

# RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH

## OUTREACH NEWS: September 2005



Dear friends

One thing that never seems to change - is the fact that things keep changing! The last few months have seen some big changes for me: I have changed from working full-time for a law firm in Plymouth and being an ordinary member here at Ridgeway, to being your new part-time Outreach Worker - and to being almost a student again as I continue my Local Preacher training.

Things have changed for the church too. For 19 months, this church was blessed by having James Darby as its full-time outreach worker. In a year's time we will have no outreach worker at all, and if we are to continue to reach out to our community with the good news of Jesus then the responsibility will fall on the whole church family. Over the next year, I hope to be able to ease this transition, to enable us all to carry on this work into the future.

This kind of work is a challenge for any church - and more than any individual can do alone. The motto of Ridgeway Methodist Church is 'Serving Christ in the Community', and if we are to achieve this it is important that the whole church looks outwards into the community. Paul asked, "how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14) - and we must remember that it is through us that those outside the church can hear the good news of Jesus.

### **WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?**

While James Darby was at Ridgeway, he organised a busy outreach programme, running *Christianity Explored* and arranging a variety of events. As a result, over 80 people

who would not normally have had contact with the church, have done so.

James also started to make contact with the community around the church, and we have seen this bear fruit in the Community Prayer Card scheme. This work is being continued as we develop a 'Welcome pack' for people new to our area.

### **Harvest Supper and Barn Dance**

On 25 September we celebrate Harvest Festival, and so on 23 September we held a Harvest Supper and Barn Dance. Our speaker was Mark Pellow, a local farmer and Methodist Local Preacher, and music was provided by 'The Old Boys'. Over 50 people came, including a number of friends from outside the church, and everyone enjoyed hearing what Mark had to say, as well as the excellent food, lively dancing and time together.

## **SO WHAT ARE WE DOING NEXT?**

### **Christmas Shopping and Wells Cathedral**

Summer still seems to be here (more or less!) and it feels very early to be thinking about Christmas, but there are only three months to go.

This year's Christmas shopping trip is on 12 November. We will be visiting the Clarks Village in Street, a popular shopping centre with leading brand stores, independent retailers and places to eat – an excellent venue for seasonal shopping! After lunch we head for the historic city of Wells and a guided tour of the historic cathedral, followed by the beautiful service of choral evensong with the cathedral boys' choir.

Why not take the chance to get started on your Christmas shopping early, so you can concentrate on enjoying the celebration of Jesus' coming? (Unless you're so organised you've done all your Christmas shopping already... in which case come anyway for a browse!)

### **Book Fair**

We are delighted that the Christian Resources Project are able to supply us with a selection of books and music for a

book fair at the Oasis Coffee Bar on Saturday 19 November from 10.00am to 1.00pm, and the books will also be laid out for you to browse throughout the weekend.

### **Maesteg Gleemen Male Voice Choir**

The Maesteg Gleemen Male Voice Choir are giving a concert on 19 November, and also singing at our Memorial Service on 20 November. The Maesteg Gleemen won the Welsh National Eisteddfod in 1987 and 1996, and have toured Britain, Europe and the USA with their varied programme, which includes works transposed by the choir's directors.

We are currently organising events for Christmas and the New Year, and more information will be available shortly. We will also be running a further course of *Christianity Explored* in the New Year.

### **TRELOYHAN MANOR - CHURCH WEEKEND**

From 7-9 April 2006, we shall be holding another Church Community Weekend at Treloyhan Manor, a picturesque and friendly Christian hotel and conference centre in the popular resort of St Ives. Those of us who went last spring thoroughly enjoyed the time together, and I hope that next year's trip will be equally popular.

We will enjoy a weekend of teaching and fellowship, with activities for children and young people and time to relax and explore St Ives. We will have use of the hotel's games facilities and time for our community just to be together.

The weekend will be led by Mark Dunn-Wilson from the Linacre Mission in Liverpool. Further information and booking forms are available now!

I am thankful for the prayer and encouragement you have given me so far, and ask for your continued prayer and support for the church's outreach work.

God bless you

*Catherine Stead*

Outreach Worker

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 12 November  
8.30am  
Christmas Shopping at Street and Wells

Saturday 19th November  
10.00am Book Fair  
7.00pm Maesteg Gleemen Male Voice Choir

*Christianity Explored*  
From January 2006  
(dates to be confirmed)

AND A LITTLE FURTHER AHEAD . . .  
7-9 April 2006  
Church Community Weekend  
at Treloyhan Manor

*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 9.30 am—12.30 pm**  
**Church telephones: 348178 (office only), 331186 (pre-school and hall)**

**Minister:** The Revd John M Haley:  
minister@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk  
**Administrative Assistant:** Mrs Pat Gorton:  
office@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk  
**Outreach worker:** Miss Catherine Stead  
outreach@ridgewaymethodist.org.uk

***Visit our website at***  
**www.ridgewaymethodist.org.uk**