

THIS MONTH: MARCH 2007

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends

Peninsula Gospel Partnership: www.peninsulagospel.org.uk

Representatives of many denominations (including five from Ridgeway), who long to see a Christ-centred, Bible-teaching, people-loving church for every community, gathered at St. Leonard's Parish Church in the centre of Exeter to learn about the emerging network of Gospel Partnerships. Gospel Partnerships are regionally based groups of local Christians and Bible-centred churches that are seeking to strengthen and expand faithful gospel ministry by encouraging and enabling Bible-centred churches to work together, to establish biblical patterns of ministry in evangelism and the training and commissioning of gospel workers. Already, there are gospel partnerships in the South-east, Yorkshire, North-west, East Anglia, Midlands, Solent (Hampshire and Dorset), South-west (Bath and Bristol) and Peninsula (Devon and Cornwall) areas.

Gospel Partnerships, which are often affiliated to *Affinity*, www.affinity.org.uk (a 'Church-centred Partnership for Bible-centred Christianity'), believe that the heart of the gospel ministry is the proclamation of Christ crucified and that the means of this ministry is the prayerful teaching of the Bible, primarily through the local church. Training members of existing congregations for a wide range of Bible-teaching ministries and encouraging a new generation of suitably gifted men and women to consider going into full-time gospel ministry are important emphases of the Gospel Partnerships. Therefore, Gospel Partnerships seek to promote schemes for ministry trainees, and to stimulate or plant congregations in areas where gospel ministry is weak or non-existent.

I have been a member of the Peninsula Gospel Partnership steering group since its inception and have also been part of a team of about 30 ministers who have taught on the one-year training course, which consists of three terms of 10 full day sessions (currently held on Mondays here in Plymouth). The first two courses have attracted about 25 students (predominantly though not exclusively in their 20s). The third one-year course will start in September. We are already making new friends and contacts through the Partnership and will soon have the opportunity to affiliate to it. Rod Thomas and Karl Freeman have already preached at Ridgeway and Nathan Fisher is coming to us at Easter. Some of our music group went to the Emu Music Day and a few of our

members went to the Barnabas Fund event at Looe. No doubt there will be more events to follow.

A good start to the year

I am pleased to say that I think that we have made a good start to the year. The network of midweek cell groups is about to move on to a second book and the Moore College students are well into their second course. We hosted a very successful evening of prayer for revival and renewal organised by the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District. Although it is encouraging that we are busy every day of the week with various forms of Christian worship, work and witness, the Sunday services remain the focal point of our community and the main expression of the gathering of the people of God. In January, the Covenant Service was really well supported and the Brigades' Enrolment Service was a great occasion. In February, we temporarily ran out of glasses at communion and eventually distributed the elements to 107 people.

Thank you to everyone who has appreciated and used the church postcards. These are a useful resource. On the reverse of the postcards we carry what advertisers call our 'strapline' which reads 'an active, growing, Bible-based church with a welcome for all ages'. I believe that is what we are. We are certainly active, attendances at our Sunday services are growing, we seek to be Bible-based in our services and midweek groups and endeavour to make all ages welcome, particularly through the balance and blend of musical styles that we offer in the Sunday services. It is important that we continue to make visitors welcome and encourage and equip others in their Christian service.

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

Midweek celebration: Saturday 24 March, 7.30 pm with Dr Alec Passmore

In a day when the world seems to be falling apart, what does the Bible teach about the return of Jesus Christ? THE COMING CRISIS: A special evening of Bible teaching concerning the earth's future from a Biblical world view, offering hope in a collapsing culture. Revd Dr Alec R. Passmore is Director of Omega Ministries including Balkan Vision.

God bless

John Haley

Women's World Day of Prayer: Friday 2 March, 2.30 pm (Woodford)

Organised by the women of Paraguay, the service includes the people of the world with its title, *Under God's Tent*.

Prayer 4 Plymouth: Saturday 17 March 10.00 am—10.00 pm (Guildhall)

From 10.00 am Prophetic prayer, noon Strategic prayer, 2.00 pm Youth prayer, 4.00 pm Warfare prayer, 7.30 pm Power, Praise and Healing

March Diary

Thursday 1:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: John Haley

7.30 pm

Finance and Property Committee Meeting

Friday 2:

2.30 pm

Women's World Day of Prayer at Woodford Methodist Church

7.30 pm

Stewards' Meeting

Saturday 3:

8.30 am

Monthly Prayer Meeting

9.15 am

Dartmoor Walk

10.00-12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Mission Outreach (Christine Gregory)

12.30-5.30

Boys' Brigade Fun Day

7.30 pm

Open Mic Night

Sunday 4:

10.30 am

Revd John Haley: Communion

7.00 pm

Miss Judith Walker

Monday 5:

7.30 pm

Moore College Old Testament (7)

Tuesday 6:

10.00-12.00

Patchwork Group

7.45 pm

Ladies' Group: Adey Hutchings "Sainsbury's new lines (tasters)"

Wednesday 7:

10.00-12.30

Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 8:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Carl Edwards

Friday 9:

7.30 pm

Bishop of Exeter: *Has the church a future?* (at Emmanuel Church: tel. 227003)

Saturday 10:

10.00-12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Funds (Avril Baker)

7.00 pm

Skittles Evening at the Westward Inn

Sunday 11:

10.30am

Mrs Janet Dobinson

7.00 pm

Revd John Haley

Monday 12:

7.30 pm

Moore College Study (8)

Tuesday 13:

10.00-12.00

Patchwork Group

7.30 pm

Men's Fellowship at Ridgeway: Mike Colebrook "China"

7.45 pm

Ladies' Group: Joyce Mullan "Aromatherapy"

Wednesday 14:

10.00-12.30

Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm

Church Council Meeting

Thursday 15:

2.45 pm

Women's Fellowship: Ivor Merrin

Saturday 17:

10.00 - 12.00

Oasis Coffee Bar: Bible Society (Barbara Wagner)

10.00 am

Prayer 4 Plymouth (Guildhall)

Sunday 18:

9.30 am

Mothering Sunday Breakfast

10.30 am **Revd John Haley: All-age worship (Baptism, son of Suzi and Mark Rodd)**
7.00 pm **Revd John Haley**

Monday 19:
7.30 pm Moore College Old Testament (9)

Tuesday 20:
10.00-12.00 Patchwork Group
2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Vickie Lapper "Sugar craft"

Wednesday 21:
10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches
7.30 pm Stewards' Meeting

Thursday 22:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Revd Ambrose Wright

Saturday 24:
10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Youth Outreach (Miriam, Kim, Steve)
7.30 pm Midweek Celebration with Dr Alec Passmore

Sunday 25:
10.30 am **Dr Alec Passmore**
7.00 pm **Dr Alec Passmore**

Monday 26:
7.30 pm Moore College Old Testament (10)

Tuesday 27:
10.00-12.00 Patchwork Group
7.45 pm Ladies' Group: Revd John Haley "Easter message"
7.30 pm Men's Fellowship Elburton: B & M Chown "Armchair walk around city centre"

Wednesday 28:
10.00-12.30 Coffee followed by lunches

Thursday 29:
2.45 pm Women's Fellowship: Members' Afternoon
7.30 pm Cross Rhythms Christian Radio Launch (St Andrew's—tickets tel. 225623)
7.30 pm Set All Free Presentation: Celebrating abolition of slavery in the British Empire
(Exhibition 26-31 March—Plymouth Methodist Central Hall)

Saturday 31 March:
10.00-12.00 Oasis Coffee Bar: Church Funds (Avril Baker)

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 April 's *This Month* to the office by 20 March please.