

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: MARCH 2010

Dear Friends

Changing patterns of worship

Not so long ago music at a typical morning service in a Methodist Church consisted of five hymns from the hymn book. While older members of the congregation were probably content with that it did not reflect that changing musical styles of the last 60 years and the vast amount of new material that is available. Worship songs have been an important part of my Sunday services for my entire circuit ministry. I introduced *Scripture in Song* to my first church in 1983 and this was fairly soon superseded by *Songs of Fellowship*. Since then, in many of the churches where I have been minister, I have either introduced worship songs or co-ordinated our use of both hymns and worship songs by completing computer records so that we feel that we are getting a blend of hymns and songs and not learning songs only to sing once and never sing again. With 823 hymns and 2200 songs visiting preachers can feel lost when trying to choose from over 2500 items (there is some overlap between the books but I, for one, have never counted). Therefore, visiting preachers receive a list of our core worship – hymns that are an important part of our heritage and songs that express Christian faith in a more contemporary style.

Top of the Pops

For copyright purposes we keep detailed records of all the hymns and songs that we sing. In the year ending 31 January 2010 the most frequently chosen song was SF 1346 *In Christ alone my hope is found* (14 times), followed by SF 40 *Be still for the presence of the Lord* and SF 1419 *Light of the World (Here I am to worship)* (both 13 times), SF 2065 *The Splendour of the King (How great is our God)* (12 times), SF 89 *Faithful one, so unchanging* and SF 1205 *Come, now is the time to worship* (both 11 times) and SF 203 *I believe in Jesus* and SF 1158 *All my days (beautiful Saviour)* (both 10 times). The most chosen hymn (seven times) was HP 255 *Crown him with many crowns*. Six other hymns were chosen four times or more, HP 180 *When I survey the wondrous cross*, HP 252 *All hail the power of Jesus' name* and HP 463 *To God be the glory* (five times each) and HP 113 *O little town of Bethlehem*, HP 114 *Once in Royal David's city* and HP 745 *O thou who camest from above* (four times each). In addition we used seven canticles and 19 different responsive Psalms – saying Psalm 145 twice! I think that's a pretty good list – it includes just one hymn of Charles Wesley but if I told you which one I would be doing all the work for you!

Church giving

For many years, well before I came, our church has upheld the vision of giving one-tenth of our Sunday offering to wider Christian work. I believe that this is an important spiritual principle and I am glad that as a church we have a wider vision of God's work. We do not want to be inward looking. Consequently, I thought you would like to know that we have made donations to Methodist funds for Home Mission, World Mission and Property which support Methodist work in Britain and beyond. We give to Methodist Homes for the Aged, Action for Children and LWPT, the Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Trust (which offers support to those who serve or have served the church), Ministers' Housing (which keeps properties for ministers who retire without anywhere to live) and the Auxiliary Fund which supports ministers or their families who need special help in retirement. We also make donations to the Mission Aviation Fellowship (bringing the gospel to remote places using light aircraft), Shekinah Mission (working among Plymouth's homeless), Christian Resources Project (based in Lipson), Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) and support people of all ages

(but mainly young people) in training, mission work and some of our own church's local mission projects. Last year these donations amounted to over £4000. In this financial year, we have already raised over £2800 to various work, over and above our 10%, and I am very pleased to report that we sent £560.40 from our recent retiring collections (at the end of January) to MRDF to be forwarded by our mission partner churches in Haiti to those who need help the most.

Our Café initiative continues

I am pleased that our regular teaching café and prayer café have begun. We have made a good start but it would be good for more people to catch the vision of bringing more people into teaching and prayer groups using the café format.

Trends and underlying trends

To me, the summer of 2008 was a remarkable period of growth and blessing in the life of the church community – I wondered whether it was linked with the prayerful support that you gave me after my period of illness. The calendar year 2009 was more of a year of consolidation but I feel that if we are truly to continue to be a growing church that we must push on in 2010 and rise to new challenges, embrace new initiatives and step out in faith. I don't want to belittle it but it was relatively easy to tithe our offering and support various projects (locally and further a field) when our balance sheet was fairly buoyant. Perhaps it is a greater test of faith how we respond when our balance sheet last year showed a significant deficit. We cannot afford for the church to keep losing money – but even less can we afford for our growth, our vision, faith, hope and love for a world that is perishing to be stifled. The responsibility lies not simply with me, or the stewards, or the church council, but with us all.

God bless

John Haley

COMMUNITY REVIEW 2010

We are displaying a list of names of members (on the notice board at the beginning of the passage leading to the main hall) who have registered for the church directory. If you are a member and your name does not appear on the provisional list, please complete the community roll form and return it to the office by 14 March. If your name is on the list and you do not wish to be included, please let me know by the 14 March. Many thanks

Monica, church office

FLOWER FESTIVAL

On Saturday 8 May the Church will be open throughout the day for a Flower Festival, Art exhibition and Strawberry teas in the Oasis area. This will take place on the day of Plympton May Fair and gives us an opportunity to be an active part of the community as well as inviting people to see what is taking place at our church. This day is a very important outreach opportunity for our church and we would ask everyone to consider helping with stewarding for one hour on the actual day to ensure that the event is a success. Please could you review the board in the front entrance and add your name at a time that is suitable for you to help. Please pray that through this event many people will come into the church and that those visiting will be drawn closer to knowing Jesus, the Saviour and Lord.

The Local Mission team

PRAYER CAFÉ

The next Prayer Café is on Saturday 6 March at 8.30 am, meeting for refreshments first and then moving into the hall for a time of prayer. This month the focus is on families. The café will finish informally allowing those who wish to continue praying to do so or to have someone pray with them.

PASSION FOR LIFE AT PLYMOUTH CENTRAL HALL

Wednesday 24 March, 7.30 pm: How do I know God exists?

Thursday 25 March, 7.30 pm: Is there more to life than living for the weekend?

Friday 26 March, 7.30 pm: Is there more to life than doing the right thing?

March Diary

Monday 1:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study (Promise to Fulfilment, 7)
Tuesday 2:	10.00 - 12.00	Patchwork Group
	3.00 pm	Cake café
	7.45 pm	Ladies' Group: Mrs Kate Konrad (Tearfund and Tearcraft)
Wednesday 3:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Thursday 4:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Revd Malcolm Halliday
Friday 5:	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church
Saturday 6:		



PRAYER CAFÉ

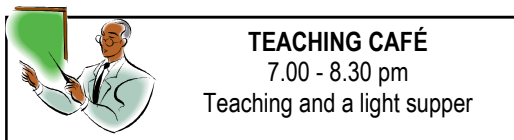
8.30 - 9.30 am

Prayer and Breakfast



	10.00 - 12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Water Aid (Women's fellowship)
Sunday 7:	10.30 am	Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
	7.00 pm	Mrs Val Marriot
Monday 8:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study (Promise to Fulfilment, 8)
Tuesday 9:	10.00 - 12.00	Patchwork Group
	3.00 pm	Cake café
	7.30 pm	Men's Fellowship: Mr Peter Hayden-Davies (Serbia)
	7.45 pm	Ladies' Group: Revd Mike Gatley
Wednesday 10:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
	7.30 pm	The Lyfe Bible study (in the lounge)
Thursday 11:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Revd Ambrose Wright
	7.00 pm	Flower arranging practice (in the crèche)
Friday 12:	7.30 pm	The Lyfe Bible study (in the lounge)
Saturday 13:	10.00 - 12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Bible Society (Ann and others)
Sunday 14:	10.30 am	Revd John Haley
	7.00 pm	Revd John Haley

- Monday 15: 7.30 pm Minister's Bible study (Promise to Fulfilment, 9)
- Tuesday 16: 10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
- Wednesday 17: 10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
7.30 pm Church Council meeting
- Thursday 18: 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Brenda Youngs
- Saturday 20: 10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat and Jane)
7.00 pm Safari Supper (Please see separate leaflet)
- Sunday 21:**
10.30 am **Revd David Hull**
7.00 pm **Revd John Haley**
- Monday 22: 7.30 pm Minister's Bible study (Promise to Fulfilment, 10)
- Tuesday 23: 10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
3.00 pm Cake café
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship: Revd David Youngs (Own choice)
at Elburton Methodist Church
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Revd John Haley (Easter message)
- Wednesday 24: 10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
- Thursday 25: 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Mrs Alfreda Rogers
- Saturday 27: 10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Girl's Brigade (Lynne & GB Officers)
- Sunday 28:**
10.30 am **Revd John Haley (Parade Service - all age)**
7.00 pm **Revd John Haley (Teaching Café)**



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 April *This Month* to the office by 23 March please.