

**OUTREACH NEWS:
CHRISTMAS 2004**

**RIDGEWAY
METHODIST CHURCH**



Dear Friends,

Christmas is nearly with us and I have now been with you for nearly twelve months! The Christmas story is very familiar to us, but reading it again reminds us that God came into the world by his Son. One of the most ancient hymns in the Christian church is the *Benedictus* or the *Song of Zechariah*. It is a song of praise that thanks God for remembering his people Israel and sending them salvation through Jesus that would be announced through the prophet John the Baptist (Zechariah's son).

Christmas is about proclaiming that God has come into our world through Jesus full of *grace and truth*. In our Christmas services and events we have been proclaiming this message and I hope that you will proclaim it to your friends, family and neighbours.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

It is great to have had nearly a year of outreach events, during this time many new people from the community and the fringe of the Church have attended events we have organised and come to Church services. Let me take you through the events of the last year.

Over Easter 2004 we showed the *Jesus film* and opened up the church for an interactive prayer *Labyrinth*. Over the summer months *Meal with a Message* at the New Country Inn gave us the chance to hear a Christian speaker after a three-course meal. The course *Christianity Explored* ran with a weekend away at Buckfast Abbey. The *Boat Cruise and Barbecue* took place in August. *Harvest Festival on a Farm* in September at Pennywell Farm was popular with young families; we had a harvest service, lunch, and were then able to see the animals. In October we had the *Balti Night* at the Shapla restaurant where Vijay Panandiker shared with us some of his experiences of India and about his personal faith in Jesus. Our last event was the *Bristol Shopping Trip* that included a tour of John Wesley's *New Room* in Bristol City Centre before going on to Cribbs Causeway shopping centre.

I have been really pleased to see these events growing in popularity as more of you have come and invited your friends. It had been good to see so many people coming to these social events and hearing the good news of Jesus Christ.

YOUR IDEAS

Do you have some ideas about what would make a good outreach event? They are usually a social event with some Christian input and are aimed at people in the 20s-30s age group but which the whole church is invited. We welcome your ideas and input for good evangelistic events that people who do not attend church regularly would be interested in coming along to. If you have any ideas then speak to me or John Haley.

FUTURE EVENTS

What is there for you to look forward to?

BURNS NIGHT

This will be a spectacular event, a three course meal, with music and a guest speaker. Come and celebrate this great Scots event with us and bring your friends!

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

I am hoping to run another course of Christianity Explored in the New Year. This popular course for people looking into the Christian faith is also good for those thinking about Baptism or Renewal of Baptism, Church Membership or simply for people wanting to know more about Christianity.

TRELOYHAN MANOR

There are still places on the Church weekend away at Treloyhan Manor. Why not come with us to the beautiful resort of St. Ives for a weekend of fun, fellowship and Bible teaching.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. I would like to say a very special thank you to those who have offered me hospitality over the last year and supported me in this work.

With every blessing,

James Darby

Outreach Worker

WHAT'S COMING IN THE NEW YEAR?

Burns Night

**Saturday 22 January @ 7:30 pm
Boringdon Hall Hotel, Plympton**

A Taste of the Country

**Saturday 5 March
(more details to follow)**

Treloyhan Manor – Church Community Weekend

**Friday 8 – Sunday 10 April
St. Ives, Cornwall**

The church has a busy programme of regular and seasonal events. These are advertised on our weekly and monthly sheets and on our website.

**Church office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-12:30pm
Church telephones: 348178 (office only), 331186 (pre-school and hall)**

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