

# IMC NEWSLETTER



IVYBRIDGE  
METHODIST CHURCH

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*'I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*For as the soil makes the young plant come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.'*

Isaiah 61: 10—11

Sharing Life  
Sharing Faith

# *From Amanda...*

Dear Friends,

As we enter March and leave behind the month of February, we can remember February does boast one thing worthy to celebrate – Valentine's Day! Every year on February 14th, a large amount of cards, chocolates and flowers are given to those we love. But did you know that during the Middle Ages, young girls would eat very strange foods with the hope that when they went to sleep, they would dream of their future husband? Well, Valentine's Day was created to celebrate an actual saint named Valentine.

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D, a time when the early Christian church was subjected to significant persecution. Valentine's role was to help Christians to escape persecution, and to provide them the sacraments, such as marriage, which was outlawed by the Roman Empire at that time. While records are scarce, it seems that Valentine was interrogated by the Roman Emperor, Claudius II, who in finding Valentine an erudite, intelligent man, attempted to convert him to Roman paganism. Valentine refused and because of this, he was executed. Legend has it that while he was jailed, he performed a miracle by curing the blindness of Julia, the daugh-



ter of his jailer. Julia and all her father's household came to believe in Jesus Christ and were baptised by Valentine. Further folklore claims that on the eve before Valentine was to be executed, he wrote a card to Julia, with whom he had fallen in love, signing as "Your Valentine".

Here was a priest who loved his Lord so much, he was willing to die for his faith. A sobering thought as we continue our journey through a new year. How much do we love our Lord? To what lengths would we go to stand firm in our faith? May we be reminded this month that we serve a God who gave everything out of love for us, He is our true Valentine.

*'This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him'. (1 Jn 4:9)*

*Christ's blessings,  
Rev Amanda*





## 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**

### News March 2023

As I write this the sun is shining, spring is definitely on its way and the evenings are getting lighter. What joy as the seasons move on again and we see shoots of new life once more.



Life too moves on and for our dear friend June Watson that has meant a move into Ivydene as, after a stay in hospital, she became too frail to move back home. We pray settling in happens smoothly June and that you will enjoy visits from local friends.



Len Abbott is also on the move from his flat at the top of the village into Douro Court. Hope its a smooth move Len and life becomes more settled.

A thanksgiving service was held in February for the life of Lindsey's Mum, Beryl Norman, and was a lovely celebration of an amazing life. Not long after that though the family had another very sad blow when they heard that Lindsey's brother, Mark, had died very suddenly in Australia. We do send much love to you all as you absorb this news and pray you will find strength and peace in being together and in God's everlasting love.

Diana Keates has had a rough time recently with a prolonged spell in hospital and ongoing treatment. We do hope you are improving Diana and are well enough to celebrate your big birthday this month. Many happy returns and a very happy birthday from us all. Sending love for a speedy return to good health and a wonderful day on your birthday.

Stewart Edward has recently had surgery and we pray for a speedy recovery for you Stewart so you can get back to doing the things you love doing!!

Andrew Phillips has recently started a new job and we wish you every success Andy as you find your feet in new surroundings.



Please continue to pray for Simon and Gill and Mary and Trevor as ill health continues to be a challenge and for Terry, Sue and Brian who are also facing health challenges.



# **FEBRUARY 2023**

## **Services**



### **IVYBRIDGE**

<b>Mar 5</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Revd Amanda Roper</b> <b>Communion</b>
	<b>6:30</b>	<b>Circuit worship, Sherwell</b>
<b>Mar 12</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Phil Walsh</b>
	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Revd Amanda Roper</b> <b>'Be Filled'</b>
<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Revd Amanda Roper</b> <b>All age service</b>
	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Gill Cowsill</b>
<b>Mar 26</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Revd Amanda Roper</b>

### **BITTAFORD**

<b>Mar 5</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Revd David Youngs</b> <b>Communion</b>
<b>Mar 12</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Mike Cade</b>
<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Di Smart</b>
<b>Mar 26</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>No Service</b>
	<b>3:00</b>	<b>Revd Amanda Roper</b> <b>"Café church"</b>

### **SAFEGUARDING**

There is a Foundation safeguarding training course on Monday 24th April at 6.00pm at Stoke Methodist Church. If you know that it is more than 5 years since you last did the training and you would be able to attend this please speak to Sara Hladkij.

I am trying to find out whether online courses are still happening which some people would prefer.

### **BEES BABY BANK**

This is to let you know about a new Baby Bank that is being set up in Ivybridge under the auspices of the Salvation Army. It is known as Bees Baby Bank and we are seeking to help needy families in Ivybridge. We are asking for donations of baby equipment, prams, cots, high chairs etc. and clean clothing in good condition for under 5s.

If you are able to knit a cardigan or jumper for a baby or young child, we would be delighted to receive it. Any pattern, any colour would be just great. If you need help with wool or patterns, please contact Christine Treharne on TEL: 01752 892460

Any item would be gratefully received at the Salvation Army, The Bridge, Leonards Road on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

Thank you so much,  
Christine Treharne.

### **ADVENT MARKET**

Although this seems a long way away we need to start thinking and planning now after our long gap.

So, if you are a "Crafter" and have anything you would like to sell come and have a stall at the Market. It's usually the last weekend in November but this will be confirmed. Please spread the word around as we would like a good number of stalls.

Further information call Val on 893614



**Be Filled**

An evening to be refreshed  
by the Holy Spirit



2nd Sunday each month  
**6:00pm**  
Ivybridge Methodist Church

**family**  
WORSHIP SUNDAY



3rd Sunday each  
month  
@  
**10:30am**



Tea and Toast served from 10am

### AmazonSmile

Back in November, IMC was registered to receive donations from Amazon under the AmazonSmile scheme. They have now closed that scheme. Many thanks to those who used the scheme.

### **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 halfway through the morning.

For more information, contact Joy Phillips

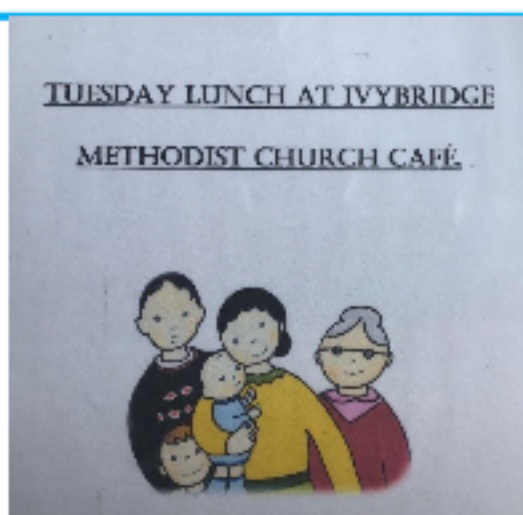


### CHEWSDAYS at IMC

Lunches are back to normal, at 12:30 on Tuesdays.

We are short-staffed, though, and need a volunteer to cook once a month. Volunteers to serve will also be gratefully accepted!

If you can help in either way, please contact Mercy.







## **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](mailto: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

### **Nick and Sar Wakeley in Albania**

Nick and Sar Wakeley have sent us a report of their ministry work in Albania.

*"Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to Ivybridge Methodist Church for their financial support for our ministry and for the food ministry.*

*As requested, we are setting out a brief report of our various mission activities.*

#### *1) Church Planting*

*We continue to plant churches in Xherije village where we live and also in the town of Cërrik, which is about forty minutes drive away.*

*Sar also continues with discipling meetings in three villages.*

#### *2) Humanitarian Help*

*We have recently distributed 120 food boxes received from Germany. We also distribute Christmas shoe boxes to children.*

*Time by time we organise clothes distribution to villagers.*

*We also help people with food and medical needs as these arise and depending on our budget.*

#### *3) Social Media*

*Nick is involved with a daily Bible meditation in Albanian and weekly preaching in Albanian and English on an online church Facebook Live broadcast.*

#### *4) Prayer*

*Sar hosts a monthly night of prayer in our home.*

*Please let us know if you would like any further information, or if you have any questions.*

*With much gratitude,*

*Nick and Sar Wakeley*

*(Missionaries to Albania since 1994)"*

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Every year, Churches Together in Ivybridge celebrate the World Day Of Prayer with an evening service. This year IMC are hosting the service at 7:30 p.m. on Friday 3rd March..

It's a lovely service that highlights the church world-wide. It gives us a chance to become more aware of the needs and blessings of our sisters and brothers throughout the world. It would be lovely if you would join us!



## 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.

### Programme for the Spring and Summer, 2023

March 10 Crafts and activities with Easter in mind.

March 24 A celebration for Easter with IMC Minister Revd Amanda Roper

The Summer dates are April 21, May 5 and 26 June 9 and 23, and July 7

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, we are going to celebrate the Coronation with a programme of music and memories, and a nice tea.

On May 26<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Adam Hart-Davis, to tell the story of the Eddystone lighthouses.

Our annual cream tea is booked for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Buckfast Abbey.

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***

**Senior Steward:**

**Reg Tel: 01752 893614**

**Room Bookings:**

**Pam and John**

**Tel: 01752 894083**

**email: *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

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