

# RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH

## OUTREACH NEWS: March 2006



Dear friends

*"It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken'. With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus."  
2 Corinthians 4:13-14*

When we feel passionately about something - anything! - we feel compelled to speak out about it. We want other people to share in our excitement, anger or frustration. Council decisions on speed bumps or new housing, a forthcoming wedding or new baby in the family, and the spectacular (or dismal) performance of a football team: all these produce very vocal reactions. In fact, the common reaction from those not who are quite so passionate is, "not *again!*"

Faith cannot remain silent. When we meet Paul in Acts and in his letters, we see a man who cannot help talking about Jesus all the time. He wants everyone else to share his excitement. He is so passionate about the good news about Jesus - that he died so that our sins could be forgiven and we could receive eternal life - that you can imagine his listeners saying, "not *again!* Doesn't he *ever* talk about anything else!?"

Evangelism and witness are, essentially, talking about Jesus. If we are passionate about our faith in Jesus, then we will want to talk about him, just as we want to share all the other things we feel strongly about. But this isn't always as easy as it sounds. There is a widespread reticence in this country when it comes to speaking about anything spiritual. We don't doubt that our opinions on the weather, the traffic or the

football results will politely be listened to. However, we expect opinions on Jesus to be treated with hostility. Sometimes, we are proved correct. Talking about Jesus means taking a risk - and we are not always willing to do so.

Sometimes, of course, we do take the risk. It is very encouraging when new faces appear at outreach events: people who have been invited by members of the church community, and have said 'yes'.

It is important that, as well as sending out the message of Jesus, we too are nourished by this message. We need to keep our own faith built up in order to share it with others. We have been blessed over the last few months to see and to share in the enthusiasm for the gospel brought by those whom we have invited to speak at various events.

We should be encouraged - and further inspired to show our passion and enthusiasm for the good news of Jesus.

### **OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS . . .**

#### **An evening with Gary Streeter**

On Friday 13 January, nearly 60 friends from our church community shared in a meal at the New Country Inn at Smithaleigh. Our speaker after dinner was Gary Streeter, MP.

We were pleased to see some unfamiliar faces there, and encouraged by the positive response to this event.

#### **Hampton Manor**

A week later, on Saturday 21 January, we spent the day at Hampton Manor near Callington. The day was led by Colin Salter, who has been minister of the International Church at Khartoum and director of Ambassadors for Christ.

Using the history of Barnabas from the book of Acts, Colin led us in thinking about ways we can empower our witness to those who have not yet come to know Jesus.

We were also pleased to enjoy pleasant food and a time of worship, and although the mild weather was enjoyable it

meant we did have to do without the log fire. Maybe we'll just have to try again for the log fire next winter. . . !

### **Christianity Explored**

*Christianity Explored* has been running on Friday evenings since 20 January. The course, which is based on Mark's Gospel, is for anyone wanting to explore the Christian faith. Although our group is small, we have enjoyed exploring the gospel. If you missed this course but would be interested in the future, please let me know.

### ***Walk Thru the Old Testament***

On Saturday 4 February we were pleased to have Ian Crossley, an instructor from the internationally-successful Bible ministry *Walk Thru the Bible*, lead us on a *Walk Thru the Old Testament*. 37 people came to this fun day of innovative Bible teaching and, as well as enjoying the day immensely, we all felt that we had learned a lot.

Ian will be returning on 17 June to lead us on a *Walk Thru the New Testament*, and I would encourage you all to consider attending. After attending the Old Testament day, I can certainly recommend it to you!

### **ALSO COMING SOON. . .**

#### **Bryn Haworth**

On Saturday 18 March, we are pleased to have the singer and songwriter Bryn Haworth joining us as part of his "Keep the Faith" tour.

Bryn enjoyed a successful secular music career before becoming a Christian in 1974, and since then has repeated that success in the world of Christian music. Bryn's music will appeal to those both inside and outside the church community: if you have not yet booked a ticket I would like to invite you to do so - and perhaps bring a friend too.

We are pleased that Bryn will also be joining us for our morning worship on 19 March.

## **Treloyhan Manor**

Our church weekend at Treloyhan Manor is drawing closer: the weekend of 7-9 April 2006 is less than a month away. Mark Dunn-Wilson will be leading us in thinking about Jesus as 'my first, my last, my everything', and places are still available if you have not yet booked for this weekend. Further information and booking forms are available - and we would be delighted if you joined us!

## **Marilyn Baker**

We are pleased to be welcoming Marilyn Baker to the church for a concert at the church on 6 May. Marilyn is a well-known and popular musician, and her music is sure to appeal to all.

## **AND FINALLY ...**

I am thankful for the prayer and encouragement you have given me so far, and ask for your continued prayer and support for the church's outreach work.

God bless you

*Catherine Stead*

*The church has a busy programme of regular and seasonal events. These are advertised on our weekly and monthly sheets and on our website.*

**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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