is good in each moment, and helping us to hang onto the sure hope of His coming again to make all things right. So wait... 'Rejoice, Rejoice, Immanuel shall come ...'

*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**

Again my favourite opening, as we welcome baby Lilah Grace who was born on 2.11.22 to Becky and Rob and who is the first great grandchild for Terry and Ruth. She took a little while to arrive but is now settling down and hopefully being the apple of everyone's eye!! Our congratulations and love go to Becky and Rob and prayers for you all as you begin your new life as a threesome. No doubt Lilah's great grandparents will be eager to spoil her and we send congratulations to them too!



Two of our friends have / will be changing the pattern of their working lives as Helen Maddaford retired at the end of August from her role as a specialist Teacher with Plymouth City Council and Sharon Walling is retiring from the NHS in December. Sharon will return to the NHS in a while doing a few days a week and Helen is planning to do some hours as a Consultant. We wish you both every blessing as you tread pastures new and prayers for a real enjoyment of the extra free time you both so richly deserve.



We were sad to hear that Aileen had a nasty fall a few weeks back and was in considerable pain for several weeks. It's good to know you are feeling much more comfortable now Aileen and we pray you'll soon be totally free of pain.

David Ion has been suffering with ongoing very painful shoulder and back problems for some time too and we pray that the awaited surgery can be scheduled very soon.

It has been lovely to see Joan Bulman back in Church recently as she continues to recover from her stays in hospital and hope you

are enjoying being are enjoying being back at home in Grosvenor, Joan. We send our love and prayers for ongoing healing and strength.

There has been much fun in the Roper household during November as Hosanna, Galilee and Amanda have all had significant birthdays. We send our love to you all and belated very happy birthdays and many many happy returns.



Sending very best wishes and belated happy birthday to Barry Jury who notched up 70 years at the end of November. We hope you had a great birthday Barry and celebrated well. Many happy returns and prayers for a good year to come.

A lovely evening was enjoyed by nearly 30 people in the middle of November at a Welcome Supper for those who have joined us over the last year or so. We do hope and pray you all continue to enjoy worshipping with us and gradually getting to know more faces and names.

Thank you to all those who helped make it such a great time.

We also ask your prayers for those who have ongoing issues with physical and mental health and especially for those living with long term chronic illnesses. Also for those whose lives have been touched by recent bereavements and for those already on that journey through grief and the challenges that brings.



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



December 2022 Services



IVYBRIDGE

Dec 4	10:30	Revd Amanda Roper Communion
Dec 11	10:30	Phil Walsh
	6:00	Carols in the car park
Dec 18	10:30	Revd Amanda Roper Carol service
	4:00	Revd Amanda Roper Christingle
Dec 24	11:15	Midnight Communion
Dec 25	10:30	Revd Amanda Roper

BITTAFORD

Dec 4	11:00	Revd David Youngs
Dec 11	11:00	Di Smart
	6:00	Carols in the car park
Dec 18	11:00	Carol Service
	6:00	Songs of Praise
Dec 25	11:00	No Service



For someone in prison, Christmas is the most difficult of seasons.

The divide between them and their families can seem too much to bear. Families often struggle financially and their children have very little.

By providing gifts to the children of prisoners, Angel Tree lessens the devastation experienced as a result of parental absence by not only helping families to connect and build relationships, but by providing children with much-needed joy.

Prison
FELLOWSHIP

GET INVOLVED!

Join your local **Angel Tree** team or make a donation.

prisonfellowship.org.uk | 020 7799 2500 | [f](#) [t](#) [@pfenglandandwales](#)

Charity Registered in England & Wales No 1102294. Limited Company Registered in England & Wales No 9001716

Donations to
Lindsay Ellis
or Pam Shead

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.

Well done for continuing to be part of the Bible Book Club at IMC. You now are ready to tackle one of the earliest letters that Paul wrote, one of encouragement to the church in Thessalonica. We will read a chapter a week, that will take us through November and into the first week of December, after which time we will take a well deserved break for the Christmas season.

IMC *Bible* BOOK CLUB



CAROLS IN THE CAR PARK

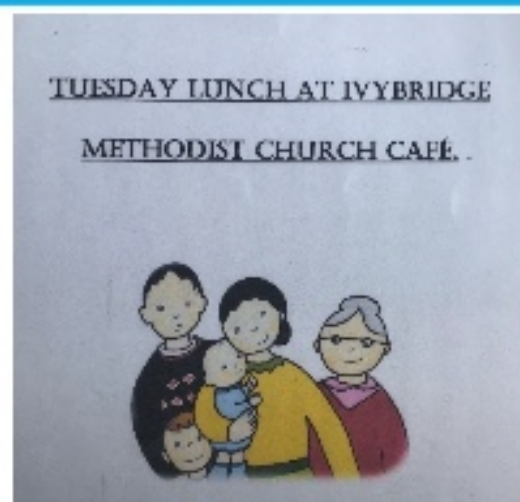
SAVE THE DATE! 'Carols in the Carpark' Dec 11th at 6:00 p.m.

TAIZE SERVICE

There will be a Taize service on Sunday December 11th at 4 p.m. at the Priory.

CHEWSDAYS at IMC

There will be NO LUNCHES on December 27th or January 3rd. Back to normal on January 10th. Christmas blessings to you all, and may 2023 bring happiness and joy.





A new Alpha Course is starting !

Curious about Jesus?

- Whether you know Jesus and want to know more or be refreshed or reacquainted
- Or just curious to know more about Jesus. This is the course to attend.

Come to The Alpha Course at Ivybridge Methodist Church in Fore Street in Ivybridge.

Starting on Wednesday January 18th 2023 until Wednesday March 23rd 2023 each week.

Contact- Rev. Amanda Roper Email - mandaroper@btinternet.com or 01752 651910

The action plan

- 18.30 Arrive at the church
- 18.45. Enjoy a 2 course meal
- 19.30. Watch a video
- 20.00. Break into small groups to discuss the video over tea/ coffee and mints
- 20.45. Come back together to wrap up the session
- 21.00. The end

No payment required . Any donations towards the costs would be welcome

Book Review

Red Moon Rising – by Pete Greig

I came across this book unexpectedly, following up a reference to another book in a recent 'Be Filled' service. One has limited access to content in the 'look inside' facility on Amazon, but I was intrigued to read in the foreword that:

"Red Moon Rising presents the raw power of a loving God and yet it also shows that there can still be pain in our everyday lives..... Our world is waiting for us to love and show God's heart through his powerful presence. As you read Red Moon Rising you'll be blessed and challenged to go into all the world and to let God shine in creative ways."

So I got the book.

The story begins on Cape St Vincent in south west Portugal where Pete Greig was hiking with a friend when he was given a vision of an army of young people arising in countries across Europe. What this vision meant and it's working out was to take some years but eventually resulted in the 24/7 prayer movement.

After travels across Europe Pete subsequently moved to Chichester where a lively and growing church with a focus on young people was established. Life was good with good friends and a young family. However after seven years, despite success in ministry including various invitations to speak internationally, he had a growing sense of restlessness and took off with his wife Sammy and their young son on an extended road trip around Europe. Various encounters were to affect him, from the joy of a visit to Herrnhut, the site of the Moravian church and their hundred years of continuous prayer, to the pain of driving through a Romanian border town and the clear sight of prostitution on the streets. Returning to England they decided to try an experiment on the Moravian model with a 24/7 prayer room. From this simple experiment the prayer rooms – and their approach to spirituality and culture, have spread virally into half the nations across the earth. It has been exciting to read of spiritually hard places where the power of God has demonstrably impacted the lives of the hurting and the lost. There is also a reminder that some mighty people of prayer clearly used by God have faced various difficulties and health challenges, like the rest of us.

I found the book fast paced, exciting and challenging to my attitude to prayer. A quote on the back cover says "Provocative, prophetic and powerful – proof, if you need it that God is on the move". I couldn't agree more.

Reg Marriott



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

- Dec 9th A Christmas celebration, complete with carols, readings and mince pies
- And into the new year:**
- Jan 6th Greeting the New Year with a tea party and, who knows, maybe a puzzle or two!
- Jan 20th The Merry Widow in The Land of Smiles. Tricia shares her love of operetta and her travels in Austria with Operetta Heaven
- Feb 3rd
- Feb 17th Emotional Logic with Dr Marian Griffiths

Judy 894829

Val 893614

Sue 896444

Christine and David 892858

Carole 894676

Maureen 945799

Church Contacts

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Senior Steward:

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Room Bookings:

Pam and John

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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

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