

THIS MONTH: OCTOBER 2008



**RIDGEWAY
METHODIST CHURCH**

Dear Friends

Making the most of every opportunity

Christians have an important and exciting message to share and yet we are not always that good at sharing it. In the Bible we find that Jesus was able to share the message of the Kingdom of God by finding signs of the gospel in the ordinary everyday things around the people to whom he was speaking. Jesus spoke to the Galilean fishermen about fish, he spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well about water and he spoke to the crowd that he had fed with the five loaves and the two fish about the bread of life.

It is still possible to find signs of the gospel in the world around us. The Bible reminds us that 'the heavens declare the glory of God' (Psalm 19:1) and when Jesus wanted to share with his disciples the message of death and resurrection he pointed to the fields around them, 'unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds' (John 12:24).

I think there are two dimensions to this ministry. In the story of his meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) it is clear that Jesus did not have much in common with the person to whom he spoke – he was a man, she was a woman; he was a Jew, she was a Samaritan (and there was no love lost between Jews and Samaritans); he was a respectable rabbi (religious teacher) and the best that could be said about her personal life was that it had been a succession of disappointments. What is easy to miss is that Jesus made himself vulnerable even by speaking to the woman and asking her for a drink of water.

I don't do vulnerability very well, do you? Yet, it seems to me, if we are going to be faithful to the ministry of Jesus, we must be prepared to be rejected. The first thing we have to do is to find some common ground with others – we might do that by talking about the weather (bit boring) or about music or a TV programme we have seen (bit better), a new friend's Bible name (there are plenty about but you have to know your Bible!) or even about something that excites us – fashion, football or *Lindt Excellence Chilli Chocolate* (now there's something worth talking about). More often than not, it is only when we have found some common ground

and begun to make friends that people will find us interesting enough to wonder what it means to us to be Christians in the 21st century.

What does it mean to be a Christian in the 21st century? That's not really a question that I ought to answer for you. Instead, I must challenge you to think out the answer to that one for yourself. Here's a verse from the Bible to help you on your way: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). If you have a faith worth sharing, try to make the most of every opportunity.

Second Sunday evening of the month (with youth-led music)

We made a good start to these services in September. The young people did well and the congregation was supportive and encouraging. I hope everyone will make a special effort to keep supporting this service.

Thank you for your prayers

I know that when I was unwell in March and April that the church community prayed for me each night at 9.00 pm. I was grateful for that at the time regarding my physical health but since then have realised that whole church has been greatly blessed by your prayers - so don't stop just because I am better!

God bless

John Haley

Slum Survivor

The young people are hoping to build slums again from 17 -19 October in the grassy area in front of the church. You are welcome to visit and they will be pleased to offer you a warm cup of tea - probably from a much used tea bag! At Soul Survivor we saw how some of the money that was raised last year was benefiting small children and teenagers in Durban. Please support the young people as they give up their comforts for the weekend to raise their own awareness of the living conditions of millions around the world and to raise some money for projects working in these areas.

Traidcraft

Traidcraft Christmas cards will be available to buy from October on Saturday mornings, at Ladies Group and Wednesday lunches. If you would like to borrow a catalogue please do so and give any orders to Miriam Sitch or Ann Brindley.

Operation Christmas Child

The children and young people will again be supporting the Operation Christmas Child campaign. Please pick up a leaflet and either complete your own box, or you can contribute individual items, empty shoe boxes, wrapping paper, suitable items. If you like knitting - there are patterns available for soft toys and a hat, please speak to Miriam. Shoe boxes will be collected by mid-November. Please visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk for more information.

Miriam Sitch

October Diary

Wednesday 1	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 2	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Muriel Duerden
Saturday 4:	8.30 am	Monthly Prayer Meeting
	10.00 am	Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lydia)
	5.00 - 11.00 pm	Recharge
Sunday 5:	10.30 am	Revd John Haley (Holy Communion with reception of new members)
	12.45 pm	Church Lunch
	7.00 pm	Mrs Janet Bell
Monday 6:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study: The Former Prophets (The book of Judges)
Tuesday 7:	7.45 pm	Ladies' Group: Mary Ball & Friends
Wednesday 8:	10.00 - 12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
	7.30 pm	Church Council
Thursday 9:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Brenda Youngs
Saturday 11:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Miriam, Steve & Kim)
Sunday 12:	10.30 am	Revd John Haley
	7.00 pm	Mrs Val Marriott
Monday 13:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study: The Former Prophets (1 Samuel 1-12)

Tuesday 14:	7.45 pm	Ladies Group: John Desborough
Wednesday 15:	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 16:	2.45pm	Women's Fellowship: Judith Goodridge
Saturday 18:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat)
Sunday 19:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Mr Brian Hart Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
Monday 20:	7.30 pm	Minister's Bible study: The Former Prophets (1 Samuel 13-31)
Tuesday 21:	2.15 pm 7.45pm	Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome) Ladies Group: April Faulkener
Wednesday 22:	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 23:	2.45pm	Women's Fellowship: Primrose Skedgell
Saturday 25:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Girls' Brigade (Avril)
Sunday 26:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Mrs Alfreda Rogers Miss Judith Walker
Monday 27:		No Minister's Bible study (half-term)
Tuesday 28:		No Ladies Group (half-term)
Wednesday 29	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by lunches
Thursday 30	2.45pm	Women's Fellowship: TBA

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

Church telephones: 348178 (office only); 331186 (pre-school and hall)

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Minister: The Revd John M Haley: min@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

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Information for November's *This Month* to the office by 21 October please.