

THIS MONTH: NOVEMBER 2006



RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Friends

Welcome to our visitors!

Last Christmas the card from my friends Gunter and Gabi Bareis in Germany arrived a few days late. As things were quiet I checked the internet to see if Gunter's church had a website and when it did I was able to e-mail him. Gunter wrote back and shared with me his idea of bringing a group of German young people from the Evangelische Kirchengemeinde at Heubach (Heubach Lutheran Church). The young people are with us from 28 October to 4 November.

My relationship with German Christians had an odd beginning. In 1981 every student at Wesley College had to do a college exchange and without consulting me a friend of mine put me down to go to the seminary of the Evangelische-Methodistische Kirche (EmK) at Reutlingen. When I protested that I did not speak German he pointed out that no one in our year group could speak German so we might as well go! We were wonderfully looked after by the German-speaking Methodists and I made friends with Klaus-Ulrich Ruof (who visited Ridgeway with his family three years ago) and Willy Niklaus (who is now a minister in a parish of the Swiss Reformed Church near Lake Thun).

In the summer of 1981, I was sent to the Methodist Church at Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, London. Here part of my work was to supervise a group of 18 German students in three community projects. I made friends with Gabi Petrich who told me that her fiancé was training to be a minister of the Lutheran Church. We corresponded and Janet and I and Gabi and Gunter exchanged visits in the mid-80s and early 90s. My visits to Gunter, Klaus Ulrich and Willy, formed a substantial part of my 1991 sabbatical but, like us, Gunter and Gabi have four children and lead busy lives and we were not in touch as often as we should have been.

It is therefore a very special privilege for me to welcome Pfarrer Gunter Bareis and 18 young people (aged 14-24 years) from Heubach. They are coming as fellow Christians to share with us in worship and fellowship. I hope that everyone will take the opportunity to speak to the German group. Make sure there are spaces among you in the congregations.

What's wrong with Halloween?

Although it is associated with the eve of All Saints' Day (sometimes called 'All Hallows', hence Hallowe'en). The Christian All Saints' Day is a more or less failed attempt to Christianise the pagan festival of Samhain, a celebration of the dead. While no one wants to be against children's parties, we should have our eyes open to the fact that celebrating Halloween can stimulate the wrong sort of interest in the supernatural. In this day and age it is scarcely sensible to allow children out in the dark to call at houses for 'trick or treat' and the practice is clearly open to abuse. Therefore, throughout the life of the church we do not support any celebration of Halloween but we still have a children's party with much more positive themes.

Gift Day (4 November)

Church members and all those who join us on Sundays have received information about our annual gift day. Envelopes are available to make a special gift to the church which will be used for the redecoration of the staircase and downstairs by our own decoration team under the able direction of our property stewards.

Ridgeway Cell Network

At the most recent count we were preparing for 51 people to be involved in midweek groups as part of our new Cell Network. Each group member is encouraged to buy the book 'John's Letters' (£3.99) and the plan is to co-ordinate the groups so that if you cannot get to your particular group in any week there will still be the opportunity to contact another group and attend. Additionally, we have six enrolled students on the Moore College course and some others joining us for our regular Monday evening meetings to which all are welcome.

Congratulations

Special birthday congratulations to Mrs Vera Giles who will be 100 years old on 18 November.

Annual Memorial Service (Sunday 19 November 6.00 pm)

This year the small singing group *Reflections* will be joining us for the service. Please support the bereaved families. The retiring collection will be for *Jeremiah's Journey* a Plymouth-based charity working with bereaved children and their families.

Book Fair

The popular book fair will be held on the morning of 25 November. Books, cards, CDs and other items will be available – an ideal time for a spot of Christmas shopping.

Organ Centenary

A concert to mark the centenary of our organ will be held in the church on Saturday 25 November, 7.00 pm. More information will follow on a separate leaflet.

God bless

John Haley

November Diary

Wednesday 1:

10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches
7.30 pm Midweek Celebration
9.00 pm Indian take-away with guests from Heubach

Thursday 2:

2.45 pm Womens' Fellowship (Paul Carmichael)

Friday 3:

7.00 pm Traditional English meal with guests from Heubach

Saturday 4

8.30 am Monthly prayer meeting
9.15 am Dartmoor Walk
10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar; Gift Day

Sunday 5:

10.30 am Revd John Haley (Gift Day Service)
7.00 pm Mrs Janet Bell

Monday 6:

7.30 pm Moore College Bible Study (5)

Tuesday 7:

10.00-12.00 Patchwork Group
7.30 pm Christmas services planning meeting
7.45 pm Ladies' Group (Sally Nicholson)

Wednesday 8:

10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches
7.30 pm Stewards' meeting

Thursday 9:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship (Malc Halliday)

Saturday 11:

10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar (Avril Baker)

Sunday 12:

10.30 am Revd John Haley
7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 13:

7.30 pm Moore College Bible Study (6)

Tuesday 14:

10.00-12.00 Patchwork Group
7.30 pm Mens' Fellowship
7.45 pm Ladies' Group (Bring and Buy)

Wednesday 15:

10.00.12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 16:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship (Mary McNaughton)

Saturday 18:

10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Chris Gregory)

Sunday 19:

10.30 am Mr Brian Hart

6.-00 pm Revd John Haley: Memorial Service

Monday 20:

7.30 pm Moore College Bible Study (7)

Tuesday 21:

10.00-12.00 Patchwork Group

2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise

7.45 pm Ladies' Group (Pal Hopkins)

Wednesday 22:

10.00.12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 23:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship

Saturday 25:

10.00.12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar; Youth Outreach (Miriam, Kim and Steve))

7.00 pm Organ Centenary Concert

Sunday 26:

10.30 am Revd John Haley

Baptism of daughter of Trevor and Helen Fetherstonhaugh

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 27

7.30 pm Moore College Bible Study (8)

Tuesday 28

10.00.12.00 Patchwork

7.45 pm Ladies Group (A Tremain)

Wednesday 29

10.00.12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 30

2.45 pm Womens' Fellowship

**Church office hours:
Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm**

**Church telephones:
348178 (office only)
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Information for December's *This Month* to the office by 21 November please.