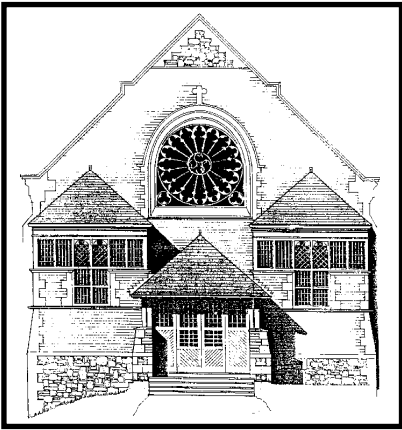
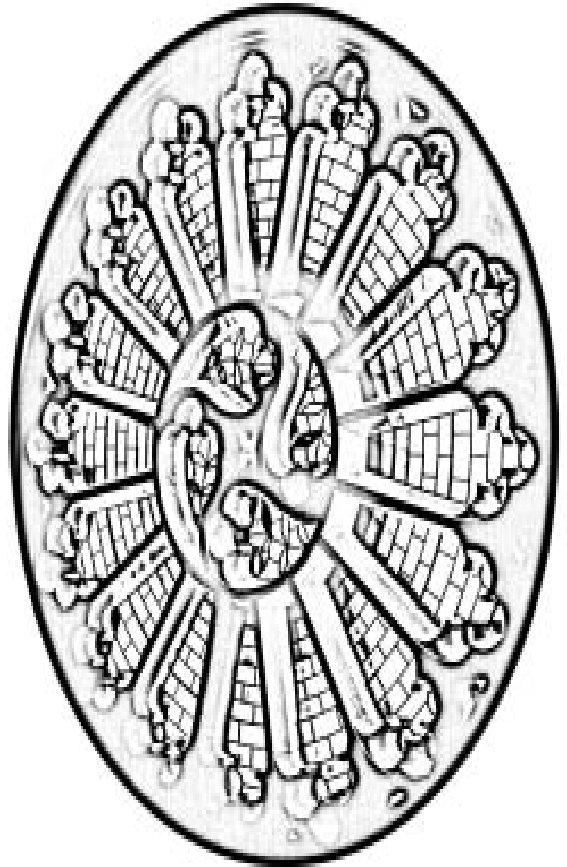


Crediton Methodist Church



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February 2006



www.methodistchurch.org.uk 
The **Methodist** Church

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Services this month:

February 5th: 10.30 Rev Barbara Calvert
6.30 Mr Stephen Lawson
February 12th: 10.30 Miss Anna Williams
6.30 Rev Barbara Calvert (Alternative Worship)
February 19th 10.30 Rev Barbara Calvert (All age Worship)
6.00 Talkback - Boniface Centre
February 26th 8.45 Rev Barbara Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Mr Chris Mann
6.30 Mr Phil Luscombe

Church Groups:

Toddlers – meets on Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.15 during term time
(contact Ann on 01363 773088 or Sarah on 01363 774370)
Rainbows: - for Mums & Toddlers First Wednesday in each month - 2 p.m.
Knit & Natter: Wednesdays 2.30 to 3.30 Contact Wendy on 01363 77 2786
Bright Hour: Fridays at 2.30 p.m. Contact Kath Wollacott 01363775445
Fellowship Groups meet regularly. Contact Ken Saunders on 01363 773078
Every Saturday: Coffee Morning from 10.30.
Church is open for prayer 9a.m. – 10 a.m.
Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m (most Sundays)
Every Sunday: 10.30 a.m. Junior Church and Creche

**Newsletter editors: Ken Saunders- ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com
June Redfern
Sarah Turner**

Material for March newsletter required by February 26th

The Turning of the Year

The shortest day is past, the longest night, the turning of the year and the return of the light.

Although we welcome the lengthening of the days we know too that the winter days have a purpose. Gardeners will know that parsnips are best pulled after the first frosts, that the sub zero temperatures destroy diseased plants and cleanse the soil of pests and that the snow provides a protective blanket for new shoots. Even so many of us might prefer a perpetual summer! Warmth, sunshine, light, colour, abundance, holidays shielding us from the real world in which we live. So perhaps the dark days of winter have another purpose – to remind us the world can be, for many, a very dark place.

As the year turns remember those who scratch a living from the pickings of turning over rubbish. In Brazil the rubbish dump outside one city supports four- five thousand people. But the potential of the people is shown on the rubbish tip itself – in the midst of their darkness they have fenced off an area where they have planted seeds found in the rubbish. Corn, beans, pumpkins grow there; to feed their families and as a sign of hope.

In our winter gardens we cannot grow such things but as the year turns we see signs of hope too in the snowdrops and crocuses breaking through the dark cold earth.

God of life, feed the shoots of new life within us
that at the turning of the year
we may grow in your love and wisdom
and be symbols of your light on earth.
Amen.

Barbara Calvert



Looking back on 2005's Make Poverty History campaign and forward to the year ahead.

On July 2nd 2005, just before we moved 500 miles south to sunny Devon, David and I joined over two hundred and twenty five thousand people in the Make Poverty History rally in Edinburgh. The whole of the centre of Edinburgh was encircled with people waving banners, singing, marching, and demanding that the G8 leaders, meeting at Gleneagles in Scotland, act decisively on trade, aid and debt to address the scandal of world poverty. Some advances were made – aid budgets were increased, some debt cancelled, but on the crucial issue of trade little progress was made. Yet the rally was a sign of the kingdom. It was good to hear speakers from the poorest countries of the world talking about signs of the kingdom from their perspective. It was good to be there to be amongst so many people who yearn for a better world in which in partnership with the poor the good news of the kingdom is made manifest. And before the rally began we met for worship at the Methodist Central Hall in Edinburgh packed with Methodists from all over Britain and that was really inspiring.

So what happens now?

Martin Drury, Christian Aid's head of campaigns and a local preacher says of the Make Poverty History Campaign:

‘We needed a massive focus on poverty to inspire a generation. Now we need to move on and use that for more focused campaigning.’

The different organisations that were part of the MPH coalition are now going to use their muscle to focus on particular essential aspects to Make Poverty History. Christian Aid is urging campaigners to get behind the issue of economic freedom for poor countries and Tearfund is to concentrate its campaigns on trade justice and the environment. The Methodist Church intends to ‘ramp up’ support for the **Stop Climate Chaos** campaign which was launched last November. Climate change is an increasingly harsh reality for people in rich and poor countries alike, but poor people are most vulnerable when disasters strike. So we will have opportunities to show our commitment to the poorest of the world by being involved in all of these campaigns over the coming months but it is good to know that we are already taking our environmental policy (see Bob Wright's article) seriously and will look for further ways, as a Methodist Church, to be informed and involved in the www.stopclimatechaos.org campaign.

Barbara

Greenbelt Festival 2006

www.greenbelt.org.uk

When? Friday 25th – Monday 28th August

Where? Cheltenham Racecourse

How? Camping/caravanning mostly – in special marked out areas on the racecourse. Water, toilets, showers all provided and you can do your own cooking or eat on site – there are loads of different tea tents, baked potato, India, pizza takeaways etc. or you can stay in local B and Bs or hotels OR you can go just for a day.

How much?

Adult Weekend Ticket - April Booking £70.00

Adult Concession Weekend Ticket - April Booking £48.00

Family A Weekend Ticket - April Booking - 2 adult, 2 child £185.00

Concessions is unemployed/students/OAPs/ministers

Why? Why go to Greenbelt? Because it is great fun! I look forward to it every year. There is so much to do and so much to choose from – stimulating seminars with the best speakers around today (and from around the world, Canon Naim Ateek, well known Palestinian Christian was there last year) – Rowan Williams was a favourite speaker for many years – more difficult for him now he is Archbishop of Canterbury but he will still be there – possibly leading the outdoor all age Sunday Holy Communion service attended by thousands... , music to suit all tastes, bands and classical concerts, art exhibitions, worship to choose from morning, noon and night led by different groups such as the Iona community, youth events and a full children's programme, exciting interactive exhibitions from organisation such as Christian Aid, the Bible Society...and then, if you need a rest, just picnic, relax and watch the world go by in quiet contemplation. Greenbelt ...an experience not to be missed!!!

Hundreds of church groups will be there.

David and I have booked our tickets so why don't we go as a church group... just let us know if you are interested.

Quest, not formula; journey, not destination; dance, not doctrine. John Bell, 2004

Barbara

Pause for thought

Leadership in the church and in the world.

‘Leadership’ is in the political air, again. One party recently chose a new, younger leader in the hope that this will lead them out of the doldrums. Another party is in the midst of a campaign for a new leader: will they go for experience, or for the new appeal of youth, or for a mixture of the two? And we know that, within this Parliament, the governing party will be electing a new leader: will that be the expected successor or will someone else emerge? In each of these cases, the question of leadership is central. Sometimes, elections seem to be chiefly about personalities and image. But political elections are also about how the nation should be governed, and what the central issues are which face our society in the next few years

‘Leadership’ is also an issue in the life of the church. Once, I became minister at a church whose interviewing committee told me that the church desperately wanted strong leadership. Soon after arriving I learned that those who had expressed this view most strongly were (of course) those who had a very particular axe to grind about how they thought the church should go forward. We cry out for leadership, but sometimes we welcome a lead only if we agree with it. Within the church, leadership is shared, ideally with everyone taking some part. In most churches, some are a bit reluctant to accept a leadership role or position of responsibility; and inevitably, occasionally there is someone too eager to impose a particular view. After all, in the church we are a cross-section of people. This means that most people in the church are somewhere in the middle, neither always seeking leadership nor always avoiding it. And, like politicians, we also know that ‘style’ of leadership matters a bit.

Both these examples – political parties and the church – invite us to reflect on the nature of leadership. What makes good leadership today? Has the style of leadership that is needed changed along with so many other changes in society? Is there such a thing as a ‘male’ style of leadership and a different ‘female’ style of leadership? Is the day of ‘leadership’ over, now that everyone wants to do their own thing in this very individualistic society?

In one way, style of leadership is a straightforward matter. For us, the supreme model is the leadership which God shows. In Christ, God became incarnate, born as a human being, giving up any rights, submitting to rejection. Our supreme example is found in the life of Jesus. He had authority, but his authority did not come from following any earthly model of what it means to be leader. He was not like a politician, nor a Roman centurion, nor a Jewish priest. His style was neither male nor female. He was servant.

And there's the catch! That's where Christian leadership becomes difficult. How to be the servant of all, without letting anyone be your master - other than the same God to whose will Jesus submitted himself. 'I only want to do what God wants me to do' is the only way to follow Jesus; and its tough when we try to follow that model of leadership.

- How can we in the church exercise that quality of leadership?
 - How can we, the church, encourage our nation to exercise that style of leadership in the world? Or does it simply not work in the political arena?
- David Calvert*

Fireworks

The following is an extract from an article written by Ian Pettyfer in the Western Morning News.

Watching the huge firework displays, with which the rich nations celebrated the dawn of the New Year, I couldn't help reflecting on how it must have appeared to people in the Third World.

It was, after all, only six months ago that we saw a quarter of a million people parading in Edinburgh to demand that the G8 Summit "make poverty history". Here was the same city letting off eight tonnes of fireworks to celebrate a date that may be important to the Scots, but is really only an acknowledgement that the shortest day of their year is past. What the total cost around the world's capitals amounted to I can only imagine. A starving African living on the equator, where one day is as long as another, would be justified in thinking that people with full stomachs have very short memories.



The ugly sisters



JANUARY
JOLLIES





What a jolly evening and our thanks go to all those who made it such fun. Special thanks to Rachel (Cinderella) who, at the last minute, stood-in for her Mum who was, unfortunately, ill.

Thanks too to those who catered for the Buffet – Margaret Scott and her helpers.



Children watch, fascinated, unable to believe what their parents are doing.

Environmental Policy for the Methodist Church

The environmental policy was proposed at the 1998 Scarborough Conference and brought back to the 2000 Conference for adoption. Here are two extracts from the policy. (The full version is available from me 01363 773566 or by visiting www.methodistchurch.org).

- (1) “The Methodist Church affirms that Christian mission includes caring for God's earth and will endeavour to develop both the theology and practical implications of this on a continuing basis”.
- (2) “The Methodist people are challenged and encouraged to care for the earth by following sustainable practice and taking into account global and local environmental considerations for present and future generations.”

This is not just for the Church building but also for the wider church community. In the spring of 2003 our worship group looked at some environmental issues and produced a booklet entitled “Therefore”.... (There are still copies available.) and at that time we were all invited to sign a covenant pledging to live a simpler lifestyle.

I am now looking at this policy and have broken it down into five segments and hope with your help to work on one part every two months, so by the end of the year we will have a policy in place. This will be a stepping-stone towards getting an Eco-congregation award.

January/February	Energy and Water
March/April	Waste
May/June	Materials and Resources
July/August	Natural and Built Environment
September/October	Travel
November/December	Revisit all the above and report back.

For January and February we will be looking at energy and water

- a) *To ensure energy is used efficiently and whenever possible reduce its use.*
- b) *To encourage the increased use of renewable energy.*
- c) *To use water efficiently and with care.*
- d) *To avoid pollutants entering the drainage system.*

As you may have noticed we have changed some of the light bulbs in the Church to low energy bulbs. This has helped us reduce our electricity consumption for the period September to December by 28.19% compared with the same period last year. This is a very encouraging start as there is still the potential to save more. As far as the gas heating is concerned, we are in the process of fitting thermostats in the downstairs rooms. We will then have all areas of the building controlled by a thermostat and timer. When this work is completed I will be able start monitoring and comparing our gas usage.

I have given the other objectives in this section some thought but as yet no action. This is a project for the whole Church so your input would be appreciated.

Ideas on how to save energy without costing you a penny.

1. Turning down your thermostat by one degree could cut your heating bill by 10%
2. Don't leave your T.V. or video on standby. 85% of the electricity used by your video recorder is consumed while waiting to be used.
3. Don't leave your fridge or freezer door open longer than needed.

Bob Wright.

Talkback

Think Global – Act Local

**Sunday 19th February
6 p.m.
Methodist Hall**

**Fern Clarke on
'Promote gender equality
and empower women'.
Fern Clarke is a theology lecturer
at Exeter University.**

Bright Hour

Meetings for February:
Feb 3rd: Rev Barbara Calvert
Feb 10th: Margaret Hayman
Feb 17th: Ann Smith
Traidcraft
Feb 24th: Kathryn Cole

**Everyone welcome
Meetings are on Fridays
and start at 2.30 p.m.**

Cheaper Line Rental and Free Calls to Other Christian Aid Phone Users

Would you like to make free phone calls to your friends and family? You can if you get your line rental from Resource Christian Aid. and the other phone user is also a Resources Christian Aid customer. Calls to non Resources Christian Aid customers are also cheaper than B.T.

There is no difference in the quality or service between the line rental from BT and Resource. Resource takes over your BT line without changing any of your existing set-up or service. The only difference is that it's cheaper! Resource uses the same BT fault repair system with access to all BT engineers and backup.

Transfer of the line rental takes 10 working days to set-up and you will receive a cheque back from BT for the line rental you have paid in advance to them.

£5 donation will be given to Christian Aid from Resource Utilities Ltd for every new customer I refer to them and 8% of your line rental (£9.99 including VAT per month) which is cheaper than BT, and 8% of the cost of your phone calls will also go to Christian Aid.

We have been using Resources Christian Aid for our phone calls since 1998. We get a monthly itemised bill which shows us what we have saved compared with B.T. and also how much has been donated to Christian Aid for that month.

If you would like more information please contact me.

Priscilla 773566

Pancake Lunches

12 – 2 p.m. on February 28th. Methodist Hall

A Study Day on Islam

At the Mint Methodist Church, Fore street, Exeter and Exeter Mosque
Saturday 4th February 2006, 10.30am to 3.30pm.

A study day looking at:

- the basic beliefs and practice of Islam
- the role of women in Islam
- Christianity, Islam and interfaith dialogue
- Christianity, Islam and modern British Society

10am Coffee and arrival – Mint Methodist Church

10.30am Study sessions and discussion led by speakers including Mrs Kauser Ahmed

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm Visit to Exeter Mosque, led by Mr Shabir Ahmed

3.00pm Finish

To book a place contact Revd Andrew Sails, Mint Methodist Church
a.sails@exeter.ac.uk 01392 275070

More goodbyes

On 1st March, Elaine, Des, Emily, Lucy and Sam fly off to New Zealand. This is no holiday! They will settle in New Zealand for at least two years and maybe longer, for Des has accepted a contract to work in the country with his present firm. We shall miss them so much. Elaine has been a part of our church for over 30 years



and has been a lively influence in the Junior Church and Toddlers. It will be sad to say goodbye to such good friends. For them too, it will be a wrench leaving family, friends and 'home', but they will have the excitement of making a new life in another country. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Keep in touch.



INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST in BELARUS & UKRAINE

Belarus is one of the former Communist countries which was under the control of the former USSR. Today these strong links still exist and Belarus is a Dictatorship, still very much subservient to Russia. Most months we receive news from our co-workers in Minsk and elsewhere about the difficulties they experience just trying to hold church services. Here is an extract from one such e mail.

“Last year the 600 strong New Life Church in Minsk was refused registration (compulsory) and no one would rent premises to them for services. The church purchased a cowshed where they started meeting and worshipping. The Authorities then fined the church for allegedly violating the Land Code as the cowshed may not be designated for religious use. The Church Pastor Vyacheslav Goncharenko has been fined frequently. Then the Minsk City Administrative Committee ordered the sale of the cowshed and has now confiscated it. A top man in the Government was reported in the paper expressing his regret that he had not been active enough in controlling and repressing religion! He also apologised for not stopping the Baptists from conducting services, from distributing religious literature and undertaking 300 water baptisms. The Government official describes the situation as “depressing” and vows to ensure that religion is “brought under control” by the end of the year (2005).

Leonid Biruk, International Aid’s co-worker in Minsk who sent this e mail asks – **“Pray God will use the witness of faithful Christians to demonstrate His love and grace to those who oppose Him. Pray they will keep growing in wisdom, grace, patience and faith in their Redeemer.”**

A New Year Greeting from Bernard Cocker IAT –

We thank you all for the help and support that you have given to us over the last year.

Please join with us as we pray that 2006 will bring with it a world with less problems and strife. There have been so many disasters in 2005 that the

world has not even been able to meet them halfway. At the same time we pray that we will be able to meet whatever challenges that come along. We must never forget that we are amongst a very privileged minority in a hurting world! "Let's not become tired of doing good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up – Galatians 6 v 9.

KHADJIBE CHILDREN'S CENTRE – Near Odessa, Ukraine

Matthew 17 v. 20 – “I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed nothing will be impossible for you”

and in faith, International Aid will have to find another £70,000.00 for this Children's Centre.

This was one of the Homes that Adrian and I visited in 2004, and as a Church we contributed towards the almost £1000 that our daughter Caroline raised when she ran the Exeter Marathon for Khadjibe in 2004. When we were at Khadjibe it was not only a great joy to share in the fun with the children, but it was so lovely to hear about the Christian instruction the children were receiving during their brief holiday there. There is a leaflet in the foyer which explains that during 2005, 4000 holidays were provided on this site and others, this ministry is as vital as the holidays. You will see from the leaflet that more money is desperately needed. In 2004 International Aid paid £54,000.00 for the site and derelict buildings, but now the new Government has decided it wants more - £70,000.00 more! When I spoke at the morning service in Odessa , I was asked not to mention any IAT link with Khadjibe, because Government officials were in the congregation, and if they knew foreign money was involved in the purchase, more money would be asked for. Now it has been.

If you feel able to give just a little, please contact me – ***June 84058.***

Family Page

We are hoping to have a children's page in the magazine each month and would like to include news and pictures about children within our Junior Church. This month we have a wordsearch and a quiz about Jonah!

God is...

B	B	W	K	B	Z	W	L	T	G	T	U	T	L
D	X	I	S	I	F	A	S	T	I	M	N	A	W
U	Q	S	H	Z	N	A	U	R	V	E	N	T	O
P	G	E	A	O	F	D	I	C	I	R	F	G	R
D	E	R	S	D	L	P	V	T	E	C	N	L	T
J	S	R	A	Z	S	Y	A	T	H	I	U	E	H
D	E	E	F	C	E	P	E	G	V	F	J	X	Y
P	T	A	G	E	I	A	N	O	H	U	U	A	D
S	L	P	L	P	C	O	L	T	K	L	S	L	K
S	A	I	U	O	R	T	U	O	K	V	T	T	W
Y	B	Z	Q	T	U	R	F	S	U	J	U	E	M
B	D	D	S	I	T	S	H	F	S	S	T	D	Q

eternal exalted
 faithful gracious holy
 jealous just kind
 loving merciful patient
 perfect personal spirit
 steadfast strong
 truthful wise worthy
 zealous

Peter Turner (The youngest member of our Junior Church) is having his Thanksgiving/ Naming Service on February 19th and Rainbow, Brownies and Guides in Crediton will also be coming to the service to remember "Thinking Day". (The Sunday nearest to February 22nd which is the day set



aside each year to remember Guides around the world and the joint birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.)



Answers to the quiz in next month's newsletter

Test your knowledge of the Bible – The Story of Jonah

1. What book comes after the book of Jonah?
a) Micah, b) Obadiah, c) Haggai d) none of these
2. How many chapters are there in the book of Jonah?
a) 2, b) 3, c) 4, d) 5
3. Which of these four cities are NOT mentioned in the book of Jonah?
a) Joppa, b) Tarshish, c) Sodom, d) Nineveh
4. How did Jonah get on the ship?
a) jumped aboard, b) paid the fare,
c) was hired as a crewman, d) we aren't told
5. How did the sailors first discover that Jonah was the cause of their trouble?
a) he told them, b) they tortured him until he confessed,
c) they cast lots, d) God spoke to them
6. How long was Jonah in the belly of the great fish?
a) 3 days and nights, b) 4 days and nights,
c) 7 days and nights, d) 40 days and nights
7. How many days did Jonah say Nineveh had before it would be overthrown?
a) 3 days, b) 7 days, c) 21 days, d) 40 days
8. What did Jonah do after God relented from destroying Nineveh?
a) hid in a stable in the city, b) rejoiced with the people,
c) went out of the city and made a shelter, d) he bought a house there
9. What happened to the plant that grew up over Jonah's head?
a) it died from the heat, b) a worm damaged it,
c) Jonah ate its leaves and it died, d) it blew away in a storm
10. What can we learn from the story of Jonah and Nineveh?
a) God is patient, b) even a king can repent,
c) God honors obedience, d) all of the above

Gerald Conyngham

Will give an illustrated
talk on his visit to the
Holy Land
'Affirming Life in the
midst of Death..

Thursday February 16th
7.30 p.m.

No charge – refreshments.

Present Aid

I am very grateful to everyone who contributed to the Present aid project. The total was £343. The children in Junior Church raised £63.05 enabling them to purchase a herd of goats – well done!

Proceeds from the Present Aid Lunch was £108 and as a congregation we raised 3179.95. This has given us the chance to purchase 6 sheep. A flock of guinea fowl and mosquito nets.

By taking part in this project we will have made the lives of others more bearable. I would also like to thank Ken and Tina Turner for allowing Karl (an employee) to spend time drawing the lovely poster, giving focus to the project. *Christine*

In Reply

To the poem in the January magazine.

Although I disappeared from the January magazine,
The brain would not function for Grandma Eileen!

It was not a computer that gave me this fix.

Perhaps a rest and Christmas family gathering

Will set me going for February 2006.

I may not write every month,
to give someone else room to write.

So I wish you God's blessing though the coming year and may all your days be bright. *Eileen George and Eileen would like to thank the Church for the basket of fruit which Rev Barbara Calvert delivered at Christmas and for the time of fellowship she spent with them.*

Note: We believe the author of the poem was Valerie Waite and it was published in the Daily Mail in 2004

Junior Church

With Angela and Elaine leaving, the Junior Church is in a desperate situation. There is to be a meeting at 14 East Street on February 6th at 8 p.m.. and anyone interested in helping is invited to come.

Ring Margaret Scott on 776477 for more information.

Crediton Methodist Church

Prayer cycle

Rainbow Club

(our monthly worship activity for pre-school children and their parents/carers)

Give thanks to God for the success so far in this new venture

Please pray for all those involved : the planners, the leaders, the children and their parents, that they may discover more about God's love through their involvement with the Rainbow Club.

Rainbow Club



Rainbow Club continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Since October we have listened to a story about a bear called "Teddy Horsley" and how he learns about God. Themes so far have included "The Weather", "The Grumpy Day" and "Night time". Our story this month is "The Walk". We continue to have a craft activity linked to the story. We are encouraged by the regular attendance of a little girl from Toddler Group with her Grandma and a friend from the Congregational Church with her daughter as well as Sam, Lucy, Jacob, Esther, John, Naomi and Peter. We are presently searching for ways to encourage other families from Toddler Group to come and enjoy our time together.



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