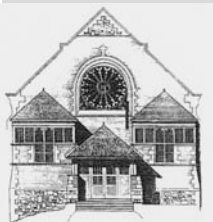




# Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter

Dec/January 2008



## **Crediton Methodist Church**

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

**Email: calvert2@fish.co.uk**

### **Services this month:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
6.30 Rev A Brazier
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10.30 Prof. S Lea  
6.30 Rev B Calvert (Taize Service)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age Worship)  
6.30 Mr L Smale
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: 10.30 Rev D Calvert (Sacrament)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: 4.00 Rev B Calvert (Carol Service)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10.00 a.m. Christmas Day – All Age service
- 30<sup>th</sup> Dec: 10.30 Rev P Collings

### **Church Groups:**

Toddlers – meets on Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.15 during term time  
(contact Sarah on 01363 774370)

Women's Open house at the Manse – 3rd Tuesday each month at 7.30 p.m.  
(contact Rev B Calvert 01363 772441)

Ladies Supper group: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month (contact Margaret Kenshole 775144)

Knit & Natter: Wednesdays 2.30 to 3.30 (Contact Ann Spry on 01363 777796)

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

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**Material for the February newsletter to Ken Saunders  
by 20<sup>th</sup> January**

**editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner**

**[www.creditonmethodist.org.uk](http://www.creditonmethodist.org.uk)**

**cover photograph: nativity scene by members of the Junior Church**

## Peace to You

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who lived in the land of darkness – on them light has  
shined.**

**For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the  
garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority  
rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful  
Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9.2b, 5-6

The worn out boots and blood stained clothes of the warriors - images of conflict. A naked, new born, vulnerable infant - an image of peace.

Peace has no weapons, clothes to hide behind, clever strategies or grand plans. Peace is pictured in the near naked, shaven heads of the Buddhist monks in Burma who dared to confront the military dictatorship not with any grand plan or strategy but simply by standing alongside the poor in naked solidarity. And in Burma too we have peace represented in the vulnerable figure of a woman, Aung San Suu Kyi, feared by the powerful, spending 11 of the past 18 years under some form of house detention.

Those who seek to oppress the poor, with guns, tear gas, brutality and torture long for those who they oppress to take up weapons. They would know how to respond. It is the nakedness of those who seek the way of peace that they fear most.

And so God comes to us, naked and exposed. The new born infant, the Prince of Peace, ushering in God's kingdom of endless peace.

*O Lord we pray for an outbreak of peace through out the whole world this Christmas season and may it begin with me. Amen.*

Barbara Calvert

# The Ark



This is the new group planned and organised by our Pioneer Disciple team. Our first gathering was on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November and we had a great time. It was a really enjoyable, fun time organised for young families but all of us ‘helping’ had a great time too. We are looking forward to the second Ark which will be a ‘Christmas Ark’ on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 4 - 6pm.

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## The Holy Land at Christmas

As those of us going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March look forward to our visit we pray particularly for the Christians in Bethlehem today.

Most of the separation barrier is being constructed on Palestinian land dividing Palestinians from their land, work places and schools. The ‘Little Town of Bethlehem’ is now surrounded by the separation barrier, making life increasingly difficult for the people of Bethlehem.

# Barbara and David invite you to a Christmas Coffee Morning

At The Manse

1 Chapel Downs Road, Crediton

10am - 12 noon

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2007

## *No crib for a bed*

Nearly half a million children live on the streets in Bangladesh. Life is hard and dangerous for street children, and there are few places of safety for them to go.



MRDF provides shelter, food and healthcare for street children, as well as education to help them to move on to a better life in the future.

**Everyone welcome** -donations will be for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund for work with street children in Bangladesh

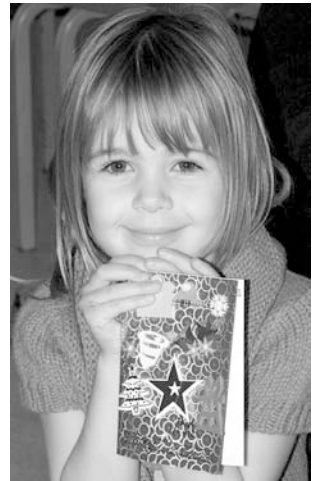
Shelter a street child for a year £65

### **Make small miracles possible this Christmas**



An 'alternative gift' from MRDF is not only something special for someone you care about, but will also help people in some of the world's poorest communities.

# A day of fun & creativity, reflecting the simplicity of Christmas





## INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST.....in KENYA?

At the end of August we had a 'phone call from Bernard Cocker CEO and Founder to ask that as UK Sponsorship Secretaries whether we could cope with a Sponsorship Programme for Kenya! We said, we have 20+ families in Eastern Europe waiting for sponsorship, but yes, we will cope!

Bernard Cocker and his wife spent a holiday in Kenya in August of 2007. He encountered Street Children and felt that the vision and mission of the International Aid Trust, if it was possible, should include Kenya. Through a series of e-mail contacts with the Methodist Conference Office in Kenya, talks have been ongoing with Rev John Calhoun who is currently the Co-ordinator of Humanitarian Relief and Church Development for the Methodist Church in Kenya.

Rev John Calhoun has indicated, quote – ***“The Methodist Church in Kenya is willing and able to act as your partner in these initiatives. In our internal discussions regarding your proposal, a number of questions have arisen, which I have been asked to direct to you”***

Obviously these questions include transport costs, customs and excise charges, distribution within the country etc. These are being looked at by the Trustees.

Bernard trusts in the Lord, he felt drawn to this country before he went to Kenya on holiday, the country was very much 'on his heart'. Whilst there, God gave him the opportunity to fulfil what God was laying on his heart. We pray that this mission will be possible, and that people like you and me can respond to the needs of God's people wherever they are and in whatever way we can.

***June Redfern***

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## CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION – FASTOV – UKRAINE



Thank you very much for your contributions for this Church in the Ukraine. I have also included in the box, baby clothes as apparently many babies are being born, and as part of outreach work, the church family in Fastov distributes

clothes according to need. There is a lorry coming to us at the end of November and the box for Fastov will be 'on board' as well as medical supplies, medical appliances, drugs, clothing, bedding, shoeboxes, Family Sponsorship boxes, in fact all the things which you and many others donate every week. Thank you!

*June Redfern*

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### CAROLS FOR ALL

with OKEHAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY at

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm -**

**Fairplace Methodist Church  
Okehampton**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm**

**St Thomas Methodist Church  
Exeter**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm**

**Fairplace Methodist Church  
Okehampton**

*Poster in the foyer or further details from June Redfern 01363 84058*

## Starlight Shone

Starlight shone on Bethlehem's  
hills,  
Shedding radiance over the earth.  
Watching shepherds heard the  
story,  
Telling the Saviour's birth

The skies were lit with glorious  
light.  
Angels sang: 'Good news we  
bring,  
A child is come to earth this  
night,  
Jesus our saviour King'.

'Leave your sheep on the lone  
hillside,  
Come ye to the stable door.  
Kneel before Him and adore  
Him,  
Lying in manger poor'.

Wise men came from countries  
afar,  
Led by a star they sought a King.  
Kneel before Him, gifts  
presenting.  
Homage to Him they bring.

We cannot to the stable go,  
See Thee lying on the hay  
But we worship and adore Thee  
Born on this Christmas Day  
*(O.M.Marett: submitted by E.Tarr)*

## Driving Safer for Longer



The Devon County Council and the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary will run a local two hour workshop for drivers who are keen to keep driving safer for longer, if a sufficient number of people are interested. There is a small charge for this course. The course covers 'Keeping fit to drive'; 'The use of medicines and drugs'; 'When is it time to give up driving?'. Each year approximately 1000 collisions in Devon involve drivers over the age of 65.

If you are interested in attending a local workshop please see Ken Saunders or ring 773078.

**Hope rising  
Climate Change Festival  
Exeter Cathedral  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
10am – 4.30pm**

**Organised by Devon Christian Climate Change Coalition**

The day is intended to emphasise the urgency of the situation for the world's most vulnerable countries and communities.

Speakers will include someone from Kenya, where drought is already destroying life on a large scale. Others will be Ann Pettifor (Operation Noah), George Gelber (CAFOD), Mark Dowd (Channel 4) and Daleep Mukarji (Christian Aid).

'Hope Rising' will not only be about words. There will also be young people's activities, film, poetry, music, dance, art, market place, worship and refreshments. Its emphasis will be on urgent action and the need to both campaign and change.

Co-organiser Martyn Goss from the Council for Church & Society said, *"It is clear that the poorest countries and communities are those which are being affected first and worst, when they have made little or no contribution to the problem of carbon emissions. This therefore makes the matter one of justice as well as survival."*

He added, *"All across the world people are saying for the sake of the future and the poor, we have to change ourselves not the climate. This is an opportunity for local churches to join together and make a difference – to plant seeds of hope."*

Further information and booking forms are available from Barbara

# Pastoral Page

## The Church Community

*God of love, you watch with all who weep, worry or who are weary.*

*You offer hope to those in despair, and your calming presence to the troubled.*

*Give us peace.*

We remember in our prayers those who are no longer able to come to church on Sundays to worship with us, though they might dearly love to: We think of Rita Ash, Sid and Cynthia Dixon, 'Garry' Garrington (St Lawrence), Allan Hooper, Ruth Macmurdo (Hillbrow), Phyllis Maunder, Kathy Nicholson (Kenwyn), Clara Paige (Kenwyn).

We remember, too, those in our church family who have on-going health problems or who face difficult situations, causing them daily struggle.

We are very pleased that Eva Whiting has been able to join us more regularly. Also to hear the good news that Arthur Homeshaw has been feeling much better recently. We send our love to Rene Sankey who was 97 on 20th November; Rene has recently been in Crediton Hospital for a few days, but is now staying with Wendy. And we send best wishes for a good recovery to Mary Tyson, now back at home. We are pleased to see that Iris Mackie is getting out and about again. And we send our good wishes to Len Jenkinson as he goes into hospital.

## Services in Residential Homes

Our services this month are:

Wednesday 5 December: Summerhayes 2:30 pm

Wednesday 19 December: Hillbrow 2:30 pm

## Come Carol Singing

We are going Carol Singing through Summerhayes on Thursday 13 December at 6:30 pm. If you would like to join us, we will meet in Summerhayes car park at 6:15 pm, wearing festive attire. Let Pam Murphy know if you would like transport.

## **Beyond the Victorian Christmas card**

The Christmas we experience, with its decorated trees, cards and visits from Santa, has much to do with the imagination and tastes of Victorian England. But the bigger picture of Christmas, the challenge of the story as it is told in the Bible, was not lost on Victorians. Poets like Robert Louis Stevenson and Christina Georgina Rossetti were able to put the annual celebrations in a faith context.



A Victorian Christmas card  
© 2007 Jupiterimages  
Corporation

### **A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson**

Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.  
May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.  
Amen.

## Network News

### Sidholme Conference – fun, friendship and fruit

Margaret Saunders and I had a really good time at the District Network Conference from Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November led by our District Chairman and his wife, John and Val Carne. The theme ‘Not all Pip and Peel’ gave us the opportunity to explore the Fruits of the Spirit in our lives, and how we can share these fruits with others.



**John and Val Carne**

John conveyed the message with a wonderful sense of humour, and we responded with lots of laughter. As Barbara Calvert said in our last newsletter, ‘being a Christian is fun’.

Apart from the ‘business’, the conference provides a lovely break, excellent food, and good company. This year, we were treated to an evening extravaganza of a musical production called ‘Fruit Salad Days’, followed by Taize singing. Network’s talented photographers will contribute to a 2009 Network calendar, and recipes donated by Network cooks will be included in a District Network Recipe Book.



There will be another conference next November – think about joining us. Men are very welcome: come by yourself, - or come as a couple, you'll find a very warm welcome.

### **Langley House Trust**

The Trust, which is our District Network project for 2007/8 has produced it's 2006/7 report, including good news stories about the people helped by the trust to turn their lives around after discharge from prison. Please let me know if you would like to see it.

### **Changes to Network**

I gave some details earlier about the decision that Network will need to become a charity in its own right from next September. A consultation document was discussed at Network Conference, and our representations will be forwarded for consideration. Most changes will affect the organisation of network. The main message coming out is that at grass roots level we will probably not notice much difference – our work in supporting church initiatives at home and overseas will continue, and our contributions to enable this work are very much valued.

### **Flowers**

Nov 11<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>: Donated and arr. by Meg to remember Cyril.

Nov 25<sup>th</sup>/Dec 1<sup>st</sup>: Donated and arr.by Christine to remember Douglas.

Help will be needed to decorate the Christmas tree and get the church ready for Christmas.

Could you help on either Wed 12<sup>th</sup>; Thur 13<sup>th</sup>; Fri 14<sup>th</sup> from 10.a.m.? More hands make the work lighter; please let me know if and when you are free.

Thank you, *Christine*

### **Bright Hour**

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Jenny Hext  
Carol service

This is our last meeting for 2007. We close for our Christmas break, and resume on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

On behalf of the Bright Hour we wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New year. *Kath*

## **Matthew to the rescue!**

This Advent, we start a year of reading Matthew's Gospel as the Gospel reading each Sunday. There will be a few times when we use John's Gospel instead. That's because the lectionary we use is a three-year set of readings, one each for each of the first three gospels, replaced with passages from John's Gospel from time to time.

We know that each Gospel is different. Each has a different flavour and tells the ministry of Jesus from a different angle. Together, they offer us a rich tapestry of the life and teaching of Jesus, as remembered and used in the earliest days of the believing communities. Probably, Mark's Gospel was written first. Matthew's Gospel is an expanded version of Mark, having the feel of a second edition. Matthew includes virtually all of what is in Mark and adds lots of new material. For example, there is really very little of the teaching of Jesus recorded in Mark; in Matthew there is lots and lots, arranged in sections of teaching, such as the sermon on the mount. Nobody suggests that Jesus taught in these concentrated blocks; this is the useful way in which Matthew has arranged the teaching for the benefit of the reader.

Matthew's Gospel emerged out of a congregation which had been using Mark's Gospel for some years, gradually adding new material to it as Mark was read in their worship and preaching. Later, it was all set down in a very ordered way. We are deeply grateful for this process, for without it we should be deprived of all the riches which Matthew has added to the skeleton of Mark. So, we best listen to Matthew's gospel, week by week in this coming year, as the work of a community of Christians, in some ways not unlike our own: a living, believing, worshipping group of people, struggling to understand what following Jesus means in their own lives. And there are clues to watch out for when we read and hear Matthew's gospel.

One is that Jesus is the Son of David, the promised Messiah. In him all the hopes of the Jewish people have come to completion.

Sometimes, Matthew's Jewish-Christian congregation seems to be in dialogue with the synagogue across the street, seeking to present Jesus as the fulfilment of their hopes, certainly as the fulfilment of Jewish scripture, so much more quoted than in Mark.

Another obvious feature is that Jesus is seen as a new teacher, the new Moses, whose teaching shows this early community how to live their corporate life as a church. There is a very strong moral note to this teaching, especially about doing the will of the Father.

Matthew's Gospel seeks to move people on from merely obeying the letter of the Law to a deeper, more radical morality.

The strongest message we hear in Matthew is the call to discipleship. This discipleship is to be lived in the whole of life, not just in the life of the church, but also in mission to God's world, the note on which Matthew's gospel concludes.

As the year goes by, we can listen out for these messages (and detect many others) as we see them in Matthew. More importantly, we can engage in the same task as did the community which produced Matthew's Gospel, namely, applying the teaching of Jesus to our own quite different context. This is the specific task of preaching. We could also anticipate the next year's readings by setting aside an hour or so simply to read through Matthew's gospel as a whole, a rich and enriching experience.

*David Calvert.*

## World AIDS Day

Advent is a time to remember HIV/AIDS, say organisers of World AIDS Day.

The Advent season helps Christians prepare to celebrate Christ's coming to heal a broken world.



For twenty years, that need for healing has been echoed in the call to mark World AIDS Day on December 1 – and for Christians to reflect on the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS during worship on the first Sunday in Advent.

Over 40 million people worldwide and 70,000 in the UK are living with HIV. Every year, over 7,000 people are newly diagnosed in the UK alone despite the fact that HIV is a preventable virus.

This Advent, the National AIDS Trust is calling on faith communities to help stop new HIV infections and overcome prejudice and discrimination. Its 2007 theme, 'Understanding through Communication', is designed to highlight the importance of talking freely about HIV/AIDS.

Getting people talking, says the Trust, breaks down the silence surrounding the disease. It also helps people increase their own understanding and the knowledge of those around them.

"We believe that faith communities have a crucial role in reaching out to a wide range of people and keeping HIV and AIDS firmly at the centre of the UK agenda," says National AIDS Trust Chief Executive, Deborah Jack. Open communication, she adds, can help prevent stigma and discrimination.

As God reaches out in love to the world, the messages of Christmas and World AIDS Day may be more closely connected than we first thought.

You can support the work of the Methodist Church with people with HIV/AIDS by giving to the **Methodist Church Fund for World Mission. Donate now.**

## Monthly Diary of Events      December

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm Pioneer Disciple Course, St Leonard's
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm Midweek service
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.15-8.15pm Taize singing practice
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Women's Open House, The Manse Topic: Christmas story or poem
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm Midweek service
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	4-6pm The Ark

### Christmas Services



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm Advent Taize Service  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am All Age Nativity Service  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30am Christmas Holy Communion  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm Candlelit Carol Service  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am All Age Service for  
Christmas Day

## Monthly Diary of Events      January

Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Pioneer Disciple, Old Deanery
18 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	<u>January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</u>
12.30pm prayers	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Congregational Church
	Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> Holy Cross
	Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup> Methodist Church
	Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> St Boniface RC Church
	Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Methodist Church
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hope Rising: Climate Change Festival Exeter Cathedral 10am – 4.30pm
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	January Jollies 5-8pm

# *The Green Box Tip of the Month Christmas*

## **You can reduce your Christmas waste by:**

- Trying to really think about the presents you buy, and trying to source them locally and ethically.
- Buying cards made from recycled card.
- Supporting your local shops and craftspeople.
- Reusing wrapping paper.
- Remember when shopping buy:-
- **L**ocal,
- **O**rganic,
- **A**nimal friendly.
- **F**airly traded.

## **Church Walk**

To help counteract the extra food consumed over Christmas there will be a Church Walk on New Year's Day. Please meet in the Church car park at 11.00 a.m. The plan is to include a stop for a snack/meal before we return. Please see the weekly notices for details.

*Bob & Priscilla*

# *january jollies!*

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
5pm - 8pm  
Crediton Methodist Church Hall

Fun for all ages!

*Pantomime.... Little Red Riding Hood*

*Music*

*Photographic quiz*

*Noah in 2008*

*Special activities for children*

*Supper...baked potatoes and puddings!*

Adults £4, Children £1, under 5s free