

THIS MONTH: DECEMBER 2006



RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Friends

The appliance of science

A mathematician explained to me why each year seems to go more quickly as you get older. The year between nine and ten years old is one-tenth (10%) of your life but the year between 49 and 50 years old is one-fiftieth (2%) of your life – well, it convinced me! One thing I do know is that this past year has gone quickly.

The New Year had only just begun and a group of us were off to the cinema to see the new *Narnia* film. Later in January, Mr Gary Streeter, MP, was the speaker at the New Country Inn for the first outreach event of the year. For our day away at Hampton Manor we were joined by Colin Salter and we had two other Saturdays doing *Walk Thru the Bible*. In the spring we had concerts with Bryn Haworth and Marilyn Baker and we supported *Calvary* by Riding Lights at St Mary's. As well as hosting the Plympton Churches' Prayer Festival, we took part in the Methodist 24/7 prayer and launched our own *Whole Church Prayer Initiative* and later our new monthly prayer meeting.

At the beginning of April we held our church weekend away at Treloyhan Manor while at the end of the month our young people organised *The Noise* weekend. A successful Dartmoor Walk and Quiz Night were just two of the further outreach events. We held three midweek celebrations, the first two with Plymouth's new Baptist ministers, Andy Caldwell (Mutley) and Glen Graham (Salisbury Road). At the third midweek celebration we shared with Gunter Bareis and the 17 young German visitors, as part of their busy week with us. We used the candle that had been given to us as a sign of peace and friendship in our Remembrance Day Service. Later in November we welcomed about 60 members of bereaved families to our Memorial Service, some who had travelled from as far away as Southampton to be with us for the evening. Our special guest was Dr Sheila Cassidy representing the charity *Jeremiah's Journey*.

The special events and services supplemented our very busy regular programme, working with and reaching out to all ages. Many new people have visited the church in the course of the year and several of these have settled with us. In the autumn we received five new members. Our new cell network

is now running and over 50 adults are attending a midweek cell group (there is a separate programme for teenagers and young adults).

As the year draws to a close I want to thank everyone who has offered great support to these events and to the worship, ministry and mission of the church. Special thanks are due to the church stewards for all their work and, in particular, for the help they give to me. We have a core of about 40-60 people who support most of the things we do but we very much want that core to grow. December is a busy month but people will be working hard with publicity and organising all the services and events that are real opportunities to bear witness to Jesus. We are sending our community Christmas card out again this year and hope that everyone will take the opportunity to invite family and friends to our Christmas services. God bless you in the month ahead and into the New Year.

John Haley

December Diary

Friday 1 :

7.30 pm Stewards' Meeting

Saturday 2:

8.30 am Monthly Prayer Meeting

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

6.30 pm Safari Supper

Sunday 3:

10.30 am Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)

7.00 pm Mr Chris Sturley

Monday 4:

7.30 pm Moore College Bible Study (9)

Tuesday 5:

10.00-12.00 Patchwork

7.30 pm Ladies' Group : Concert by 'Reflections' and Laura Youth Band

Wednesday 6:

10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 7:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship (Sue Couch)

Friday 8:

6.30 pm Men's Fellowship Christmas Meal

Saturday 9:

10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar

Sunday 10:

10.30am Deacon Ruth Richey

6.00 pm All-age carol service (Candlelit) : Revd John Haley

Monday 11:

7.30 pm Moore College Bible Study (10)

Tuesday 12:
 10.00-12.00 Patchwork
 7.45 pm Ladies' Group : Carol Service (Revd John Haley)

Wednesday 13:
 12.00 noon Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14:
 10.30 am Pre-School Christmas Celebration
 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship : Carols (Revd John Haley)

Saturday 16:
 10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Outreach (Pat Stead)

Sunday 17:
10.30 am Mrs Janet Dobinson
6.00 pm Favourite carols by candlelight : Revd John Haley

Monday 18:
 7.30 pm Cell group leaders' meeting

Tuesday 19:
 10.00-12.00 Patchwork Group

Wednesday 20:
 4.30 pm Christingle service

Saturday 23:
 10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Miriam, Steve and Kim)

Christmas Eve:
10.30 am Revd John Haley
11.15 pm Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
There is no early evening service on Christmas Eve

Christmas Day:
10.00 am Revd John Haley

Saturday 30:
 10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Funds (Jean Edwards)

Sunday 31:
10.30am Mr Mark Pellow
6.00 pm Miss Catherine Stead (Candlelit)

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

(please note all the times)

Sunday 10 December, 6.00 pm

All-Age Candlelit Celebration

Procession from the Co-op starts at 5.30 pm

Sunday 17 December, 6.00 pm

Favourite Carols by Candlelight

A timely reminder of all that's best about Christmas

Wednesday 20 December, 4.30 pm

Christingle

A seasonal service for all ages.

Christmas Eve, 11.15 pm

Holy Communion

In the still of the night - Christ is born!

Christmas Day, 10.00 am

All-age service for Christmas Day

"Today a Saviour is born - Christ the Lord"

Sunday 31 December, 6.00 pm

Candlelit service for New Year's Eve

"When they saw the child ... they worshipped him"

Church office hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Church telephones:

348178 (office only)

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