

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: DECEMBER 2011

Dear Friends

Just imagine...

Operation World Rescue

Objective: To rescue people from their self-centredness and rejection of the Almighty One.

Method: Direct divine intervention. Under codename 'Jesus', enter world as baby, born to teenage girl in downtown Bethlehem.

Contacts: 1. Girl Mary & fiancé Joseph – recommend personal visits by special agents to persuade them to join in operation.

2. Shepherds – lowlife locals – send a company of agents under cover of dark to inform them of time and place of the 'arrival' in Bethlehem. They should then want to spread news of the event in the locality.

3. Senior Persian Government Advisers – convince them that a special king is coming and lead them to the location by astral navigation. Their status and influence may be relied on to inform international leaders of the importance of this

Evaluation of Operation World Rescue

Your Divine Majesty

Thank You for permitting me to assess Your plans for this mission and Your command that I be frank in my evaluation. I humbly offer the following observations for Your Almightyness' urgent consideration:

1. Your plans contain a serious flaw. Considering Your objective, there is too much reliance on the assistance of some earthlings in Your planning. If they are so weak and bad, why use them in their own rescue? It is illogical!
2. Choosing an unmarried girl to be 'mother' of Your Divine Incarnated Self would be bound to have negative repercussions, leading to a rejection of Yourself as illegitimate, and, therefore, not to be considered as the 'Son of God' at all.
3. The girl's fiancé would most likely terminate his contract to marry her and that would scupper the whole idea.
4. Including lower class, illiterate shepherds could easily misfire as there's no knowing how they would respond to any proposed nocturnal visitation by our agents.

5. We may be feeling as if our future is uncertain. It is in such times that God does speak There's a local king a few miles from Bethlehem in Jerusalem. One of our agents informs me that he is a real nasty, seeing threats to his position everywhere, even in his own family! He could hear about Your mission and try to neutralise it.

Evaluation Conclusion With my greatest respect, Your Divine Majesty, I urge you strongly to reconsider. With all the Almighty Power and resources available to You, why rely on unpredictable earthlings? Just rely on Your Super Power to get the job done!

MEMO from His Divine Majesty, King of the Universe etc etc

Nothing is impossible with Me. The 'foolishness' of God is stronger than man's strength. I choose the lowly things of this world and the despised things to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before Me. Let him who boasts boast in the Lord!

[1 Cor 1:25,27-9]

Just imagine a bit deeper what Christmas is really about as you read the Bible accounts.

May you have a wonderful Christmas!

Nigel Graham

(One of our Circuit Local Preachers and a regular visitor at Ridgeway Methodist Church)

Message

At this time of busyness as we prepare for Christmas, our blessings, prayers and thoughts are with John Haley, Janet and the family as John plans his return to us following his time away. May Christmas be a time of blessing for you all.

The stewards.

Singers

If you enjoy singing and would like to join us for our Christmas services please let us know or come to music practice at 7.30 pm each Thursday - it is always good to have people who can lead the congregation as we sing. Christmas songs are well known, but it is still good to have someone to lean on.

Pat Stead - Music Co-ordinator

Methodist Fund for World Mission

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the World Mission Fund via the collection boxes. A total of £769.55 was raised to support the excellent work of this mission around the world. As usual there will be the opportunity (in December) to send Christmas greetings to your friends at Ridgeway by placing a card on the tree in the foyer and making a donation to the above fund. You could put a donation in an envelope marked "World Mission Fund" and give to me or the stewards.

Beth Saunders - World Mission Treasurer

December Diary

Thursday 1:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Brenda Youngs

Saturday 3:

	PRAYER CAFÉ Saturday 3 December 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and breakfast	
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10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)

Sunday 4:

Sunday Services

10.30 am Preacher: Revd John Haley - Holy Communion

7.00 pm Preacher: Mr Chris Sturley

Monday 5:

7.30 pm Minister Bible Study (10)

Tuesday 6:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Revd Alison Richardson (Christmas Message)

Wednesday 7:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 8:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Miss Catherine Stead

Saturday 10:

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

3.00 pm Messy Church

Sunday 11:

Sunday Services

10.30 am Preacher: Revd David Youngs

6.00 pm Preacher: Revd John Haley

Candlelit Carols with Pre-school Nativity

Tuesday 13:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

7.30 pm Men's Fellowship: Mr Reginald Wood (Supper/Quiz)

7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Members Evening (Name that Christmas Song)

Wednesday 14:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Christmas Lunch

Thursday 15:

11.00 am Pre-school Nativity

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Carol Service

Saturday 17:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat and Jane)

Sunday 18:

Sunday Services

10.30 am Preacher: Revd John Haley

5.30 pm Procession from St Stephen's Place

6.00 pm Preacher: Revd John Haley - Candlelit Carols for all ages

Tuesday 20:

2.15 pm Carol Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)

Wednesday 21:

4.30 pm Christingle Service for all ages

Saturday 24:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Food Bank (Women's Fellowship)

Sunday 25:

Christmas Day Services:

10.00 am Preacher: Miss Catherine Stead - Carols for all ages

6.00 pm Preacher: Revd John Haley

Candlelit Carols with light refreshments

Saturday 31:

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

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

Local Mission Enabler: Mrs Rae Nelson: mission@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

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Pease submit Information for January 2012 *This Month* to the office by 20 December.