

THIS MONTH: APRIL 2008

**RIDGEWAY
METHODIST CHURCH**



Dear Friends

The essential message of Christianity – good news to share

Like the other gospel writers, Luke records the betrayal, sufferings and death of Jesus in considerable detail and before the first part of his work closes includes accounts of several appearances of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. When Luke moves into the second part of his work (the New Testament book that we call 'Acts'), he records the preaching of the Apostles in some detail.

The essential message of the Apostles can be summed up in six points: (1) Jesus was the promised Messiah (or Saviour); (2) The death of Jesus was part of God's plan; (3) God raised him from the dead as he promised; (4) The resurrection of Jesus was witnessed and proved; (5) Jesus is glorified now and in eternity; (6) All must repent and believe in him. Part of the responsibility of Christians today is to make that message known in our society. This does not mean 'Bible-bashing' in the negative sense that puts so many people off the Christian faith. Instead, it means a lively, relevant witness that the message of Jesus has brought hope, purpose and forgiveness into our lives – that's surely good news to share.

Keep up the good work!

I continue to be encouraged with the growth in our Sunday congregations. We hosted an excellent event with Bryn Haworth (where we only just managed to accommodate everyone) and I am pleased that the *Narnia* film went well. I missed taking the Good Friday service but was greatly encouraged by Easter Day. I am pleased to hear that *Christianity Explored* has gone well and I know that my Bible study group and the cell groups will be looking forward to the new term which will begin on the usual day during the week of Monday 21 April. If you would like to join a cell group to read the Bible and pray together then please speak to one of the church stewards. In my Bible study the theme for the coming term will be 'Christian worship' and all are welcome.

Bookstall

I had intended to take my recommendation that we had a small bookstall to the church council. I made provisional arrangements with the supplier but then I was taken ill and the church council was postponed. That did not stop the box of books arriving! I hope you find the selection of books interesting and feel confident that this will be an asset to the spiritual life of the church.

General Church Meeting: Sunday 20 April, 2.00 pm

The General Church Meeting is a time to say thank you to our officers and for everyone to understand some of the opportunities and challenges that the church is facing. Very soon, our church secretary will be making nomination forms available for stewards and church council representatives elected from the General Church Meeting. The six church stewards are corporately responsible with the minister for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the church's life and activity. They are particularly charged to hold together in unity the variety of concerns that are contained within the one ministry of the church. To this end it is their responsibility to uphold and act upon the decisions and policies of the Church Council. If you think you might make a suitable steward or want to suggest someone please speak to Val Foot, our church council secretary, or one of the present stewards. The General Church Meeting also appoints eight representatives to the Church Council. The nomination of younger members is always particularly welcome. People serving on the church council must be full members of the Methodist Church and sign the nomination form.

Who moved the stone?

Some readers might recognise that as the title of an excellent little book by Frank Morison, where he considers the message of Easter and empty tomb. While commending the book to you, I must say that I am only using it as a humorous reference to the fact that I was taken ill quite suddenly on 1 March and diagnosed with a kidney stone the following week. At the moment, the answer to the question is that the stone has not moved, which makes my work-pattern rather hard to plan. However, I am very grateful to all those who have stood in for me during the time of my illness and to our church stewards for sorting so many things out for me. Apart from seasonal ailments, I have not really had a prolonged period off work before – thank you to everyone for your love, prayers, cards and good wishes. I am very much hoping that April is a better month for me than March but we can only wait and see.

Yours sincerely

John Haley

Countdown to the NOISE

Provisional plans are in place for the NOISE weekend this year. The NOISE will be over the first Bank Holiday weekend in May and will include car washing, possible free swim give away, quiz, food, entertainment and a Community Event, including free gift stall on the Bank Holiday Monday (5th) at Castle Green. As part of the NOISE this year we would like to help individuals, in a small way trying to express God's love for them. If you know a neighbour who needs help with shopping, gardening etc. please let one of the young people know. On Saturday 5 April we are hoping to bring a "whisper" of the NOISE with some litter clearing around the St Maurice area and a time of prayer after Recharge (youth celebration). Saturday 26 April is the day for The Squeak with balloons, chocolates and flowers being given away on the Ridgeway. Thank you for all your support and prayer. *Miriam*

April Diary

Tuesday 1:	10.00-12.30 7.30 pm	Patchwork Group "Crosstalk" at Stoke Methodist Church
Wednesday 2:	10.00-12.30 7.00 pm	Coffee followed by lunches Christianity Explored (week 10)
Thursday 3:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Miss Joan Lean
Saturday 5:	8.30 am 10.00-12.00 7.30 pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine & Lydia) Recharge
Sunday 6:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Revd John Haley: Communion Mr Earle Rendle
Tuesday 8:	10.00-12.30 7.30 pm 7.45 pm	Patchwork Group Men's Fellowship: Ken Snelling Presentation Ladies' Group: Bag Beetle
Wednesday 9:	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 10:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Alfreda Rogers
Saturday 12:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Outreach (Pat Stead)
Sunday 13:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Mr Jonathon Libby Dr Phillip Walsh
Tuesday 15:	10.00-12.30 2.15 pm 7.45 pm	Patchwork Group Service at Pocklington Rise (All welcome) Ladies' Group: Keith Mason
Wednesday 16:	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 17:	2.45 pm 7.00 pm	Women's Fellowship: Members Afternoon Flower Group
Saturday 19:	9.15 am 10.00-12.00	Dartmoor Walk Oasis Coffee Bar: Bible Society (Ann Brindley)

Sunday 20:

10.30 am
2.00 pm
7.00 pm

Revd Nathan Fisher
General Church Meeting
Revd John Haley: Communion

Monday 21:

7.30 pm

Minister's Bible Study (Christian Worship 1)

Tuesday 22:

10.00-12.30
7.45 pm

Patchwork Group
Ladies' Group: Julia Walrond (Plymouth Pregnancy
Crisis Centre)

Wednesday 23:

10.00-12.30

Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 24:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Barbara Mills

Saturday 26:

10.00-12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: The Squeak (Miriam, Kim & Steve)

Sunday 27:

10.30 am
7.00 pm

Revd John Haley
Revd Andrew Earl

Monday 28:

7.30 pm

Minister's Bible Study (Christian Worship 2)

Tuesday 29:

10.00-12.30
7.30 pm

Patchwork Group
Men's Fellowship at Elburton: Barbara and Michael Chown
"Armchair walk around Plymouth City Centre"
Ladies' Group: Jim McMullen

Wednesday 30:

10.00-12.30

Coffee followed by lunches

Church office hours:
Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Church telephones: 348178 (office only), 331186 (pre-school and hall)

Church Office: admin@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk
Minister: The Revd John M Haley: min@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk
www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Information for May's *This Month* to the office by 22 April please.