

# THIS MONTH: MARCH 2006

## RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

### **A superb effort!**

I was so disappointed not to have been in the church for our service on the first Sunday morning after the redecoration work was completed. However, I have the opportunity here to say how delighted I am with the work that has been done, not only because of how the chapel looks but also because I know the great sense of teamwork and enthusiasm that enabled our own volunteers (men and women) to do such a great job – truly, a superb effort! I am not going to mention names as I will inevitably miss important people out – thanks to our property stewards for overseeing this and thanks to everyone who helped. To do it all in one week was brilliant. The colour scheme was recommended by a professional consultant and I think it all looks fantastic.

### **Midweek celebration: Wednesday 8 March – 7.30 pm**

March promises to be another busy month within the life of the church. The new minister from Mutley Baptist Church, Andy Caldwell, is joining us for a midweek celebration with music from our friends from Ivybridge Methodist Church.

### **Bryn Haworth: Saturday 18 March – 7.30 pm**

Most people who know anything about contemporary Christian music have heard of Bryn Haworth. In his early career, Bryn worked with a succession of internationally acclaimed artists. Since becoming a Christian, Bryn has had a succession of recordings in his own name and in the world of Christian music his credentials as a musician are second to none. I have shared with Bryn before at *Summer Fire*, Southport, and am so pleased that he has found the time to be with us. The concert on Saturday evening is a perfect time to bring a guest who might not so readily come to a church 'service'. However, we hope our Sunday morning service will be a little bit special with Bryn leading worship.

### **Mothering Sunday breakfast and all-age worship**

Everyone is welcome to join us at 9.30 am for breakfast followed by all-age worship for Mothering Sunday (26 March). If you would like to help with the arrangements please speak to one of the youth leaders or a steward.

### **Visitors from Heubach Lutheran Church, Germany**

Pfarrer Gunter Bareis, who is currently minister at Heubach, has been a friend of mine for 25 years. Gunter is hoping to bring a party of about 20 German young people to Plympton for a week in October. We would like members of our church community to offer three night's bed and breakfast for our visitors from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October, (including Monday breakfast). With such advanced notice I hope that you will let me know if you can help.

### **Whole church prayer initiative**

This was launched at our monthly prayer meeting in February and promises to be a great blessing to the church. For those who already pray regularly for the church it gives an opportunity for that prayer to be better informed. For those who find a disciplined prayer-life more difficult, it helps bring a sense of routine and purpose to prayer. Three things are critical to the success of this initiative. Firstly, group leaders must continue to give up-to-date information to those who are co-ordinating the prayer initiative.

Secondly, don't forget to sign up to pray for some dimensions of the church's life for six months. Thirdly, and most importantly – keep praying!

### **Circuit meeting and circuit staff**

At the time of writing, three of our circuit ministers are out of circulation, one is away on sabbatical and two are unwell. As acting superintendent minister, this has meant that a lot of extra responsibility has fallen on me. Please bear this in mind as it does affect the amount of time that I am able to give to our own church community until Easter time. At the moment, we still have two ministerial vacancies in the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit for this coming September. The circuit leadership team are working hard to address this but please pray for us and the circuit meeting as we consider these and other vital issues.

### **Walk Thru the Bible**

I haven't met anyone who attended who did not thoroughly enjoy the day *Walk Thru the Old Testament*. Special thanks to those who helped with the practical arrangements. *Walk Thru the New Testament* is booked for Saturday 17 June from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm. The day costs £12 but secondary school children and students from our own church community can attend for just £5, including lunch and the seminar handbook.

### **Treloyhan Manor (7-9 April)**

There is still time to book for our church community weekend away at Treloyhan Manor. A separate leaflet is available with more information. Everyone is welcome – we hope you will join us.

Yours sincerely

John Haley

### **Prayer launch**

The start of the Church community prayer initiative has been very encouraging, and every group has at least 2 people praying for it; some groups have many more. If you missed the start and want to sign up, please speak to Lynne Rogers. For those who were unable to commit themselves, but would still like to feel included in this whole church "project", whenever a Ridgeway person enters your thoughts, simply pray there and then for whatever group(s) they are part of.

Keep in touch with your group(s) if possible, and let's wait expectantly for God to respond.

Carol Sharman

### **24/7 Prayer 19—26 May 2006**

We will be holding a week of 24/7 prayer again from 19—26 May. More details later, but for encouragement please visit [www.praywithoutceasing.org.uk](http://www.praywithoutceasing.org.uk)

Miriam Sitch

### **Safeguarding Workshop**

A Safeguarding Workshop will take place on Sunday 5th March from 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm in the Lounge. If you have yet to attend one of these workshops then this is your last chance. May I remind all those who work with children & young people that it is a requirement that you attend a safeguarding workshop. To book a place please contact Lynne Rogers.

### **Oasis Coffee Bar**

Would your group like to organise Oasis? Spaces are now available on the March—April rota. Could you help as part of a rota, with cooking for Oasis or assisting on a Saturday morning? **Dates available: 11 March, 8, 15 and 29 April.** Please contact the church office if you would like to make a booking or require more information. Thank you.

## **Pastoral Care Course. 29 April 2006**

This course offers training in the important role of helping hospital patients make spiritual links, or connections, at what is for many people a time of loneliness and uncertainty. It is an opportunity to express Jesus' mission to bring God's love to those in need.

Applicants are asked to think seriously and prayerfully to consider if they are being led towards a commitment to visit in Mount Gould or Derriford Hospital. For an application form please telephone 0845 1558172. The course is free of charge. Please see notice board for further details. Take a leaflet for more information or speak to Sue Couch.

### **March Diary**

Wednesday 1:

- 10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches
- 7.30 pm Monthly Prayer Meeting. All welcome
- 7.30 pm ICES 7 (Writings of John)

Thursday 2:

- 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Revd John Haley
- 7.30 pm House Fellowship Group at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst.

Friday 3:

- 7.30 pm Christianity Explored. Lounge

Saturday 4:

- 10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar in support of Outreach. Avril Baker and Pam Tibbs
- PM 1st Plympton Boys' Brigade 'Fun Day'

**Sunday 5:**

- 10.30 am Revd John Haley. Holy Communion**
- 5.00—6.30 pm Safeguarding Course
- 7.00 pm Revd John Haley**

Monday 6:

- 7.30 pm Minister's Bible Study. Hebrews 11

Tuesday 7:

- 10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group
- 7.30 pm Crosstalk Circuit Meeting at Stoke
- 7.45 pm Ladies Group—'The Candrels' Musical Evening

Wednesday 8:

- 10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches
- 7.30 pm Mid-week Celebration. Revd Andy Caldwell (Mutley Baptist Church)

Thursday 9:

- 2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. 'Favourite Hymns'
- 7.30 pm Church Council Meeting
- 7.30 pm House Fellowship Group at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst.

Friday 10:

- 7.30 pm Christianity Explored

Saturday 11:

- 10.00—12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar
- 7.00 pm 'Showcase'

**Sunday 12:**

- 10.30 am Mr Brian Roseveare**
- 7.00 pm Revd John Haley.**

Tuesday 14:

- 10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group
- 2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise. All welcome
- 7.30 pm Men's Fellowship. Lounge. Graham Brooks. Plymouth P/C
- 7.45 pm Ladies Group—Mark Tosdevin (Museum) Old Plymouth. Talk and slides

Wednesday 15:

10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 16:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Revd Ambrose Wright

7.30 pm House Fellowship Group at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst.

Saturday 18:

10.00—12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar—Miriam Sitch

7.30 pm Bryn Haworth concert. "Keeping the Faith" Spring Tour

**Sunday 19:**

**10.30 am Revd John Haley**

**7.00 pm Miss Catherine Stead**

Monday 20: 7.30 pm Minister's Bible study. Hebrews 12

Tuesday 21:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies Group. Mrs Grace Mole. Hearing and Sight Centre

Wednesday 22:

10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 23:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Mr Martin Holst

7.30 pm House Fellowship Group at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst.

Friday 24:

7.30 pm Christianity Explored

Saturday 25:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar in support of Women's Fellowship. Muriel Duerden

All day GB Officers Training

**Sunday 26: Mothering Sunday**

**9.30 am Mothering Sunday breakfast**

**10.30 am Revd John Haley. All age worship**

**7.00 pm Revd John Haley. Holy Communion**

Tuesday 28:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies Group. Harold Rogers. Life History of Fanny Crosby (including soloists)

Wednesday 29:

10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowships

7.30 pm ICES 8 (Writings of John)

Thursday 30:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Mrs Lynne Rogers

7.30 pm House Fellowship Group at the home of Margaret and Martin Holst.

Friday 31:

7.30 pm Christianity Explored

**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](mailto:minister@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk)

**Outreach Worker: Miss Catherine Stead:** [outreach@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk](mailto:outreach@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk)

**Administrative assistant: Mrs Pat Gorton:** [office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk](mailto:office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk)

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Information for April's *This Month* to the office by 21 March please.