

THIS MONTH: MARCH 2005

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

24:7 week of prayer

Why are we making all this fuss about prayer? I think there are two fairly simple answers to that question. The first is because we want to affirm that prayer is important – it's pride that suggests that we can do great things for God without prayer and doubt that suggests that we cannot do great things for God with it. By prayer we seek to be more in harmony with God's will. The second is because we lead busy lives and we often let important things get crowded out. Therefore, I was delighted when the Methodist Conference agreed that the Methodist Church should commit itself to a special year of prayer. Things have worked out in such a way that we will be one of the earliest Methodist Churches to hold a special week of non-stop prayer. We cannot do it on our own but we can do it together! Some of us are temperamentally early birds and others are night owls. In fact, one or two younger people seem to be nocturnal! So for one week, we can sustain a relay of prayer (24:7). Further details are available and I hope that the whole church community will catch the vision to share in this – with God and with each other.

Outreach events

The two major outreach events on the horizon at the moment are the 'Taste of the Country' day at Higher Cadham farm near Okehampton (Saturday 26 March) and the weekend away at Treloyhan Manor (8—10 April). More details of these are available on separate leaflets – and all are welcome!

Midweek services in March

Our next midweek celebration is on Wednesday 16 March at 7.30 pm. I will be leading the service and, God willing, it will include a time of prayer for healing and wholeness. This year our Maundy Thursday communion (24 March, 7.30 pm) and Good Friday service (25 March, 10.00 am) will be in our own church. These are important occasions in the Christian calendar and I hope that they will be well supported.

Bird's Eye View of the Old Testament and Letters of Paul

We are now part way through our series of Thursday evening Bible studies *Bird's Eye View of the Old Testament* but it is still possible to join the group. The aim is to be confident about the overview of the Old Testament (e.g. Genesis in eight words: creation, fall, flood, tower, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph). I am also planning a group to study the *Letters of Paul* using notebooks from *Interactive Christian Extension Studies* (ICES). This begins on 14 March but there is an introductory evening on 2 March. If we are to equip people to fulfil leadership roles in the church it is important to have the opportunity to

learn and grow together and that is what I am trying to achieve through these groups. I think some in the church community have the idea that the ICES course might be too difficult for them – it is challenging but I have been doing these groups for 12 years and very few people have said that they found them too difficult. I hope that will encourage you to ask for more details.

Easter Day

The resurrection is critical for what it means to have hope and faith in Jesus. Please make a very special effort to be with us at all our Easter services but let's be sure that, this Easter Day, the whole church community celebrates the good news: *Jesus is alive!*

John Haley

Fair-trade Fortnight. 1—13 March 2005

You are reminded that as a church we are endeavouring to use fairly traded goods. Please consider buying fairly traded goods from the church stall on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. All major Supermarkets stock fair-trade goods. The Co-op in the Ridgeway has a comprehensive range, some currently selling at 20% discount. Look out for Fair Trade Easter Eggs. Perhaps you could extend this interest further by supporting the Fair Trade market which is taking place in the new public space in Armada Way, from 4—6 March. There will be about 50 stalls. Then we can help "Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice".

1st Plympton Girls' Brigade

The Seniors and Brigaders are working on a project during March called "Goat for It". The aim is to fundraise so that Christian Aid can supply goats to individuals and families which will make a real difference to their lives. The Seniors and Brigaders are running activities with a "goaty theme" on Thursday 10th March with the rest of the company and again on the Saturday morning 12th March. During the afternoon they will be holding a sponsored silence and then participating in "Showcase". The following Saturday evening, 19th March, will be part 2 of the sponsored silence followed by a sleepover. Your support on Saturday 12th March would be much appreciated as would sponsors for our sponsored silence. There will be a sponsor form in the church entrance should you wish to contribute.

Lynne Rogers (Captain)

March Diary

Tuesday 1:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

7.30 pm Crosstalk Circuit Prayer Meeting at Stoke

7.45 pm Ladies Group. Puppy walking for Guide Dogs

Wednesday 2:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

12.30 PM Mutley Prayer Meeting

7.30 pm House Groups combine for prayer in the church (all welcome)

7.30 pm Informal meeting about ICES: Please ask for details

Thursday 3:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship—Prim Skedgell

Friday 4:

2.30 pm Woman's World Day of Prayer. Led by Deacon Ruth Richey

Saturday 5:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar– Mission Outreach

7.00 pm "Net"

Sunday 6: Mothering Sunday

9.30 am Mothering Sunday breakfast—all welcome, especially Mums

10.30 am Revd John Haley. All age worship.

Including baptism of the son of Steve and Sue Whistler

Noon today until noon 13 March. 24 : 7 Week of prayer.

Please sign up on the sheets in the entrance hall as soon as possible

7.00 pm Mr James Darby

Monday 7:

7.30 pm Pastoral Meeting. Lounge

7.00 pm Christianity Explored. Lounge.

Tuesday 8:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group.

7.30 pm Men's Fellowship—Bill Longville.

7.45 pm Ladies Group—Barbara Parr. Mini wanderings Down Under (no slides)

Wednesday 9:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches.

7.30 pm House Fellowships

7.30 pm Stewards Meeting

Thursday 10:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship—Kath Roberts

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

Saturday 12:

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar—Bible Society

Saturday 12—Sunday 20 'Spirit of Discovery'

A variety of speakers and events. Further details on notice board

Sunday 13:

10.30 am Revd David Hull

7.00 pm Revd John Haley/Revd David Hull

Monday 14:

7.00 pm Christianity Explored. Lounge.

7.30 pm ICES Letter of Paul: 1

Tuesday 15:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise. All welcome

7.30 pm Circuit Meeting at Stoke Methodist Church

7.45 pm Ladies Group—Fred Perry. Bulgaria (no slides)

Wednesday 16:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches.

7.30 pm Midweek Celebration. Revd John Haley

Thursday 17:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship—Charmaine Waldergrave

Saturday 19:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar

7.00 pm 'Showcase'

Sunday 20: Palm Sunday

10.30 am Revd John Haley

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 21:

7.00 pm Christianity Explored.

Tuesday 22:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group.

7.45 pm Men's Fellowship at Elburton

7.45 pm Ladies Group—Easter Message. Revd Stephen Caddick. Next meeting Tuesday 12 April

Wednesday 23:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches. Lunches will resume on 13 April

7.30 pm House Fellowships

7.30 pm ICES Letters of Paul: 2

Thursday 24: Maundy Thursday

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship—Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Service. Communion

Friday 25: Good Friday

10.00 am Revd John Haley

Saturday 26:

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar—Kerry Gibson. Miriam, Kim and Steve

'Taste of the Country' day at Higher Cadham farm. Further details to follow

Sunday 27: Easter Day

Easter Day breakfast. Further details later

10.30 am Revd John Haley Holy Communion

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Thursday 31

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Members afternoon

Oasis Coffee Bar

Can you help us? Dates from April 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

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