

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: JUNE 2010

Dear Friends

To know Jesus Christ and to make him known

At our General Church Meeting in April we realised that Ridgeway Methodist Church continues to have significant opportunities to grow. We have an extensive range of contacts in the wider community and meet people who are not part of the regular worshipping congregation in a variety of ways. However, we also noted that churches which are experiencing significant growth have several staff and, as a General Church Meeting, we sought to respond to a completely new vision not simply to make and sustain disciples but to look to do so on an unprecedented level with the possibility of appointing an additional member of staff. This is not simply a matter of filling the church but it is a matter of things eternal for, if it is possible to be saved, it must also be possible to be lost and, therefore, we need to become a church with a culture of evangelism and not just a church that plans evangelistic events. The General Church Meeting referred this to the church council which met on 18 May, the same day as our half day of prayer.

The church council agreed that it would be good to have a local mission enabler who would help the church make Jesus known to the people in the wider community and beyond, to enable existing mission to function and grow effectively and to develop opportunities for new ministry. As a church we need to understand the importance of reaching the next generation. The ideal person would not only be a committed Christian but would also be committed to the Bible as the Word of God and able to teach biblical truth in a relevant way, relating well to people of all ages from different backgrounds. It is a possibility that the church might get a grant from the Plymouth and Devonport Methodist Circuit to support this work and we will apply for this. However, the reality is that we would still have to raise a substantial amount of money (£12,500 each year over three years) ourselves. This is a major challenge but, as one member of our church council remarked, 'this is about making Jesus Christ known and if we are not about that, what are we about?' To that end, the church council has resolved that we open a Fund for Local Mission. To be fair, we cannot guarantee that this money will be spent on the local mission enabler until that person is appointed – but we do guarantee that this money will be spent on local mission and not on anything else (important as other financial obligations might be). Such sums of money (£240/week) are always rather daunting but they are not so daunting if everyone shares the vision. While I can easily say that it is only £1.50 per active member per week, it is not really as easy as that, not least because experience tells me that not everyone will rise to this. If everyone could pledge a minimum of £1.50 a week that would be great but let's pray that God will lay on our hearts what we should give, perhaps as an initial capital sum to show that our hearts are with this work, so that we know that the

scheme can go ahead and that God will lead us in the right way ('everyone should give what they have decided to give in their hearts, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver,' 2 Corinthians 9:7).

Evangelism Café - Meal with a Message

I am pleased that our various café initiatives have made a good start. The month begins with the prayer café and ends with the teaching café. In the middle of the month we have the fellowship café. With regard to the fellowship café, the DVD presentation by J. John was excellent last month and I am confident that the high quality of the series will be sustained (I am hopeful that we can say the same about the puddings that we all enjoyed as well). Cake café, which attracts 80 teenagers, continues every week but this month we have a special evangelistic café, where we are still using the older name, "Meal with a Message". On Saturday 19 June at 7.00 pm my good friend Steve Wild will speak on the theme 'Printer to Preacher'. There will be a summer buffet and pudding. Steve is so well known in Methodist circles that it would probably be relatively easy to fill this event with people from other churches. However, we are purposely encouraging our two church communities (at Ridgeway and Millbrook) to use this event as a very special opportunity to bring family and friends who would not normally be in church Sunday by Sunday. I hope to see you there.

Local preacher's recognition service: Sunday 20 June at 7.00 pm

Catherine Stead has become a fully accredited local preacher in the Methodist Church. It is traditional to have a service of recognition and commissioning and we look forward to this. Please pray for Catherine and all our preachers.

God bless



John Haley

PRAYER CAFÉ

The next prayer café is on Saturday 5 June - food will be served from 8.15am in the main hall followed by a time of prayer and worship in the chapel. The focus this week will be to pray for protection and growth in God's church.

June Diary

- Wednesday 2: 7.30 pm Minister's Study (Reformation Church History, 6)
- Thursday 3: 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mr Colston Swift
- Saturday 5:

	PRAYER CAFÉ 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and Breakfast	
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- Sunday 6:** 10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)
- 10.30 am **Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)**
Includes dedication of Pastoral Visitors
- 7.00 pm **Miss Catherine Stead**
- Monday 7: 7.30 pm Minister's Study (Reformation Church History,7)
- Tuesday 8: 10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
3.00 pm **Cake café**
2.00 pm Ladies' Group: Mr Peter Haydn-Davies (Update on Serbia)
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship: Ridgeway Methodist Church (Walk)
- Wednesday 9: 10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
- Thursday 10: 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Members afternoon
- Friday 11: 7.00 pm Flower arranging practice (in the crèche)
- Saturday 12: 10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Help for Heroes (Ladies Group)
- Sunday 13:** 10.30 am **Mr Andrew Maxwell**
7.00 pm **Revd John Haley**
- Monday 14: 7.30 pm Minister's Study (Reformation Church History, 8)
- Tuesday 15: 10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
3.00 pm **Cake café**
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Mrs Ann Landricombe
(Christian Literature Centre)
- Wednesday 16: 10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
7.30 pm **Fellowship Café**
- Thursday 17: 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Outing

Saturday 19:

10.00 - 12.00
7.00 pm

Oasis Coffee Bar: Women's Fellowship
Revd Steve Wild: "Meal with a message" (see separate leaflet)

Sunday 20:

10.30 am
7.00 pm

Mr Andrew Chapple
Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
Includes local Preacher's Recognition
Service for Miss Catherine Stead

Monday 21:

2.00pm
7.30 pm

Network Committee meeting
Minister's study (Reformation Church History, 9)

Tuesday 22:

10.00 - 12.00
3.00 pm
7.30 pm
7.45 pm

Patchwork Group
Cake café
Men's Fellowship: Elburton Methodist Church
Ladies' Group: AGM for 2010

Wednesday 23:

10.00 - 12.30
7.30 pm

Coffee followed by Lunches
Church Council

Thursday 24:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: AGM

Saturday 26:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Miriam, Kim & Steve)

Sunday 27:

10.30 am
7.00 pm

Revd John Haley - Family Worship (all age)
Revd John Haley (Teaching Café)



TEACHING CAFÉ
7.00 - 8.30 pm
Teaching and a light supper

Monday 28:

7.30 pm

Minister's study (Reformation Church History, 10)

Tuesday 29:

10.00 - 12.00
3.00 pm
7.45 pm

Patchwork Group
Cake café
Ladies' Group: Revd John Haley

Wednesday 30:

10.00 - 12.30

Coffee followed by Lunches

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 July *This Month* to the office by 22 June please.