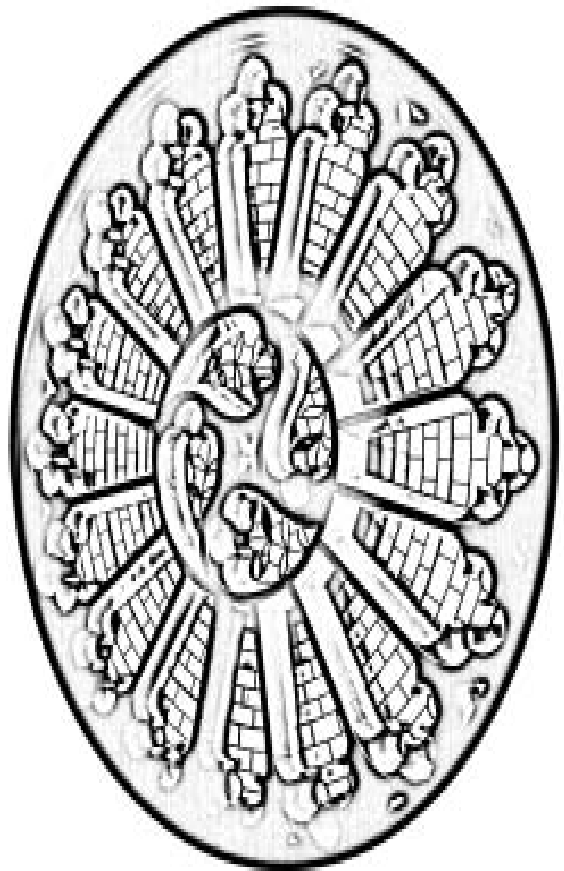


Crediton Methodist Church

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

January 2006



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

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Services this month:

- Jan 1st: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (CS)
6.30 No service
- Jan 8th: 10.30 Mrs S Jones (AA)
6.30 Mrs J Lee
- Jan 15th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert
6.00 Talkback
- Jan 22nd: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (S)
10.30 Rev D Calvert
6.30 Rev M Gilborson
- Jan 29th: 10.30 Dr M Forbes
6.30 Rev R Ely

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 February newsletter required by January 22nd.

Fairtrade Church

We have been awarded fair-trade Church status! We can be proud that our church, through the Church Council, has shown its commitment to some of the poorest people of the world by making a commitment to support fair-trade. This means three things:

1. We will only serve fair-trade tea and coffee on our premises
2. We will seek to raise awareness of fair-trade especially during fair-trade fortnight
3. We will endeavour to increase our support of fair-trade by buying other fair-trade goods e.g. chocolate, honey, sugar, rice...

All this is made easy for us by the fair-trade stall resourced by the Smith family and many thanks to them for all their hard work.

A New Year resolution that would be easy for each of us to make:

‘Buy a new fair-trade product each week’ and make a difference!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 15th January – 22nd January 2005

Each weekday you are invited to join prayers in the different churches in Crediton.

The led prayers begin at 12.30pm and last for about 20 minutes.

Date/ Church/ Led by:

Monday 16 January

Congregational Church
Barbara Calvert

Tuesday 17 January

Holy Cross Parish Church
Ruth Green

Wednesday 18 January

St. Boniface RC Church
Nigel Guthrie

Thursday 19 January

Methodist Church
RC Church

Friday 20 January

Congregational Church
Evangelical Church

Make us one that the world
may say

‘See how these Christians love
one another!’

make us one that the world
may see

its hope and salvation in Jesus
Christ.

INTERNATIONAL AID Thanks!

On behalf of International Aid I would like to thank everyone who was involved in filling shoeboxes this Christmas.

Although not asked for, I felt so supported that so many of you felt you just wanted to do so! You may be interested to know



that there were 206 shoeboxes in Church on 4 December, and that together with 303 already sent during the year, and with another 142 given to me early in December, this year we as a Church together with contributions from the Parish and other churches, schools and private individuals, 651 shoeboxes were sent in 2005. As you know they go to children with various needs, many are second generation Chernobyl children who are very poorly and badly disabled, war veterans, old people, street children, orphanages and now into the prisons. It is interesting to note that together with the Church at Odessa, International Aid is working in the prisons, these are terrible places, and that as a result of this work recently 60 – 70 men gave their lives to Christ – just wonderful! Young boys are also in prison as young as 6 years old, I hope they receive shoeboxes!

Shoeboxes are a miniscule part of the work of International Aid, but so important, because a shoebox whenever it is received is a symbol of someone's love.

I could write a book about the wonderful and sad things that we hear every day at first hand as UK Sponsorship Secretaries, it is equally inspirational and sad for us, so thank you to those people in our Church and Knit and Natter who support families in Kiev and Odessa.

The work of the Lord goes on and we continue to trust and listen to Him to direct our lives.

June

Shoeboxes Arrive

This is a letter received by Wendy and Rene who sent a shoebox through International Aid Trust to an orphanage in Ukraine:

Dear sisters Wendy and Irene!

We're greeting you with love of our Lord Jesus Christ Me, Ivan, and my wife Lydmila, are giving Christian lessons to kids at Orphan's house.

We are glad to get some presents for kids from you. We gave them to all kids, and of course they were really happy. These kids need our help and love.

With all our hearts we thanking you for your help.

God bless all you throughout your life.

Sincerely yours Ivan & Lydmila.

Tell us if you understand Russian, we'd be glad to be your friends.

A birthday message from Ukraine

Dear Rene,

We are congratulate you with the happiest day in the world – the day when you were born. We are blessing that day specially and thank God for His wonderful and kind creation on 19th November.

Tatiana and Svetiana (IAT manager and helper from Odessa:

Here are some words from the family (Martinovi) whom you're supporting.

Dear Rene,

We are thankful for your help and mercy to our big family. We, as your family in Lord, want to congratulate you with the Birthday.

We are wishing you all the best God's blessings.

In this wonderful day we ask God to bless you specially and give you such a feeling that we really love you like a part of our family.

So, your Big family wishes you all the best in God.

We love you and pray about you.

With the best wishes, hugs and love,

Martinovi family

The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer
swallowed Grandma
Yes, honestly it's true,
She pressed 'control'
and 'enter'
And disappeared from
view.

It devoured her
completely,
The thought just makes
me squirm.
She must have caught
a virus
Or been eaten by a
worm.



I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'

So, if inside your 'Inbox'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me!

Author unknown

Palestinian Lunch

The generous donations made at the Palestinian Lunch resulted in £108 being paid to the 'Present Aid' appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed and thank you to Christine Marshall who single-handedly cooked a lovely meal for over forty people.

Light Lunches

Sat 28th January

Light Lunches

Soup & Roll

+ *sweet*

Plus sale of goods for Property
Repair Fund

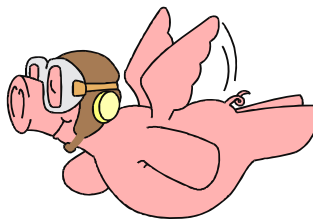
(See weekly notices for times)

Worship Group

Sat 14th January

Meet 10 a.m. for coffee at the
church.

Anyone interested in planning
and taking part in the evening
service on Feb 12th is invited
to meet with Barbara to
discuss ideas.



CIRCUIT BARN DANCE ?

An early entry in your
2006 diary should be
**7.30pm on Saturday,
21st January, at the
Methodist Church,
Sidwell Street, Exeter.**

As on previous occasions,
music will be provided by
Pigs Might Fly, the well-
known Ceilidh Band, led
by Richard Mason, who
will also call for each
dance. Whether you're a
regular dancer, or a first-
timer, come and join us;
other experienced dancers
will be around to guide
and encourage. Tickets at
£3 per person, or £7 for a
family, (to include light
refreshments,) will be
available after Christmas.

January Jollies

SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST

AN EVENING OF FUN
AND ENTERTAINMENT
(INCLUDING A
PANTOMIME SKETCH)
FOR ALL THE CHURCH FAMILY

CREDITON METHODIST
CHURCH

5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

INCLUDING BUFFET

Tickets: Adults £4 Children free
Available in January from the stewards.

Goodbyes



Unfortunately we are having to say several goodbyes these days. Recently we said goodbye to Jaco as he left us to move to Scotland, where he will begin a new dental practice.

Early in the new year we will be saying goodbye to Helen, Rob and Jacob as they leave us for Canada. For Rob it will be returning to his home country. It's been great having them with us and our prayers and best

wishes go with them as they settle into a new life. Initially they will be living on Vancouver Island where Rob's sister & family and his parents live.

Words from Wesley

'Your concern is with the present moment, your business is to live today.'

A Prayer for the New Year

Spirit unseen
Burn strong within my soul.

Spirit unseen
Let me breathe you deep within.

Spirit unseen
Awaken me to realise
That God is at the very heart
Of my existence,
So the ordinary happening
Is wondrously filled with God-
light.

The truth is,
I am loved.

I am loved.

Amen

Hilary Faith Jones

6th and final letter from the West Bank

Two days ago I was swimming in the Sea of Galilee. The water was very calm but as we know from the gospels, it can be rough and stormy. Luckily my skills in calming the waters or even walking on them were not put to the test! When I look now at the extent of the problems that Israel and Palestine are facing, I tend to feel that only someone with miraculous powers could calm the storms that are raging. As I write this, the main checkpoint that we use to get to Jerusalem at Qalandiya has been closed after a Palestinian killed an Israeli soldier there yesterday. So Muslims may not be able to get to their evening prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque which are especially important on Fridays. This is on top of more raids in the North part of the West Bank following the suicide bomb at Netanya in Israel last week. And what will this result in? More frustrated and embittered Palestinians, providing more recruits for the extremist groups such as Islamic Jihad, and so the cycle continues.

In many ways what is happening here is part of the worldwide phenomenon which we have now experienced in the UK, whereby whole groups of people are seen as 'dangerous', and are treated as such, and this then becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

So what can be done? My background is in mediation and I am a great believer in dialogue, facilitated if need be, as the way to deal with conflicts. However we are not dealing here with two countries with equal power. From my own observations and after listening to many different people, I think that the number one priority must be for Israel to end the occupation that has now gone on for 38 years. Alongside that must be stopping house demolitions, ending the acquisition of Palestinian land and water resources, and restoring East Jerusalem to the Palestinians as their capital. If these pressing issues which cause so much hardship every day to Palestinians can be dealt with, I believe it would lessen the attraction of the extremist groups, and thus increase the security of the Israelis which at present is their overriding and totally understandable concern. It would also open the way to starting up the dialogue and encounters between the two peoples which have become much less frequent since the second

infitada started in 2000. And then they could go on to the other key issues such as the rights of Palestinian refugees.

So as I come to the end of my stay here, I am left with a number of different emotions. First sadness at hearing so many stories of loss whether of loved ones, land, olive trees or simply a sense of human dignity as a person. Secondly anger at the way human rights continue to be trampled on, and violence whether from the Israeli army or extreme Palestinian groups is seen as the only way to resolve problems. But finally

Hope that in the end peace and justice will prevail. Why do I believe this, when all the evidence seems to point the other way? One reason is seeing people on both sides of the divide who stand up for their principles, whether this be groups such as the refuseniks or 'breaking the silence' on the Israeli side who refuse to serve in the army in the occupied territories and are often put in prison for their beliefs; or on the Palestinian side the ex Fatah military people who want to move away from violence and whom I have had the privilege of helping acquire new skills and new ways of resolving problems. The other ground for my hope is the recognition that both peoples have long histories of having suffered, whether through persecution, victimisation or occupation, and this has taught them the value of resilience or steadfastness, (in Arabic 'summoud'), as well as perseverance. My belief is that eventually these qualities will enable them to find a way to build a future in which they can live together in peace. And as Gandhi said, 'When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won'.

Gerald Conyngham. December 2005

Gerald returns to Crediton at the end of this year and we look forward to hearing a first-hand account of his visit to the West Bank sometime during 2006.

Phillips

(Print & Stationery) Ltd.

Start the New Year off with a *bang!*

Visit Phillips and take advantage of our

JANUARY SALE

Including reduced Christmas stock
- be early for next year!!

*As well as all our usual wide variety of
books, gifts, stationery, haberdashery
and much, much more...*