

THIS MONTH: APRIL 2006

RIDGEWAY
METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

I don't think that Methodists have made much of giving up things for Lent, though I am sure that there are many good reasons for doing so. In churches that follow the rhythm of the Christian year more closely, Lent (like Advent) is a penitential season, a time of fasting and prayer (recalling the forty days that the Lord Jesus spent in the wilderness) from which the idea of giving something up still continues. Recently, I received an unexpected telephone call asking if when you had given something up for Lent you could still have it on a Sunday? If it had been Chris Tarrant ringing I would have thought that I was the friend on a phone a friend lifeline on *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* I seem to recall that those people who give up things for Lent can still have them on Sundays because every Sunday is Easter Day in miniature.

It seems to me then, that although we might not follow the practice of giving up things for Lent, that there are lessons to be learned from those who observe the season. Penitence is not only feeling sorry for sin inwardly but being determined to do some outward act to demonstrate that we are sorry. This does not mean that we need others to see what we are doing to show our repentance (perhaps it is normally better that we do not worry too much about showing others that we are sorry) but that we have the opportunity to demonstrate to God that we are truly sorry. Doing something for God can never make us right with him – Jesus has done that through his dying upon the cross for us – but we can 'produce fruit in keeping with repentance' (Luke 3:8).

I very much like the idea that every Sunday is Easter Day in miniature. When we gather on the Lord's Day, we are affirming that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Believing in his death and resurrection and trusting him for eternal salvation are at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Many of us will have chocolate eggs on Easter Day. I have a sneaking suspicion that those who gave up chocolate for Lent will enjoy theirs even more. I hope you will join with us in the more solemn services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well as our celebration of the Lord's Resurrection on Easter Day.

General Church Meeting, Sunday 2 April 2.00 pm

Our general church meeting appoints church stewards (6) for the coming church year and elects representatives to the church council (8). Written nominations for church steward must be with the minister at least seven days before the meeting. Nomination forms are available from the church council secretary.

Midweek devotional life of the church

The church council decided it was time to review the midweek devotional life of the church and appointed 10 people under the chairmanship of Mike Tozer to bring recommendations as to how the devotional life of the church could go ahead from September. If you have suggestions please write to Mike Tozer so that your ideas can be considered.

God bless you all.

John Haley

Church Office

At the recent Church Council meeting a letter was received from Pat Gorton saying that she was standing down from her position as Administrative Assistant, having worked in that position for the past nine years. Her last working day will be 13 April. This means a considerable change for Pat and the church and we pray that God will bless Pat as she ends this chapter and continues to serve Him as part of the fellowship at Ridgeway.

At the Church Council meeting on 9 March it was decided that the church office needed to be kept open. It was further agreed that as a temporary measure, Catherine Stead would be employed as Administrative Assistant from 18 April—31 August when her time as Outreach Worker ends.

During this time church officers will review what is required of the Administrative Assistant so that the new position can be advertised and hopefully filled by the beginning of September.

Val Foot. Church Council Secretary

Outreach News - update

Good Friday, 14 April - Easter Mystery Tour: follow the clues and collect the information to arrive at the mystery venue for tea. Beginning from the church at 2.00 pm. The cost is £5 per car. More details will be available shortly. If you would like to take part but do not have a car, or have a car and are willing to team up with some passengers, please let me know.

Catherine Stead

The Noise week-end

Noise weekend is happening again this year from 29 April—1 May, with chocolate and balloons being given out the Saturday before on 22 April. We are praying that this weekend will be a blessing to the local community with the young people litter picking, cleaning graffiti, gardening etc. On the Sunday afternoon we are offering a free swim hour - if you know anyone who would appreciate this please let me or one of the young people know. Also if you know of anyone who would like a helping hand with their garden or similar over this weekend please let us know. On the Monday we are hoping to organise a community event at Chaddlewood Farm and a quiz night at church on the Saturday evening. Your prayers would be appreciated as would any donations of mini chocolate bars and gifts for the free gift stall.

Thank you

Miriam

24/7 Prayer 19—26 May 2006

We will be holding a week of 24/7 prayer again from 19—26 May. More details later, but for encouragement please visit www.praywithoutceasing.org.uk

Miriam Sitch

Pastoral Meeting

The Pastoral Meeting scheduled for 4 May has now been postponed until 16 October 2006.

Pastoral Care Course. 29 April 2006

This course offers training in the important role of helping hospital patients make spiritual links, or connections, at what is for many people a time of loneliness and uncertainty. It is an opportunity to express Jesus' mission to bring God's love to those in need.

Applicants are asked to think seriously and prayerfully to consider if they are being led towards a commitment to visit in Mount Gould or Derriford Hospital. For an application form please telephone 0845 1558172. The course is free of charge. Please see notice board for further details. Take a leaflet for more information or speak to Sue Couch.

April Diary

Saturday 1:

- 10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar in support of Mission Outreach. Christine Gregory
- 7.30 pm 'Recharge' All welcome

Sunday 2:

- 10.30 am Revd John Haley. Holy Communion**
- 2.00 pm General Church Meeting, preceded by lunch**
- 7.00 pm Revd John Haley**

Tuesday 4:

- 10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group
- 7.30 pm Crosstalk Circuit Meeting at Stoke
- 7.45 pm Ladies Group—Margaret Talling. Reflexology

Wednesday 5:

- 10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches
- 7.30 pm *Calvary* by Riding Lights (St Mary's Church)
- There will not be a Prayer Meeting in the church.

Thursday 6:

- 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Miss Catherine Stead
- 7.30 pm House Fellowship Group at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst.

Friday 7—Sunday 9

Church community week-end at Treloyhan Manor.

Saturday 8:

- 10.00—12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar in support of church funds. Linda Prynne and Jean Mitchell

Sunday 9: Palm Sunday

- 10.30 am Revd Alan Rothwell**
- 7.00 pm Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson**

Monday 10:

- 7.30 pm Minister's Bible Study.

Tuesday 11:

- 10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group
- 2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise. All welcome
- 7.30 pm Men's Fellowship. Lounge. Lyn Green. Russia
- 7.45 pm Ladies Group—Revd John Haley. Easter Message

Wednesday 12:

- 10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches
- 7.30 pm Prayer Meeting in the church
- 7.30 pm ICES 9 *Writings of John*

Thursday 13: Maundy Thursday

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Service. Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

Friday 14: Good Friday

10.00 am Morning Service for Good Friday. Revd John Haley

2.00 pm Easter Mystery Tour leaving from the church

Saturday 15:

10.00—12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar—Barbara Wagner. Bible Society Action Group

Sunday 16: Easter Sunday

9.30 am Easter breakfast

10.30 am Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

7.00 pm Evening Service. Revd John Haley

Sunday 23:

10.30 am Miss Catherine Stead

7.00 pm Mr Rob Peters

Monday 24:

7.30 pm Minister's Bible Study. New Bible study series begins

Tuesday 25:

7.45 pm Ladies Group

7.30 pm Ministry and Mission Committee

7.30 pm Men's Fellowship meeting at Elburton.

Barbara and Michael Chown. Plymouth Waterfront

Wednesday 26:

10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowships

7.30 pm ICES 10 *Writings of John*

Thursday 27:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Revd Joseph Dickinson

7.30 pm House Fellowship Group at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst.

Friday 28—Monday 1 May

'The Noise week-end'

Saturday 29:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar

2.00 pm Service of blessing, Frank and Jane Torbuck

Sunday 30:

10.30 am Revd John Haley

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Church office hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

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

Minister: The Revd John M Haley: minister@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Outreach Worker: Miss Catherine Stead: outreach@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Administrative assistant: Mrs Pat Gorton: office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Website address: www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Information for May's *This Month* to the office by 25 April please.