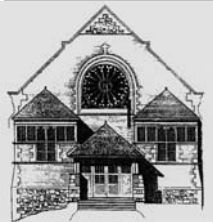


Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter

July/August 2007



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: calvert2@fish.co.uk

Services in July:

- 1st July: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
6.30 Rev A Sails
- 8th July: 10.30 Mr Nightingale
6.30 Rev M Gilborson
- 15th July 10.30 Rev C Keep
6.30 Fellowship
- 22nd July 10.30 Miss A Williams (All Age worship)
6.30 At St Thomas
- 29th July: 10.30 Rev B Calvert
6.30 Rev B Calvert (United Service)

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 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

**Material for the September newsletter to Ken Saunders
by August 19th**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

cover photograph: Holy Cross Church, Crediton

Looking forward to Ordination

As I write it is just over one week before I head north for a week's retreat prior to ordination. The retreat is a gift of the Methodist Church to all those being ordained to allow some space for prayer, reflection, meditation and socialising with the other fifty or so ordinands. I am really looking forward to it.

The Methodist Conference 2007 is in Blackpool, hosted by the surrounding districts. Two years ago it was in Torquay hosted by our District of Plymouth and Exeter and the Cornwall District. Well, that would have been handy but no, this year we journey to Blackpool! The Methodist Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets at the beginning of July each year prayerfully to debate, discuss and determine policy. At Conference, a new President and Vice President are sworn in for the year and here too at Conference I shall be received into full Connexion.

The Connexion is the body of the Methodist Church. At morning worship on Sunday morning 8th July, Conference will receive all the ordinands into full connexion and Conference will authorise all the ordination services that will take place in different places of worship later that day. I shall be ordained with eleven others at Manchester Cathedral. At the ordination service you are ordained into the universal church of Christ.

So what difference does it make? Well, up until now I, or the church, could have decided not to proceed with my becoming a minister.

After ordination I shall be a Methodist Minister for the rest of my life. It doesn't cease when you retire – as David knows!

Ordination takes place by prayer and the laying on of hands, and God is asked to send the Holy Spirit upon the ordinand for the office and work of a minister, so we pray:

*Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us,
and not what we deserve;
and as you have called us to your service,
make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Barbara Calvert

Reading the Bible

The Church Life Group in the church has suggested that in the autumn we have a short course for everyone in the church on 'reading the Bible'

The minister will lead an opening session on Wednesday 26th September and a closing session on Wednesday 24th October.

In the three weeks in-between, there will be opportunity for groups to meet each week for three sessions, using the notes which will be provided in the booklet, Reading the Bible.

At the beginning of September, we shall arrange the days, times and places of these groups. The hope of the Church Life group is that everyone in the church who can will take part in this exercise so that as a church we might be enriched together.

Weekly

Mid Week Service

Wednesdays 12.30

We are taking two months off so will not be meeting in July or August. We will meet again on Wednesday 5th September. This informal service is much appreciated by a small group of regulars and we really enjoy it too. Why not join us in September?

Barbara and David

**Crediton Methodist Church
Spring Cleaning
and
Odd Jobs Day
Monday 6th August 9am**

Just like at home every now and again you need a good clean out and an opportunity to do all those little jobs you have been meaning to do for ages.

If you could lend a hand, even for an hour or two, that would be great.

**The Festival Greenbelt
24-27 August 2007
Cheltenham Racecourse**

What's it all about?

Greenbelt is an independent Christian charity working to express love, creativity and justice in the arts and contemporary culture in the light of the Christian gospel. And it's great fun!

You can go for the day or for the whole weekend and we shall be there along with others from the Exeter circuit and 25,000 Christians of all ages from all over the country.

www.greenbelt.org.uk

Barbara

Pause for Thought

V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N – we're gonna have a ball! So sang Connie Frances, I am reliably informed, by the Guinness Book of Hit Singles in the summer of 1962. Madonna, on the other hand hit the Top Ten in both 1984 and 1985 with Holiday. So what's in a word? Well vacation stems from the word vacant and holiday from Holy day. Our Holidays in the UK and Europe owe much to our tradition of Christian faith. Holy days were either full or part days set aside for religious observance. Saints days were frequently a cause for at least part of a day off of work, combined with, in all probability, a procession and a feast or knees-up of some kind (and still are in some of the more Catholic parts of Europe). For our cousins across the pond in the USA, time off from work is a vacation, vacant time, to be spent as you please. For the Beach Boy generation that meant travelling to the nearest coast to "surf all summer long".

But what about us today? Well from what I can see our holidays are now vacations. Not many of us celebrate any but the Holy Trinity of 'Holy Days', namely Christmas, Easter and Pentecost (and the last of these is becoming more patchy with each passing year). Next year for the first time in my memory schools will not be closing for a Two-week Easter Holiday, but like Banks and some Businesses they will just observe Good Friday and Easter Monday as Bank Holidays. What used to be a day of religious significance has now been reduced to a day when financial services are suspended!

Sadly it would seem that money drives all that we do. Mothers Day is a Card manufacturers dream; Easter sells us our own weight in Chocolate. The Saints Days are for Florists (and in the case of St Patrick a well known stout already mentioned above) and as for Christmas, well where do we start!

As our summer is now here I hope you will enjoy your free time. I wish all of you a good vacation. Some space and some time to be yourselves, spend time with family and friends. Relax, kick back, chill! But I also hope you find time for some real Holy Days. Quality time spent with God, listening to that still, small voice. Reflecting on your journey so far and preparing for the steps to come.

Happy Holidays!

Chris Mann

Barbara and David invite you to...

**Open Garden (house if wet)
at the Manse**

1 Chapel Downs Road CREDITON

Saturday 4th August 2007

12 noon – 4 pm

Ploughman's lunches and cream teas

Donations to Methodist Fund for Home Mission:

This fund supports:

- Evangelism training and resources,
- Planting new congregations,
- Prisons and industrial chaplaincy, Chaplaincy in further and higher education institutions,
- Mission in rural areas
- Relations with people of other faiths
- Mission Alongside the Poor
- Grants to local churches and circuits
- Public issues
- Support for children's & youth work
- Creative Arts in Methodism
- Political and parliamentary affairs

Cream Teas & Cake Stall

Friday July 6th: 3 - 5 p.m.

Alphington Methodist Church

Chapel Road, Alphington, Exeter

In aid of NCH

Interfaith

- ❖ Identifying our common values
- ❖ Translating our faiths into daily life

20th June

Any Questions?

Panel Discussion at the Boniface centre

Panel Moderator: Revd Nigel Guthrie

Panel:

Dr Sajjad Rizvi – Muslim lecturer, Exeter University

Revd Barbara Calvert, Methodist Minister

Revd Donald Reeves, Anglican Priest

A member of Exeter Synagogue

Report: it was great to be on the panel. There were about 30 people there who had submitted questions beforehand and then asked questions on the evening. Here are the questions and my responses.

1. **What do you feel is the most important common ground between the faiths?**

That we are people of faith – faith in one God – monotheists. I had a friend who was head of a Church of England school in London in a Muslim area. The Muslim parents favoured the school because it was a faith school where faith would be respected.

The Clash of Civilizations – an essay written by Samuel Huntington (now known as the Huntington theory) describes a great clash of civilizations e.g. between Christendom and the Islamic world. This is wrong. Conflict today is caused by economics – poverty, politics and nationalism. The world is divided not between civilizations based on faith perspectives, but rather there is a three way division: people of faith, fundamentalists and people of no faith. People of faith are all in the same camp – we have so much in common.

2. Is our own faith enhanced by knowledge of other faiths? If so, how?

Yes, it must be. God is much greater than anyone of our faiths. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams was asked – how did he cope with all the conflicts going on? He replied that he recognises that every one has something of the truth. Listen most carefully to those who have a different point of view from your own.

'Sacred' exhibition, on at the British library until September. We went a few weeks ago and saw an amazing and unique collection of the ancient texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Beautiful calligraphy, art work of Islam, beautiful embroidered shroud over the Torah, ancient illuminated Bibles and earliest fragments of scripture written on sheep skin.

Cordoba, in Andalusia in southern Spain, was in the 10th century the largest city in Western Europe. It is known as the 'City of 3 faiths' – for over 100 years in the 10th/11th centuries Jews, Christians and Muslims lived together in harmony and peaceful co existence, and as a consequence there was a tremendous flowering of art, science, medicine, poetry, philosophy, architecture, astronomy.... The Mesquita – originally a Mosque (founded in 785 on the site of a church and now again used for Christian worship) is a most beautiful and graceful building with hundreds of red and yellow brick pillars and arches all built symmetrically to amazing effect. Jewish, Christian and Muslim scholars worked side by side and saw no separation between religion, science and philosophy or between the three great faiths. Their aim was not to convert people from one faith to another but to work together for the common good. .

Jerusalem – our Christian vision for Jerusalem today, the holy city of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, is that it should be a city of two peoples and three faiths peacefully co existing together.

3. Does God have equal regard for all three faiths?

God has no regard for the faiths at all! God calls us to be God's people – our faith systems have been developed over the centuries to help us to be God's faithful people. It is faith that matters – and the fruits of the Spirit.

4. Do you believe that God judges us at the end of life and if so how?

Life with God is eternal. God isn't finished with us when our earthly life comes to an end. God enables us to judge ourselves. Walk with God and we are aware of evil. Look around us – hunger, oppression, exploitation, war: these are all obscene, a scandal – and we know that. Imagine an icon of the face of Christ. God is looking at us – look into our own hearts – we are judged by God within us and within one another.

5. Do you have any experience of practical projects where faiths have worked together?

In my work for Christian Aid I visited many Christian Aid funded programmes around the world where people of different faiths were working together. Gaza is mostly Muslim with just 2,000 Christians but the Near East Council of Churches based in Gaza is coordinating help and support from Christian Aid and other agencies for the one million Palestinian refugees living in Gaza.

In Gloucester, I worked for a couple of years with a group of Jamaican Rastafarians. One project we did together was to build a Jamaican shack, home for hundreds of poor Jamaicans who live in the ghettos of downtown Kingston, Jamaica, to highlight the poverty in Jamaica and Christian Aid's work there.

In my work as Chaplain to International Students at the three universities in Glasgow, we had 'interfaith weeks' at the universities. I also organised the Christian, Muslim and Hindu societies on the university campus to run a Welcome programme

for all the new international students arriving to study at the universities in September each year. Each year there were studying in Glasgow 5,000 students from over 60 different countries. Hospitality to the stranger is something we can all offer together, whatever our faith.

In 2002 we visited Zanzibar where my eldest daughter, Hilary, was working for two years with VSO. There are political tensions in Zanzibar but these are not faith based. Zanzibar today, we felt, is an example of a vibrant community of Muslims, Hindus and Christians living and working together in harmony despite considerable poverty.

6. Do you think Salmon Rushdie should have been given a knighthood?

My reaction to this news was to go and buy one of Salmon Rushdie's books! I have never actually read any. Ideas about what is offensive are very different in Islam and Christianity. Muslims are offended by any disrespect towards their holy book, the Koran, or the prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him, or Allah. For Christians the situation is very different. At the heart of the Christian faith we have the crucifixion of Christ – Christ flogged, whipped, spat on, abused, tortured – nothing can be more offensive than putting the Son of God to death on a cross, the punishment for common criminals. It is not for us to worry about what we find offensive or what hurts our feelings. It is what is offensive to God that matters. We discover in scripture what is offensive to God: - the suffering of God's children through poverty, hunger, exploitation, war, conflict and oppression and the desecration of God's creation.

Pioneer Disciple Course

We are now coming to the end of the first term of the Pioneer Disciple Course with two more terms to follow, in the autumn and next spring.

So far we have been shown that the state of our Christian Church, at least in the western world, is one that is diminishing. Congregations are shrinking and some churches are closing or amalgamating. We know that at the moment we are not attracting new members, young or old. At the beginning of the 20th century over 50% of children attended Sunday School, but by the end, less than 5% attended. Thus, if the present trend continues, by 2020 92% of children will have no contact with church. With no children following on and as the older generation pass away, the church, as we know it will have diminished to less than 10% of the population. Thus over 90% will have no contact or knowledge of the Christian faith. This is not just the Methodist Church, but across all the Christian denominations.

Although at first the situation may sound depressing, it is in fact just the opposite. We have been encouraged, challenged and uplifted by meeting people who equally share our concern and passion for our faith. In the course we have been split into small groups with people from both Methodist and Anglican Churches. It is part of the course that we should form a sharing relationship with these new friends, so that we may encourage and pray for each other in the ups and downs of our walk with the Lord.

We have been challenged to realize that our existing patterns of church and worship will not do for future generations of Christians or non-believers. We have to throw off or re-examine all we do, to see if it is truly scriptural or relevant in today's world. Believe you me, that cuts out a great deal of what we regard as important, but which is in fact, just traditional or cultural and very often not even scriptural, it is merely what we have always done, because our fore fathers always did it before us!!

We have just started to look at the diverse ways to spread the truth of the Gospel. The Rev. Barbara mentioned the other Sunday the Church at

Polzeath that has converted its sanctuary into a skate-board rink, which is bringing in young people who are for the first time hearing the gospel. This may not be for us!!! But we must be equally opened minded. Some churches are opening up cafés, café for surfers, messy church for under 11's, others changing time and day of services, opening up homes for meals etc., and many other ideas. The possibilities are endless.

Encouragingly, our Church has most people attending the course – 7 in total and we have all equally been challenged. We know that if our Church is to flourish and continue into this next century (and beyond) we must take action now. We would all appreciate your prayers as we continue on this course and as we look at fresh ways of being **GOD'S CHURCH IN THE 21st CENTURY**.

Ken and Tina

Pastoral Care Services in Residential Homes

We are delighted to welcome Barbara Pratt from Cheriton Fitzpaine Methodist Church into our team. Barbara is very experienced with working with Care Home residents and understands how important it is that we do not neglect the need of residents to have the opportunity to worship God together. Barbara is keen to help lead sensitive yet stimulating services.

At present, we are sorting out with the Residential Homes when they would like us to go along, and we are hoping to start in July. We will put out a plan of where and when services will be held to give you the chance to come along from time to time to give support to these older ladies and gentlemen and to enjoy meeting folk with a wealth of stories to share.

Pastoral care Team: Revd Barbara Calvert, Pam Murphy, Barbara Pratt, Mike Pratt. Karen Theedom.

Strawberry Tea Success!

Many thanks to the people who turned out to help with all the preparations for the Strawberry Tea, even though Crediton was experiencing more rain in one day than ever before! Also grateful thanks to all the stalwarts who made an effort to come and support the event, which we held in the Church foyer. It was a cosy venue to sit enjoying the strawberry tea whilst watching the rain bounce about 6 inches off the pavement. We raised £154.95 but more importantly, had a very enjoyable social get together, so many thanks to you all. *Christine Marshall*



Barn Dance



September 29th : 7 - 10 p.m.
Sandford Village Hall
Tickets £5
(children under 10 – free)
Including finger buffet & refreshments

Bright Hour

July 6th: Members & Friends
July 13th: Mrs Mary Jarvis
July 20th: Mrs Jenny Hext
July 27th: Rev Barbara Calvert
(with communion)

We shall finish our meetings with communion for our Summer break. We resume Bright Hour on September 7th.

Saturday July 28th Cream Teas with home-made raspberry jam from 3.30 to 5.30 in aid of Chicco who lives in Zimbabwe (sponsored by Bright Hour) and Church Funds. Tickets £2 adult and £1 child. Stall with home-made cakes, jams & marmalade. Weather permitting –in Church garden, otherwise in Church hall. We look forward to seeing you.

Arthritis

If 'Arthrititis' annoys you,
I will tell you what to do.
I call up 'Will Power'
And 'Perse Verance' too.
They help me forget the ache,
Just for a little while,
And maybe wear a smile.
God bless you all who read this;
I hope 'they' help you too.

Eileen Tarr

Sponge

Saturday July 14th
12.30 – 6 p.m.
A family day for everyone
At Shobrook Park

Organised by Connect and
CtiC

Margaret Scott is helping with the refreshments and would welcome any donations such as cakes. Please leave them in the Church kitchen by Friday

Coffee Morning/ Lunches

Wednesday 1st August
At 37 Beech Park
In aid of Mercy Ships
Coffee + Soup & Sweet Lunch
Come and join us

Cream Teas

At David & Jan Thom's
Wreylands House
Cheriton Fitzpaine
(next to the chapel)
Saturday 21st July from 2.30
Stalls in Methodist
Schoolroom
All proceeds fro Francisco
Rojas School, Peru

A better way to lose waste

'Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Genesis 1:26 (NIV)

Genesis tells us that God has given us the creation to care and rule over. And Paul tells us that everything was made through and for Jesus. As Christians we all have an obligation to carefully consider our stewardship of the earth's precious resources.

At present recycling is very much in vogue with considerable government backing to increase the quantities. Do you recycle? - if so, good! It is a way of reducing waste and the amount of material going into landfill sites and it saves huge quantities of energy and raw materials. But have you thought how efficient this process really is in conserving our resources?

As an alternative to throwing into the black bag, recycling is the answer but recycling itself requires considerable inputs of energy with much of the material being transported many miles in huge diesel guzzling lorries. Did you know that some materials go as far as Europe and the Far East? The process to recover usable elements then uses even more energy!

Look at your recyclable matter. Is most of it packaging, cartons, bottles, cans, bags etc? Do you need to use all these materials in the first place? Remember, they have been costly to produce in terms of energy consumed in creating and transporting them, they then have a very short life before being thrown away, so much is wasted and only a small proportion is recycled. It would be preferable not to use these materials in the first place. We need to seek to reduce the quantities of resources we consume.

So before you think Recycle -Think REDUCTION. Before you buy anything consider whether you need to buy that ready meal, that can, that bottle. Look for fresh produce with less packaging, use large family sized containers rather than individual ones and

especially do not accept that ubiquitous plastic bag with each purchase - take your own bag! Do recycle! But first think, "do I need it at all?"

Say No to Waste! - Think Reduction!

NCH 2007

N.C.H has a changing role in the 21st Century. It still provides support for vulnerable children and young people when they are becoming independent. It also works closely with other societies to make better use of their resources.

Our circuit churches continue to raise much needed funds in many ways. Coffee Mornings, Cream Teas etc. Also the very valuable way in home collecting boxes. Please see Margaret Kenshole if you would be willing to have one. We have a Circuit Evening Supper coming up on July 28th at Whipton Church; please do attend if possible. It is usually a fun evening and the food is always excellent. There will be a sponsored walk later in the summer – details will be announced. This is a very worthy cause to support.

Services in August

August 5th: 10.30 Rev K Hext 6.30 At Silverton

August 12th: 10.30 Miss M Hext 6.30 Prof. A Wragg

August 19th: 10.30 Rev D Calvert 6.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)

August 26th 10.30 Mrs M Bailey 6.30 Mr Arscott

e-mail from Fastov

I received the following e mail from Irena Savochka who is the daughter of Piter who is Pastor at the Fastov Church in response to my e mail asking if there was anything that the church needed. I might add that I had to ask twice, even though she responded after the first time, she did not reply as to the needs!

"As to Church...i visited them yesterday, since my youngest brother graduated from Sunday School. It was a good service. We really appreciate you remembering our Church! The Church is doing well, recently extended the building once again, just added the stage, a few more classes and one office, the work is almost complete. They have also bought a beautiful piece of land, where they plan to develop some kind of premises for summer camps, which is a huge investment. I know it will be wonderful. As to parcels.....I do not know of any serious needs. My Mum mentioned tea, which is the best in England. They are also experiencing a baby boom this year, so maybe some things for babies. Your help and concern is deeply appreciated. Thank you all very much on behalf of the Fastov Church"

Irena Savochka.

In my experience - Summer camps are vital for children in dire circumstances, at the camps they will be taught about the love of God for them, and they will have safe fun!

June Redfern

Pastoral Page
The Church Community

Loving God,
You share with us the care of creation,
and call each of us by name.

We remember that those who encountered Jesus
found acceptance, healing, and the possibility of new life;
that the disciples, though imperfect human beings,
through prayer and touch helped others to find healing
in the power of your Holy Spirit.

And so, in the name of Christ we pray for....

Those recovering from operations:

Iris Mackie – recovering from a heart bypass operation,
Marjorie Ing as she continues to improve following her knee
replacement operation.

**Those who are not normally able to come to church at the
present time:**

Kim Clemens, Joan Cornish, Enid Garrington, (St. Lawrence) Allan
Hooper (St Lawrence), Phyllis Maunder, Ruth Mackmurdo
(Hillbrow), Kathy Nicholson and Clara Paige (Kenwyn), Les
Sutherland, Arthur and Edna Tancock, Eva Whiting.

And we also remember Sid and Cynthia Dixon and Arthur and
Wendy Homeshaw and all others known to us in special need at this
time.

Sincere Thanks

Rita sends her very sincere thanks to all the kind people who visited
her, sent messages and gifts and prayed for her during her long stay
in hospital. She hopes to return to all her activities gradually.

July/August

Diary of events

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon 2 nd | Pioneer Disciple Course 7.30pm The Old Deanery |
| Mon 30 th | Steward's meeting 7.15pm The Manse |
| Sat 4 th Aug | Open Garden the Manse 12 – 4pm Lunches and teas |
| Sun 5 th | Join Silverton Methodists. Walk 4pm, Tea 5pm, Service 6.30pm |
| Mon 6 th | Spring Cleaning and Odd Jobs day. Start 9am |
| Tues 7 th | Crediton Hospital, Methodist led service 2.30pm |
| Tues 14 th | Women's Open House: Topic: Childhood memories plus photograph. |
| Fri 24 th – Mon 27 th | August: Greenbelt Christian Festival, Cheltenham |
| Thurs 30 th | Fundraising and Social group meeting 7pm at Mary's. |

A quote

'How I would like to engrave this idea on each one's heart:
Christianity is not a collection of truths to be believed
Of laws to be obeyed
Of prohibitions.
That makes it very distasteful.

Christianity is a person
One who loved us so much
One who calls for our love
Christianity is Christ'

Archbishop Oscar Romero