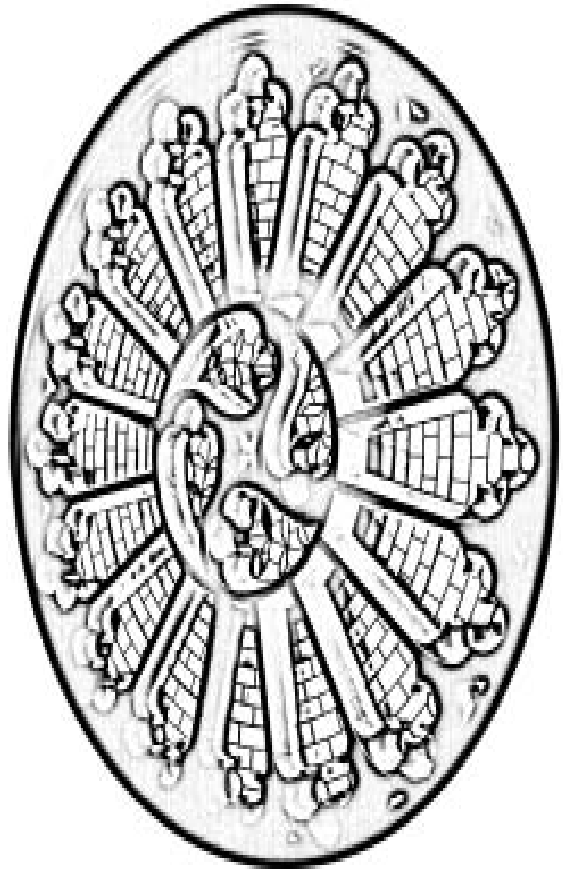


Crediton Methodist Church

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March 2006



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

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Services this month:

- March 5th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert
6.30 Mr Arscott
- March 12th: 10.30 Mr L Smale (All age worship)
6.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
- March 19th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert
6.00 Talkback (details in this newsletter)
- March 26th: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Rev T Beardsall
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)
- 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 April newsletter required by March 19th

The Headless Cross

The sun shone through the bare, lithe trunks of the leafless trees and sparkled and flashed on the gurgling river as it rushed under the old stone bridge. Peering down into the water I remembered the fun we had as children playing pooh sticks, dropping a simple stick in the water and then rushing to the other side of the bridge to see whose stick came through first, and the generations of children before and since who had also taken delight in such simple pleasures. But today we were out to enjoy the simple pleasure of walking in the early spring sunshine.

Our route took us along the river path and then we puffed up a steep lane on to the moor at Mardon Down. The moor was open and wild, a clear blue sky above us and stunning views all around. We walked through the brown, dead winter bracken and ahead of us, where the paths crossed, stood a simple upright stone, rough and weather beaten but strong and immovable. It was like many of the standing stones you see around the West Country, but this one our guide book called ‘the headless cross’. And so that made it different. This one caused you to stop and wonder and imagine the arms of the cross; arms which transform a stark, motionless stone into a



cross that through pain reaches out with love and compassion and the power to transform the world. And to wonder too at the countless footsore travellers who had travelled this way in harder times but here stopped for a moment and found rest and peace and saw too, not a headless cross, but God.

Lent 2006
Ecumenical Groups

“Praying Without Ceasing”

Opening meeting for all
7.30pm Monday 6th March
The Boniface Centre

Four weekly group meetings:
‘Praying as looking towards God’
‘Praying as a struggle’
‘Praying for a change’
‘Praying the Lord’s Prayer’

Closing meeting for all
7.30pm Tuesday 11th April
Crediton Methodist Church

This course has been specially written to support our Methodist year of Prayer. Do join a group. Sign up sheets are in the church foyer and there is a separate sheet for a group meeting on Wednesday mornings at Alan Clemens. If you have missed the sign up sheets but would still like to take part just phone Barbara.

*The opening and closing sessions will be led by
the Revd Dr David Calvert
who has also prepared the booklet of weekly material*

Talk back
Think Global, Act Local

9th March at 6pm
in the Boniface Centre

Ensure environmental sustainability

Rev Philip Wagstaff

Philip is the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District Policy team leader on Rural Issues. He is also chair of the Connect Executive Committee.

This global challenge is:

Targets:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- By 2020 achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

More than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than two billion lack sanitation. During the 1990s, however, nearly one billion people gained access to safe water and the same number to sanitation.

Come along to be challenged.

Church car park

Years ago, when Redvers House was being developed, it was formally agreed that in return for a corner of our land we could have the use of 8 car parking spaces for the use of members of the church when on church business. At the Church Council meeting on 15th February it was requested that the car park be used as stipulated please. Thank you.

Women's Open House at the Manse

A meeting to discuss a women's discussion group took place at the Manse on Tuesday evening 21 February. Eight attended and there were others who would like to have come but were unable that particular evening. There was an enthusiasm to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Manse. The format will be a ten minute introduction to the topic, 40 minute discussion and then tea/coffee and cake, finishing at 9pm. All welcome – next meeting: Tuesday 21 March 7.30pm at the Manse. Topic: Our Roots

Easter Morning Breakfast

On Easter Sunday morning (April 16th), our communion service will be at 8.45am, led by Barbara Calvert, and our 10.30a.m. service will be All-Age Worship for Easter Day.

Between the two services, a church family breakfast will be served in the hall downstairs, to which you are very warmly invited.

Breakfast will be served from 9.30a.m. to 10.15am, and will consist of cereal, fruit juice, toast, coffee and tea.

(Dependent on numbers, we might even stretch to some bacon butties, although we can't promise fish grilled on a charcoal fire, the original 'Resurrection Breakfast' menu – see John chapter 21!)

Please put the date in your diary, and look out for a list in the porch, later in March, to sign up for Easter Morning Breakfast.

THOUGHTS..... by RENE SANKEY

Nearly 80 years ago, when I was at school, I read a remarkable poem; “The Everlasting Mercy” by John Masefield (1878 – 1967). One quotation from it reads:

***“And he who gives a child a treat
Makes joy-bells ring in Heaven’s street,
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom come”.***

These lines have stayed with me over the years, and sprang to mind immediately I heard about shoeboxes and the International Aid Trust. In my naivety, I thought the sending of shoeboxes to the needy and deprived children in the Ukraine was the sole activity of the I.A.T. I soon discovered it was only one of many projects, albeit, an important and valuable one, undertaken by the Trust.

The Knit and Natter Group, and several church members sponsor families, helping them financially, and in kind. We have so much. They have so little. The letters we receive from time to time, translated by the co-ordinators, express their delight and warm appreciation for the gifts we send.

Galina Martinova cares for 22 children! (6 are her own and 16 street children). She writes: “The sweets were wonderful and the washing-up liquid very useful, they call me “mama” and live with me in my apartment. Their ages range from 3 to 22 years. You can imagine what a narrowness there is. We live by the principle *“In the narrowness but not if offence”*”

The I.A.T. undertakes many projects. The site for the Khadjibe Children’s Centre in the Ukraine was bought for the very low price of £54,000. Since then the Ukraine has undergone the ‘velvet revolution’ and the new Odessa local government is demanding a further £58,000 + £12,000 taxes, for this very valuable site.

Every penny contributed to help secure this Centre will be gratefully received. We have so much. They have so little.

A Study Day on Islam,

an edited account of a visit by Joyce Jarrett

On Saturday 4th February, about 50 to 60 people from a wide area of Devon met at the Mint to find out more about Islam through a talk and discussion and to experience prayer time at the Exeter Mosque. Andrew Sails introduced Mr Shabir Ahmed, originally from Pakistan, as a good friend of the Christian community. He told us that there are 15,000 Muslims in Devon, people from all walks of life and all kinds of professions, and outlined some of their beliefs:

History and principles: Jesus is respected as a prophet and there is much commonality between Christianity and Islam, especially in the recognition of Abraham and the prophets. In 570 AD, in Saudi Arabia, Mohammed was visited by the angel Gabriel and was told that God had chosen him to receive the Revelations in the form of the Koran, the true word of the Almighty. The Koran contained Sunnah – practices for holy living, in relation to dress, food, marriage, education and dying; but cultural impacts were

very important as well, affecting health, economic and political achievements.

Daily Prayers: undertaken five times a day: before sunrise, after midday, between midday and sunset, sunset, about 1 to 3 hours after sunset. Before prayers, Wudu or ablutions must be performed because the body and clothes have to be clean.

Ramadan: involves fasting annually from first light until sunset for 30 days while still continuing daily work. Exceptions can be made for health reasons.

Charitable giving: expected of all followers because all things belong to God.

Pilgrimage: once in a lifetime to Mecca for those who are physically and financially able. Mecca is the most holy place; then, the Prophet's Mosque at Medina; and third, the Mosque at Jerusalem.

Challenges for UK Muslims: social exclusion, present day Palestine, Salmon Rushdi, September 11th, Afghanistan, the London bombings, the Cartoons and Islamaphobia.

Questions from the audience:

Q. What is the place of women in Islam and why do they wear scarves?

A. Some women work in their chosen professions. Islam requires modesty of dress from both men and women.

Q. What about the recent cartoons of Muhammed? How could he be represented?

A. Islam does not believe in symbolism.

Q. Why is Islam growing in the West when it is so strict?

A. The doing of principles gives a sense of relief and comfort.

Q. What is the attitude of Muslims to violence?

A. 'Islam' means peace and submission and is opposed to violence.

Q. Couldn't Muslims together do something about extremists?

A. There is no central authority to issue a proclamation to do this.

At the Mosque:

At present, this is a converted old school dining hall in York Road, but funds are being raised for a new mosque. Before entering, we witnessed the ritual washing and then removed our own shoes. Before the 3 o'clock prayers,

the call to prayer was demonstrated, and then a group of young men came in to pray. The prayers were led by Iman Saeid, using words from the Koran, to which the young men responded, standing in line and bowing to floor level and rising again in unison. There was an air of sincerity and spirituality and prayer.

Where were the rest of the people, the children and women? They are encouraged to pray at home, or go to their own well equipped room at the mosque, or sit at the back, as we were. After prayer time, we left the Mosque and went into that room for hospitality - tea and chat. Overall we had a really good day.

It would be nice to be able to make friends with some Muslim women in the Exeter community.

A final thought: The mosque seems to be for young men, the church for older women!?
For more information about interfaith meetings, contact Andrew Sails, 01392 275070.

Environmental Policy Update.

Climate change is happening. The weather is becoming chaotic - we've all seen the storms, floods and droughts on the news. But you can help to beat it. The energy you use at home comes from power stations which emit climate-changing pollution. By not wasting energy you cut the pollution you cause.

As part of our Church's environmental policy during January and February we have been looking at the use of **Energy and Water**. Below are suggestions that we can all do at little or no cost.

(1) To ensure energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reduce its use

What we can do is **PLEDGE** to do simple things like:

- When cooking vegetables on the hob, boil the water in a kettle first.
- Not overfill the kettle only boil as much water as you need.
- Change a light bulb to an energy saving bulb. (One will make a difference change more if you can)
- Turn it off when not in use (lights, television, DVD player, Hi Fi, computer etc.)

(2) To encourage the increased use of renewable energy.

We can all change to using green electricity. It only takes a few minutes. Some energy suppliers charge the same for green electricity as they charge for their normal supplies.

(3) To use water efficiently and with care.

One way to use less water is to fit a Hippo or Hog water saver in your toilet cistern. If everyone in the South West Water area fitted one of these it would save 10 million litres a day which is enough to supply 60,000 homes. If your toilet was fitted before 1991 you need a Hippo, if fitted between 1992 and 2001 fit a Hog, if fitted after 2002 no further action is required. If you would like one of these there is an order form and sample in the foyer. There is no charge and they will be delivered to your home address.

(4) *To avoid pollutants entering the drainage system.*

Only use soaps, detergents and chemicals that are biodegradable. And be careful what and where we are disposing of unwanted chemicals, oil etc.

During March and April we will be looking at WASTE (1) To reduce the production of material waste including unnecessary packaging. (2) To encourage re-use, repair and recycling of materials including organic waste (3) To dispose of waste in a safe and responsible way. If you have any ideas on ways we as a Church community can cut waste or improve our recycling please let me know. Bob Wright

Christian Aid

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a "Count Your Blessings" form from Christian Aid. You are invited to take part in this challenge. You can either send your donation direct to Christian Aid as mentioned on the form or place it in the jar which will be in the foyer after Easter. *Priscilla*

What is normal?

On the pycantha bush in all weathers,
Sits a blackbird with white feathers!
What some would call a freak,
But it gobbles berries with its beak.
Albino blackbirds are quite abnormal
But apart from colour it seems quite normal.
It spots a worm with keenest eyes
The sight of a cat and away it flies.
If the weather should give a hint of Spring

Melodiously it starts to sing.
Except white feathers among the black
Nothing else it seems to lack.
So to us if some folks seem odd
They are normal unto God.
For above us He is more wise;
We only see through human eyes.
So to everyone show patience
and give them aid
As God does for all mankind He has made.

Eileen Tarr

Pause for Thought – Preaching

As a boy when I sat in the pew in Crediton, I was gripped by the preaching – Christ confronted me through it – and my commitment to Him and the call to Ministry followed.

Across the years I have not always found preaching like that. When I have had the chance to sit in the pew I have often left church with sore ribs – the result of my wife’s elbow telling me to be quiet and to stop fidgeting.

Often I have been left wondering what it was he or she thought they were saying. Often I have concluded that he or she had no more idea about that than I. Sometimes it has been obvious what the preacher was saying but I have been left asking – was it worth saying in the first place?

Frequently the stress is on what I, as a disciple, should do. Both personal and social holiness are a crucial part of being a Christian. But Christianity is far more than morality. Preaching is 90% offer and 10% demand – and it’s that offer that is so often missing. Good News – not good advice! What God has done and is doing not what I must do.

Equally I do not believe that preaching is teaching (education is vital if we are to grow in the faith – there are far better vehicles for that than the sermon which is very ill-suited to that).

What then is the sermon? It is part of God’s great process of creation and redemption (as so many of the great scholars of the last century in their various ways stated!). It is the way that Christ draws near to make plain His love, to seek commitment, to call to arms, to change, renew and transform. Preaching is a vehicle for Christ to come alongside, to deal in His loving way with individuals and with the people.

It is that which makes the calling to preach so terrifying. It is that which has torn me apart every Saturday evening for years. It is that understanding of preaching that leaves me feeling what an abject failure I have been as a preacher. When I come to worship and it comes to the sermon – what do I expect? Not triviality, not entertainment, not morality, not what I must do. I expect the Gospel – good news of the love and the mercy of God at work in Christ and His Spirit – so declared that I

find Christ again standing beside me – understanding, forgiving, offering, lifting, renewing and challenging.

If preachers have nothing to offer they should be silent. How dare we offer anything less than the Gospel.

Rev Kenneth Hext.

Bright Hour

March 3rd: Women's Day of Prayer. Boniface Centre 2 p.m.

March 10th: Mr David Cole

March 17th: Sankey afternoon

March 23rd: Thursday:

Rev Mark Gilbertson

March 31st: Rev Charles Edwards

Note: The meeting on 23rd is on a Thursday to accommodate our speaker. This is the first time Mark has been to Bright Hour and I can assure you we are in for an interesting afternoon. Come and join us. There is a cup of tea & biscuits to follow. Meetings are at 2.30 p.m. *Kath*

Synod

Sidwell St are hosting the Synod meetings on Saturday 1st April. The Circuit will be providing tea, coffee and soft drinks (members are bringing packed lunches). If you are able to help with serving food or providing sponges, small cakes or scones it would be much appreciated. Please let Tina Turner or one of the stewards know if you can help

Present Aid

Apologies for a mistake in last month's newsletter. The amount raised by the congregation was £179-95 making a total of £343.

Flowers

Dec 4th/11th: Arr. by Meg

Dec 18th/25th: Church decorated for Christmas

Jan 1st/8th: Donated by Mrs Crang to remember her husband Jim; arr. by Christine.

Jan 22nd/29th: Arr. by Angela.

Decorating the church for Christmas was made so much easier with the extra help. Thank you to all who gave their time, If you would like flowers arranged for a special occasion let me know. *Christine*

Notice Board

Thanks to David's (Calvert) refurbishing skills we now have a much smarter notice board on which to convey information to the general public.

Fair Trade at CREDITON Methodist Church: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Fairtrade Fortnight (March 6th to 19th) is an apt time for celebrating our church's part in the growth of fair trade to date, and for looking forward to the challenges ahead.



2006 is the 10th Anniversary of CREDITON Methodist's support of Traidcraft, which

started with a stall during the Opening celebrations for the new church buildings in September 1996 (although Margaret & Ken Saunders had already been selling Traidcraft fair trade crafts for some time before that)

Over the last 10 years, Traidcraft sales at 'CredMeth' have exceeded £25,000: The church can be justly proud that this has helped hundreds of families around the world achieve self-sufficiency and dignity. We also have also recently become a Fair Trade Church, and the message this sends to our community is just as important as our practical support for Traidcraft producers.

Last year, Make Poverty History demonstrated both that there is



still so much injustice in the world, but also that ordinary

people like us have the will and the ability to make a difference. As a result, thousands of people will live who would otherwise have died, and millions more will have better lives than if we had stood by and done nothing about world poverty.

The challenge for 2006 and beyond is to build on what we have achieved already: Many millions of people still live in needless poverty as the direct result of how consumers in Britain and elsewhere chose to spend our money.

The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight this year is 'Make Fair Trade Your Habit', and the aim is to dramatically increase the numbers of people who consider what the impact of their everyday shopping choices will be on the people in



developing countries (and closer to home) who grew or manufactured the products.



In Crediton, we're raising the profile of fair trade by having a "Café crawl", visiting all the shops and cafes in the town which stock fair trade goods, on Saturday 11th March, starting at 10.00 a.m. at the Green, and ending about 11.30 at the new café at Downes. Please join us for some or all of the walk if you can

Please do consider buying one additional fair trade item regularly this year, either from us, or preferably from a supermarket or High Street shop.

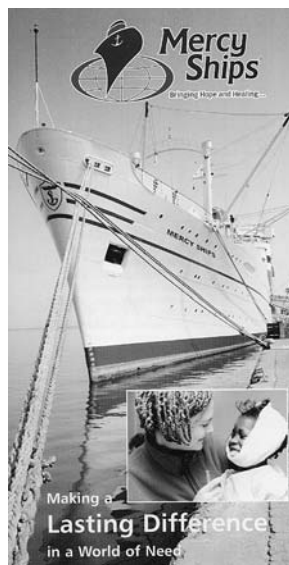
And thank you again for all the support you have given us over the last 10 years.

Ann, David, Hannah, Miriam, Esther & Naomi.

Mercy Ships

Imagine – a fleet of ships crewed by doctors, teachers, water engineers and agriculturists working in some of the world's poorest cities. Now imagine their life-changing services offered free of charge.....

Right now the growing Mercy Ships fleet is bringing hope to thousands of people who could never believe it possible.



On April 10th Margaret Scott will be flying out to Sierra Leone to spend ten days with the Mercy Ships mission. She will be based at their permanent centre in Freetown. As well as paying her own expenses Margaret is seeking to raise sponsor money for the work of the mission. She is holding a cake stall at Phillips & Co on 11th March from 9 to 12 a.m. She would be grateful for any contributions. Also she is having an 'Open House' on Thursday 23rd March from 10.00 to 3 p.m. with coffee and light lunches. There is a sponsor form in the foyer if you would like to support Margaret.

Café Crawl
Celebrating Fairtrade in Crediton



Saturday 11 March
Gathering at the Green at 10am

for photos at Crediton's Fairtrade shops and
cafes:-

Landscape Stores, Stevie B's, Crediton
Foodfair, the Green House, Triple C Café,
Somerfields. Then
over the fields to finish at Downes Café
around 11.30 If possible, please wear - Black
/ Mid Blue / Light Green

Everyone welcome. Further information -
Laura Conyngham 773000

Also
Café Cycle
Kennerleigh and Sandford
March 11th.

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:

The Junior Church

Please pray for the children of the Junior Church and Creche, thanking God for each one and asking his blessing on them and their families

Please pray also for the Junior Church and Creche Staff, as they prepare and lead sessions, as they care for and pastor the children, and for their own spiritual health and growth.

Please pray for our preachers as they plan and lead services, that adults and children alike will be able to meet God in the part of the weekly service that the whole congregation shares together, and in the monthly family service.



With Angela and Elaine leaving, the Junior Church is in a precarious position. David and Ann Smith have volunteered to take the Sunday morning sessions until the end of the summer term. Please remember Jacob, Emily, Lucy and Sam as they settle in to new situations and make new friends.

Family News

Cheriton Fitzpaine Brownies recently had a Cake Stall to raise money for the “Blue Peter” Appeal. It was held at the chapel school room and raised just over £100 with proceeds from the cakes and the tea and coffee, which they were also selling. The biscuits had been made by the Brownies at their weekly meeting and tasted really nice!



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Crediton came to church on Feb.19th to remember “World Thinking Day” which is celebrated each year on Feb.22nd. They enjoyed playing the instruments during two of the hymns and sharing their posters on the theme of “Friends” .Peter Turner’s Thanksgiving service was also part of the service.

We will all miss Elaine, Des, Emily, Lucy and Sam and family and friends enjoyed their Leaving party. The children really enjoyed playing on the large bouncy castle!



Could you be our new door steward?



We need to find a few more people to join the team of door stewards. It is a very important weekly job which involves welcoming and giving out hymnbooks, notices and helping to take up the collection but doesn't take up much time! If you think you could help from April onwards Alan Clemens would love to hear from you, as he is just about to organise the next rota!



Phillips
(Print & Stationery) Ltd.

Crediton's Christian Resource Centre;

providing

*Bibles, Books and Weekly Prayer Notes,
Inspirational Gifts, Jewellery and Greetings Cards
as well as many fine Traidcraft Items.*

*We also supply Church Candles,
Christian Music C.D.s and Children's Resources.*

115 High Street, Crediton Tel: (01363) 772060

Flower Festival

**Crediton Methodist Church
and Christian Aid**
present

Swords into Ploughshares Stories of Hope

Sept 21st – Sept 24th 2006

**10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday – Saturday
2 to 5 p.m. Sunday**

- **One World Café**
- **Photographic Exhibition ‘Devon Scenes’**
- **Evening Concerts by Martin Nicholls
Friday 22nd & Sat 23rd Sept 7.30p.m.
Concert tickets £4 (children £1)**

**At Crediton Methodist Church
Contact: Rev B Calvert: 01363772441**