

THIS MONTH: OCTOBER 2005

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH



Dear friends

My invitation to the circuit

I was invited to be a minister in the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit for five years beginning in September 2001. Because of staff shortages I became the minister at Ridgeway Methodist Church in September 2002. With the guidance of the superintendent minister and circuit stewards, over the summer period, our church stewards have followed the proper consultation procedures and members of the circuit meeting extended an invitation to me to stay within the circuit for a further four years to August 2010. This is an open-ended invitation and can be further extended as appropriate. From September 2006 I have been asked to take the additional responsibility of Millbrook Methodist Church, which has been struggling in recent years. Both the people at Millbrook and I are pleased about this. I am pleased to be staying in Plympton and at Ridgeway, not only for my ministry, but also for the good of the whole family. I would like to take this opportunity to record my grateful thanks to Mrs Pat Stead and the church stewards for steering the church through the consultation and reinvasion process.

Ministers' Bible studies

This year I am leading a series of Monday evening Bible studies (fortnightly) on the New Testament book of Hebrews. Hebrews is one of the more difficult books in the New Testament. It is also one of the longer letters. It is tempting either to pick out the parts of such books that we like or to ignore them altogether. However, in so doing, we can miss important dimensions of Christian teaching and, therefore, not be as faithful in our Christian living as we could be. Hebrews is a book in which ordinary believers try to deal with traditions of the past (the Old Testament) and respond to fresh movements of God in a rapidly changing world. You don't need to be an expert on the Bible to come to these groups. We begin with a time of worship and prayer and finish at about 9.00 pm and have tea/coffee and really nice biscuits after. All are welcome.

Distance Learning

In November I hope to start another 10 session course with ICES (Interactive Christian Extension Studies) this time on the Writings of John. This means that we get the opportunity to look at the fourth gospel, the three letters of John and Revelation. Each of us has a folder from ICES with question and answers to fill in. To guide us on our way most of the answers are in the book as well. It is also possible to have a go and putting your own thoughts down in writing, though this is not compulsory. Those people who complete six ICES courses should be eligible for a Certificate of Higher Education. Please let me know if you are interested in the course.

Baptism, renewal of baptism and membership

In September we have been running a short course of preparation for reception into the church. At the time of writing four people have attended every session and with the support of church council we hope to have various forms of public affirmation of faith and welcome into the visible church community on Sunday 2 October. At 9.30 am we plan to use our baptismal pool. At about 10.00 am we will have a short break and tea/coffee and biscuits will be served. The morning service continues at 10.30 am and is a service of membership/confirmation including Holy Communion.

Other morning services in October

On Sunday 9 October we hope to welcome representatives of the TS Golden Hind unit of the Sea Cadets, a uniformed organisation for boys and girls based on the traditions of the Royal Navy. My work as chaplain to the unit enables me to meet 70 or more teenagers and their officers. It is a big job and I am hoping that Deacon Ruth Richey from the Plymouth Mission Circuit will become an associate chaplain. Ruth will be sharing in the service with me. On Sunday 16 October we welcome Revd Paddy Kyle who is coming to give world mission more of a profile in the church with his particular interest in the Mission Aviation Fellowship. On Sunday 23 October we will be joined by members of the Girls' Brigade Young Leaders' Training weekend. Both services that day will conclude with retiring collections for St Luke's Hospice. Morning services for October are completed with the Women's Fellowship Anniversary on Sunday 30. October is such a busy month that we'll be glad for a rest in November!

Preliminary information about November

Although the accounts have not been finalised we are very grateful to learn from our treasurer that people have increased their giving. The church still made a substantial financial loss in the year ended 31 August 2005. The church will be holding its annual gift day on 5 November – more information to follow. Our Remembrance Day Parade (13 November) will be followed by our Memorial Service (20 November at 5.00 pm) when we will be joined by the Maesteg Gleemen Male Voice Choir. The choir will give a concert in the church on Saturday 19 November at 7.00 pm. On Sunday 27 November our preacher will be Revd John Carne, the Chairman of the District.

www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Most of you will know this is our website address. People from all over the world are visiting the site and at present we have 49 entries from 11 different countries on the guestbook. There is so much on the site that even I do not know everything that is on there. We are grateful to Edwin Dobinson for getting things started and for the superb work that Andrew Stead is doing enlarging and maintaining it.

Outreach work

Catherine Stead has made a good start as our outreach worker and is busily preparing a winter programme. Some members have been asking how we manage to offer the outreach events so cheaply when things are obviously so expensive to organise. We do have an outreach budget from the circuit that helps us to price things competitively. The aim of this is not so that church members can go to events "on the cheap" but so that church members can invite friends to come as guests. If any member does have queries about the funding for outreach events please come directly to me.

And finally

Our very best wishes to those who start at or return to university/college this autumn. Janet and I are pleased that our own daughter, Katharine, is starting at the University of Portsmouth. Katharine has played in the music group for both services every Sunday since February 2003. We will miss her in the group during term time but are excited to see other youngsters joining the group. For one Sunday evening service recently we had eleven in the band – but there is still room for more! Thanks to all who share in the ministry of music.

God bless

John Haley

Church giving

Please remember that it is possible to give using the envelope scheme (which begins in October) or through standing orders, both of which may be Gift- Aided thus adding to the Church's revenue. Further information is available from Liz Garland or through the stewards.

Traidcraft

Traidcraft goods are available on Tuesday evenings (Ladies Group), Wednesday lunches and on Saturday mornings at Oasis. A selection of Christmas cards will be available soon. If there are fairly traded products which you would like to buy but which we don't stock at present please either look through the catalogue and write down the details on the sheet attached to the catalogue or speak directly to Jo or Miriam Sitch or to Christine Mudge.

Oasis

Coffee, tea and cakes (a wonderful range) is available each Saturday from 10.00 to 12.00 in the lower coffee bar - and we rarely close! It is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to people within and outside the church.

If you would like to help, by cooking or serving, please contact Ann Beavington or Pat Stead.

Methodist Church Fund for World Mission

The amount raised for the fund for the year ended 31 August 2005 was £653.41p. Sincere thanks go to everyone who supported this fund, mostly by direct giving. The Christmas card tree erected raised £60. (A good way to send greetings to the church family by sending one card and putting the money individual cards would have cost in the fund). Another £60 came from the Oasis coffee morning held in July.

I have counted £17 in 1p coins, £32 in 2p coins and £35 in 5p coins—so all those little coins do mount up! If there is anyone who would like a box (to keep their pockets and purses lighter!) do ask me for one.

It is essential we keep funding this work. Can anyone doubt the need to spread God's word, especially of peace and goodwill to all, at this present time?

May God bless all who give at Ridgeway.

Beth Saunders (Treasurer)

Mission Aviation Fellowship

On Sunday 16 October we are very pleased to have Paddy Kyle with us for the day representing the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Paddy Kyle will be preaching at the morning and evening service. We are also delighted that Ann and Jim Williams are joining us for the morning and talking to the children during Early Worship. The day will also include a presentation about the Mission Aviation Fellowship at 5.00 pm, to which all ages are invited, followed by a Faith Tea before the evening service. Please talk to Sue Tozer about donations of food for the tea.

October Diary

Saturday 1:

9.30 am Dartmoor walk. Please see notice board for further details

10.00 am—12 noon Oasis Coffee bar in support of Mission Outreach. Christine & Peter Gregory

Sunday 2:

9.30 am Service of baptism and renewal of baptism followed by coffee

10.30 am Revd John Haley. Holy Communion Service of Reception into Membership

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 3: Minister's Bible Study. Hebrews

Tuesday 4:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies Group—Mrs Diane Law. Humorous aspects of World War 1 (slides)

7.30 pm Crosstalk Circuit Prayer Meeting at Stoke

Wednesday 5:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm Time of prayer in the church. All welcome

Thursday 6:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Judith Goodridge

7.30 pm Local Preachers meeting at Compton

Saturday 8:

10.00—12 noon Oasis coffee bar in support of Church Funds. Pat Stead

Sunday 9:

10.30 am Revd John Haley

7.00 pm Revd John Haley

Monday 10:

7.30 pm Ministry and Mission Committee

Tuesday 11:

10.00 12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies Group. Sharman Waldergrave. Experiences in South Africa

Wednesday 12:

10.00 am—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 13:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship. Catherine Stead

Saturday 15:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar. In support of M.A.F.

7.00 pm 'Recharge' All welcome

Sunday 16: Overseas Mission

10.30 am Revd Paddy Kyle

7.00 pm Revd Paddy Kyle

Monday 17:

7.30 pm Minister's Bible study. Hebrews

Tuesday 18:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

2.15 pm Service at Pocklington Rise. All welcome

7.45 pm Ladies Group—Mrs Angie Smith. Running the London Marathon

Wednesday 19:

10.00—1.00 pm Coffee followed by lunches

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 20:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship.

Saturday 22:

10.00—12 noon Oasis Coffee Bar. In support of Church funds

Sunday 23:

10.30 am Revd John Haley.

7.00 pm Revd John Haley. Holy Communion

There will be a retiring collection in support of St Luke's Hospice following both services today

Tuesday 25:

10.00—12.00 Patchwork Group

7.45 pm Ladies Group. Half term break

Wednesday 26:

10.00—1.00 pm Coffee and lunches. Half term break

7.30 pm House Fellowships

Thursday 27:

2.45 pm Women's Fellowship.

Saturday 29:

10.00—12 noon Oasis coffee bar in support of Youth Mission. Miriam, Kim and Steve

Sunday 30:

10.30 am Mrs Sheila Merrin. Women's Fellowship

7.00 pm Miss Catherine Stead

Monday 31:

7.30 pm Minister's Bible study. Hebrews

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: Miss Catherine Stead:

Administrative assistant: Mrs Pat Gorton: office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Website address: www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

Information for November's *This Month* to the office by 18 October please.