

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: APRIL 2011

Dear Friends

Making the most of every opportunity

How do people these days learn about the Christian faith? The simple answer is 'they don't'. While it has always been important for Christian people to share their faith, in Britain today sharing Christian faith means starting from the very beginning and this undoubtedly requires a working knowledge of the Bible and a lively personal Christian faith of your own.

There's hardly a better time of the year to share our faith with others than Easter. When the Apostles shared their faith it was rooted in the Easter message. Jesus was the Saviour or Messiah that God had promised. The message of Good Friday focuses on the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Forgiveness through his death on the cross is an important part of his saving work but not the only part. The message of Easter Day is that the same Jesus who was laid in the tomb was seen risen and alive by many witnesses first on Easter Day and then for a further 40 days. This resurrection message brings hope and meaning to lives that otherwise might seem both hopeless and meaningless. It is on the basis that Jesus is the victorious king that Christians look for the coming Kingdom of God, inaugurated already but incomplete until Jesus returns in glory. For the meantime, we must all face the challenge of the message of Christ's kingdom and seek to build it, personally, in our own lives, and in our community.

As always, we have a busy Easter programme. On Maundy Thursday (21 April) Women's Fellowship invite the whole church community to join them for a service including Holy Communion at 2.45 pm. That evening at 7.30 pm we share in the traditional Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service. Our Good Friday service is at 10.00 am and later in the day the Treasure Hunt starts at 1.30 pm and concludes with a short service and tea.

Easter Day celebrations begin at 9.30 am with breakfast. Our service at 10.30 am is likely to include one or more baptisms (using our pool) as well as receiving new members and Holy Communion for Easter Day. After some negotiation the Shapla Balti Restaurant has agreed to open that day for those of us who would like to do so to have lunch together. This will also give us a great opportunity to invite guests to the morning service and to lunch. If you would like details please enquire through the office.

Church Council and General Church Meeting

We try to be transparent and open with our administration and minutes of our various administrative meetings are displayed on the notice boards. On Sunday 10 April we will have our General Church Meeting (which will include a short church council) at 2.30 pm. The main purpose of this General Church Meeting is to appoint church stewards and elect eight members to the church council. Anyone can attend these meetings but only members

of the Methodist Church are entitled to vote. Our six stewards are willing to continue to serve for a further year. Other church members may be nominated to the church council. A proposer and a seconder should be present at the meeting and the nominee should either be at the meeting or have agreed to serve. Nomination forms should be completed and returned to the secretary. Appointments begin on 1 May and are for one year. The short church council is to deal with one or two small items that have arisen since the last meeting.

Congratulations and best wishes

With all the bad news in the world at the moment, I am sure that our spirits will be lifted a little with the wedding of HRH Prince William to Catherine Middleton. We offer them our congratulations and prayerful best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Revd John Haley
Minister

Christians Against Poverty – Volunteers required

Spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed' (Isaiah 58:10).

The effects of debt are devastating. Before clients asked for CAP help, nearly three-quarters of them (72%) missed meals with nearly one-third (30%) doing so regularly. Four out of ten (38%) considered or attempted suicide as a way out; three-quarters (74%) visited their GP, with 44% prescribed medication to cope. More than three-quarters (77%) of clients in relationships said that debt affected their relationship, with 28% saying it caused relationships to break down entirely. Can you help?

The Church Council have approved for Ridgeway Methodist Church to run a Christians Against Poverty course for the wider community in Plympton. CAP is the only money management course that also offers world class debt counselling service to delegates. Three volunteers are required to be trained as Money Coaches to deliver this course. The closest venue for this training is Cardiff, and the date is Saturday 21 May. These volunteers will find great support throughout their service from the CAP organisation, so that they can in turn help others in a meaningful way. If you are interested and feel you would like to be involved in this Christian project, please let the stewards know as soon as possible or contact us through the office. Expenses are covered.

Easter Offering.

Over the Easter period everyone will have opportunity to contribute to the Easter Offering for World Mission. Further details of this will be circulated as Easter approaches. Last year we collected over £100 from members of our own church. This year Ridgeway will be hosting the Easter Offering service in May when the gifts are collected from churches in the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit.

Slum Survivor

We are participating again this year, from Friday 8 April to Sunday 10 April. If on Saturday 9 you have any jobs that you would like the young people to do please contact me through the office by Saturday 2 April. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for all of your prayers for this event.


Aimie Doran

April Diary

Friday 1:

7.15 pm Membership Preparation Group (3)

Saturday 2:

	PRAYER CAFÉ Saturday 2 April 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and Breakfast	
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10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)

Sunday 3:

Sunday Services (Mothering Sunday)

10.30 am

Holy Communion - Preacher: Revd John Haley

7.00 pm

Preacher: Mrs Val Marriott

Monday 4:

7.30 pm Minister's Bible Study, Paul's letters (10)

Tuesday 5:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Revd Ian and Margaret Provost
(Oberammergau 2010)

Wednesday 6:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 7:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Alfreda Rogers

Friday 8:

7.15 pm Membership Preparation Group (4)

Saturday 9:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Pre-school (John and others)

Sunday 10:

Sunday Services

10.30 am

Preacher: Revd John Haley

2.30 pm

General Church Meeting

7.00 pm

Preacher: Revd John Haley

Tuesday 12:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

7.30 pm Men's Fellowship: Mrs Marilyn Crabb (Stannators)

7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Major Pam Smith (Easter Message)

Wednesday 13:

10.00 - 12.30

Coffee followed by Lunches

7:30 pm

Fellowship Café



FELLOWSHIP CAFÉ

Wednesday 13 April

7.30 - 9.00 pm

Fellowship preceded by puddings

Thursday 14:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Mrs Prim Skedgell

Saturday 16:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat and Jane)

Sunday 17:

Sunday Services (Palm Sunday)

10.30 am

Preacher: Mrs Janet Dobinson (All - age Worship)

7.00 pm

Preacher: Revd John Haley

Tuesday 19:

2.15 pm

Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)

Thursday 21:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
with an open invitation to all

7.30 pm

Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion)

Friday 22:

10.00 am

Good Friday Service

1.30 pm

Treasure Hunt

Saturday 23:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Funds (Avril and Val)

Sunday 24:

Sunday Services (Easter Day)

9.30 am

Breakfast

10.30 am

Preacher: Revd John Haley (Baptism and Holy Communion)

1.00 pm

Lunch at Shapla Balti Restaurant (book through the office)

7.00 pm

Teaching Café - Revd John Haley



TEACHING CAFÉ

Sunday 24 April

7.00 - 8.30 pm

Teaching and a light supper

Thursday 28:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Mr Ivor Merrin

7.00 pm

Flower Arrangement practice (in the crèche)

Saturday 30:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: The Noise (Simon and others)

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 *This Month* to the office by 19 April.