

THIS MONTH: FEBRUARY 2010

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

Teaching Café

Our first Teaching Café was a great success and even those who were a little apprehensive before they came remarked how much they had enjoyed the evening. We split our Bible readings into four parts. After the first part, a light supper was served. After the third part, cake and tea or coffee were served. Between parts two and three, groups at the tables were able to discuss some issues relating to the main topic of the evening. As well as the teaching, everyone benefited from the experience of being together in a more informal context. As always, Andrew Stead prepared an excellent presentation for the data projector and the work of the catering team was very much appreciated. We are looking forward to the second Teaching Café on Sunday 28 February – if you are undecided as to whether you might come, why not ask one of nearly 50 people came last time? At the time we made the circuit plan for the coming month we had not even thought of having a Teaching Café on the fourth Sunday evening of the month. Consequently, our next evening communion service will be a week earlier on Sunday 21 February.

Prayer Café

Although I have had a substantial input into the preparations and arrangements for the Teaching Café, other members of our church community are taking responsibility for the Prayer Café. The first of these will be held on Saturday 6 February at 8.30 am and last for about one hour. I cannot tell you any more about it as I don't know myself – but I am looking forward to it and hope that members of the church community will support it and make a special effort to come.

Evangelism, Fellowship and the Breaking of Bread

It is our vision to extend the café format to include Fellowship and the Breaking of Bread as well as continuing to use it for evangelism and outreach. One of the great things about the café style church is that it gives so many people the opportunity to be involved. If you would like to help then please speak to one of the stewards who will only be too pleased to hear from you.

Promise to Fulfilment

On Monday evenings at 7.30 pm in school term time we continue to work away at the courses prepared by Moore College, an Anglican foundation in Sydney (Australia). We normally sing four or five songs from *Songs of Fellowship*, have a short time of prayer and then move on to the study topic for the evening. No prior knowledge is expected or assumed. We aim to conclude at 9.00 pm with tea or coffee and superior biscuits. If you have never been, please be assured of a warm welcome (we are not meeting on Monday 15 February, half-term).

Enrolment Sunday

It was wonderful to see the church packed to overflowing for Enrolment Sunday, the morning service where we rededicate the Boys' and Girls' Brigade Companies. We were pleased to welcome and commission new staff and new Boys and Girls. If you feel that you have something to offer to either company, please speak to the Captain, to me or to one of the church stewards. Furthermore, both companies are pleased to welcome new recruits. The service was enhanced by the contribution of our Young People's Music Group (YP Band, as I call it). Not only does the YP Band play well but also it is good to see young people taking part and being involved in the life of the church, especially when so many churches have no young people. Between now and the summer the YP Band will play on the third Sunday evening and fourth Sunday morning of each month. The quiet support and encouragement of their leaders is bearing fruit but the whole church community must be committed to involving new and young people in the life of the church.

Songs and hymns at Ridgeway Methodist Church

Unlike our friends in some other churches, Methodists only say one of the Creeds occasionally rather than weekly. Traditionally, it was felt that we sang our beliefs in the hymns of Charles Wesley but patterns of singing in Sunday services are changing. With so many items to choose from *Songs of Fellowship* (Vols 1-4) and *Hymns and Psalms*, visiting preachers are given a core list of songs and hymns to help them plan the service. The end of January marks the end of the copyright year and is the time when we review what we have been singing in the past year and look to include new items. If there is a song from *Songs of Fellowship* that you want to recommend then please do speak to me about it.

Annual appointments

Finally, we are approaching the time of year when we make our annual appointments. We know that we shall need to appoint both a new treasurer and new secretary to the finance and property committee. The committees are well organised and purposeful but it is always good to have new people serving on them and taking up various responsibilities. Please pray for the appointments and seek God's guidance as to how you might serve him, in the church and in the world.

God bless



John Haley

CARE FOR THE FAMILY

Hear Rob Parsons give you the inside track into understanding teenagers - on Wednesday 3 March (7.30 pm) at the Holiday Inn, Armada way. Tickets £5 each for 4 or more in a group, single tickets £6 each. To book, please see Sue Couch.

February Diary

Monday 1:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study (Promise to Fulfilment, 4)
Tuesday 2:	10.00 - 12.00	Patchwork Group
	7.45 pm	Ladies' Group: Mr Andrew Hill (Hospital Radio)
Wednesday 3:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Thursday 4:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Revd David Young
Friday 5:	7.30 pm	The Lyfe Bible study (in the lounge)
Saturday 6:		

	<p>PRAYER CAFÉ 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and Breakfast</p>	
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	10.00 - 12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lidia)
Sunday 7:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Revd John Haley (Holy Communion) Mrs Kate Konrad
Monday 8:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study (Promise to Fulfilment, 5)
Tuesday 9:	10.00 - 12.00	Patchwork Group
	3.00 pm	Cake café
	7.30 pm	Men's Fellowship: Ridgeway Methodist Church
	7.45 pm	Ladies' Group: Mr John Fildew (Visit to China)
Wednesday 10:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
	7.30 pm	The Lyfe Bible study (in the lounge)
Thursday 11:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Mr Peter Hayden-Davies
Saturday 13:	10.00 - 12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Bible Society (Ann and others)
Sunday 14:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Revd John Haley Miss Judith Walker
Monday 15:		No Minister's Bible study (half-term)
Tuesday 16:	10.00 - 12.00	Patchwork Group
	2.15 pm	Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
Thursday 18:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Mr Peter Gregory
	7.00 pm	Flower arranging practice (in the crèche)

Saturday 20:

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

Sunday 21:

10.30 am Mr Brian Hart
7.00 pm Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)

Monday 22:

7.30 pm Minister's Bible study (Promise to Fulfilment, 6)

Tuesday 23:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
3.00 pm Cake café
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship: Elburton Methodist Church
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Ridgeway Young People (Slum Survivor)

Wednesday 24:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 25:

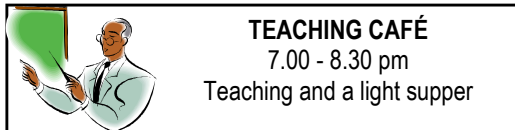
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: TBA

Saturday 27:

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

Sunday 28:

10.30 am Revd John Haley
7.00 pm Revd John Haley (Teaching Café)



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

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Information for March *This Month* to the office by 23 February please.