



Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter

February 2007



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

Feb 4th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
6.30 Mrs J Lee
Feb 11th: 10.30 Rev D Laidler
6.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
Feb 18th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age Worship)
6.30 Talkback
Feb 25th: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Rev M Gilborson
6.30 Rev A Sails

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 at 7.30 p.m.

(contact Rev B Calvert 01363 772441)

Ladies Supper group: 1st Tuesday of each month (contact Rev B Calvert)

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

**Material for the March newsletter to Ken Saunders
by February 18th**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

To think and pray...

One of the activities I really enjoyed as a child was Brownies. We played games and learnt different skills such as first aid, cookery, arts and crafts, music and sport. On World Thinking Day held in February each year we learnt and thought about Brownies in other parts of the world and this year we look forward to welcoming the Brownies to our all-age service on Sunday 18 February as once again they celebrate World Thinking Day.

So what is the difference between thinking and praying? On the first Friday of March each year the Women's World Day of Prayer is celebrated. On this day women around the world gather together to learn and think about women in other parts of the world but it is called a prayer day rather than a thinking day.

The question 'What is the difference between thinking and praying?' reminds me of the story 'Mister God This Is Anna'. Anna was a mischievous yet wise 6 year old and her mentor was Mister God. One of the questions Anna puzzles on is 'What is the difference between a person and an angel?' After thinking for a while, and consulting Mister God, Anna replies, 'Most of a person is on the outside and most of an angel is on the inside.' Well I wonder if Anna would give the same answer to the difference between thinking and praying. 'Most of a thought is on the outside and most of a prayer is on the inside'. Let's try it out. Here is a thought. Mary is an 11 year old girl in Malawi. She is bringing up her younger brothers and sisters because her parents have both died of HIV/AIDS. Can we turn this thought into a prayer? One simple way is to ally ourselves with God and then do something about it. It's from the inside that we are led to try and make a difference.

Barbara Calvert

Give to me, O God, a heart of joy that rests in your peace and a soul of tranquility that delights in your beauty; a spirit of glory that sings your praise, a life of serenity at home in your presence and a mind of quietness renewed by your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evelyn Underhill, 1875-1941

FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH

There was a good turn out for the Church Life Group meeting in December when most of the meeting was given over to exploring Fresh Expressions. So...

Why do we need Fresh Expressions?

Change in Culture Life Style Changes

Analysis of population

- 10% 'regular' at church ie 12 out of 52 Sundays
- 10% irregular at church ie attend less than 11 out of 52 Sundays
- 20% of de-churched are open to coming back
- 20% of de-churched are never coming back
- 40% have never come to church

So, we need to think in a new way

- change from 'you come to us' to 'we'll come to you'
- "it is not the church of God that has a mission in the world but the God of mission who has a church in the world"
- find out where God is working and join in
- 'our job is to 'second' the work of the Holy Spirit', John Wesley

Characteristics of a fresh expression

- Fragile, small, fresh, not church based, making new connections, reaching unchurched

based on values, forming community, care for others in loving service, listening and learning together, fun, worship

In the second half of the meeting we looked at the Fresh Expressions DVD for inspiring and encouraging examples of things that are happening. (DVD available to borrow from Barbara). The next step is that Revd Dave Martin (District Evangelism Enabler) will be preaching at our morning service 10.30am Sunday 4th February and will come to our next Church Life meeting 7.30pm Thursday 15th February in the Epworth Room

All welcome to both!

Exeter Methodist Circuit

“Scrolls and Parchments: The Bible can be Trusted.”

led by

Jonathan Allen

A study day for all who want to understand their bible better – Housegroup Leaders, Local Preachers, Junior Church Leaders... in fact you and me!

Saturday February 10th 9.30am – 4.30pm
Wonford Methodist Church, Exeter

Jonathan Allen is a trustee and director of Messianic Education Trust, an educational charity established to provide courses and teaching materials for the Church. As well as teaching community Hebrew classes, leading Passover meals and speaking in local churches, Jonathan lectures at Christ For the Nations Bible College.

The study day is in three sections, covering.

1. a number of common objections to the bible's truth and reliability,
2. the age and reliability of the manuscripts,
3. the accuracy of the translation process.

Each session takes the form of a talk, with some overheads, followed by a group discussion and a question and answer session. The last session offers a summary and final opportunity for questions.

Drinks will be provided: please bring your own lunch.

A voluntary contribution of £5 is suggested.

Please contact Ken Kite (01392 439408) or Teresa Ely (01392 255791 or tely@fish.co.uk) by Sunday February 4th to book your place. (N.B. It is not essential to book a place but it would help us greatly if you could!)

Junior Church Ice Skating

On January 6th The Junior church went Ice Skating at Exeter Temporary Ice Rink. Every one had a great time, and those who fell over got very wet.



Hannah
"Painful"

John
"I didn't like it"

Miriam
"It was very very slippery"

Esther
"It was a bit funny"



Tom
"Its OK but it hurts your feet and bottom"

James
"It was funny we kept falling over"



A Palestinian Support Group
in Exeter has invited

**GRAHAM WATSON
SW LIB-DEM EURO
MP**

to talk about EU policy
with respect to Palestine
and Israel
at
Exeter Central Library
(Music Room)
on
Friday February 9th
7-9pm

Knit & Natter

New members will be warmly welcomed. We meet in the Wesley room every Wednesday, from 2.15 – 3.45 p.m., to knit ecvochet, sew or just ‘natter’. Knitting wool, simple patterns and pins are available.

Over a cup of tea our conversation is usually interesting, often very amusing and sometimes stimulating – but no gossip.

Our objective is to raise funds to help support needy and poor families in the Ukraine,

through International Aid Trust.

Please come and join us.

Vera (one of the group)

Bright Hour

Members of Bright Hour enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the Luncheon Club – a big thank you from us all.

Meetings for February:

2nd: Rev K Hext

9th: Mrs Margaret Haymens

16th: Mrs Georgina Edwards

Mystery afternoon.

23rd: Mr John Gooding

Meetings commence at 2.30 p.m. on Fridays. All are welcome.

Beds

One of the things in our life,
About very little is said,
We spend a lot of time in it,
I simply refer to a bed.

Most of us are born in it,
And would like to depart the
same way;

O what a blessing at the end of
the day.

If we can enjoy a comfortable
rest,

And wake up in the morning
with a new zest.

Eileen Tarr

Fairtrade Fortnight

Munch it! Wear It! Taste it! Choose it!

Fairtrade Fortnight, 26 February - 11 March

Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual campaign to celebrate and publicise Fairtrade. Its theme this year is "Change Today. Choose Fairtrade".

Fairtrade sales increase by a staggering 40% every year in the UK. The 2007 fortnight celebrates this success, and challenges us to do even more, by switching to more products that pay fair prices to their producers, in some of the world's poorest communities.

With over 2000 Fairtrade brands now available, it's easier than ever to make a switch, and to encourage your friends and relatives to do so. Each year, as well as national events marking the fortnight, there are local events in Crediton, such as last year's "Café Crawl", which visited over a dozen shops and cafes where Fairtrade products were available.

This year, as part of its application for 'Fairtrade Town' status, Crediton Fairtrade Partnership is holding a 'Business Crawl' through the industrial estate, to publicise businesses that are using Fairtrade products in their staff canteens.

To get Fairtrade Town status, Crediton needs to show that the town council supports the application, that a proportion of its shops and cafes, businesses and places of education and worship sell or use Fairtrade, and that there is local planning and publicity to ensure that Fairtrade awareness and growth continues.

Haywards, Landscore and QE schools are all involved, with children learning about Fairtrade issues, enjoying Fairtrade tuckshops and QE students helping to survey and promote Fairtrade use by businesses in the town.

Our church's contribution to Fairtrade Fortnight will include a 'Brew For A Fairer World' coffee morning on March 3rd at the church, organised by Barbara. Please do advertise this to your friends, and come along yourself.

Ann & David Smith

News from some Churches in Russia and Belarus General Situation in Belarus

The political situation is very unstable. A number of opposition folks were imprisoned. The outreach outside the church walls has to be very creative and sometimes even dangerous. The state again is turning from the Orthodox Church support to the atheism as a state ideology. Our churches are not counted as churches by the government, but as destructive sects. We appreciate your prayers for our ministry. In Christ,

From Leonid Biruk/Pastor in Minsk - Belarus – December 2006

News from Vladivostock and Mogadan – 14 time Zones from Moscow!

Do you remember Dr Anneta Vyssotskie and Olga and Galina? They gave their testimony in our church 3 or 4 years ago. **Anneta** works worldwide for the furtherance of the Gospel, and in particular in Russia, at great cost to her family ! **Olga** (who played so beautifully without music) has had a hard time recently. She was able to attend a Christian Conference in St Petersburg (an enormous distance from her home in Magadan), but this cost her



dearly as when she returned, the two jobs that she thought she would be appointed to were refused (because of her Christian faith) by the FSB the modern equivalent of the KGB. She really needed these jobs as her financial situation is not good. The good thing is that she now has more time to devote to her thesis for her PhD in Theology. **Galina** (because she is a well known Christian) is not allowed to visit The House of Invalids (a place of no hope – mentally handicapped and all sorts of people who do not fit into society!) yet again because of her Christian faith.

In Russia and Belarus it is costly to stand up for one's faith in Jesus Christ. In the West we are so lucky that we can worship without fear – do we value our faith? How far would we go to stand up for our beliefs? Please pray for Anneta, Olga and Galina and also the Lutheran Church which is very active in the far east of Russia.

Please also pray for Michael Huggins who lives in Yeoford (known to several of us) he is now visiting Vladivostock and Magadan in Siberia at the worst possible time in their appalling Winter conditions, just getting about is hard enough, so please pray for his health and strength to accomplish his many Christian lectures and seminars.

June Redfern

The Green Box

A fluorescent tube uses 500 times more energy if left on for 15 minutes than the energy needed to restart it.

Don't forget to draught proof and insulate the loft hatch.

New

Redvers/Crediton Methodist Church

Keep Fit

Friday mornings 9.45 - 10.45am

Crediton Methodist Church Hall

£2 per session

with

Jane Fulford – fully qualified and insured. Jane also does classes for Age Concern. Gentle seated exercises with a little standing if able.

Starts Friday 26th January 2007

January Jollies



James Mann, Marjorie Ashley, Christine Gregory & John Ashley who performed Goldilocks and the Three Bears. A profit of £156 was raised for church funds. Thanks to everyone who helped.

February Monthly diary of events

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Thurs 1 st | New Singing Group 7.15pm, Wesley Room |
| Tues 6 th | Crediton Hospital Service, Methodist led 2.30pm |
| Weds 7 th | Midweek service, 12.30pm, Wesley Room |
| Thurs 8 th | Fundraising group meeting, 7pm, Mary's house |
| Thurs 8 th | New Singing Group 7.15pm, Wesley Room |
| Tues 13 th | Church Council meeting 7.30pm |
| Weds 14 th | Midweek service, 12.30pm, Wesley Room |
| Thurs 15 th | Church Life Group 7.30pm, Epworth Room |
| Thurs 15 th | New Singing Group 7.15pm, Wesley Room |
| Tues 20 th | Women's Open House 'News of the Day', 7.30pm The Manse |
| Weds 21 st | Midweek service, 12.30pm, Wesley Room |
| Thurs 22 nd | New Singing Group 7.15pm, Wesley Room |
| Tues 27 th | Lent Groups, first meeting, Methodist Church 7.30pm |
| Weds 28 th | Steward's training meeting 7.30pm, The Manse |

New Singing Group!

Calling all singers (and those who think they can't sing but would like to) all musicians, (dust off that old guitar/flute/drum kit/recorder/oboe, violin...and join us



Meets every Thursday 7.15pm in the Wesley Room for 1 hour.

Come and sing/play musical instrument, have fun and sing songs of praise.

We are focusing until Easter on Taize chants, simple but beautiful harmonies and preparing to lead a Taize service on Palm Sunday evening 6.30pm 1st April.

Then we will see where we go from there.... Do join us!

WHAT ON EARTH



ARE WE DOING?

A Lenten Challenge to Lifestyle

An initiative to promote “planet-loving lifestyles”
as part of our Christian ministry

Christians Together in Crediton

Ecumenical Lent course 2007

First meeting together 7.30pm Tuesday 27th February

Crediton Methodist Church

led by Revd Barbara Calvert

Sign up in your churches or contact Clare Shelley

01363 775153

Clare@shobrookepark.com

Groups will be arranged at the first meeting.

The legacy we are leaving for our children's children and for the Earth is one of threat and danger.

Yet, God calls us to share more equally in the fruit of the land. We are invited to live simply and to live in community in ways which are hopeful. God's intention is life, not death!

This Course examines some of the challenges we face and suggests changes we might make for a better Devon and a better world for the future.

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