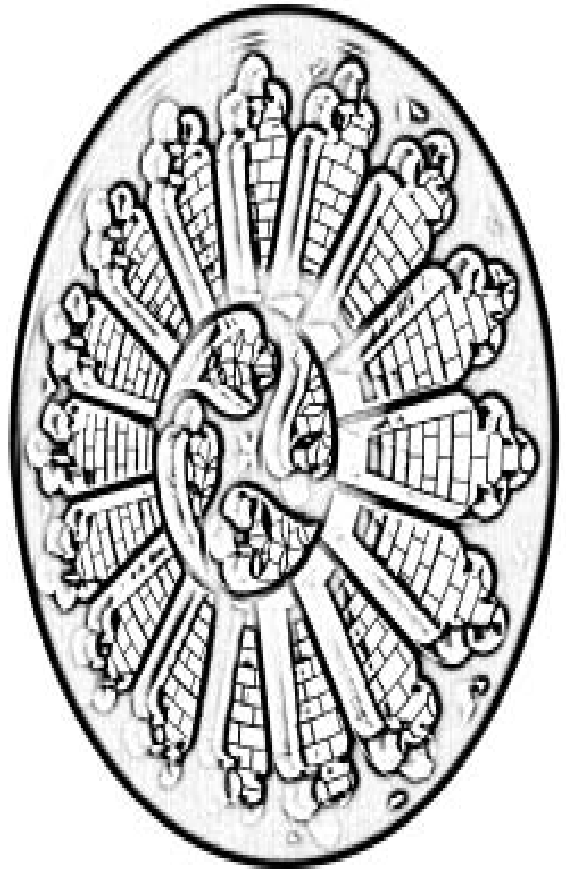


Crediton Methodist Church

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

June 2006



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

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Services this month:

June 4th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)(Pastoral Visitors' commissioning)
6.30 Mrs J Wragg
June 11th:10.30 Mrs T Ely
6.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
June 18th:10.30 Miss A Williams
6.30 Mr D Smith
June 25th:10.30 Prof. S Lea
6.30 Rev D Laidler

Church Groups:

Toddlers – meets on Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.15 during term time
(contact Ann on 01363 773088 or Sarah on 01363 774370)
Women's Open House- at the Manse 3rd Tuesday each month 7.30 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 a.m.
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 July/August newsletter required by June 18th.

Free Spirit

After Easter we enjoyed a few days holiday on St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly. Our very comfortable Guest House was right on the water front and we had a lovely light, bright room over looking the harbour. We could watch the Scillonian ferrying people and supplies daily to and fro from



Penzance and the little ferries taking residents and holiday makers to the smaller islands of St Agnes, St Martin's, Tresco or Bryher. And lined up on the shore just below our window was a row of long, narrow wooden rowing boats, called gigs. All the talk in our Guest House was about the Gig racing to take place the following weekend.

Gig racing, we discovered is now a popular sport but its origins were very practical. In years gone by, in wild and stormy seas, men would jump into their gig to race out to an approaching ship. The first one there would be paid to steer the ship through the treacherous rocky islands of the Scillies through to the safety of the English Channel and on all the way to the Port of London. A matter of life or death. For long years the meagre income of Scilly islanders was supplemented by the cargo of numerous shipwrecks washed ashore.

Unlike cars, boats each have their own names, the 'Lady Jane' or 'Mirabelle' giving them a life and identity of their own. One boat that caught my eye was called 'Free Spirit'. Imagine being on board a foreign ship heading for the English Channel but ahead lie treacherous rocky islands, some hidden from view and the wind is blowing you ever closer. But then, in the darkness you become aware of a small rowing gig heading towards you offering safe steerage – life and safety beyond. Our boat too is called 'Free Spirit' and we breathe in deeply and give thanks for the free spirit of God offering light and life in all its fullness and a sure guide through the storms of life.

Barbara Calvert

Women's Open House Our Dreams

'Your dream home', a 'dream holiday', 'Dream Topping'...these sorts of dreams, manipulated by the advertising industry, were *not* what we were discussing at our May meeting at the Manse!

We reflected firstly on the place and importance of dreams in the bible. The boy Joseph's dream of his elder brother's sheaves of wheat bowing down to him (Genesis 37) and the angel of the Lord who appears to the Joseph of Joseph and Mary are stories of dreams familiar from our Sunday school days. So dreams are taken seriously in the Bible and very occasionally we have experience ourselves of prophetic dreams.

The emphasis today however has moved more from interpreting to valuing dreams. We need regular sleep and when we sleep we dream, sorting out all that is going on in our minds and hopefully waking feeling refreshed hence the expression 'Sleep on it'.

But what about our dreams as in hopes?

In the personal sense some of us would love to have been good pianists/organists/singers or able to speak another language. There is an interesting relationship between the two – a longing to have been more creative or express ourselves in different ways.

A more unusual aspiration – to have been a prison visitor, led the discussion into the more controversial subject of dreams for the world.

How is our Christian faith reflected in our dreams for the world? We want to give *our* children a good education, a comfortable home, food for the table, health care when ever we need it but we have no more right to these things than anyone else in the world. All parents everywhere have the same longings and aspirations, dreams that their children will have a safe and secure future. We have so much to learn from those whose daily life is a struggle for survival. In humility we offer our giving, actions and prayers that they might reflect God's dreams of a rich and diverse but common humanity.

Barbara

Next meeting:

Topic: *Our favourite book* **Place:** *THE MANSE, 1 Chapel Downs Road*

Date: *Tuesday 18th July* **Cake:** *June*

Pray Without Ceasing

As part of our Methodist round the Connexion 24/7 prayer initiative people in the Exeter circuit were actively praying, day and night during the weekend 12th-14th May. Cheriton Fitzpaine and Tedburn St Mary Methodist churches set up inspirational quiet prayer corners for the Saturday morning and Crediton created a prayer room for 24 hours beginning 6pm Friday 12th May.

Getting up and going down to the church for an hour of prayer at 3am in the morning is an experience not to be missed. (and I really mean that!)

In fact the prayer room was so much appreciated that Crediton are planning to repeat the experience next year.

Grateful thanks to Tracey and Jamie from Connect for their inspiration and guidance in creating the prayer room.

'An invitation to an evening in India'

Circuit World Church Rally
Wednesday, 21 June, at
7.30pm

Topsham Methodist Church.
Mary Eden from Christian Aid
will talk about her recent visit
to India.

Tea and taste of India to
follow.

Everyone is welcome.



Prayer room

Pause for Thought - Len Jenkinson

“He’d do anything for anybody.”

Not long before my mother died I sat with her looking through two biscuit tins of old photos she kept. She was about to move into sheltered accommodation and was getting rid of everything that wasn’t essential. She seemed anxious to be rid of the photos and I was to have them – the trouble was, they weren’t labelled.

Sitting with pencil poised picking out each curling grey snap I could recognise Uncle George and Auntie Sally, or Granda Keir and Granda Jenk; but when the images were sepia – when the men wore moustaches and the ladies’ skirts reached the ground – I hadn’t a clue who I was looking at.

Of course things weren’t helped by mum’s memory not being what it was, for someone with Parkinson’s disease she was doing very well, but in many cases she just couldn’t remember who the person was. As we got nearer the bottom of the tin struggling to recall a name she’d say, “Oh, I don’t know, he was from Chapel anyway... he’d do anything for anybody.” Again and again with a shaking finger she’d point to some faded figure on a long forgotten Sunday school outing and say something like, “I can’t remember his name but mother always said he’d do anything for anybody – he’d help anyone out.”

As I listened and looked at the photos I began to recall the love and kindness I was always shown by those who surrounded me as a child. It seemed to me that for many of these people the Christian message was something very real; something which guided their every response and action on a daily basis.

In ‘The Witness of the Spirit’, a famous sermon preached on the 4th April 1767, John Wesley took up his interest in the operation of the Holy Ghost. He describes the Spirit’s witness as, ‘an inward impression on the souls of believers whereby the Spirit of God directly testifies that they are children of God.’ (cf. Romans 8: 16). ‘It more nearly concerns the Methodists...’ he says, ‘clearly to explain...this doctrine because it is one grand part of the testimony which God has given them to bear to all mankind.’ However this experience of conversion often characterized by Wesley and Whitefield as, ‘a regeneration by the Holy Ghost’ is only the *first* stage of development towards Christian maturity. The Christian has

to work at it. 'The true nature of the Spirit,' said Wesley, 'is known by its fruit...' and in order to be ready to set about the work of Christian charity Wesley offered guidelines for *responding* to the Spirit's assistance. As a form of individual covenant making he suggested the 'setting aside of time' to pray for the spirit's help, a careful searching of the heart, and a firm resolution to be faithful. In seeking 'perfection' the Christian needs the merging of the Spirit's assistance *and* his own covenant effort to love God and his neighbour with all his heart, mind, and soul.

In his book, 'The Ideal Of Perfection in Christian Theology' Newton Flew has suggested that this doctrine might be seen as the concentration on each moment while trusting in Divine aids: 'faith' says Flew, 'is no mere single response but a continuous succession of responses to the Divine giver.'

At a time when we hear so much about education, and in particular about citizenship and the passing on of values to the young, is it too much to imagine an educational practice grounded in such truths? And at a time when half of all the developing world's children may die of starvation while a quarter of ours are 'clinically obese', imagine if our world leaders were *truly* ready to 'set about the work of Christian charity.'

Len Jenkinson



You are invited to...
Open garden (house if wet)
at the Manse
1 Chapel Downs Road
Crediton

Saturday 8th July
12 noon – 5pm
Ploughman's lunches and cream
teas
Donations to NCH

Talking about talking about God

What a delightful venue we had for the Church Picnic. The marquee had been used the previous day for Caroline's wedding so we could enjoy the wedding floral arrangements and a host of daffodils set out on the tables. The view over the Devon countryside was breathtaking..



After a shared lunch we sang a few well-known hymns and then launched into our series 'Talking about God'. We split into three groups and discussed the question from the booklet 'What do you think we (or the church) ought to be talking about remembering that this is God's world and God is concerned about the whole of life?'



There was plenty of talk and several suggestions - Designer babies; consumerism; poverty; lax morals; immigration and so on. But why do we find it so difficult to talk about our faith to people not in the church.

As Gavin Reid has said in 'Care to say something', *Our churches are full of people who truly believe and want to follow the way of Jesus – but who cannot bring themselves to talk about their faith. 'I wouldn't know what to say' is the immediate reaction of many. Again there are those who are frightened to share their faith and experience because they don't want to embarrass their friends or be a bore. The truth is that the timely word coming out of genuine experience of Jesus Christ is never embarrassing and certainly never boring.*



Our thanks to June and Adrian for offering us such an attractive venue and, in spite of being exhausted by the aftermath of the wedding, made sure we had an enjoyable time.

A Brief Diary of my Trip to Sierra Leone – April 2006

Monday 10th April 2006

We flew out of Gatwick at 4pm and arrived at 11pm at Lungi Airport in pitch dark. Chaos at the Airport but eventually we packed into a bus with locals and all our luggage in cars arranged by a Local Pastor. We had an eventful journey down narrow country lanes for about 10 miles to the Hovercraft! More waiting about while everybody's luggage was packed along the back seats. About 80 passengers all told. We arrived at Aberdeen (a district of Freetown) and of course more waiting for our luggage. Our Hotel was about 10 minutes from the Hovercraft and finally arrived at 2am on Tuesday 11th. We just showered and slept till 8.30am breakfast. Each day was hot and humid apart from one hours torrential storm.

Tuesday 11th

Breakfast each day was fresh pineapple or Guava, delicious! Toast and tea or coffee. Fruit was their crowning glory with Mango trees growing everywhere. The locals eat them like apples. Rachel our leader (a young married girl of 35) told us our plans for today. First we had to fill in forms to register at the Embassy and send our passports with them. Emily one of the staff at New Steps Centre took them. (She is head of staff there).

Rene, the director for Mercy Ships for both New Steps and the Fistula Clinic, after welcoming us, talked to us about the work each is doing. The Clinic is only 20 minutes drive from our hotel so we will visit today and have our lunch there. Such poor shanty housing as we drove, but folk waving to us, Mercy Ships is well known there.

Lunchtime when we arrived – rice with chicken in a spicy bean sauce, welcome and tasty. We talked to staff and patients when Rene took us to see all the facilities:- Theatre – Kitchen – Wards – Offices etc., about 30 lady patients some with their babies, 8 were going back to their home villages in the morning, so we were at their leaving service. Pep talk about hygiene and personal care, they then paraded round the Quad singing praises for their treatment. A moving ceremony.

We helped sort some of the equipment we took with us, before going back to the hotel. We had time in the pool before our evening meal at 7pm. What a pleasure!! Each evening we had a time of devotions, singing and praying on the patio, sometimes the other guests sat and listened.

My room-mate was Alison a Mum with teenage boys, we got on so well. The team was made up of Ken (62) Alison (56) Shirley (52) Lorna (48) Tarryn (32) Philippa (24) myself and Rachel. We all got on so well together. Alison and I settled down to sleep at 10.30pm and although dogs were barking most of the night, we slept till 5am.

Wednesday 12th

Breakfast at 7.15am. Then off to New Steps Centre for the disabled. A big surprise to me that we went through the mountains, a 1½ hour journey and very bumpy. We had a super local driver Fayah who tried hard to avoid the pot-holes, but there were so many. Wonderful views, very lush forests and through some small villages. Here again we were shown all the departments, such wonderful work being done with basic equipment.

We were set our first job, sanding wood ready to erect ceilings in the new wing. Lunch of rice and fish stew today. Then more sanding till we left at 3.30pm as we needed to call at the Clinic before 5.30pm to pick up our money (what we had taken as pocket money) there were 5,000 Leonies to a £1.00 so we all had thick wads of notes!! Aunt Alice (anyone old enough to be their Mum was called Aunt) so I became Aunt Margaret. Aunt Alice was the cleaner at New Steps but she made tie-dye material and sold it along with wrap around skirts and aprons to make extra money to feed 10 children in her village who had no carers. We all bought some, skirts £3.00, tops £4.00, aprons £1.50, material 4 yards £6.00. I had a dress and jacket made with some of the material. She also wanted us to go and see the children which we did later in the trip. We were all tired at the end of the day, so just relaxed and had Devotions after our meal.

Thursday 13th

I had had a very disturbed night with dogs barking etc., even put ear-plugs in! (This I did each night after, but could still hear the dogs), so not a lot of sleep, but lay and rested. We had an early start, breakfast at 6am and off to New Steps for Devotions with the staff (about 30) this is normal practice each day before work begins at 8.30am. We had come through Freetown today (less traffic early on) a very devastated town with just shells of buildings and shanty homes erected in all the streets. Many people on way to work and they all looked clean and tidy, some had walked miles. We set to work again, my main job today was to wash all the toys ready to go in the playroom. Some of our team went on Home Visits with the physio and the rest back to sanding!! There is a mountain of wood to do. We left at 4.15pm and came through the centre of Freetown, it took us nearly 3 hours with all the traffic and folk going home. No-one gets angry in the traffic jams or pips their horn in anger, they pip to let people or cars know that they are pulling

round. Fayah tried to find easier way, but everywhere was solid. We only had a few minutes to shower and go down to our meal. We all chose fish tonight 'Baracuda' delicious. We retired earlier tonight and a bit better night's rest.

Good Friday 14th April

After breakfast we started for the Evangelical Church for a 9.30am service. This was in the centre of Freetown surrounded by very poor housing and so crowded. Crowds of children outside. They had a 'Judas' (very like our Guy Fawkes) we were told they would beat it to bits later, but of course were asking for money. They loved having their photos taken. The Service was wonderful with the praise, songs and prayers. The Pastor gave a powerful sermon about 'yes, it was Good Friday and Jesus was crucified but Easter Day was coming and we should always be looking forward'. Five young girls did a mime dance to The Old Rugged Cross, I don't think there was a dry eye amongst the team. The service was a short one 2½ hours as Friday – Monday was a general holiday. We went to a local bakery for our lunch, baked fresh, and delicious. Later I went to the 'Tailors' a small room in the centre of Freetown with 5 treadle machinists crowded in, a real experience! The rest of the team were at the Team House painting the lounge and kitchen. We went back to the hotel later and then went to a local restaurant on the edge of the sea. We relaxed and enjoyed good food. A wonderful day which ended at midnight.



Saturday 15th

Today together with the New Steps team we went to No. 2 Sussex Beach, 20 miles away an eventful and bumpy ride, but oh! what a beach! White sand stretching for miles with palm trees and mountains in the distance, Fayah had brought his daughter along today. She had never seen the sea before, aged 11 years Mariama was fascinated and ran straight in. We all kept a good watch on her. The small restaurant on the beach cooked us delicious Baracuda kebabs and rice, wonderful!



We all enjoyed bathing for the afternoon and then went to another bay to a restaurant for our evening meal. We had guards on the beach entrance but it was in a wonderful setting. Journey back in pitch dark so even more 'hairy' than on the way. Another wonderful day.

Sunday 16th Easter Day

A really lovely day, we went to the ACFC team house today. A much bigger property than the New Steps, more staff there. Staff from New Steps also came and we had a super Easter Service and communion together, about 30 altogether. The Team had prepared a buffet lunch, very American and mostly sweet type food apart from rolls and chicken. Very rich in contrast to what we have been having but enjoyable. We had a pleasant time socialising in the afternoon. When we returned to the hotel we made use of the pool and also wound wool for the lady patients at the ACFC clinic. We did this in our spare time. We talked families in the evening, as we had sent messages via Text. Late to bed, midnight again.

Monday 17th

We went to ACFC clinic today because of the Bank Holiday no local staff were working, only the Mercy Ships staff. So we helped with all the usual jobs cleaning, and helping in the kitchen with cooking the lunch. Chicken and rice today with cassava leaves, their most common vegetable, it is pounded down and added to the stew, very nutritious and tasty, but makes food a peculiar green colour. We also had a session with the patients, helping them to draw round their hands, and then colouring in. Some had never held a pencil, their ages ranged from about 13 – 60 (we really couldn't tell how old the older ones were as they lead such hard lives). They all wanted to join in so we felt it helped them. Back to the hotel late afternoon. Another time around the pool. We also cut hundreds of squares for patchwork as this is another activity for the patients.

Simeon, Fatima and their baby Keith (6 months) came to join us for our evening meal. Simeon is a young man who felt called by God to open a school for poor children in the North of Sierra Leone. He has the backing of a Scottish business man and as he had worked for a while on the Mercy Ship Anastasis when it was in port, Mercy Ships also donated some funds and Plan International. He had built the school room (for over 100 children) but it had no roof and the rainy season is about to start, so we all gave what cash we had and he sent message when we got home to the UK that it had been started. He invited us to an evening meal back to his home tomorrow evening (he didn't know we had collected funds until then). Yet again a very different day.

Tuesday 18th

Very hot and sticky today and no sun. We had an extra early start for New Steps 6.30am, we were picking Aunt Marie up on the way (the cook). It was arranged that Ken, Alison and myself would go with the New Steps Headmaster on 3 home visits. This again a different experience, the journey through bush land and no roads! The village houses are made of mud bricks, with grass roof, which they

make themselves so although only one room, are more substantial than in or near the towns. We to find the children and parents who were in the fields or out in the bush. We distributed sweets and the children made sure everyone had a fair share. They were delightful, at one village we had to balance over a tree trunk bridge, Fayah made sure I was OK. We worked for a while when we returned and then in the afternoon some of our team (Philippa, Lorna, Tarryn, and Shirley) went out to a clinic with Nurse Julie, Alison, Lorna and myself also went to visit Aunt Alice's children, this was only 15 minutes walk away from centre, first time out on foot. The church where they worship very basic but cared for, they sang to us and then we helped them to draw and colour which they enjoyed, some of the Mums joined us with their babies, lovely walk back. In the evening Fayah drove us to Simeon and Fatima's home through back streets in Freetown. We had to leave vehicle and climb a steep hill (no path and in and out houses in the dark!). We made it safely. The whole family had laid a lovely table outside under a mango tree, just room for us to sit, members of their family served us to rice and chicken in a curry sauce, they had bought lots of fresh fruit for afters (we did pay them what it would have cost us for a meal elsewhere) but they didn't know that when they invited us. Simeon read a passage from his bible and gave us a short sermon (we had requested this) he isn't college trained but knows his bible and spoke what he felt. Very moving. We talked for a while then made our way back with Simeon guiding us and also Fayah to the main road. Not too late to bed tonight.

Wednesday 19th

After my normal early Quiet Time, breakfast was at 6.30am, we arrived at New Steps in time to share their devotions before starting work. The Pastor of the centre talked about a man having 4 wives. (A powerful message to us all). Later in the morning Philippa and I went out to a village clinic with the district nurse Evelyn. The clinic was in a small 'lean-to' about 5' x 12'. We set up 2 small tables to register the folk attending and one for counting medication! We were very busy and all ages came, from very young babies to elderly folk. The nurse examined and diagnosed their problems, Philippa put tablets in small containers, I checked and then nurse checked them again before instructing them about how to take them. A very basic and primitive way of dispensing drugs!! Philippa was very disturbed at the type given to babies. We had to ring for transport back! (We could have been there all day and night!) They had saved some lunch for us different today, potato salad, beef strips in sauce and fried plantains, this was very welcome. (Torrential rain for one hour). Philippa and I fetched our dresses from Tailors then went to the 'blacksmiths' where disabled men and youths make crosses, key rings and letter openers from shell cases. Such primitive equipment

and very unhygienic conditions. We ordered some to be made for us and had to pay half of the cost and hope they would be finished before we left for UK. Fayah wanted us to see his home so another trip through streets, but his house was on a hill overlooking a fairly busy road. The houses were old and built as a sort of quad. His house was just 2 small rooms where he and his brother slept in one room and his daughter in the very small one. It was communal toilet and basic washing facilities but all the folk were clean and clothes old but mostly clean. One young woman appeared to cook for the whole community in a small 'lean-to' on the end of the block. We were invited back to New Steps team house for our evening meal and after talking for a while, went back to hotel, we needed to plan devotions for the staff tomorrow. We decided on 'who is my neighbour?' as theme 1 Corinthians 13 v 3 and 1 John 4 v 16, 19 and 21. We were hoping to teach them new song and that they would join in. 11pm when we finished so straight to bed.

Thursday 20th

Heavy rain in night then hot sultry day. Early Quiet Time and breakfast at 6am. Fayah drove fast to New steps so a very bumpy ride through mountains to be early and prepare for doing devotions. We had a lively half hour and had good feedback about it. We concentrated on varnishing doors and windows today. After our lunch (chicken and rice and fresh fruit) we met Aunt Alice with the children to go to The Chimp Reserve. They were so good as they hadn't been out together before and travelled well in Phuta Phuta (bus) Fayah insisted I went in the 4 x 4 with one or two of the team. We travelled up into the mountains and then had to leave the Phuta Phuta at the bottom of a 100 yard very steep hill. The children all walked up (bare feet!) with some of the team and Aunt Alice, but Fayah took us up in the 4 x 4, it was a bit scary as we didn't know if it would make it, but we did! We had to wait to be signed in so the children sang and enjoyed looking about. The guide told us all about the Rescue of the Chimps and then we looked at a display of how it had developed over 20 years. The tour around the compounds was fascinating to us but even more so to the children, they were wide-eyed at everything. We were late back so a very quick change then down to greet the folk we had invited to our last meal. We had arranged for a buffet to be put on and everyone enjoyed 24 folk there, we socialised till quite late, I retired at 11.30pm (will pack tomorrow).

Friday 21st

Woke to sunshine, our last day here unfortunately. Breakfast at 8.30am today, so managed after my Quiet Time to finish packing (what little I was taking home). Rachel had a difficult job paying the hotel bill but managed in the end (it was more than expected!) We distributed tips to all the staff individually, and gave

them gifts of toiletries etc., Alison, Rachel, Philippa and Tarryn all left clothes etc, for Victoria (our young, single mum cleaner) she was overjoyed with everything. At 11.30am we finally started for the market in the centre of Freetown. Mostly wood carvings, materials and clothes we chose an outfit for Mariama, Fayah's daughter, he and Emily from New Steps saw that we weren't charged too much for goods. I spent my last 45,000 Leonis on a road map of Sierra Leone, this was the most expensive of my purchases, but will be a help when talking about my trip. Other team members bought carvings and tops etc. We went to a local bakery for lunch, a variety of sandwiches, rolls, croissants and cakes to choose from. It was 3.40pm when we arrived back at hotel and the first trip to the Hovercraft was at 4pm. I went with Shirley, Ken and Lorna and a load of luggage. Only 10 minute ride Fayah had to make three trips. The Hovercraft was being repaired so we didn't get away until 5.40pm, some of the New Steps and ACFC staff came to say goodbye. A sad one for all of us. Pastor Mark had again arranged transport to the Airport take off not till 10.30pm so we were pleased we had plenty of water with us for the wait. Another good flight but of course in the dark. We had a meal served when we were settled in the air and then regular drinks if we needed them. They eventually turned lights down after this. Rachel came to chat to Alison and myself for a good while, interesting to hear about situation at Mercy Ships Headquarters. We thought we might snatch a little sleep but breakfast began to be served (4am Sat.22nd) we didn't really feel like it but ate a little and cuppa was welcome. We had a smooth landing and were half an hour early which was surprising, 5.45am lovely sunrise. We eventually left the Airport at 7.15am. Some folks were there to meet us and we went for coffee before going our separate ways. We will keep in touch and hope to meet up again sometime.

The End of a Wonderful Experience and wonderful people. We all thanked God for his care.

With Many, Many Thanks to All
who supported me in any way.
Margaret Scott



Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Marjorie & Clifford Webb who celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this month

Psalm 23 v4

Don't despise a walking stick
If it is what you need.
When age or infirmity
Has cut your former speed.
Don't feel embarrassed,
And think that folks will laugh;
King David had one in Bible
Days
Referred to as his staff.
He likened God unto his staff,
On which he could always lean.
And we can use God as our staff
Whenever He prods us with 'His
Rod'
To keep our zeal keen.

Eileen Tarr

Knit & Natter

Knit & Natter made £52 at the St Boniface Table-top sale on May 6th. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Ann Spry

Bright Hour

June 2nd: Rev Barbara Calvert
June 9th: Mr Kevin Wright . I think we all know Kevin is trying to raise money to take his son Bobby to America for special treatment. The Coffee Morning raised £96.50 (with donations) to help. Bright Hour will be giving a donation and will have a collection. Come and join us at 2.30 p.m. refreshments to follow.

June 16th: Text afternoon.

June 23rd: Mrs Ruth Green.

June 30th: Members & Friends
afternoon

Calling all jam makers!

The season will soon be upon us and we would like to have a produce stall at the flower festival (21st-24th Sept) burgeoning with jams, chutneys, home grown vegetables, cakes, groceries....

Kath Wollacott has kindly agreed to coordinate the stall-all offers of help to her please.

Crediton Methodist Church Prayer Cycle

Welcome to this month's "Prayer Cycle" topic, which we hope will encourage and help you to pray regularly for the life and growth of our church.

Every month, members and friends of the church are asked to pray for a different group or activity within the life of the church.

This month, please pray each day for:

Our Leaders and Church Officers

Please pray for:

Our minister, Barbara, for her ministry among us, and for her family

Our Stewards, who faithfully ensure the smooth running of services and the other parts of our church life

Our Treasurer, Property Secretary, Pastoral Secretary and Church Council Secretary, who ensure the proper stewardship of our finances, our property, our pastoral care system and the government of our fellowship .

The various groups, which meet to seek God's will for new initiatives in the life of the church which will enable us to grow as Christians and as a fellowship

Last years Annual Report (2004-2005) is now available. Please see one of the stewards if you require a copy.


From the Roots Children's website

This is a story about forgiveness – when we have done something wrong like Judas and Peter, it is never too late to say sorry and rejoin God's team.

This true story is of the famous sculptor Michelangelo, who lived in the sixteenth century. One particular day he was carving a piece of marble and as he chipped steadily away, figures gradually began to emerge – three people grouped round a figure of Christ – a masterpiece in the making. Suddenly disaster struck. The chisel slipped and too much marble had been chipped away from Mary's elbow. Michelangelo had a choice at this time about what to do. He did not choose a good path. He was so angry he lost his temper and screamed at his servant, blaming him for bothering him and saying it was all the servant's fault. In a

temper he took out his hammer and began to hammer huge chunks out of the marble sculpture. One of the servants was so upset he begged Michelangelo not to ruin it any more but to give it to him. This Michelangelo did, but what a waste.

Do you think Michelangelo regretted his actions? The real end to the story is that many years later the old man Michelangelo took on an apprentice who found the sculpture in the cellar and spent many months working on it. Patiently he restored the figures and captured the spirit of the sculpture. The result may be seen today in the cathedral at Florence. Lots of people see this sculpture but are unaware of the secret of its making. Things may go wrong and we may make bad choices and do the wrong thing. But we always have the chance to put things right – and the end result can be beautiful.



CREDITON PARISH CHURCH
presents

CONSIDER
The
LILIES

An Exhibition with Flowers

Sat 3rd – Thurs 8th June 2006

10.30am – 8.30pm daily


Sunday 11.00am - 6.00pm

(Festival Evensong at 6.00pm)

FREE ADMISSION

Refreshments – free parking
Facilities for disabled visitors

Parties welcome
Please ring 01363-776336
For further information and bookings



Flower festival
Crediton Methodist Church and



Swords into Ploughshares
Stories of Hope

Sept 21st - 24th 2006

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday - Saturday
2 - 5 p.m. Sunday

Evening Concert

with Martin John Nicholls
(performed at Edinburgh Festival 2005)

- ❖ powerful images
- ❖ moving music
- ❖ songs inspired by
Christian Aid's work
around the world

Friday 22nd Sept 7.30 p.m.
Concert Tickets £4 (children £1)

at Crediton Methodist Church,
Union Road

One World Café

coffees, lunches, teas



Photographic Exhibition
Crediton Photography Club
Images of Devon

Contact: Revd Barbara Calvert: 01363 772441

Email: calvert2@fish.co.uk

Quiet Garden