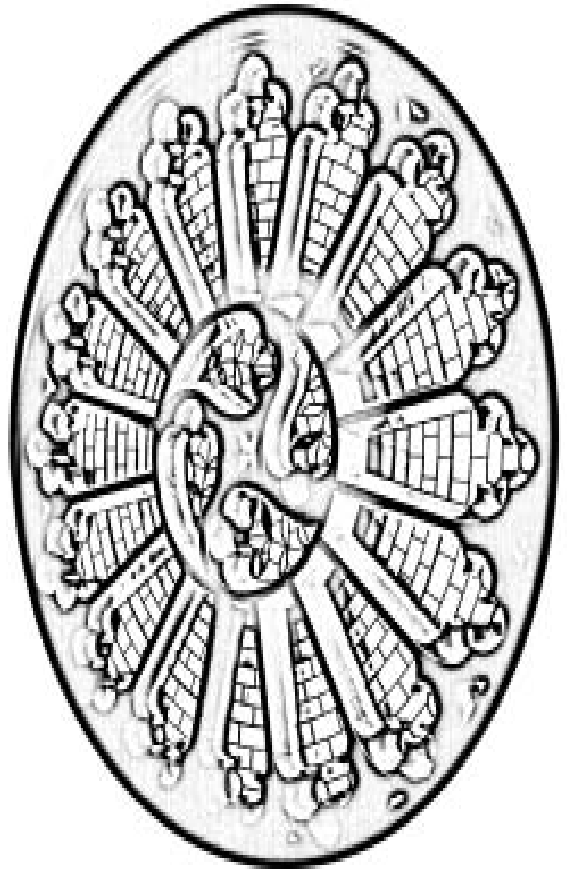


# Crediton Methodist Church

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May 2006



[www.methodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurch.org.uk)   
The **Methodist** Church

## **Crediton Methodist Church**

**Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441**

### **Services this month:**

- May 7<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
May 14<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Mrs V Dyke  
          6.30 Rev B Calvert (Team Service)  
May 21<sup>st</sup>: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age Service)  
          6.30 At Mint       Also: 6.00 Talkback  
May 28<sup>th</sup>: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
          10.30 Dr K Kite  
          6.30 Rev V Vine

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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**Newsletter editors: Ken Saunders- [ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com](mailto:ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com)**

**June Redfern**

**Sarah Turner**

**Material for June newsletter required by May 21<sup>st</sup>.**

## **A shared breakfast**

Have you ever shared breakfast with others, out of doors, or on a beach even? It is a great experience...the night behind, out in the fresh morning air, the excitement of a new day ahead...At Crediton we shared breakfast together on Easter Day and very many thanks to the Smith family for organising it...dare I suggest we make it an annual event?...it was great!. Although not out of doors, which would have been quite chilly, it was nevertheless touched with the joy of sharing together and the excitement of celebrating in fellowship and worship the new life promised to us all through the resurrection of Jesus.

Imagine the experience the disciples had of a shared breakfast... seeking solace in fishing, a cold and disappointing night followed by the warmth of the rising sun, a fantastic catch of fish and then Jesus on the beach cooking breakfast. What could be better! But besides being a great resurrection story this passage suggests many other things to us.

It suggests that Christ appears to people as they go about their secular activities. It suggests that Christ cares about our daily lives. Jesus could have just appeared on the beach, which would have been amazing enough for the disciples. But Jesus is concerned about the disciples disappointing night's fishing, and allows them to experience the joy of pulling in full nets.

Today, the greed of the 'high tech' factory fishing industry is denying many traditional fisher folk the joy of hauling in nets of fish for feeding their families. The seas are being emptied of fish through the use of solar soundings and nets half a mile wide. We too must act to show our concern for the daily lives of those who struggle for survival. This month we celebrate Christian Aid week so let us act together so that the joy and peace of a shared breakfast might be experienced by all God's people.

*Barbara*

## **Almshouse Bungalow to Let**

One Bedroomed Bungalow adjacent to Newcombes, would suit single person or couple in need, but applicants must be over 65 years, and established inhabitants of Crediton Town or Parish of Crediton Hamlets.

For an Application Form, please contact the Clerk to Trustees, Mike Armstrong at:  
Crediton United Charities, The Organ House, Church Lane, Crediton EX17 2AH  
Closing date for the return of completed applications is Tuesday, 2 May 2006.

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## **TALKBACk**

**2005~2006**

*Think Global, Act Local.*

*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
St Boniface Roman Catholic  
Church  
at 6pm*

*Celebrating our Successes.*

*“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me”. Matthew 25 v 40*

During the year we have been learning more about world wide

needs and how we, the Christians in Crediton can help.

At Talkback in May we are celebrating the many things that we are doing. We all know of some of the ventures that the churches are involved with. The aim of the May Talkback is to share this knowledge so that more of us know more about what we are all doing. Hopefully this will result in people finding new things in which they can participate.

If you have something to contribute please contact Jack or Clare Shelley on 775153.

*Come along and see what is being done to relieve the suffering of others.*

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## **Bright Hour**

May 5<sup>th</sup>: Rev B Calvert  
May 12<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Margaret Tucker  
May 19<sup>th</sup>: Mr Roger Thorne  
May 26<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Joan Charters

Meetings commence at 2,30 p.m..All are welcome.

## **Want to change the world....? Christian Aid Week collectors needed...**

Often when we see scenes of desperate poverty or disaster on the TV we feel a sense of despair. We may even feel that there is nothing we can do.

**But that is not true...**there are so many things we can do. We can help fill the GAP:

**G Give**            **our time and money**

**A Act**            **collect in Christian Aid Week, campaign for change**

**P Pray**            **pray with those who struggle for life. Our special Christian Aid service is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**Christian Aid Week collectors make a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people by giving the public the opportunity to donate to Christian Aid.**

### **Why are collectors important?**

Over 300,000 people go out collecting in Christian Aid Week each May, making it the UK's largest house-to-house collection. It raises over £14 million each year, including over £1 million from Gift Aid.

By supporting Christian Aid Week, collectors are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept.

Their actions, commitment and contributions help bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world.

**Please sign up on the list in the foyer for the roads you are able to cover. Let's see how much we can do together – every little bit helps. You might like to arrange to go out with someone else... it makes it more fun and its amazing what conversations you can have with people on the door step...a great witness.**

## FAIR TRADE, NOT FREE TRADE!

Most people are now familiar with the concept of fair trade, and they know that it is good to buy fairly traded products where possible, but the issues



only become real when the effects are put into context. A recent visit to Senegal did just that for me. I discovered that the unfair trade rules can potentially be the difference between life and death for those in Senegal, who every day struggle to make ends meet.

The Senegalese economy is predominantly agricultural and the majority

(but by no means all) of the stories I heard therefore relate to agriculture.

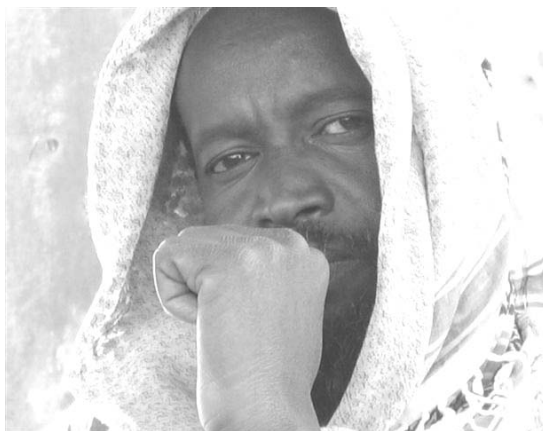
There is no shortage of land, and the farmers told me that (contrary to popular belief) they have sufficient water with which to irrigate their crops. They were adamant that the main problem they face is finding a



market for their produce. Thus, although the farmers produce a plentiful,

good quality crop, they are frequently unable to sell it because foreign imports are being sold at such a low price that the Senegalese farmers are unable to compete.

One group of onion farmers I met made the point that they have no choice in how they earn a living. Even though they frequently make a loss, they will continue to farm because there is nothing else to do and no way out. Unfair trade rules are simply devastating their livelihoods. These trade rules allow importers to dump excess foreign subsidised produce on



the Senegalese economy at artificially depressed prices, which undercut the Senegalese farmers. This problem is deepened because the Senegalese onions do not store as well as European onions (due to a high water content), and the Senegalese farmers are forced to drop their prices below the point at which they might have made a profit, or watch their crop rot!

One of the current initiatives to combat unfair trade rules is the embargo on the import of onions during part of the main onion season in Senegal.



Effectively this means that the Senegalese farmers should have the freedom to sell their produce at a fair price for approximately three months of the year. This embargo was agreed with the Senegalese government on the basis that the Senegalese farmers would be able to meet demands for onions. This year should be

the second time the embargo will take force in Senegal. However, the farmers told me that in response, the importers bought up the Senegalese

onions on the market in order to prove to the Government that the Senegalese farmers had been unable to meet demand, thus putting future embargoes at risk!



Interestingly, the Senegalese translation of our word ‘globalisation’ is ‘swallowisation’, and as you have seen, it is not far from the truth! Clearly, international trade rules should allow small countries to protect their industries to allow them to work their way out of poverty.

This is what the Senegalese want – simply the chance to grow their industries to the point that they are able to compete with the developed economies of the world on a level playing field. Incredibly, despite the devastating problems they are facing every day of their lives, the Senegalese people have tremendous hope for the future and share the same goals and objectives as we do. They are, without doubt, among the most inspirational people that I have ever met. The fact that there are people such as ourselves who are campaigning against unfair trade rules is a real comfort to them. Let’s not let them down.

To find out exactly what you can do to help, visit one of the following web-sites:

[www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)

or

[www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org)

***Caroline Redfern***



## Women's Open House Our Roots

In the Bible family roots are taken seriously. Much importance is attached to Jesus being a descendant of the house of King David, his lineage being understood as an important part of his identity.

In our times many people have become very involved in exploring their family tree, perhaps too in a search for identity. On television selected celebrities have been taken back to their roots and sometimes the experience has been quite moving. Jeremy Paxman discovered the tremendous daily hardship his great grandmother had endured raising a large family in the gorbels of Glasgow. Another interesting episode was when Moira Anderson traced her family roots back to Jamaica.

Some of our deepest questions:

Who am I?

Who are we – as a community?

What makes us human?

Where do we get our identity from?

are addressed by discovering who we are.

Alex Haley, an African American, wrote a semi auto biographical account, 'Roots', of his family's history as slaves on the cotton plantations in the deep south. This gripping book begins with a very moving account of Haley's forbears being taken into captivity in West Africa and then transported on the infamous slave ships to face the appalling cruelty of the slave markets in America. For Haley, discovering his roots was a life changing experience which enabled him to come to terms with his people's history, and brought a sense of belonging and a sense of peace.

Well, thankfully, none of the twelve of us gathered at the Manse had stories to tell as dramatic as Haley's! We listened to one another, enjoyed our time of sharing (and this month's cake brought by Marjorie Webb) and remembered that although each of our stories is different each of us is together rooted in God.

*Barbara*

***Next meeting:***

***Topic: Our Dreams***

***Date: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm***

***Place: The Manse, 1 Chapel Downs Road***

***Cake!: Sarah***

**24 hour  
Prayer Vigil  
6pm Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – 6pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2006  
Epworth Room  
Crediton Methodist Church**

The 'Pray without Ceasing' initiative launched at Methodist Conference last June has reached the Plymouth and Exeter District. The wave of prayer, round the whole connexion, means that every minute, day and night, of the year since last June has seen Methodists (and others of course!) praying somewhere. We, at Crediton Methodist Church, want to play our part and have volunteered to hold a 24 hour prayer vigil... and it is coming up very soon.

Jamie and Tracy from Connect are helping us to set up a prayer room for the vigil and the theme will be 'Time to Talk of God'. The planning meeting for the prayer vigil, to which anyone interested is very welcome, will be at the Manse 11am Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Margaret Scott has volunteered to organise a rota within our church for the 24 hours – please sign up at a time to suit you. No compulsion to cover the night hours!...*but* it can be a life changing experience! A letter has been sent to the other churches in Crediton inviting others to join with us at which ever time they choose.

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**Pledge Auction**

We are hoping to hold this Pledge Auction in early August. It will be one of our fundraising events for 2006. The idea would be that everyone in the congregation has something that someone else would buy - e.g. Mowing someone's lawn, painting a door, trip to the seaside in a posh car, washing dishes after Sunday Lunch, paint a portrait etc. There is no limit to what you could give - big or small and hopefully we can enjoy ourselves on the day of the auction as well as get a bargain! More details will follow, so get your thinking caps on to decide what you can put into the auction. Thank you  
Christine Marshall - Fundraising Secretary.

## Fundraising Events

A new committee to coordinate fundraising this year has put on their thinking caps and would be grateful if you could please take note of the dates for the following fundraising events:-

Church lunch meal June 4th,  
Strawberry Tea - June 17th from 3pm

Lunch & Tea at the Manse - July 8th 12 - 4.30ish

Flower Festival Sept 21st -24th inc

Other events which have yet to be organised consist of a Quiz night, a Barn Dance and possibly a Duck Race if anyone can come up with a good river which would be suitable!

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## Coffee & Lunches

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May

Tedburn St Mary  
Methodist Church

Coffee from 10 a.m.

Lunches from 12 noon – 2 p.m.

Homemade soups, cold meat, cheese, salads, sweets, coffee.

Stalls: Traidcraft, Bric-a-brac, cards, cakes.

No set charge-donations only.  
Proceeds shared 50/50 Christian Aid & Francisco Rojas School

## A letter received

We have received the following letter from Exeter Community Initiatives (formerly St Petrocks)

‘I am writing to acknowledge the very generous support provided by Crediton Methodist Church over recent years, and enclose a Share Scheme certificate (*in the foyer*) to recognize this. In

addition to your recent donation of £250, the support for the

previous Share Scheme over the past 5 years of £500 per year ,

has been vital to enabling the services we provide to

disadvantaged groups in the city.

Please pass on our profound gratitude to members for their

generosity. *Alistair Macintosh*

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## Flowers

March 26<sup>th</sup>: Donated by Eva to remember her husband George; arr. by Christine

April 2/9<sup>th</sup>: Donated by the Hooper family to remember their Mum & Dad; arr. by Margaret S.

April 16<sup>th</sup>: Wedding of Linda & Ray Heard’s daughter, Sharon.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Donated by Wynne Bradley to remember her

husband Arthur; arr. by Margaret Thank you to those who helped

get the Church ready for the

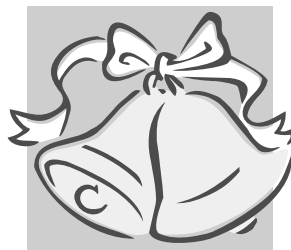
wedding and Easter. If you would like flowers arranged for

someone special or a special occasion, let me know. *Christine*

## Weddings



Two people who were associated with our church in their younger days were married on Easter Saturday.



Sharon, daughter of Ray and Linda Heard, married Alex Hortop at CREDITON Methodist Church. They will be living in Wales.



Peter, son of Ken and Margaret Saunders, married Dawn Rose, at Buckerill Lodge, Exeter. They will be living in Exeter.



# Church Picnic

Middle  
Davidsland

## **Crediton Methodist Church Spring Picnic**

**When:**

Sunday 7 May after church. Bring a plate of food to share

e.g. a few sandwiches or cakes.

Drinks/chairs/marquee all provided

**Where:** at June Redfern's, Middle Davidsland Barn, Coplestone.

Shared lifts will be arranged.

**What:** After lunch there will be songs of praise and

informal worship and activities for children.

All welcome!

## **Pause for thought – Chris Mann**

One of my favourite authors is the late Douglas Adams of ‘The Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy’ fame. In the first book in the series one of the main characters, Zaphod Beeblebrox, when faced by a dangerous situation calls for his Peril Sensitive Sunglasses. These glasses he explains to his companions are designed in such a way that at the first hint of any danger they will immediately turn completely black thus obscuring the danger from view. This has the effect of protecting the wearer from the feelings of panic normally encountered in a dangerous situation and allowing them to stay cool! Of course the side effect is that you are, in fact, unable to see anything at all, and although you no longer feel that you are in danger the danger still exists!

The aftermath of Lent and Easter can sometimes leave us feeling in need of some eye protection. The reality of living in the intense light of the risen Christ after walking through the tunnel of our Lenten contemplations can be painful and difficult, like emerging from a dark place and into bright sunshine. The joy of Easter day gives way to the same everyday routines. The hope and excitement can become difficult to hold onto as normality returns.

Like the disciples in the days and weeks following the resurrection we can become bogged down by the mundane and the ordinary, our fears and failings can overcome us. We can become preoccupied by the problems in our lives. We can fail to see the opportunities that God is surrounding us with to serve him and build his Kingdom. Like that walk to Emmaus we can be blinded to the face of our saviour even as he walks beside us.

As you continue your journey of faith don’t forget to walk in the light and the love of the risen Lord.

## **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. Please pray for all those people who come into our premises each week for activities organised by outside groups and clubs

Pray that they may sense something of the presence of God while they're here.

Pray that in what they see displayed on our notice-boards, in how we care for our buildings, and in meeting any Church members who may be on the premises at the time, they may be challenged to discover more about Jesus

Pray for the members of

Pippins Pre-school

C.O.D.S.

Crediton & District Community Transport

Dance classes

Devon Wildlife Trust

Flower Shows/ Garden Club

Hospiscare

League of Friends of Crediton Hospital

North Creedy Choral Society

The National Trust

And for the other groups and individuals who come onto our premises

## **Environmental Update**

The collection point for recycling plastics is now in place on the car park side of the church. Anything made of plastic with a recycling symbol can be left there. 90% of all plastic ever made is still with us today in landfill sites. It is estimated that most plastics will take at least 1,000 years to decompose so we really do need to recycle all we can.

The six largest supermarkets give away 15 billion carrier bags annually. When we are doing our weekly shop do we really need to put everything in carrier bags to take to the car? If you are shopping locally why not use a shopping bag (see the trade craft catalogue at the back of the Church.) The average household now spends £470 a year on packaging – that's one sixth of our food budget.

What as a Church community can we do to stop this waste of God's given resources?

*Bob Wright.*

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### **Easter Offering Dedication Service: 17 May 2006**

Please note that our Easter offerings will be dedicated at a service organised by Women's Network. It will be held at Sidwell Street church at 3pm on Wednesday 17 May 2006. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Churches are asked to bring contributions of food as usual.

Local contact: Pam Murphy 773414

This year our Easter Offering was £113.95