

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



THIS MONTH: MARCH 2011

Dear Friends

Lent and Easter

With Easter Day being late this year (24 April), Ash Wednesday falls on 9 March. While Methodists have not traditionally made much of Lent (in terms of giving up treats such as biscuits or chocolate), it is not a bad idea to use this time for a more intensive plan of spiritual development and growth. Some churches recommend a book for Lent – this can be very helpful but often the same book does not appeal to everyone equally. So, as we have a varied bookstall that changes regularly, may I encourage you to read a Christian book between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day?

Chocolate and the Gospel

Before Christmas I shared with you my idea of making friends from outside of the church a little gift of a chocolate bar and a Gospel. I have been using the Co-op's Fairtrade dark chocolate with spices and orange oil (rightly described on the wrapper as 'truly irresistible') and Matthew or Luke's Gospel (NIV published by the Good Book Company). So far I have given away seven of these. I was pleasantly surprised by the reaction of one friend who opened the package while I was there and, though excited about the chocolate, was leafing enthusiastically through the Luke's Gospel remarking, "this has all the Parables in it!" Actually, Luke does not have *all* the Parables in it but it does have the fullest selection and that is one of the reasons I chose Luke this time.

Church Council and General Church Meeting

Our next church council will be held on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30 pm. Part of the business will be to appoint or re-appoint members to various offices. Our next General Church Meeting is on Sunday 10 April at 2.30 pm. The main purpose of this meeting is to appoint church stewards and members of the church council. Anyone can attend these meetings but only members of the Methodist Church are entitled to vote. Nomination forms for the various offices are available from the church council secretary, Val Foot, or through the office. Nominees should sign these to show that they consent to the nomination.

Believing and Belonging

Our local congregation is part of the much wider community of the Christian Church. The essence of being a Christian is trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and in the New Testament believers congregated into communities which were, effectively, the first churches. The Methodist Church began as a society and the way to join has always been to become a member. We can often welcome people who have belonged to other churches and denominations by transfer. However, if you have not belonged to another church and would like to know more about formally joining the church or about being

baptised (including baptism by total immersion on profession of faith) please accept the invitation to join a series of four short exploratory sessions on Fridays from 7.15 to 8.00 pm on 4 March, 18 March, 1 April and 8 April. Everyone is welcome but to know in advance that you plan to come helps.

Compulsory Safeguarding Training

Despite the government's plans to review various arrangements for the screening of workers, all workers with children and young people and all workers with vulnerable adults (which therefore includes pastoral visitors) must attend a session of Safeguarding Training and many workers will also need an up-to-date Enhanced CRB disclosure. Some of the sessions are now fully booked but you can still choose any one of the following sessions: Wednesday 16 March (Elburton), Monday 28 March (Compton), Tuesday 5 April (Elburton). Each session will last from 7.00 to 9.30 pm. Advance booking is essential through the circuit office by telephone (551514) or better still by e-mail office@pdmcircuit.org.uk Unfortunately, for people working with children and/or vulnerable adults attending a session is compulsory not optional and everyone will be expected to have attended one of these sessions.

God bless

John Haley

Gift Aid relief is decreasing in April 2011

Sadly, the amount of tax we are able to reclaim from donations is reducing from April 2011. Currently, from every £1 donated under the Gift Aid scheme we can reclaim 28p. From 6 April the amount we can reclaim from every £1 donated will be lowered to 25p. Last year we reclaimed around £12,500 in Gift Aid relief - the change will result in a fall in our income of around £1,500 per year. If you are a tax payer and you are considering making a one-off gift to Ridgeway Methodist Church in 2011, if it is possible for you to do this before April then it will increase your gift by 3% without additional cost to you. When you review your regular giving for 2011, please consider the drop in Gift Aid income when you do so. For the church to recover the same amount of money, every £1 of existing donations would need to increase to £1.03. If you are a tax-payer and have not yet signed a Gift Aid declaration, please speak to me or Liz Garland or leave a message through the office. We'll be pleased to give you details. Thank you.

Rachael Granville (Treasurer)


Electrical Testing (Health and safety)

This is an advanced notice to all groups which use the church building. Mandatory testing of all portable electrical equipment will take place in March. If you have not had a letter and *pro forma* please take one from the vestibule table.

John Buttle (Property Committee)

March Diary

- Tuesday 1:
10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Mr Jamie Lee *"Action for Children"*
- Wednesday 2:
10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
- Thursday 3:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Revd Maureen Robins
- Friday 4:
7.15 pm Membership Preparation Group (1)
- Saturday 5:

	PRAYER CAFÉ Saturday 5 March 8.30 - 9.30 am Prayer and Breakfast	
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- 10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)
- Sunday 6: Sunday Services**
10.30 am Holy Communion - Preacher: Revd John Haley
7.00 pm Preacher: Miss Judith Walker

- Monday 7:
7.30 pm Minister's Bible study

- Tuesday 8:
10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship: Mr John Buttle (New Zealand)
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Mrs Tracy Watkiss *"Just Tracy's Crafts"*

- Wednesday 9:
10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
7.30 pm Church Council meeting

- Thursday 10:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Revd Alison Richardson


- Saturday 12:
10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: MAF (Pat and Jane)

- Sunday 13: Sunday Services**
10.30 am Preacher: Revd John Haley
7.00 pm Preacher: Major Pam Smith

- Monday 14:
7.30 pm Minister's Bible study

- Tuesday 15:
10.00 - 12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Craft Evening *"Mothering Sunday Cards"*

- Wednesday 16:
10.00 - 12.30 Coffee followed by Lunches
7:30 pm Fellowship Café

	FELLOWSHIP CAFÉ Wednesday 16 March 7.30 - 9.00 pm Learning and a selection of puddings
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Thursday 17:	2.45 pm 7.00 pm	Women's Fellowship: Mr Peter Hayden-Davies Flower Arrangement practice (in the crèche)
Friday 18:	7.15 pm	Membership Preparation Group (2)
Saturday 19:	10.00 - 12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Songs of Fellowship (Women's Fellowship)
Sunday 20:		Sunday Services
	10.30 am	Preacher: Revd David Hull
	7.00 pm	Holy Communion - Preacher: Revd John Haley
Monday 21:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study
Tuesday 22:	10.00 - 12.00 7.45 pm	Patchwork Group Ladies' Group: Mrs Diana Lawer " <i>Get your Skates on</i> "
Wednesday 23:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Thursday 24:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Revd John Haley
Saturday 26:	10.00 - 12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Bible Society (Avril and others)
Sunday 27:		Sunday Services
	10.30 am	Preacher: Mr Andrew Chapple
	7.00 pm	Teaching Café - Revd John Haley
		
TEACHING CAFÉ Sunday 27 March 7.00 - 8.30 pm Teaching and a light supper		
Monday 28:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study
Tuesday 29:	10.00 - 12.00 7.45 pm	Patchwork Group Ladies' Group: Mrs Margaret Bowhay <i>"Let the Music be the Food of Love"</i>
Wednesday 30:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Thursday 31:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Mrs Alfreda Rogers

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 22 March.