

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: AUGUST 2011

Dear Friends

Local mission enabler

After about 18 months of preparation and a due process of applications and interviews, in mid-July, subject to all the usual preliminaries of checks and references, we offered the position to Mrs Rae Nelson. If all the paperwork is completed satisfactorily, we hope that Rae will start work with us in September. Married with two children, Rae spent much of her early life in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, before moving to Plymouth about five years ago. It will take Rae a while to become established in the role which will develop as she settles in. I am confident that she will soon make friends and be an asset to our community. While we are grateful for the support of the Plymouth and Devonport Methodist Circuit with 40% of the finance for the initial appointment, we still need to raise the other 60% ourselves. We appreciate those who previously pledged their financial support and enabled us to have the confidence to go ahead. However, it is not too late to commit to supporting this work financially. To do so, please be in touch with our treasurer, Rachael Granville. Lastly, we all know that while finance is important, it is not enough on its own. Your practical and prayerful support will be vital for Rae and for the overall success of the local mission enabler's appointment.

New sermon series

Over the years I have mainly followed some type of preaching series and have complemented these with my Bible study on a weeknight. This stops me preaching only on my favourite texts and brings some balance to Sunday's sermons. In the Methodist Church we have a variety of preachers as appointed on the circuit plan and, while there is much that is good about this, it can mean that it is difficult to plan a longer series and an easier option is to plan something on one of the shorter New Testament books. As I reflected on my preaching at Ridgeway Methodist Church over the past nine years, I felt it would be important to have a series on the Parables of Jesus.

The Parables of Jesus

One of the problems in preparing a preaching series on the Parables of Jesus is that there are so many parables (even deciding how many there are is difficult as it depends on how you count but one list made it 37). Consequently, to plan to preach on them all would be rather too ambitious. Between August and Christmas, I have 11 morning services at Ridgeway but then the challenge is to know which parables to include and which ones to exclude. In broad terms, there are five sorts of Parables of Jesus. I thought it best to try and balance the various themes and indicate how many parables I will preach on by the number in brackets – prayer (1), the kingdom (1), redemption (2), forgiveness (2) and the last times (3), though some are more difficult to classify (2). The reason that three parables on the last times are included is that consideration of the last times (or in theological language 'eschatology') is an important theme for Advent.

Five year plan

Each church in the Plymouth & Devonport Methodist Circuit is being invited to produce a five year plan to present to our circuit meeting. This will include putting together a vision statement (100-150 words) and looking at our core values. Hopefully we can develop a plan in which we can become, more and more, the vision of what we believe that God would have us be. As we do this, we are asked to produce a mission statement and a programme of action and to sum this up on no more than three sides of A4 paper. While the main responsibility for drawing this up will fall upon a small group, I would like everyone in the church community to have the opportunity to contribute. If you are a member then you will have had a membership card earlier in the year. Take a look at this and see how we are doing and how we might do in the future and if you would like to send us some notes (up to 1000 words) then please do so by 7 August. You can do this on paper or by e-mail through a steward or the office.

As another church year draws to a close, I want to offer my thanks to the stewards and various officers of the church and to members and friends for their support and encouragement. To those who are going away on holiday I wish good travels and a safe return and for those who are staying at home I trust that there will be some sunny weather to enjoy.

Best wishes for the future

Finally, two of our younger members, Antony Kirby and Jennie Tomlinson are getting married on Saturday 27 August at 1.00 pm. We wish them every happiness for the future and God's blessing on their big day.

God bless

John Haley

Minister

easyfundraising.org.uk

There is now a FREE way of raising funds for Ridgeway Methodist Church. If you use your computer to surf the internet or to buy goods or services online, you can now raise funds for Ridgeway Methodist Church without any additional cost.

1. First go to <http://ridgewaymc.easysearch.org.uk>. Check that it says you are raising funds for Ridgeway Methodist Church. You can then make this your home page, after which money will be credited to the church account whenever you search the internet. The money is paid from the fees from the sponsored links.
2. If you wish to shop online, go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ridgewaymc>
 - a. Then to register, click on the Sign Up button and enter your details.
 - b. Next, login using your username / password. This is how the system recognises who you are and which cause benefits when you make purchases.
 - c. Finally, click any of the retailer links provided and then shop just as you would normally do. You will find over 2,000 traders including many household names such as Amazon,

Argos, Tesco, Debenhams, M&S as well as all the major insurance and utilities companies.

Providing you login each time and use the retailer links provided, the site will track all your transactions and pay the church the appropriate donations. It's completely free to register and you won't pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the easyfundraising site.

Many thanks.

Rachael Granville - Treasurer

SHEKINAH

There is a new "To Bless Us" list from Shekinah on the notice board in the vestibule. Please would you support Shekinah's Drop in Centre by buying something on the list. There is a wide variety of items from gravy granules to toothpaste, you may like to give the free item when you buy one get one free. Thank you to those people who have already given very generously. Please put your gift item in the box marked Shekinah found in the vestibule; the box is emptied and the items taken to Shekinah on a regular basis. Thank you.

Sue Couch



August Diary

Thursday 4:

2.00 pm

Women's Fellowship: Garden Party at the home of Mrs Pam Tibbs (6, Ridge Park Road)

Saturday 6:

	PRAYER CAFÉ Saturday 6 August 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and breakfast	
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10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)

Sunday 7:

Sunday Services

10.30 am

Preacher: Revd John Haley - Holy Communion (includes a renewal of vows for Chris and Gill Heaver who are celebrating 25 years of marriage)

7.00 pm

Preacher: Mrs Alfreda Rogers

Saturday 13:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat and Jane)

12.00

Service of Blessing for David and Margaret Manton

Sunday 14:

Sunday Services

10.30 am

Preacher: Revd John Haley (includes the baptism of the twins of Paula and Jon Parnham)

7.00 pm

Preacher: Mrs Kate Konrad

Thursday 18:

2.30 pm Women's Fellowship: Cream Tea - Mrs Janet Dobinson

Saturday 20:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Funds (Avril and Val)

Sunday 21:

Sunday Services

10.30 am Preacher: Mrs Gillian Higgins

7.00 pm Preacher: Revd John Haley - Holy Communion

Saturday 27:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Shekinah (Sue and others)


1.00 pm Marriage of Antony Kirby and Jennie Tomlinson

Sunday 28:

Sunday Services

10.30 am Preacher: Major Pam Smith

7.00 pm Preacher: Revd John Haley - Teaching Café

	<p>TEACHING CAFÉ Sunday 28 August 7.00 - 8.30 pm Teaching and a light supper</p>
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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

Pease submit Information for September *This Month* to the office by 23 August.