

OUTREACH NEWS: MAY 2004

RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Dear Friends,

GREETINGS!

The summer is fast approaching with the prospect of sun, holidays and lots of fun! We are taking full advantage of the time of year to organise events that will attract people from both inside and outside of the church.

According to the statistics, most people become Christians as a result of the witness of a friend or neighbour. Opportunities to share our faith are there all the time, but it is often difficult to find the right words to say to the people we know. Have you thought of inviting them to one of our summer events?

The events we have organised are social occasions where the Christian message will be communicated in an interesting and relevant way. So do take full opportunity of these events to invite somebody you know.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Christianity Explored is a ten week course about the Christian faith based upon Mark's gospel. We have now had the first session at Ridgeway Methodist Church with a group of 9-10 guests and helpers. We begin by sharing a meal together prepared for us by John Scott before going into a time of Bible study, teaching and group discussion. The course has been publicised within the church and a large number of personal invitations have been sent to church people, friends, contacts and those on the church fringe. It is an exciting time for those involved with the potential for deeper understanding of the Christian gospel and fellowship with one another. The course includes a retreat or time

away which has been arranged at Buckfast Abbey. There are still places on this course if you want to join please let me know.

"WHO IS THIS JESUS?"

On 10 May the pre-school leaders and I showed the film *Who is this Jesus?* to parents of children in the preschool. A number of the parents who do not regularly attend church were very interested in the content of the film. We served tea and coffee afterwards and there was a lively conversation about the Christian gospel and faith. All those who came were given a copy of the film and invited to the *Christianity Explored* course. I have seen one of the parents quite regularly and hope to build further contacts in this way. Copies of the film *Who is this Jesus?* have been bought by the church for evangelistic purposes. I hope to show the film to other groups in the future. If you would like to arrange for the film to come to your group please let me know.

SUMMER EVENTS

The next event we are looking towards is the weekend of 26 and 27 June which is also the Lighthouse Anniversary. On the Saturday evening we are having a *Meal with a Message* at the New Country Inn, Smithaleigh. After a three-course meal we will hear Tony Cox, a lively after-dinner speaker, who we hope will stimulate our thinking and challenge us to consider further what it means to be Christian in today's world. This event is favourably priced to help church members to invite guests. Perhaps you know someone who would like to come or you could invite to this event?

Look out for details of Sunday 27 June, Lighthouse Anniversary. Our event for later in the summer is a boat cruise up the Tamar to Calstock. This also an outreach occasion with Christian witness and not simply a social occasion. It should be a great event and one which will appeal to people both inside and

outside of the church.

I am grateful for those who help in this work and especially for their continued support. Please remember the outreach work in your prayers and support it with your time and energies.

God bless you,

Outreach Worker

