

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: JULY 2010

Dear Friends

I had a dream

For a whole month, the eyes of the world have been on South Africa. I had a dream that England played Germany in the World Cup Final. In the final, with two minutes remaining and with England winning by two goals to one, Germany were awarded a penalty. The German captain stepped forward to take the penalty – his powerful shot crashed against the crossbar and bounced down to the goal line – but which side of the line? The referee looked across to the linesman – no goal! England had won!

We can all dream!

The dreams of some people have been greater than mine. Here's a dream from the Atlanta-born preacher, Dr Martin Luther King.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that [all men are created equal](#).'"

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood."

The World Cup was opened with a speech by President Nelson Mandela. It does not seem so long ago that Nelson Mandela made the long walk to freedom. I remember very clearly going home after the morning service on 11 February 1990 to watch 71 year old Nelson Mandela leave the notorious Robben Island Prison. After 27 years in prison in 1993 he shared the Nobel Peace Prize with President F. W. de Clerk for their peaceful efforts to bring a non-racial democracy to South Africa. The following year black South Africans voted for the first time, electing Mandela their president. For the World Cup to be in South Africa, and for Mandela to issue the welcome, was beyond our dreams.

The powerful words of Martin Luther King are well-known around the world but the words of Nelson Mandela at his trial in 1964 are less well-known:

"The ideological creed of the ANC is, and always has been, the creed of African Nationalism. It is not the concept of African Nationalism expressed in the cry, 'Drive the White man into the sea.' The African Nationalism for which the ANC stands is the concept of freedom and fulfilment for the African people in their own land.

“During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

Although they were born and lived thousands of miles apart, it seems clear to me that the dream, the vision, and the message proclaimed were much the same. The vision and the willingness to die for the message unite the two great men.

If we must learn anything from the history of the last century, one of the most important things to learn is the power of the spoken word. In Great Britain, in my life-time, there has been some embarrassment about the importance of preaching but Jesus and Apostles (as the Prophets before them) were committed to preaching the good news. Jesus came into the world proclaiming:

“The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”
(Mark 1:15)

As the Gospel story unfolds we discover the nature of the King and his Kingdom, wonderfully summed up in the song by Graham Kendrick.

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.

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Church membership

In September I hope to run a short series of four sessions exploring church membership. Different churches have various ways of belonging and our way is by being counted as a church member. If you attend regularly, trust in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and receive holy communion with us, we would like to invite you to consider joining the church in a more formal way. If you have not been baptised or would like to consider a renewal of your baptism (by total

immersion) then please speak to me about this. If you are already a member, think about how you might encourage others to express their faith in this way.

God bless

John Haley

PRAYER CAFÉ

The next prayer café is on Saturday 3 July - food will be served from 8.15 am in the main hall followed by a time of prayer. The focus this month will be on God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. Prayers will be centred on thanksgiving, giving concerns to God, spending time with Jesus and listening to the Holy Spirit.

ROCKY'S PLAICE

This year's holiday club takes place from Monday 9 - Friday 13 August (9.30 am-12.00). Anyone able to help please speak to Miriam as soon as possible. Children are already booked in! Donations of buttons and check tablecloths would be appreciated.

NETWORK LUNCH

On Friday 30 July (12.00 for 12.30 pm) there will be a Network lunch held at our church with guest speaker Revd Simon Leigh. If anyone would like to come please see Pat Stead for tickets. In addition, if people are able to help by preparing food on the day please contact Pat or Muriel Duerden.



July Diary

Thursday 1:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Mrs Sheila Merrin

Saturday 3:

	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 4:

10.30 am

Revd David Hull & Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)

7.00 pm

Mr Brian Hart

Tuesday 6

10.00 - 12.00

Patchwork Group

3.00 pm

Cake café

7.45 pm

Ladies' Group: Mr David Prowse (Poetry & Stories of Childhood)

Wednesday 7:

10.00 - 12.30

Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 8:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Mrs Dawn Getley

Friday 9:

7.00 pm

Flower arranging practice (in the crèche)

Saturday 10:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat and Jane)

Sunday 11:

10.30 am **Revd Roger Beck**
7.00 pm **Major Pam Smith**

Tuesday 13:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
3.00 pm **Cake café**
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: House Group - at the home of Barbara Parr

Wednesday 14:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
7.30 pm **Fellowship Café**

Thursday 15:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Garden Party

Saturday 17:

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

Sunday 18:

10.30 am **Mr Colston Swift**
7.00 pm **Dr Philip Walsh**

Tuesday 20:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
3.00 pm **Cake café**

Thursday 22:

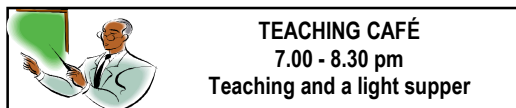
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Judith Goodridge

Saturday 24:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Miriam and others)

Sunday 25:

10.30 am **Major Pam Smith**
7.00 pm **Teaching Café (Guest speaker Revd David Hull)**



Tuesday 27:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

Thursday 29:

7.00 for 7.30 pm Meal with a Message (speaker Arnot Bridges) at Friary Manor
Hotel - please enquire through the office for further details.

Friday 30:

12.00 for 12.30 pm Network Lunch for the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit

Saturday 31:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar

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

www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Information for August *This Month* to the office by 27 July please.