

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: JUNE 2011

Dear Friends

Celebrating the community of faith

This year, one of the church's principal festivals, Pentecost, falls on 12 June. Although I can understand why people speak of Pentecost as the church's birthday, strictly speaking this is not so.

The three great festivals of the Israelites were Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 16:16-17). These festivals required a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship the Lord in the Temple and to present sacrifices and offerings. Passover celebrated the deliverance of the Israelites from captivity in Egypt. Fifty days after Passover, Pentecost celebrated the wheat harvest. In the autumn, the Feast of Tabernacles was a more general harvest festival, celebrating the ingathering of fruit.

Before his ascension, the Lord Jesus told the disciples that he would send them what his Father had promised but that they were to stay in the city until they had been clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49). Early in Luke's sequel to his Gospel, the book we commonly call the 'Acts of the Apostles', Luke records:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

(Acts 2:1-4)

While we should not totally neglect the supernatural signs of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, as Luke's account unfolds, it becomes clear that the important ministry of the Holy Spirit was to energise the Apostles to proclaim the gospel message of Jesus, the crucified Saviour and risen Lord. It was this outpouring of the Holy Spirit that gave the festival a new significance for the Christian church but the outpouring of the Holy Spirit did not bring the community of faith into being.

Theologians can spend a long time debating things that might seem not to matter much to ordinary people. We can spend some time thinking about whether the church began at Pentecost, which is undoubtedly a significant occasion, or with the call of the first disciples. However, in one of the great speeches in Acts, Stephen refers to the

assembly of Israelites in the wilderness following the Exodus from Egypt (Acts 7:38) as the 'church' (Greek: *ekklesia*). While we often use 'church' to mean a building and 'congregation' to mean a people, the Bible always uses 'church' (sometimes translated 'assembly') to mean a gathering of people. It is therefore clear from the Bible that a fundamental part of being a believer is gathering with the people of God – meeting around his Word and sharing around his holy table.

A big 'thank you'

Our Easter celebrations went exceptionally well this year and I can scarcely remember a more inspiring service on the morning of Easter Day. However, these things do require a tremendous amount of work and, on behalf of the whole community, I want to offer a big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to making our Easter celebrations such a blessing, encouragement and challenge to all who were able to attend.

God bless

John Haley

Minister

Meal with a Message (Saturday 18 June, 7.30 pm with Julie Birkett)

Julie Birkett grew up in Stoke and trained as a nurse at Freedom Fields and Devonport Hospitals. Last year, Julie was ordained deacon in the Church of England and in July will be ordained presbyter. In her own gentle style, Julie tells the story of her faith journey and how God has been working in her life. Further details will be available on a separate leaflet.

Christians Against Poverty

Founded 15 years ago CAP has 200 Centres and 1000 Money Education Centres based in UK churches, primarily to help people in serious financial difficulties but also running courses on how to improve financial budgeting, regain control of finances, or simply to make good practices better. CAP is completely dependent on its supporters, is staffed by Christians and is committed to the scheme as an evangelical outreach, though the course is very low-key in this respect. Our church council has agreed to support the scheme. Mike Tozer, Chris Heaver and Len Couch have been trained as money coaches and Carmen De Pablo will oversee administration and publicity. We hope to start running the courses in the autumn (details to follow). These will not be dealing with major debt but hopefully will assist in avoiding getting into such situations. Please support this project in your prayers. If you are interested or would like to know more please speak to one of the four of us.

Mike Tozer



June Diary

Thursday 2:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Revd Doug Rix

Saturday 4:

	PRAYER CAFÉ Saturday 4 June 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and pancakes	
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10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat and Jane)

Sunday 5:

Sunday Services

10.30 am

Preacher: Revd John Haley
(includes thanksgiving for the children of Daniel and Katie Martin, and rededication of pastoral visitors)

7.00 pm

Preacher: Mrs Alfreda Rogers

Monday 6:

7.30 pm

Minister's Bible study (6)

Tuesday 7:

10.00 - 12.00

Patchwork Group

6.00 pm

Men's Fellowship: Walk (meet in the lower car park)

7.45 pm

Ladies' Group: Mrs Jeanette Chinnock (Fostering)

Wednesday 8:

10.00 - 12.30

Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 9:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Revd John Haley

Saturday 11:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)

3.00 pm

Marriage of Mark McMillian and Samantha Holgate

Sunday 12:

Sunday Services

10.30 am

Preacher: Revd John Haley - Holy Communion

7.00 pm

Preacher: Mrs Val Marriott

Monday 13:

7.30 pm

Minister's Bible study (7)

Tuesday 14:

10.00 - 12.00

Patchwork Group

7.30 pm

Ladies' Group: Concert - Mustard Seeds Singers (Shelterbox)

Wednesday 15:

10.00 - 12.30

Coffee followed by Lunches

7.30 pm

Fellowship Café

	FELLOWSHIP CAFÉ Wednesday 15 June 7.30 - 9.00 pm Fellowship preceded by puddings
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Thursday 16:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mr Graham Skedgell
7.00 pm Flower Arrangement practice (in the crèche)

Saturday 18:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Women's Fellowship
7.30 pm Meal with a Message - with Julie Birkett (see separate leaflet)

Sunday 19:

Sunday Services

10.30 am Preacher: Revd Julie Birkett
7.00 pm Preacher - Revd John Haley

Monday 20:

7.30 pm Minister's Bible study (8)

Tuesday 21:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
7.30 pm Church Council meeting
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Summer Meal (tbc)

Wednesday 22:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 23:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Marilyn Crabb

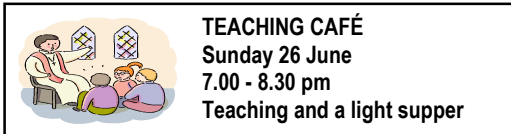
Saturday 25:

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

Sunday 26:

Sunday Services

10.30 am Preacher: Mr Chris Sturley
7.00 pm Preacher: Revd John Haley - Teaching Café



Monday 27:

7.30 pm Minister's Bible study (9)

Tuesday 28:

10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship: Mrs Jean Brown (Send a Cow to Rwanda)
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Mrs Lyn Peters (pre-school)

Wednesday 29:

10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches

Thursday 30:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Sheila Merrin

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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Pease submit Information for July *This Month* to the office by 21 June.