

THIS MONTH: FEBRUARY 2005

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

Talents Questionnaire

Are you giving your talents in the service of the Kingdom of God? The church council believes that a lot of gifts that we have in our church community are not being used. During the past year we have been preparing a church community talents questionnaire. On the first Sunday in Lent (13 February) we are going to launch the questionnaire and hope that everyone in the church community will take the time to pray about it and to see what they feel they could offer to serve Christ in the church and in the world. In the first instance, positive responses on the returned questionnaires will be referred to James and me. It's a time when it will be important to encourage one another and to build up the body of Christ.

Outreach events

I was delighted with the success of the Burns' Night. We filled the suite that we hired at the Borington Hall hotel. We had bagpipes, haggis and an excellent meal, many of the traditional items and a very fitting address from David Meredith. It was good of David to come from Smithton, near Inverness, and it gave him an opportunity to experience an evangelical Methodist Church. We had a significant number of 'guests' from outside of the church community at this event and that is a very encouraging sign. James Darby is working away at planning more outreach events and I hope we can continue to give him our support.

Thursday Bible study and ICES

I changed my mind at the last minute and have decided to do a ten session Bible study on the 'Bird's Eye View of the Old Testament' on Thursday evenings (7.30 pm, fortnightly as advertised). By the time you read this we shall have mastered Genesis in eight words (creation, fall, flood, tower, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph). With Genesis behind us we have eight further studies to which all are welcome.

We have nearly finished the first ICES (Interactive Christian Extension Studies) on the Synoptic Gospels and Acts. If there is sufficient interest, I hope to start another 10 session ICES course on the Letters of Paul in March. Because I lead the course I am a bit biased but I have asked Lynne and Catherine to tell you about it:

Lynne Rogers writes: I have nearly completed the first ICES course on the Synoptic Gospels and Acts. We work through our Bible study folders at home and we meet about every 10 days. The group meetings have been good. I have learned a lot, enjoyed the company of others doing ICES and had the benefit of the help of the group leader (John Haley). Some of us have had a go at the written assignments and this has been both challenging and satisfying - to know that with some guidance and encouragement I could do it. I know that the way to gain a deeper understanding of God's plan for us is by studying the Bible, something which before beginning ICES I did not really know how to do and it's this that is the most important part for me.

Catherine Stead writes: *Bible study is not about learning facts (though they might come in useful!) but about deepening your faith through greater understanding of the Bible. The ICES course is rewarding not just because it increases your knowledge about the Bible (though it does), but also because it asks you to consider what you think and believe - and why. The ICES course on the Synoptic Gospels and Acts has helped me to understand more about the gospel accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus, and about my own response to them. The course is accessible and the discussions interesting. Nobody should be put off by thinking it is too hard for them, because it's not! If you have done Christianity Explored, Alpha or a similar course and want to learn more, or if you just want to know more about the Bible, then the ICES course can help you.*

If you would like to see an ICES workbook or know more about the course, please ask me. I would be encouraged to hear from you.

John Haley

Notice from Church Property and Management Committee

Our Church Building has been open for 11 years and some parts of it have not been re-decorated at all. The property stewards aim to redecorate all the top floor of the building this year. We plan to start in the lounge, working through to the hall and kitchen. The painting of the church itself may have to be contracted out due to the height.

In order for this to happen we need several teams to take on parts of the task. For example - cleaning and preparation of the lounge to be done by one team, followed by a painting team. In order to help us accomplish this major task we are planning to be flexible with the timing of the work. E.g. The cleaning / preparation tasks have been broken down so that at a time of their choosing (assuming the area is not in use) someone could spend say 45 mins on a task, the task then being signed off on the task sheet. (Please see task sheets on the notice board) With a little effort from a lot of people the job will soon be done. We can't expect it all to be done by John Duerden and his small band of helpers especially as John's health isn't what it was.

If you can help with cleaning and preparation please contact Pat Stead or put your name on the sheet fixed to the entrance notice board.

If you can help with painting please contact John Buttle or add your name to the appropriate notice. Everyone will probably be affected by the scheme. Apart from the need for helpers there may be some inconvenience to user groups as their rooms are worked on. We also ask that our (the property management committee) request, that things not be blue-tacked or taped to walls be strictly observed both during and after the re-decoration process.

Thank you for your attention.

Youth News

Please pray for the assemblies and lessons taking place in Ridgeway and Hele school from 4—11 February. These lessons and assemblies are in preparation for the week of outreach during half-term when 11—14 year olds are being invited to participate in activities each day at the church. Please see the posters for details of activities and times. We believe that God is blessing the work amongst these young people and we are praying that during this week relationships and friendships can be built and that the young people will be wanting to know much about God ultimately leading to faith in Jesus.

Prayer 24/7

24/7 prayer week is set to go ahead beginning on Sunday 6 March. Please already be thinking about what time you can commit to praying during that week—there will be a rota to sign and we are hoping that each hour (day and night) there will be at least one person praying. During the night hours we are expecting that most would prefer to pray at home with perhaps a phone call to hand over to the next one praying. It would be good to use the week as creatively as possible—so if anyone has suggestions for prayer topics, or a particular style of praying please let me know soon so that we can set aside specific hours for these. If anyone would like to borrow the Rob Frost DVD about 24/7 prayer please ask.

Miriam

February Diary

Tuesday 1:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

7.30 pm *Crosstalk Circuit Prayer Meeting at Stoke*

7.45 pm Ladies Group. My life in the hymn book. Revd John Haley

Wednesday 2:

12.30—1.30 pm Prayer meeting at Mutley Baptist Church.

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm Monthly Prayer Meeting in the church

7.30 pm ICES Bible Study (week 9)

Thursday 3:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship

7.30 pm *Local Preachers' Meeting at Crownhill*

Saturday 5:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar– Mission Outreach

Sunday 6:

10.30 am Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 7:

7.00 pm Christianity Explored. Lounge.

7.30 pm Management (Finance and Property) Committee

Tuesday 8:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group.

7.30 pm Men's Fellowship—James Darby

7.45 pm Ladies Group—History of Ridgeway and Underwood. Sylvia Guthrig

Wednesday 9:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches.

7.30 pm House Fellowships

7.30 pm ICES Bible Study (week 10)

Thursday 10:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship

7.30 pm Minister's Bible Study. (Exodus) Lounge

Saturday 12:

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar—Plympton Paramedics. Ladies Group

7.00 pm 'Recharge'

Sunday 13:

10.30 am Mr James Darby

7.00 pm Mr Rob Peters

Monday 14:

12.00—2.00 pm Valentine Party. All children aged 4—11 are invited.

Cost £1 plus a small wrapped gift worth no more than 50p

7.00 pm Christianity Explored. Lounge.

Tuesday 15:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise. All welcome

7.45 pm Ladies Group—HALF TERM

Wednesday 16:

Lunches— HALF TERM

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 17:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship

Saturday 19:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar—THIS DATE IS FREE

Evening family event. More details later

Sunday 20:

10.30 am Mr Nigel James

7.00 pm Revd John Haley / Mr Nigel James

Monday 21:

7.00 pm Christianity Explored.

7.30 pm Church Council Meeting. Lounge

Tuesday 22:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group.

7.45 pm Men's Fellowship at Elburton

7.45 pm Ladies Group—Plympton Paramedics

Wednesday 23:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches.

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 24:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship

7.30 pm Minister's Bible Study. (Conquest) Lounge

Saturday 26:

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar—Youth Mission. Kim, Steve and Miriam

6.00 pm Pre-School event. To be held at Woodford Methodist Church. Further details later

Sunday 27:

10.30 am Revd John Haley Holy Communion

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 28:

7.00 pm Christianity Explored. Lounge

Oasis Coffee Bar

Can you help us? Dates from March to August are currently available if your group would like to book a morning. Help would also be appreciated with running or baking for occasional dates not taken up by groups within the church. If you feel able to help in any way or would like to know more please contact Pat Stead or the church office.

Church office hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

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

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

Outreach worker: Mr James Darby: outreach@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Administrative assistant: Mrs Pat Gorton: office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Website address: www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Information for March's *This Month* to the office by 22 February please.