

THIS MONTH: JULY 2005

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

News from our recent church council

We spent a considerable length of time considering our budget for the coming year. Members and associates (those people who are with us regularly for Sunday services) will have received a letter explaining the current situation. Particular attention was given to making sure that proper accounting methods are used throughout the church and asking groups using the premises to rise to the challenge of giving generously and realistically. Anyone handling money on the premises or holding any funds for church groups should speak to Barbara Parr, our church treasurer, without delay.

The youth council had been considering the perennial question of how to help young people make the transition from Sunday morning youth activities to the Sunday morning services. It was agreed that in the September when young people reach year 11 at school (15 years old) that they would be presented with an NIV Bible at a Sunday morning service and then encouraged to be part of the morning congregation. We will continue to have seven all-age services each year.

It was agreed that baptism on profession of faith and services of renewal of baptism will normally be coupled with church membership. A provisional date for a baptism and membership service has already been arranged for October. If you are thinking of expressing your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to his church in this way 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.

The church council has revised its policy for *Safeguarding Children and Young People* to include the pre-school and to respond to the latest government guidelines. In accordance with the legislation, Lynne Rogers has arranged sessions about safeguarding for all our workers with children and young people and has sent out invitations with a choice of dates. This is one of the issues in the life of the church where we have no scope to vary the procedures. We hope that everyone who has been invited will attend a session so that they can continue with their valuable contribution to our youth work. However, those who decide not to attend one of the sessions will not be eligible to continue after the next church council in September. If you think you should have been included and have not had an invitation please be sure to speak to Lynne.

Pastoral visiting

I am coming to the end of the first year when Ridgeway Methodist Church is my only pastoral charge and am acutely aware that there are some members that I have yet to see in their own homes. The summer months are times when people are often out and so I wonder if I could ask you to telephone me at home (342519) or email me at minister@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk to arrange a specific time for me to call. Also, if you are aware of a member who would appreciate regular visits or home communion please speak to me or our pastoral secretary, Sue Couch, about it.

Bible studies

We have come to the end of another busy church year of Bible studies. James Darby presented a

series of six Bible studies on Genesis using a video and I presented 18 studies on Matthew's Gospel and 10 studies on the Old Testament that I prepared myself. The ICES (*Interactive Christian Extension Studies*) group completed a 10 session course on the *Synoptic Gospels and Acts* and a 10 session course on the *Letters of Paul*. I am beginning to plan for September and thought I might prepare my own series of studies on *Hebrews* and continue to do ICES courses for those who would like to do them. Those people who complete six ICES courses should be eligible for a Certificate of Higher Education. Please make your interest in the courses known to me as that will help me to plan for the autumn.

News from the circuit meeting

The circuit meeting had to consider many challenges including how best to organise the pastoral responsibilities of the ministers from September 2006, which requires advanced planning. The superintendent will be minister of Sherwell United Church. The first of two other ministers will take responsibility for Stoke, Cornerstone (Torpoint) and Laira (the last two being Methodist-URC united churches) and the second minister will cover Compton, Colebrook, Millbrook and possibly Cattedown. The meeting said farewell to the Revd Edgar Daniel (who is moving to Newton Abbot) and James Darby (who is moving to Nottingham). The Revd John Richey will be coming to the circuit to succeed Edgar. Two ministers informed the circuit that they are eligible for sabbaticals in the coming year, Robert Saunders (January-March) and John Haley (April-July). The circuit heard about the excellent work that has been happening at Ridgeway and in Plympton through the outreach worker scheme. It was noted that there was still five months funding left from the original scheme. The meeting therefore decided to extend the scheme to employ an outreach worker based at Ridgeway on a half-time basis for a further year. This vacancy will be advertised shortly and, though subject to district approval, the appointment will hopefully be made by 1 September.

James Darby's last month with us

When James arrived with us in January 2004 I asked him to arrange a monthly event to which we could invite our friends from outside the church community. During his time with us, James has worked with me at putting together an impressive variety of events, the latest, and in many ways the most successful, of these being the Chinese evening at Fortune Court. A total of 76 people attended to hear Revd Kim Goh a Methodist minister born in Singapore but now living and working in Leeds. More than 30 of those who attended would not normally be in our Sunday services. There are three more outreach events before James leaves us, the visit of Bob Hartman, storyteller (1 July), the spiritual day away at Hampton Manor (16 July) and the trip to the Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary (30 July). These three events, each different in its own way, have the common theme of making the love and grace of the Lord Jesus known. I hope James can count on your support. James' last Sunday with us is 31 July when we are having tea together (5.00 pm) and an evening service in which we shall wish him well as he moves to his new appointment.

The invitation process

From the beginning of the Methodist movement it has been assumed that our ministers will stay for a fixed term of years (currently five years) and whether that is right or wrong it is still the system. After the initial period ministers stay for further terms of years in the circuit by mutual agreement. Many members (and some ministers) make this a matter of personalities and personal preferences but really it is about the policy of the church and the future of the Christian work. Over the summer period church stewards will be required to consult widely and report to the circuit stewards. The circuit stewards will then bring a recommendation to the circuit meeting bearing in mind the policies of the circuit, the report of the local church stewards, the views of the minister and the needs of the minister's family. The circuit meeting, having heard the recommendation of the circuit stewards, will decide whether to issue an extended invitation. I shall soon be entering the consultation procedure and wish everyone God's guidance as we go through the process.

And finally

Our friends at Millbrook Methodist Church are having a fund raising concert with the Torpoint Lady Singers and the St Columba Male Voice Choir on Saturday 2 July at 7.30 pm. I have a bit of a sentimental attachment to Millbrook as my great-grandfather ran the Sunday School there for many years. I am sure that if you were to decide to spend some time in the Rame Peninsula and then head for Millbrook in the evening you would receive a warm and appreciative welcome. We are often expecting circuit churches to support things we do. This is a way to reciprocate.

God bless you all

John Haley

OASIS

Dates are available for the September—December period. If your group would like to book a date please contact Ann Beavington or the church office.

From the Management Committee

The area at the main entrance to the church is for casual parking only, visitors, short stay and deliveries. The marked areas for pick up and drop off must be kept clear for this purpose and use by emergency vehicles.

“25 and more” - Christian Resources Project

CRP has been operating for more than 25 years. Their current aim is:

- To place partnership workers in all Secondary/Special Schools.
- To develop area teams/networks of support.
- To create a programme of camps/city wide youth events.
- To develop work within Primary Schools.

There are many ways in which you can give support.

For more information see the notice board (for ideas and special events) or see Janet Bell.

July Diary

Friday 1:

7.00 pm Bob Hartman, Story Teller. An evening of Folk and Bible stories. (see separate leaflet)

Saturday 2:

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar—Mission Outreach. Christine and Peter Gregory

7.30 pm 'The Net'

7.30 pm Concert at Millbrook Methodist Church (£3.50 on the door)

Sunday 3:

10.30 am Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Tuesday 5 :

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

7.30 pm Crosstalk. Circuit Prayer Meeting at Stoke

Wednesday 6:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches.

7.30 pm Church Prayer

Thursday 7:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship—Garden Party

Saturday 9:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar. In support of Video licence. Youth Council

7.30 pm 'Recharge'

Sunday 10:

10.30 am Mrs Sheila Merrin

7.00 pm Mr James Darby

Tuesday 12:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group. Summer break until 6 September

Wednesday 13:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches.

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 14:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship—to be announced

Saturday 16:

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar—World Mission. Beth Saunders

TIME Spiritual Day Away at Hampton Manor (see separate leaflet)

Sunday 17:

10.30 am Mr Chris Sturley

7.00 pm Mrs Janet Bell

Tuesday 19:

2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise with James Darby (all welcome)

Wednesday 20:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches. Summer break until 7 September

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 21:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship—Annual General Meeting. Summer break until 8 September

Friday 22:

6.30 pm Men's Fellowship Barbecue at the home of Lorraine and Mike Sowden.

A welcome invitation to all

Saturday 23:

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar. Christine Gregory

Sunday 24:

10.30 am Revd John Haley

7.00 pm Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

Wednesday 27:

7.30 pm Stewards meeting

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Friday 29:

12.30 pm Network Fellowship Day at Woodford. Speaker: Mrs Brenda Youngs

Saturday 30:

Visit to Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary. Coach will leave Ridgeway School at 9.00 am (see separate leaflet)

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar. In support of Youth Mission. Miriam, Kim and Steve

Saturday 30 July—Friday 5 August

The Methodist School of Fellowship. 'Finding the Treasure'

Encountering the Gospel in the 21st Century. Please see notice board for further details.

Sunday 31:

10.30 am Revd John Haley

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

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 August's *This Month* to the office by 19 July please.