

THIS MONTH: JULY 2006

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

Most of you will know that Janet, Fiona, Michael and I spent just over two weeks in New Mexico, first at Santa Fe and then at Tijeras (tee-hair-as) in the East Mountains, just outside of Albuquerque. It is impossible to tell you everything that we were able to do but I think that one of the days that we enjoyed the most was at the home of Robbie Bohks.

The great challenge in Robbie's life is overcoming the injuries and disabilities that he suffered in a serious motor accident when the car in which he was riding as a passenger was hit by a drunk driver. Robbie's great passion in life is horses. Robbie currently has three horses, Teardrop (a lively mare), Sizzling Doll (a horse that he is nurturing back to health after she had been ill-treated) and his favourite, Isme. Robbie has a great sense of humour and explained that he knew that in the Bible it said "Whoa, Isme" (Isaiah 6:5). Robbie kindly invited us to his home at Edgewood and his friend, Cheryl, brought over two of her less lively horses, Honey and Nikki, for us to groom and ride. It was scorching hot and a fabulous day. We all learned a lot from Robbie and at the end of the day he offered a prayer thanking God for giving him patience with people that had never ridden. His prayers were answered.

After Janet and the children returned home I took up some of my responsibilities at Mountainside United Methodist Church. I preached at an early Sunday morning service and two people came (it was not my fault as they did not know that I was due to be the preacher). I spoke at a convention at Carlisle Plaza United Methodist Church in Albuquerque and had some other interesting experiences. The very best part of my stay was making friends with my generous hosts Fran and Karol Nimick and their daughters Kathleen and Aileen.

Mountainside is a predominantly elderly church with a main morning service congregation of about 100 people. The worship is formal. There are no modern worship songs and most of the hymns are set to Victorian tunes. There are few midweek activities. The regular pastor at Mountainside has been away a lot recently with his responsibilities as a reserve Chaplain with the US Navy. Consequently, he had not had time to prepare the full programme for me that I was anticipating and obviously did not want me taking services and other responsibilities which would stifle his ministerial role in his own church. Therefore, after consulting with the Chairman of the Plymouth and Exeter District, I made quick change of plan and at the end of my second week, after the week of children's soccer coaching that I had agreed to do and very much enjoyed, I made arrangements to visit my friends in Oklahoma and Texas. In the south of Oklahoma, not far from the Red River which marks the state boundary with Texas, I renewed my friendship with Tom and Connie Orr, who were my first hosts when I visited their church in 1999.

I loved every minute of my time with them when I was visiting pastor and was glad to see them again. I went on to visit Lawrence Jones, who I first met in 1994 when he was working with the MV Anastasis, one of the Mercy Ships. Fearing for his well-being on a planned journey overnight from Cardiff to London Gatwick Airport, I offered to take Lawrence, who likes my calling him "Mr Arabia", to meet Debby his wife and their children and so rescued him from the perils of driving on the left. Lawrence is now with an evangelical organisation, "Sharing Ministries International", and I was interested to learn more of his current work. They make extensive use of the Jesus Film and I was pleased to tell him that we had shown this at Ridgeway.

I know you will all be pleased to hear that I have been able to keep up with the World Cup while I have been away. My next port of call is home before I take a short trip to Germany towards the end of July where I am preaching at Heubach Lutheran Church (in English!). The week during which most of you will be reading this is the week of the Methodist Conference in Edinburgh. Do pray for the Conference, especially on the Tuesday of Conference week, and trust that the Conference makes God-honouring decisions on many of the difficult matters that it must address.

God bless.

John

METHODIST FUND FOR WORLD MISSION BOXES

Would those holding World Mission boxes please let me have them before August, as all monies will need to be counted and banked before 31 August. I am away Sunday 15 and Sunday 23 July. I am happy to collect boxes - just ring me! Anyone who would like to give to this fund, please ask me for a box. Thank you .

Beth Saunders

July Diary

Saturday 1:

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

7.30 pm Recharge

Sunday 2 :

10.30 am Revd Stephen Caddick (Holy Communion)

7.00 pm Mr Jonathon Libby

Monday 3:

7.30 pm *Living Faith* Bible Study (7)

Tuesday 4:

7.30 pm *Crosstalk* Circuit Prayer Meeting (Stoke Methodist Church)

7.45 pm Ladies Group: Judith Goodridge

Wednesday 5:

10.00 - 1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm Prayer Meeting at the church

Thursday 6:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Garden Party at 6 Ridge Park Road

7.30 pm House Fellowship at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst

Saturday 8:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Beth Saunders (Overseas Mission)

Sunday 9:

10.30 am Miss Catherine Stead

7.00 pm Mr Mike Cade

Monday 10:

7.30pm *Living Faith* Bible Study (8)

Tuesday 11:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies Group: Buffet at the home of Barbara Parr

Wednesday 12:

10.00 - 1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowship

Thursday 13:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Doreen Sinstadt

7.30 pm House Fellowship at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst

Saturday 15:

10.00 - 12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar: Kim, Steve and Miriam (Youth Mission)

7.30pm Men's Fellowship Barbecue

Sunday 16:

10.30 am Mr Martin Holst

7.00 pm Mr Earle Rendle

Monday 17:

7.30 *Living Faith* Bible Study (9)

Tuesday 18:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (Catherine Stead). All welcome

Wednesday 19:

10.00 - 1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 House Fellowship

Thursday 20:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: AGM

7.30 pm House Fellowship at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst

Saturday 22:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Pat Stead (Church Funds)

Sunday 23:

10.30 am Revd Rod Thomas

7.00 pm Miss Catherine Stead

Monday 24:

7.30 *Living Faith* Bible Study (10)

Tuesday 25:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group

Wednesday 26:

10.00 - 1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 27:

7.30 pm House Fellowship at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst

Saturday 29:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar

Sunday 30:

10.30 am Revd Doug Rix

7.00 pm Deacon Ruth Richey

Church office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Church telephones: 348178 (office only) 331186 (pre-school and hall)

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Minister: The Revd John M Haley: minister@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

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