

Saturday 17:
10.00 - 12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Outreach (Pat Stead)

Sunday 18:
10.30 am Mrs Janet Bell
7.00 pm Mr Brian Hart

Monday 19:
7.30 pm Moore College Old Testament (5)

Tuesday 20:
10.00-12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise (all welcome)
7.45 pm Ladies' Group:

Wednesday 21:
10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 22:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Peter Gregory

Friday 23:
7.00 pm Pastoral Visitors' Evening with Deacon Ruth Richey

Saturday 24:
10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Boys' Brigade (Katie Martin)

Sunday 25:
10.30 am Mr Brian Roseveare
7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 26:
7.30 pm Moore College Old Testament (6)
7.30 pm Circuit Meeting (Mount Gould)

Tuesday 27:
10.00-12.00 Patchwork
7.00 pm Ladies' Group:
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship at Elburton: Len Copley Dartmoor talk and slides

Wednesday 28:
10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

THIS MONTH: FEBRUARY 2007



RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Friends

For the times they are a-changin'

Bob Dylan has been a major songwriter/poet for the last five decades. Although, much of Dylan's most influential work was written in the 1960s, his recent recording *Modern Times* entered the US album charts at Number One, making him the oldest living person to top those charts. In 1999, Dylan was included in *TIME* magazine's '100 most influential people of the 20th century'. One of Dylan's most famous lyrics is *For the times they are a-changin'*.

Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters
Are beyond your command
Your old road is
Rapidly agin'.
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'.

In forty or more years since that song was published in 1964, there is little doubt that Dylan was right, certainly here in Britain, and the changes that many of us have seen in our lifetimes have massive implications for the Christian Church.

In many ways, the social context in which Christians work out their faith in 2007 is very different from the world of our parents, let alone our grandparents. Whereas previously, many people took the answers for granted, we are now being challenged to give clear answers to questions that hardly needed asking before. I believe the most vital of these questions to be 'Who is Jesus?' We live in a cosmopolitan and multi-cultural society. In our major cities, this can produce a vibrant and exciting mix with many similarities to the Graeco-Roman culture of the Mediterranean countries in New Testament times.

Even 25 years ago, but certainly 40 years ago, the traditional Christian morality was more or less held by the great majority of our friends and neighbours. Though some of the sentiments expressed could be judgmental and self-righteous, in many ways people had common goals. It was pretty much accepted that the average British family would be mother, father and 2.4 children. Today, it would be hard to describe the average British family in such terms.

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

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

Church Office: office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk
Minister: The Revd John M Haley: minister@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk
www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Information for March 's *This Month* to the office by 20 February please.

Instead, a wide range of personal arrangements have brought new meanings to the words 'relationship' and 'partner', forcing the Christian to consider whether any, most or all of these arrangements have a moral equivalence to Christian marriage. The Judaeo-Christian tradition has emphasised the importance of men and women joining in marriage (Genesis 2:24) but our society is rapidly departing from that. Even people within the Christian community are questioning the place of the traditional Biblical teaching.

The affirmation 'Jesus Christ is Lord, Son of the living God' is a basic Christian creed. It says that Jesus is unique in his Lordship and Divinity. It is my conviction that to depart from that is to lose the very essence of Christianity. We all have the capacity to make mistakes and forgiveness and restoration are an important part of the Christian gospel. That does not mean, however, that we have lost all sight of our traditional aspirations in marriage or in matters of public and private morality. As the world at large moves further and further away from Christian belief and Christian lifestyle, Christians have an even greater opportunity for thoughtful Christian witness and example.

Baptism, membership and Christian renewal

The Methodist Church has a list of registered members and our way of doing things makes formal membership important. Whether you are new to the life of the church or have been part of the church community for a little while but would like to have an opportunity to express your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, to his church and to this local church, you can show this through baptism or Christian renewal and membership. There is a possibility that I would conduct a service of total immersion on the evening of Easter Day (8 April). This would be followed by a service of reception into membership on Pentecost morning (27 May). If you would like to explore this possibility please speak to me, to one of the stewards or to the leader of your group as soon as possible. Enquirers will be given a copy of *Called by Name (Being a member in the Methodist Church)* and *A Catechism for the use of the people called Methodists* and these will form the basis of preparation for being received into membership.

E-mail contacts

If you have an e-mail address please would you make sure that we have it in the office by sending a message to office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Emu music: 3 February, 9.30 am-2.30 pm

Emmanuel Church (Mannamead) is inviting church musicians and church services leaders to three sessions arranged by Emu music: Introduction to Biblical music ministry; band workshop/introducing new songs; short answers to big issues - <http://www.emu.mu/>

Barnabas Trust Meeting with Dr Patrick Sookhdeo: 3 February, 4.00-8.00 pm

Grace Community Church (Looe) are hosting this event for the Barnabas Fund. Canon Patrick Sookhdeo, a former Muslim, is a British Anglican and director of the Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity. He is a strong voice for persecuted Christians around the world. If you are interested in going and can offer or need transport please notify a church steward.

Dates for your diaries

Our next midweek celebration is on Saturday 24 March, 7.30 pm with Dr Alec Passmore from

Omega Ministries International (incorporating Balkan Vision: Eastern Europe). On Thursday 24 May, 7.30 pm we are hosting a service for the Plymouth and Devonport Methodist Circuit to which all are welcome. Our summer midweek celebration is on Wednesday 20 June, 7.30 pm with Revd Dave Martin (our District Evangelism Enabler)

God bless

John Haley

February Diary

Thursday 1:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Win Smith

Friday 2:
7.00-10.00 pm Revive! at Ridgeway Methodist Church, Plymouth and Exeter District gathering for renewal and revival—arranged by the district: all welcome

Saturday 3:
8.30 am Monthly Prayer Meeting
9.15 am Dartmoor Walk
10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Mission Outreach (Christine Gregory)
4.00-8.00 pm Barnabas Trust Meeting with Patrick Sookhdeo (Grace Community Church, Looe)

Sunday 4:
10.30 am Revd John Haley: Communion
7.00 pm Mr Earle Rendle

Monday 5:
7.30 pm Moore College Old Testament (4)

Tuesday 6:
10.00-12.00 Patchwork
7.30 pm Youth Council
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Cheryl Stead: Chiropody

Wednesday 7:
10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 8:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Members' Afternoon

Saturday 10:
10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Avril, Kim and Steve)

Sunday 11:
10.30am Revd John Haley
7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 12:
7.30 pm No Moore College Study (half term)

Tuesday 13:
10.00-12.00 Patchwork
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship at Ridgeway

Wednesday 14:
10.00-.12.30 Valentine's Day Chinese style –. All school age children welcome

Thursday 15:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship