

THIS MONTH: NOVEMBER 2008

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

November: a month of remembering

In the Christian calendar, November begins with All Saints Day (1 November). We tend not to promote Halloween events the day before (31 October, All Hallows Eve) as we think the modern celebration of Halloween sends confusing messages about the supernatural to children and young people. We are all in favour of children's parties but want them to be about the light of Christ and the life he gives rather than about witches and death, bats and spiders, 'ghosties and ghoulies and things that go bump in the night'. In a world of global terrorism, the celebration of the foiled gunpowder plot (1605) and the preservation of our emerging parliamentary democracy is, perhaps, something that we ought to celebrate more and more, whether we do that with bonfires and fireworks on 5 November or not. The church moves into a more solemn mood for Remembrance Sunday (9 November). Our parade service is normally a well-supported and moving occasion.

Annual Memorial Service

Towards the end of the month, we pick up the theme of All Saints Day with our annual Memorial Service (23 November, 6.00 pm). This special service gives us the opportunity to invite bereaved families to the church and it is important for the church community to support this to make the bereaved families welcome. This year our special guests are the Torpoint Lady Singers and proceeds of the retiring collection will go to Marie Curie Cancer Care. Donation envelopes (with the optional Gift Aid declaration) will be available on the Sunday but if you would like one in advance please enquire through the office. We serve tea, coffee and superior sandwiches after the service. If you can help in any way, please contact one of the stewards.

Moving forward with our music

Though we continue to sing three or four hymns from *Hymns and Psalms* on Sunday mornings, most of the sung items at Ridgeway these days are from *Songs of Fellowship*. The music group accompanies these and the music group and organ accompany the more traditional hymns. We also have the very welcome development of the youth-led music on the second Sunday evening of the month. The church council agreed that the way ahead with music in the church would be to have a "music co-ordinator" and Pat Stead was appointed. In consultation with the church stewards, the music co-ordinator will be responsible for the rota of organists, the availability of the adult and young people's music groups and will liaise with the office secretary for the provision of the appropriate music and help us review how music in the life of the church is going. The music co-ordinator is responsible for co-ordinating the practices, utilising the talents and gifts of those attending, and encouraging new people to take part by playing musical instruments or singing.

News from the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit

In November, circuit representatives hope to meet a new minister who will be appointed as superintendent from 1 September 2009 when Revd Robert Saunders has retired. The new superintendent will also be minister of our churches at Woodford and Colebrook. In accordance

with the stationing procedures, only one minister will be offered to the circuit at a time, so it is hoped that the first 'match' will be successful. Ministers who express a preference often do not want to move to the geographical margins of the country – just like everyone else, ministers have aged parents or children and grandchildren and want to be able to visit them easily. Please pray that the right person will be introduced to the circuit and that all will go well.

Patterns of itinerancy (the idea that ministers move around regularly) are changing in the Methodist Church. While every minister is appointed to a circuit for an initial term of five years, these terms are being extended by mutual agreement between the circuits and the ministers for longer and longer periods (the minister I followed in Inverness had been in the appointment for 23 years). In our own circuit, Revd Stephen Caddick, who moved to Ivybridge in 2004, has been invited to stay for at least a further two years (2011) and Revd Stuart Innalls, who moved to St Budeaux in 2002, has been invited to stay for at least a further five years (2014). My own invitation to the circuit, which is presently until 2010, will be considered over the summer next year.

Our annual Gift Day and Directory

In the last two weeks of October all adults who attend the church on Sundays should have received a letter about our annual Gift Day and the community roll review which helps us to prepare our Directory. If you pay income tax and want the church to recover tax through Gift Aid you must complete the Gift Aid declaration but this is optional so everyone can still use the envelope with or without completing the Gift Aid declaration. The main Gift Day event is the Oasis Coffee Morning on Saturday 1 November from 10.00 am to noon. You can make a special donation to the church there or you can put your envelope in the Sunday collection or return it by post. There is no formal date for the Gift Day appeal to close but it does help us if you make you make your donation during November.

It looks as if most people are going to feel the impact of the current economic climate but please remember, in both your regular and special gifts, that it costs us over £75,000 a year to run the church and about £300 per week just to keep the building open. Increases in bills for heating, lighting and water affect the church every bit as much as they affect individuals. I am reluctant to say it but if you could consider increasing your weekly or monthly giving by 5% that really would help a lot. We try not to bombard the church community with financial appeals but we mention the church's financial needs in November and May so that everyone knows both the challenges we face and the opportunities for mission and service that your support gives to the church. If you would like further information about our annual accounts please enquire through the office.

We need to update our records in order to produce our Directory. Under the Data Protection Act, 1988, you have the right to know what records we keep about you. In principle, we only keep the information that you give us, which includes any groups or committees of which you are a member. We must have your consent to publish your details in our church directory. This explains why we have asked you to respond to the recent mailing. We hope that everyone will reply (there is a box for replies in the foyer) but if you do not reply, you must understand that you will not be included in the Directory.

God bless

John Haley

November Diary

Saturday 1:	8.30 am 10.00 - 12.00	Monthly Prayer Meeting Oasis Coffee Bar: Gift Day Appeal (the stewards)
Sunday 2:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Revd John Haley (Holy Communion) Revd David Youngs
Monday 3:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study: The Former Prophets (2 Samuel)
Tuesday 4:	10.00 - 12.00 7.45 pm	Patchwork Group Ladies' Group: Revd Veronica Campbell
Wednesday 5:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 6:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Revd John Haley
Saturday 8:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Miriam, Steve & Kim)
Sunday 9:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Revd John Haley (Parade Service/All Age) Mrs Kate Konrad
Monday 10:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study: The Former Prophets (1 Kings 1-11)
Tuesday 11:	10.00 - 12.00 7.30 pm 7.45 pm	Patchwork Group Christmas services planning meeting Ladies' Group: Pam Rendle & Chris Fowler
Wednesday 12:	10.00-12.30 7.30 pm	Coffee followed by lunches Pastoral Committee
Thursday 13:	2.45pm	Women's Fellowship: Eunice Haliday
Saturday 15:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine & Lydia)
Sunday 16:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Mrs Brenda Youngs Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
Monday 17:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study: The Former Prophets (1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 (Israel & Judah))
Tuesday 18:	10.00 - 12.00 2.15 pm 7.45pm	Patchwork Group Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome) Ladies' Group: Gavin Lockey

Wednesday 19:	10.00-12.30 1.15 pm	Coffee followed by lunches Pre-school management committee
Thursday 20:	2.45pm	Women's Fellowship: Doreen Sinstadt
Saturday 22:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Boys' Brigade Fundraising (Boys' Brigade)
Sunday 23:	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Revd John Haley Revd John Haley (Memorial Service)
Monday 24:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study: The Former Prophets (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13)
Tuesday 25:	10.00 - 12.00 7.45pm	Patchwork Group Ladies Group: Bring and Buy Evening
Wednesday 26:	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 27:	2.45pm	Women's Fellowship: Carl Edwards
Saturday 29:	10.00 - 12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Outreach (Pat)
Sunday 30:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Dr Philip Walsh Revd David Martin

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 December's *This Month* to the office by 25 November please.