

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: JANUARY 2011

Dear Friends

Make 2011 your 'Year of the Bible'

The translation of the Bible into English from the original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) is one of the most significant events in British History. There were several early English translations but in 1611 King James 'authorised' a translation of the Bible for use in churches throughout the land. To celebrate the 400th anniversary of this Bible there are a number of *Biblefresh* initiatives and starting on 1 January 2011 the challenge before us is to read the whole Bible in one year. This will take about 15 minutes each day.

While it does not matter too much which Bible you choose to read, it is probably best to read an up-to-date translation. In church we use the *New International Version*. A newer and very good modern translation is the *English Standard Version* and for children, people who are not regular readers or those who have English as a second language, it is hard to beat the *Good News Bible*. There are several lists of daily readings but the chronological list, which arranges the story of the Bible in more or less the order that it happened, from *Scripture Union* <http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com/> is included with this month's newsletter. If you do not receive a list of readings or would like extra copies please contact the church office.

Our friends in the Cornwall District are offering weekly e-mail digests on this list prepared by my friend, Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson, at Truro Methodist Church. If you would like to receive these please e-mail minister@truromethodist.org.uk It might be possible to make these available to people who are not on e-mail – please enquire through the church office.

Thank you for supporting our Christmas events

Like last year, it seems that the difficult weather conditions were a significant factor in attendance at our special Christmas events. Nevertheless, sincere thanks to all who helped make Christmas in church special. Sincere thanks also to those who sent personal Christmas greetings to me and my family.

How did you become a Christian?

A lot of Christians will rightly want to answer this question in terms of believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, repenting of sins and resolving to obey Christ and serve him in the life of the church and of the world. Of course, that is true but in the story that people give of their coming to faith (testimony) there are often two factors that are highly significant. The first is the influence of a key person in the role of witness, who is prepared to share personal faith and to encourage someone else to find out more about Jesus Christ, particularly by reading the Bible. The second is often attendance at a Christian meeting or joining a course, which will present a challenge. While I am a great believer in evangelism through special events, the very fact that such events are 'special' should indicate that these are additional to

our regular programme. God uses individual believers to witness to their marriage partners, children (sometimes parents too), work colleagues and friends. One of the most commonly asked questions at this time of year is 'did you have a good Christmas?' Hopefully, in answering, a Christian can find an opportunity to witness, to take the conversation further, to encourage someone else to read the Bible and to invite that person to something at the church. We devalue the place of our Sunday services if we do not see these as evangelistic events. We should prayerfully invite more people to come to our Sunday services and special events – we might be pleasantly surprised at the outcome.

Safeguarding Training

All workers with children and young people and all workers with vulnerable adults (which therefore includes pastoral visitors) must have an up-to-date Enhanced CRB disclosure and attend a session of Safeguarding Training. You can choose any one of the following sessions: Tuesday 8 February (Stoke), Tuesday 15 February (Stoke), Monday 21 February (Ridgeway) and Wednesday 2 March (Ridgeway) and each session will last from 7.00 to 9.30 pm. Advance booking is essential through the circuit office by telephone (551514) or better still by e-mail office@plymouth-methodist.org.uk Additional sessions (not necessarily at these venues) will be held later in the year but do please book early if at all possible. Unfortunately, for people working with children and/or vulnerable adults attending a session is compulsory not optional and everyone will be expected to have attended a session by the end of June.

Ridgeway organ news

In the spring, Tony Hollick, who was helping us out by playing for a special service, made a note in the organ tuning book that at greater volume the organ was not holding the note and asked the tuner if anything could be done about this. The organ was tested and the tuner recommended the 50-year old motor be replaced with a newer more powerful reconditioned motor. This work was put in hand in early December but unfortunately a capacitor on the motor failed and the motor had to be taken away and could not be refitted until after our first carol service. With the remote console, another electrical fault arose (preventing closure of the swell box) – an inconvenience to our organists but hopefully only a temporary one.

Greetings from Fiona in Chemnitz, Germany

Hello everyone. The first four months in Germany at Chemnitz have been great. I am in Gottenheim with Nicola and her family for Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has sent cards. Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to you all.

God bless

John Haley

Finance update

Firstly, I am pleased to report that the church water leak has been fixed. The repair bill was lower than we had budgeted and we also received a £200 leak allowance rebate from South West Water. We hope to see a reduction in our water bills going forward. Thanks to all those who helped to resolve this issue. *Easyfundraising* - a new **FREE** way of raising funds for the 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. 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. If you wish to shop online, go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ridgewaymc>. Here you will find over 2,000 traders including many household names such as Amazon, Argos, Tesco, etc. (If you go there from the link on easysearch, you will need to click "Find a cause", type "Ridgeway" and choose Ridgeway Methodist Church). Then, use the search facilities to find the trader you want and place your order in the usual way. Your contract will be with the trader in the normal way, but the trader will make a charitable donation and easy fundraising will be allocated it to the church. It's completely free to register and you won't pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the easyfundraising site.

Rachael Granville - Treasurer

January Diary

Sunday 2:

10.30 am
7.00 pm

Revd John Haley - Covenant Service
Miss Catherine Stead

Wednesday 5:

10.00 - 12.30



Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 6:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Revd John Haley

Saturday 8:

	PRAYER CAFÉ 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and Breakfast	
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10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)

Sunday 9:

10.30 am
7.00 pm

Revd David Hull
Revd John Haley

Tuesday 11:

10.00 - 12.00
7.30 pm
7.45 pm

Patchwork Group
Men's Fellowship: Carpet Balls
Ladies' Group: Members' Evening - Spring Beetles

Wednesday 12:

10.00 - 12.30
7:30 pm

Coffee followed by Lunches
Fellowship Café

Thursday 13:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Major Pam Smith

Saturday 15:

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

Sunday 16:

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

Tuesday 18:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm Ladies' Group: Christmas Meal - Boringdon Park Golf Club

Wednesday 19:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 20:

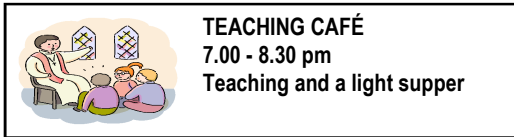
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Barbara Mills

Saturday 22:

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

Sunday 23:

10.30 am Revd John Haley - Parade Service (all welcome)
7.00 pm Revd John Haley - Teaching Café



Tuesday 25:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Mrs Judy Pride - Little Harbour

Wednesday 26:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 27:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Songs of Praise

Saturday 29:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: World Mission (Beth and others)

Sunday 30:

10.30 am Revd John Haley
7.00 pm Mrs Alfreda Rogers

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 February *This Month* to the office by 25 January.