

THIS MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2009

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

Introducing our new superintendent and chairman

There are Methodists all over the world. The Methodist Church of Great Britain works with partner churches in four geographical areas; [Africa](#), [Americas & the Caribbean](#), [Asia & the Pacific](#) and [Europe](#) as well as with the [Methodist Church in Ireland](#). In Great Britain Methodist Churches are arranged into circuits and districts. Our circuit is the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit. Formed from an amalgamation of two smaller circuits in 1997, the circuit, made up of 26 places of worship, covers the Greater Plymouth area including four churches in the South Hams, Ivybridge, Yealmpton, Bittaford and Roborough and two in south-east Cornwall at Torpoint and Millbrook. Following the retirement of the Revd Robert Saunders, we welcome a new superintendent, Revd Simon H. Leigh. Simon has recently moved from Sutton (Surrey Circuit) where he was minister first, and Epsom and then at Carshalton. Simon has already asked me to continue as deputy superintendent and I am pleased to continue that work, though somewhat relieved to come to an end of my third stint as acting superintendent, the last period being nearly six months making a total of 20 months out of the last 32.

The Plymouth and Devonport Circuit is part of the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District. The district includes our two Cornish churches and eight other churches in Cornwall that are part of the Bude Circuit. There are 22 circuits in the district. Some of the circuits in the east of the district straddle the county boundaries of Somerset and Dorset. Following the retirement of the Revd John Carne, we welcome a new chairman (sometimes inclusively but unattractively rendered 'chair'), the Revd Peter J. Pillinger. Pete has served in Cornwall, Sri Lanka, Brixton (London) and Lincolnshire. He is very interested in *Fresh Expressions* and will no doubt be encouraging and supporting many such initiatives across the district.

Back to church Sunday

Our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 27 September at 10.30 am coincides with 'Back to Church Sunday'. As this is an excellent opportunity to invite family and friends to church we hope that you will invite some guests to join you in the service. Research by the 'Back to Church Sunday' team reveals that many people would return to church if someone invited them. Our Harvest Festival also includes a visit from Gary Cox of *Eurovangelism* who will be joining the church community for lunch in the hall. All are welcome.

Membership preparation group

The Methodist Church began as a society and the way to join a society is to become a member. Over the years the Methodist movement became a church and the way to join the church is to be baptised and confirmed. We retain both ideas. Becoming a member gives you an opportunity to show your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the church and enables you to participate fully in the life of the church. To help people explore what being a Christian and belonging to the church in today's world means, I am holding a short series of four sessions each Monday evening in September at 6.15 pm in the crèche. If you are interested and would like further details or would like to come but find these dates impossible please let me know as soon as possible. It is possible just to come on the evening but it helps me if you let me know in advance that you are hoping to come.

Minister's Bible study

For the last seven years, I have led a Bible study on Monday evenings. These groups begin again on Monday 21 September at 7.30 pm, when we will commence a new course on Ephesians. I hope we can make a good start to the year and that some new people will join the group. We begin with some songs and prayer, continue with the study and conclude with tea and superior biscuits at about 9.00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Pastoral news

The church community was saddened by the death of our oldest member, Mrs Vera Giles. Vera, who was in her 103rd year, kept up to date with news of the church through her many friends and regular visits from her pastoral visitor. She was also an avid reader of this newsletter. It was my privilege to be her minister. In August, we also celebrated the 100th birthday of Mrs Myra Harris. In order to beat the rush, I shared a communion service with Myra on the eve of her birthday – she sends all her friends at church her warmest greetings.

Return to Wembley

In May 2008 I was invited to speak at Park Lane Methodist Church, Wembley, over the weekend of Aldersgate Sunday, when Methodists remember the conversion of John Wesley and the roots of our movement. The church at Park Lane very much reflects the area it serves and is a cosmopolitan, multi-racial congregation. I was delighted to be asked to take their forthcoming church anniversary on Sunday 25 October at 10.30 am (followed by lunch) and am looking forward to my visit. I thought sharing with such a congregation would be an opportunity for our community and if anyone would like more information with a view to making a visit to Wembley please let me know. There are relatively inexpensive places to stay nearby, all easily accessible from the M4 on the outskirts of Greater London.

Memorial Service: Sunday 15 November, 6.00 pm

For many years I have arranged an annual memorial service to which I invite bereaved families that I have been alongside in the previous church year. This is an important ministry and I hope you will support it. Since the Methodist circuit plan has been printed I have had to change the date. The Memorial Service will now be on Sunday 15 November at 6.00 pm. The evening service the following Sunday will be at the usual time, 7.00 pm. Kindly note these changes.

Prayer Handbook and prayer requests

Each year the Methodist Church publishes a prayer handbook and the one for 2009-10 is available for £3. These excellent books include prayers for a different part of the world and a different district in Great Britain and Ireland each day. There is also a traditional prayer for each day of the month. Please be sure to get your copy. Our book of prayer requests that is used in the Sunday services is an invaluable resource for those leading and sharing in the prayers of the church. I am sure that we are also keeping in our prayers Revd Robin Doyle, Vicar of Maker and Rame, who has been so very unwell recently. Please remember that if you have a prayer request you can always have it included by notifying one of the stewards or contacting the church office.

Yours sincerely

John Haley

MHA - Methodist Homes for the Aged.

MHA was founded by the Methodist Church to improve the lives of older people based on the Christian principles of love, compassion and respect. This is achieved through volunteers, fundraising and chaplaincy.

On Tuesday 15 September Ladies Group will be hosting a meeting when people can find out more. This meeting is open to those within the church and others. For further details please see the notices in the vestibule and the weekly sheets.

Training.

A Training Day is being held on Monday November 9 2009 from 10.30 am - 3.15 pm. at Exeter Cathedral Chapter House, entitled Fishnets! On the edge of Eternity the speaker is Ann Morisy and the topic is Mission amongst the aged. The places are limited and we need to reserve them as soon as possible. If you would like to reserve a place and arrange to travel together, please contact the Church office.

Harvest - Thanksgiving

In preparation for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 27 September, your help and any produce such as flowers and / or foliage you may have in the garden would be very welcome from 10.00am on Saturday 26 September. Please come along and join in, we hope to see you.

Sue Couch.

September Diary

Wednesday 2:		
	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Saturday 5:		
	8.30 am	Monthly Prayer Meeting
	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Outreach (Christine and Lidia)
Sunday 6		
	10.30 am	Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
	7.00 pm	Miss Catherine Stead
Monday 7:		
	6.15 pm	Membership preparation group (1)
Tuesday 8:		
	10.00 - 12.00	Patchwork Group
	7.45 pm	Ladies' Group: Members' Evening - "Holiday Memories"
	7.30 pm	Men's Fellowship: Revd John Haley
Wednesday 9:		
	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Thursday 10:		
	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Rev John Haley (Holy Communion)
Saturday 12:		
	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Local Mission (Pat and others)
Sunday 13:		
	10.30 am	Revd David Hull
	7.00 pm	Revd John Haley
Monday 14:		
	6.15 pm	Membership preparation group (2)
	7.30 pm	Circuit meeting at Crownhill

Tuesday 15:	10.00-12.00 NB 7.30 pm	Patchwork Group Ladies' Group: Alison Turner "M.H.A."
Wednesday 16:	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Thursday 17:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Mr Colston Swift
Saturday 19:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Miriam, Kim and Steve)
Sunday 20:	10.30 am 7.00 pm	Revd Simon Leigh Revd John Haley (Holy Communion)
Monday 21:	6.15 pm 7.30 pm	Membership preparation group (3) Minister's Bible study (Ephesians -week 1)
Tuesday 22:	10.00 - 12.00 3.00 pm 7.45 pm	Patchwork Group Cake café Ladies' Group: Veronika Probert - "The String Lady"
Wednesday 23:	10.00-12.30	Coffee followed by Lunches
Thursday 24:	2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship: Marian Yelland
Saturday 26:	10.00-12.00	Oasis Coffee Bar: Harvest for the Hungry (Carol and others)
Sunday 27:	10.30 am (TBA) 7.00 pm	Revd John Haley -Harvest festival (All age-family worship) Lunch followed by a presentation by Gary Cox Mrs Judith Walker
Monday 28:	6.15 pm 7.30 pm	Membership preparation group (4) Minister's Bible study (Ephesians -week 2)
Tuesday 29:	3.00 pm 7.30 pm 7.45 pm	Cake café Men's Fellowship: (Speaker tba) at Elburton Ladies' Group: Deacon Ruth Richey "Harvest" (Donations for Shekinah Mission)

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

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Information for October *This Month* to the office by 22 September please.