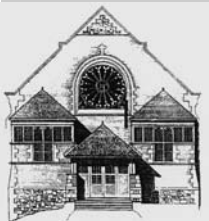




Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter
January 2007



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441
Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

Jan 7th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Covenant service)
6.30 Rev R Ely
Jan 14th: 10.30 Rev D Calvert
6.30 Rev B Calvert
(Mr K Saunders 'Impressions of Ghana')
Jan 21st: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Mrs S Jones (Home Missions)
6.30 Mrs K Noronha
Jan 28th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
6.30 Mrs J Lee

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 9 a.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 February newsletter to Ken Saunders
by January 21st.**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner
editor@creditonmethodist.org.uk website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

January Monthly diary of events

- Weds 10th Midweek service, Wesley Room 12.30pm
Tues 16th Steward's meeting 7.15pm at Sid Gardener's
Weds 17th Midweek service, Wesley Room 12.30pm
Sat 20th January Jollies, Fun for all 5 -7pm Church Hall
Monday 22nd – Friday 26th lunchtime prayers for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Tues 23rd Children and Young people's support group 7.30pm
Thurs 25th New Singing group 7.15pm Wesley Room
Mon 29th Property and Finance meeting 7.30pm
-



At the evening service on Sunday 14th January, Ken Saunders will show a presentation 'Impressions of Ghana', and speak briefly, about his recent visit to Ghana.

Bright Hour

We recommence our meetings with a lunch on January 19th (12.45 for 1p.m.) with a meeting to follow. January 26th is a members & Friends afternoon. Everyone is welcome.

A sacred moment

In the small village in Gloucestershire where I lived once, a friend kept a flock of sheep. At Christmas she and her family used to go and stay with relatives in Norfolk and so I sometimes had the job of looking after the sheep. Now, it won't surprise you to hear that I know next to nothing about sheep. However, all I had to do was walk through the fields where the sheep were grazing and count them to make sure none had gone astray. I am not sure what I would have done if any had gone astray – look for it I suppose, but fortunately none ever did!

I used to go out at the end of the afternoon when the family would hardly notice my absence. I dressed warmly and set off through the woods, crunching along the rutted path, to emerge in the sheep fields just as the sun was setting with a beautiful orange glow on the wintry landscape. All was quiet as the sheep nibbled noiselessly at the white, frosty grass and the birds settled for the night in the dark branches of the trees. I leant on the gate, counted the sheep, and remained perfectly still, soaking in the peace and beauty of the moment. A sacred moment... where God is so very present in the silence, heaven and earth come together, and the gentle breeze blows open the heart.

In the summer we hope to arrange a Church quiet day. A day to be together in community but a day which will allow us to escape from the daily demands of our lives, a day to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and to seek, in the quiet, refreshment and renewal.

'Word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.'

Luke 5.15

Barbara Calvert



New Singing Group!



Spurred on by our debut at the candlelit
‘The Night before Christmas’ service - a new singing group is
launched!

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 on Thursday evenings in the Wesley Room 7.15 -8.15pm.

First meeting 7.15pm Thursday 25th January 2007

Sarah Chabowska has offered to lead us. She has recently moved to Yeoford from London and has valuable experience in forming church music groups from scratch – who go on to great things. Yes, it is possible!

So, New Year resolution come and sing/play musical instrument, have fun and sing songs of praise.

We are going to start with Taize chants, simple but beautiful harmonies and prepare 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!

Decorations

I am very grateful to those people who helped with the Christmas tree, both in getting it in place and decorating it. Also thanks to Alan & Josie Hooper for giving the tree. My thanks also to Cyril W. & Sid G. for making the extra poles and Connie for sorting the candles. It is a big job getting the church decorated for Christmas and without help it couldn’t happen. The decorations in the porch were there by the hard work of Peter Lee & Karl (Phillips & Co). I hope the carol singers (loaned by Bernaville Nurseries) made a lovely picture in the porch. Again, Thank you.

Christine Gregory

The church was beautifully decorated for Christmas



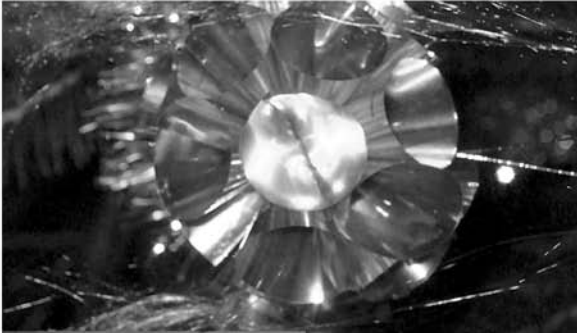
Christmas



Decorations



Thankyou to Christine Gregory, Meg Ellis & Margaret Saunders



and
Nativity



INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

On behalf of International Aid I would like to thank you for all the support you have given to me during the last year. As a result of all your efforts in so many ways, together with others, it was possible to send at least 90 container loads of humanitarian aid, medical equipment, food and drink, surgical supplies, furniture etc. to orphanages, hospitals, prisons, the homeless, rehabilitation centres, plus the vulnerable elderly in the Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Romania, Sri Lanka, Moldova, Swaziland, Uganda, Russia, Tanzania and Thailand.

Fifteen years ago Bernard Cocker, was not a Christian, but on a trip to Russia distributing bibles he saw the needs of the people, and it changed his life for ever. He could not rest until he had started to do something about the situation. What a difference he has made to so many lives! We thank God that he continues to use the most unlikely people as he did when he chose the first disciples.



International Aid has asked for prayers for:-

- ❖ The **eighteen rehab centres** supported by International Aid
- ❖ The **new Prison ministry** under the leadership of Bishop Doya Agama.
- ❖ The **150 families** who are supported

in Eastern Europe and the Church and the managers who provide the pastoral care and oversight of these very vulnerable and fragile families. Please pray for June and Adrian who have to cope with the increased workload.

- ❖ Yet **another orphanage** to be completed in Spring 2007 in conjunction with Harvest Ministries/International Aid.
- ❖ For the **new Charity shop** opening in Carnforth and for all the 40+ Charity shops and their much valued staff.
- ❖ For all the **800+ volunteer helpers** who give freely and willingly of their time in so many ways.

- ❖ Last but not least, pray for **all our faithful friends** for their support and commitment over the past year.

God Bless you all – Bernard Cocker CEO – International Aid Trust

In terms of shoeboxes, it is interesting to note that I did not ask for shoeboxes to be filled in the past year (I thought you might be bored with doing so), but once again so many of you have. At the Shoebox Service and in the couple of Sundays since, exactly 100 boxes were filled by our own members, and during the year and together with Christmas, 738 shoeboxes were sent from our Church. I must once again thank the following for their contributions – Crediton Parish Church, individuals at The Mint, St Thomas and Cheriton Cross Methodist Churches, Exeter Cathedral, St Boniface Veterinary Centres at North Tawton and Crediton, Yeo Valley Primary School, friends in Barnstaple and Bideford, the Rotary Club and Inner Wheel in Torbay and so many more individuals some known to me, and some not. I sincerely thank you all for the love you have expressed for unknown people in preparing shoeboxes!

June Redfern

A New Year

The present year
Of hope and cheer
Is quickly closing in;
The coming year
With change and fear
Will very soon begin.

With time so fast,
Can nothing last?
Is nothing bound to stay?
It seems that all
Must heed the call
And swiftly haste away!

But sure there stands,
As God commands
Within His sacred page,
His rule and law,
Without a flaw –
The same from age to age.

Then banish doubt
With joyful shout,
For God is on the throne.
He cannot fail,
He will prevail
For all who are His own.

*Author unknown – submitted by
Eileen Tarr*

Come as you are...

Later in the year (after Easter) we will be exploring Christian discipleship and membership in the Methodist Church in a series of planned preaching services and house fellowships. This will be an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our Christian discipleship and membership in the Methodist Church. For those of us who are not yet members we hope it will provide support and encouragement to take out membership as an act of personal faith and commitment.

Old friends, new members... We are delighted to welcome Ken and Hazel Hooper into membership with us at Crediton. (They have of course been amongst us for some time but have now decided to transfer their membership here from the Ringsash circuit.) Welcome!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 – 25th January

Prayers will be lead at 12.30pm each day...

Monday	Methodists to lead at the Congregational Church
Tuesday	Congregational Church to lead at Holy Cross
Wednesday	RCs to lead at Methodist Church
Thursday	Holy Cross to lead at RC church
Friday	Evangelical church to lead at Holy Cross

Catch the Fire

Be equipped, inspired, empowered
The South West Christian Resources Exhibition
25-27 January 2007 Westpoint, Exeter
Entry Free

Share this Feast

reflecting on Holy Communion

On the 4th Sunday of every month we hold an 8.45am service of Holy Communion. The service lasts just half an hour and is held in the Chancel area of the church. It is a special time, before the hustle and bustle of the day begins, and we have been reflecting, as part of the service on the nine themes of Holy Communion as identified in a new Methodist publication 'Share this feast; reflecting on Holy Communion.' For most Christians Holy Communion is at the heart of our worshipping life. Based on the intimate last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, it is God's feast, to be shared joyfully with each other and the world. Holy Communion nourishes our discipleship, challenges us, and leads us, through the simple acts of gathering together, eating and drinking, into the deepest truths about God's generous love for us all. Why not come and join us? Our monthly themes are:

October	Life in Unity
November	Thanksgiving
December	Remembering
January	Sacrifice
February	Personal devotion
March	Presence
April	The Work of the Spirit
May	Anticipation
June	Mission and Justice



Talkback 2007

Are we channels of His Peace?

**Sunday 21st January, 6 p.m. at the Boniface Centre
Harry Gillick, Crediton Congregational Minister
will speak on 'Where there is darkness let me sow light'.**

Praying for Peace

Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church leaders statement on Trident

“Our churches urge the British Government to work tirelessly to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction. The end of the Cold War gave us hope that this aim is achievable. Replacing Trident would send the wrong message to aspiring nuclear powers. Each Trident warhead is capable of delivering destruction several times that of the Hiroshima bomb, therefore the proposed reduction in the number of warheads is largely academic. Replacing Trident with a new system with a potential lifespan to 2050 flies in the face of commitments that the UK has made under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.”

Revd Jonathan Edwards

General Secretary, The Baptist Union of Great Britain

Mr. Dudley Coates

Vice-President, The Methodist Church

Revd Elizabeth Caswell

Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

Vulnerable God,
You challenge the powers that rule this world
Through the needy, the compassionate
And those who are filled with longing.
Make us hunger and thirst to see right prevail,
And single-minded in seeking peace,
That we may see your face
And be satisfied in you,
Through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Janet Morley

Flower Festival Finances

	Tombola	Stall	Jars
Total Income	125.90	216.02	627.48
Total Expenditure	6.44		
Profit	119.46	216.02	627.48

Donations & Sponsorship	Publicity Stationery	Flowers	Total
1,706.38			3,715.43
	312.56	356.75	890.64
1,706.38			2,824.79

For Church Funds
£2,824.79

For Christian Aid
£339.95
(Raised by concert & donations)

Mary Tyson, Treasurer.

January Jollies

Saturday 20th January

Fun for all the family
5 - 7 p.m. Methodist Church Hall
Including hot baked potato supper

Including
Goldilocks &
the Three Bears

Tickets: Adults £4 Children free
Available in January from the stewards