

THIS MONTH: AUGUST 2006

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

For John, his sabbatical is (according to the Methodist Guidelines) a time of “renewal, reflection and recreation”. It is a time when Methodist ministers can engage in something new, unusual and special – and we hope that John has been able to do so. Although they are not mentioned in the guidelines, we trust that the same applies to wives and families – and hope that they too have experienced something new and special.

As Leslie Francis, an Anglican priest, says: Methodist ministers should be cared for in all they seek to do, as there are too few of them, doing too many tasks. As he looks at the role of the Methodist minister from the perspective of an “outsider”, there must be some truth there! So, we welcome John back so that we may care for him as he cares for us.

Methodist Guidelines do not lay down the “role of the stewards” – they leave us to find that out for ourselves! We realise how blessed we have been to have a minister with us, leading our worship and encouraging us in so many aspects of Christian life. As stewards, we have also been blessed with a routine for services that we have become used to - and over the last few weeks our visiting ministers and lay preachers have kept us “on our toes”, as we have had to clarify information and answer queries. It is very easy to feel secure and complacent – but it is good to be challenged to follow new routines and to query what we are doing and why we are doing it.

We all need to be encouraged and to move forward, and it is our hope that the coming months may be such a time of encouragement and progression for us all – in the way that is right for each one of us. We hope that the new midweek and outreach groups currently being established will help us to move forward, and to try what may be something ‘new’.

We hope that John will feel refreshed from his time of “renewal, reflection and recreation” and will lead us forward – and that each one of us will be ready to respond positively, and to pursue our faith happily as a community and with others. May we be blessed through worshipful and exhilarated praise.

May the Lord bless each one of us as we seek to move in his service.

The stewards.

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDIES

In September, John Haley intends to start Monday evening Bible studies using the notes from Moore College, an Anglican foundation in Sydney, Australia. It is possible just to do the studies - but also possible to do coursework and work towards a Certificate in Theology as a correspondence course with Moore College. John would like anyone who might be interested in doing this to be in touch with him or with the office. John feels that there are many people within the church who are capable of doing this level of Bible study and hopes that several people will take up this very special opportunity which will equip individuals and the church for a greater depth of Christian service. A sample of the Moore College book has been circulating in the church. If you have not yet had opportunity to see it, and would like to do so, please contact the office or one of the stewards.

COFFEE AND CRECHE - CAN YOU HELP?

At present, we are able to provide parents with crèche facilities to look after their young children on a Sunday morning. We are also able to provide the whole congregation with the opportunity to join together for tea and coffee (and superior biscuits!) after morning worship. We are very grateful to those who help with the crèche; however, it would be helpful to have more people on the rota. The crèche is not required every week, but we do need to have people available each week to help if it is required. At present, those on the rota help out once a month - but, of course, when more people are able to help each person is called upon less frequently. If you are able to help, please speak to Jan Smith. We are also grateful to those who help with providing tea and coffee. Again, all those helping enable the service to continue, and with more volunteers each person is required less frequently. If you are able to help with this ministry, please contact Pat Stead.

HARVEST - 24TH SEPTEMBER

As most of you will know, our harvest thanksgiving at Ridgeway Church supports EuroAid's "Harvest for the Hungry", which helps extremely poor people in eastern Europe to survive the terrible winter. You seem to have taken this cause to your hearts and have given generously year after year, so this year we will be making Harvest Festival special by having a representative from Eurovangelism to speak briefly at our morning service, followed later in the day by a special presentation of the many aspects of their work, and a "faith tea". Eurovangelism only has a team of 7 people (some of them part-time), and works with volunteers and pastors in Eastern Europe - so almost all the help you give goes right to where it is needed. Do come and hear about the wonderful things God is doing, how the good news of Jesus is changing lives, and see what a difference your giving makes. This year there will be miniature "Family Food" boxes for you to put your donations in. If you signed a gift aid form for Eurovangelism last year, please indicate this on your box or cheque. There will be spare forms in the vestibule.

We also support Shekinah mission at harvest time (and throughout the year). If you wish to give to their work you can bring gifts of food, toiletries etc. (please see the list in the vestibule) or put money in an envelope clearly marked "Shekinah" .

Many thanks.
Carol Sharman

TRANSPORT

A number of our congregation require transport in order to join us on Sunday mornings. As well as those who are collected from Pocklington Rise, there are also individuals who need to be collected. Do you have empty seats in your car on a Sunday morning? Would you be willing to join the group of volunteers who enable those requiring transport to worship at Ridgeway? If you are able to help, please speak to Peter Crabb or one of the stewards.

PYRAMID ROCK HOLIDAY CLUB

The *Pyramid Rock* Holiday Club will be running from 29 August to 3 September (10.00 - 12.30) for children aged 4+ and will cost £1 per session.

Please pray for this special week. We hope to meet many new children as well as have old friends revisiting. Donations of buttons, plain bed sheets, and junk for gluing would be appreciated - as well as any Egyptian artefacts. If anyone is able to help during the week (making drinks, tidying up, face painting, general help) please speak to me as soon as possible. Thank you.

Miriam Sitch

TRIP TO BICTON GARDENS - SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

There will be an outing to Bicton Gardens on Saturday 2 September. This is an excellent venue for all ages, with beautiful gardens, extensive grounds, indoor and outdoor play areas and train rides. For more information, please look out for the posters or speak to Miriam Sitch

August Diary

Tuesday 1:

7.30pm *Crosstalk* Circuit Prayer meeting (Stoke)

Saturday 5:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Pat Stead (Church Funds)

Sunday 6 :

10.30 am Mr Andrew Chapple

7.00 pm Mr Andrew Chapple

Thursday 10:

2.30 pm Women's Fellowship: Cream Tea

Saturday 12:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Christine and Peter Gregory (Outreach Mission)

Sunday 13:

10.30 am Revd Dr John Haley (Holy Communion)

7.00 pm Revd Dr John Haley

Saturday 19:

10.00 - 12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar:

Sunday 20:

10.30 am Miss Catherine Stead

7.00 pm Revd Dr John Haley

Saturday 26:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Pat Stead (Church Funds)

Sunday 27:

10.30 am Revd Dr John Haley

7.00 pm Revd Dr John Haley



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

**Church telephones:
348178 (office only)
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Minister: The Revd John M Haley: minister@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

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

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Information for September's *This Month* to the office by 24 August please.