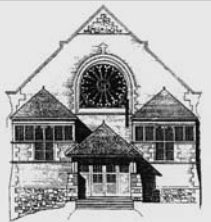




Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter
June 2007



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: calvert2@fish.co.uk

Services this month:

- June 3rd: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
6.30 Miss A Williams
- June 10th: 10.30 Mrs M Noronha
6.30 At Sidwell St Methodist Church
- June 17th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age Worship)
6.00 Talkback
- June 24th: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Rev V Vine
6.30 Rev R Ely

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 July newsletter to Ken Saunders by June 24th

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

cover photograph: Crediton Green

My Testimony

On May 21st, after two years as a probationary minister I was invited to give my testimony at a special service at Crediton Methodist Church. This is an edited version.

Snapshot one – starting Sunday School aged three

I thought I had arrived, I was now out in the big wide world, like my elder brother two years ahead of me. We sang I am h, a, p, p, y - at home later I asked my mother, ‘what does h, a, p, p, y mean?’ I was quite crestfallen when I was told the simple answer as I suddenly realised that I hadn’t ‘arrived’ at all and that there was an awful lot I didn’t know. There was always another horizon.

Snapshot two – Sunday School teacher aged 16/17

Mrs Harris was leader of the Primary Department and every Thursday evening we met in her house and took it in turns to lead the opening devotions. We then went through the material for Sunday, there was often a drama which I always enjoyed performing for the children and a story, and Mrs Harris insisted that we learn the story by heart to tell the children in our class. A very good training - and this experience encouraged me to pursue my ambition to become a teacher.

I can’t over estimate the significance of those Sunday school years in my spiritual journey – loved and nurtured, by dedicated Sunday School teachers who inspired me and brought me to faith and taught me a knowledge and love for Jesus. It was a very significant step for me when I become a member of the Methodist Church aged 17.

Snapshot three– birth of my first child

I had drifted away from the church. I had gone away to college, fired up with enthusiasm to put the world to rights – Vietnam, apartheid in S Africa, homelessness – Simon Community, racism... my commitment to these issues had been nurtured by the teaching and ministry of Jesus. But I felt that the church had nothing to say on these issues and indeed my own local church didn’t, so I left the church and abandoned my faith. On the Saturday evening after my baby was born a nurse came into the ward to ask if anyone wanted to go to chapel the next morning and then turned to walk out again not expecting any response – as she turned away I called out across the

ward – ‘Yes, I would’. In the peace and quiet of the hospital chapel the next morning I felt the presence of God in a way I hadn’t for many years because I had turned away. I knew it was going to be a rocky road back but I also knew this - I wanted my child to be brought up in the Christian faith, to be loved and nurtured as I had been and to know the love of Jesus.

Snapshot four - RE teacher – When I went back to teaching after the birth of my three children I soon made the decision to re train as an RE teacher. I had a passion for teaching R.E. – not a naturally popular subject on the timetable of the comprehensive schools but a wonderful challenge to me, and I had a personal conviction that RE was the most exciting subject on the timetable. Half the year group opted to do GCSE R.E. largely because of the ‘Social Issues’ element of the course and they couldn’t believe we were going to spend the first year of the course on this one slim volume, St Mark’s Gospel. But despite themselves they were intrigued and said things like ‘Did Jesus really say that Miss?’

Snapshot five – First assembly – One September at the beginning of year staff meeting the head, a committed atheist, was going to apply for an opt out of the clause in the 1988 Education Act which required there to be acts of Christian worship. I couldn’t sign up to this so I went to see him. He was very tall and intimidating but I made my little speech about how it wasn’t right to opt out of Christian acts of worship, so he said, ‘Ok, well you will have to do it.’ I knew he was right. I couldn’t say we must offer Christian assemblies and then not be prepared to do it. But I was terrified at the thought of that big stage in front of 500 sceptical teenagers and even more sceptical staff. But it went fine and afterwards there was a surprised appreciation from the staff. I had overcome my fear of speaking in public, and looking back I realise what a significant step this was in my call to preach.

Snapshot six - Christian Aid... God continued to beckon me on so I left teaching and worked voluntarily for a few months as schools worker for Christian Aid – going into schools to take assemblies! Then I got a job with Christian Aid working in the Churches team in London, writing worship materials, and then as Area Co-ordinator.

Again I felt I had arrived – my dream job... I visited Gaza and the West Bank, Uganda, Jamaica, Haiti and met some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world who lived life on the edge but often had a faith and zest for life, fun and hope which inspired and sent you home not depressed about the poverty and injustice in the world but fired up to speak on behalf of the voiceless.

Snapshot seven - The call – you might be wondering by now where this is all going: still no mention of the call to ministry. Well, for many years now I had felt a call to ministry. I think since I stood on that stage at Dene Magna School in the Forest of Dean now almost 20 years ago. Many people had encouraged me and urged me in that direction and when I left teaching many of my colleagues had assumed that was what I was going to do. But at the time it simply was not possible, and I had got on living out my faith and seeking to serve God in what ever situation and in what ever job I found myself, teaching, Christian Aid and then, when we moved to Scotland as:

Snapshot eight - Chaplain to International Students at the three universities in Glasgow. I worked with teams of chaplains who were all ordained ministers; and as chaplains we were invited to attend Graduation ceremonies. A chaplain was then invited by the Vice Chancellor to a lunch for distinguished guests (mainly to say grace I think!) At the Graduation lunch were name places and mine said Rev. Barbara Calvert! Well I wasn't a 'Rev', so this was embarrassing but I decided it was best to say nothing. Walking home later that day I felt that God was asking me 'So why aren't you a minister?' and me replying 'Well, God you know why I am not – it simply isn't possible and then I suddenly realised that the reasons why I couldn't become a minister before had now all gone...they had faded away there were no barriers, no reason why I shouldn't become a minister if that was what God wanted ... and, no, it wasn't too late. I went through the usual process and the Methodist Church confirmed this call and now here I am. And I am very grateful for the support and friendship I received from everyone in the circuit and especially in the churches here as I continue to learn what it means to be a minister.

Barbara Calvert

Gift Aid April 2006 – March 2007

This year has been such a success with the donations through Gift Aid that we have raised an extra £900.00 more than last year in Tax relief, a total of £4316.60.

This is due to a combination of your giving on a regular basis plus everyone in the Church being more aware of the advantage of asking tax paying visitors to fill in the orange envelope declarations. Not only was the amount of money increased, but the number of individual givers nearly tripled against last year, this is a huge increase and shows just how much effort has been made by every member of the Church to encourage this form of giving.

I feel really heartened by the effort that has been made to achieve such a good result and thank you all very much.

Christine Marshall (Gift Aid Secretary)

A Wedding & A Baptism

Both of my children came back to my Church here in Crediton, - one from Australia (for a baptism of 2 grandchildren) and the other from Norway (for a Wedding of my youngest daughter). I felt really privileged that they felt they wanted to come here for those important occasions in their lives, especially as they had never attended here as youngsters themselves.

As the two weeks of their presence here unfolded, I came to realise that it was a sense of 'family' that drew them back, not just me, but their grandparents and the whole ethos of what being part of the wider caring family within a Church really means to us all.

Thank you to all the people who helped in both of those celebrations, in all sorts of ways, but especially to Barbara, whose services were just perfect for each occasion.

Christine Marshall



On Saturday, May 5th, Julie Marshall, daughter of Christine and granddaughter of Margaret and Reg, was married to Richard Branston at Crediton Methodist church. After a holiday on the Isles of Scilly the couple will be living in Norway.

Pause for Thought

We hear a lot about **Climate Change** these days. It's splashed across all the newspapers, appears in colourful documentaries and is on the tip of every politician's tongue – it seems to be the 'buzz phrase' of recent times. But what does it really mean to us as individuals? Should we care?

We're told a lot about what might happen in our future due to Climate Change, but as with much of our world today, if it's not 'sensational' then apparently it's not worth reporting or finding out about. So we hear a lot of sensational things about Climate Change, such as facts like the sea level will rise dramatically over a short time or wildlife might not be able to adapt quickly enough when we have dramatic temperature or rainfall changes. *'Make sure you buy plants suited to a dry climate'* is the message on Gardener's World (although the folk of Boscastle might disagree!), but right now no-one's really sure.

I remember studying the evidence for Climate Change fifteen years ago at University – I recall the shock in first seeing that humans seemed to be having a negative effect on the earth through rising Carbon Dioxide levels; but it is only in the last few years that predictions on how that impact might play itself out have come to wider understanding.

As it's now a hot topic, our political leaders continue to vie with each other to try to demonstrate who's 'greenest'; and it's become the ripe topic for discussions on taxation and legislation. New laws and taxes will probably march their way in over the coming years to 'forge a fresh future' in 'going green' as governments strive to guide us and tell us what's good for us, what's right for us and what we should be doing.

But actually, to me, Climate Change isn't about what *everyone* does, or what everyone is *told* to do, it's about what we each *choose* to do. It's about making those small changes to our lifestyles. Surely no one can disagree with the idea that we should be respecting and nurturing the earth we've been entrusted with to prepare it for future generations?

Perhaps it doesn't really matter who or what you believe when it comes to Climate Change. Whether you think Climate Change is happening because of us humans, or whether you feel it's all a big 'blip' that will iron itself

out, surely the idea of recycling more, throwing less packaging away, using gas and electricity more wisely, taking a walk (when you can) instead of using your car and simply being less of a burden on the earth can't be such a bad idea!

Climate Change therefore seems to be about improving ourselves and our lives to help the greater good.

Sounds familiar really – making personal changes and sacrifices to make a better community and world to live in. Can we do it?

Neil Livesey Headteacher, Haywards Primary School

Root it Out

If, while gardening, a nettle you
chance to see
Grab it firmly; root it out.
Don't hold it gingerly.
If you grasp it and hold it
tight,
And don't think about the
sting,
It won't do you any harm
You won't feel a thing.
It is when you approach it full
of fear,
That its barbarous barbs get in.
Just as with worries and fears
through life,
Grab them; take them to God
in prayer.
Tell Him all about it, then go
and leave them there.
If you don't; worry is like a
nettle
It will never let you settle
To do the things you want to
do.
Eileen Tarr

A letter received

Our church has received a letter from Mrs Maria Knowlton. In it she says 'Thank you for the cheque for £300 which you gave as a donation from Crediton Methodist Church. I am delighted that Young Church continue to finance the education of Jose Luis at the Francisco Rojas School. He is a bright boy and enjoys his studies. I know Jose Luis parents are truly grateful for the support they receive from your church.

The school started a couple of weeks ago. Please remember this work in your prayers and ask for God's help and guidance in the months ahead.'

Maria Knowlton

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

Church of the Resurrection - Fastov

When Pastor Peter's family of four children were very young, he felt called to serve the Lord in Fastov. We worshipped in his first church in Fastov and because of increasing numbers and his desire to work with damaged people with no hope, the Church purchased another site nearer the centre of Fastov where we worshipped on our second visit.



The following is a quote from a recent newsletter about the 'work' of the Church in the Fastov Region.

'We (Bernard Cocker C.E.O. International Aid) next called on Pastor Peter in Fastov whom the Trust has sponsored for several years. Peter is in the middle of building a new church in the centre of Fastov but has experienced quite a lot of opposition from the Russian Orthodox Church. Much of Peter's work is ministering to the young delinquents, drug addicts and alcoholics that the Fastov Region is infamous for. There is very little work available in the region, and there is a great deal of spiritual despair and despondency

Part of the work of International Aid is supporting **drug rehabilitation centres**. Adrian and I visited one centre in 2005, when we arrived we had to wait to see the 18 or so young men as they were having an hour of bible study and prayer. When we did go in we were able to listen to their sad stories, but also to hear their testimonies! Most of the young men we met had Aids. There is a 40% success rate with the addicts in the various centres, and happily some of the young men have been attending church. Most of these young men have no families to help them with their struggles.

In the Fastov region there are two 'holding' children's facilities one is called the **Copalov Halfway House**. In this centre, children that have been found on the streets, bus and train stations are assessed, monitored, stabilized and with the permission of the 'Authorities' are sent to orphanages supported by International Aid. We visited one of these homes in Motaviloka in 2004 and 2005, one dear little boy rushed over to me as we were walking through the dining room and gave me his teddy bear to keep! Very humbling.

In the '**Little Polavetski Orphanage**' there are 100 children who have been abandoned. On the day Bernard visited, several children had been admitted who had had nothing to eat for two days. So the work goes on relentlessly, and you can understand the ongoing need for mattresses, beds, food, furniture, clothing, shoes, gift boxes, soap and cleaning materials! It is a very hard job looking after these very 'damaged' children, but the people from the churches with the support of International Aid are doing a great job!

The new **Prison Ministry** in Odessa is going well. Children born in the women's prisons, when they reach the age of three are sent into orphanages. Now the local Church congregations have permission from the prison authorities, to take these children out for one day a week. Can you imagine how these little ones must feel to see the outside world? Please pray that this work will be allowed to continue. International Aid regularly visits the men's prison. Paint has been donated so that the prisoners can make their cells more cheerful, but more importantly the prisoners are receiving Christian teaching which has resulted in the conversion of many young men. For the first time in May of this year, Rev Bernard Cocker was asked into the prison to baptise nine new converts!

There is so much more to write about, the constant persecution of the church in Belarus, new children's homes, but I think this is enough for now. I continue to feel wonderfully supported in this work by so many of you. I never know what I will find under the table in the kitchen! About 200+ shoeboxes have been received so far this year, and you know that I am grateful for this. Thank you too to the people who continue to sponsor needy families and also to the Knit and Natter Group for their continuing support in financial and other ways. We continue to collect humanitarian aid from a wide area, and we now have access to 'returned' drugs from the Exeter Hospice, medical aids/equipment/dressings etc. from the North Devon and Wonford Hospitals. If we had time we could do so much more!

Our main 'work' is as UK Sponsorship Secretaries, receiving news, good and bad at first hand (often within hours) from the local International Aid Managers on the ground in the Ukraine and Belarus. We have many 'highs and lows' with the news and we never cease to be touched by what we learn of the difficulties in other peoples lives.

June Redfern

Crediton Parish Church

Interfaith?

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

20th June Any Questions?
Panel Discussion

Panel Moderator: Revd Nigel Guthrie

Panel:

Dr Sajjad Rizvi

Revd Barbara Calvert, Methodist Minister

Revd Donald Reeves, Anglican Priest

A member of Exeter Synagogue

Bright Hour

June 1st: Mr A Savage
June 8th: Miss Hazel Boyd
June 15th: Mrs Kathryn Cole
June 22nd: Mrs Margaret
Scott
June 29th: Favourite Hymn
& Bible readings
Meetings commence at
2.30 p.m.. All are welcome:

Annual Report 2005- 2006

If you require a copy of the
church's annual report, please
see a
steward for a copy.

Crediton Parish Church

An Exhibition of Flowers

'On the Air'
**Celebrating 100 years of
broadcasting**

Sat 2nd – Thurs 7th June
10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Free Admission
Refreshments

HIDDEN TALENTS

There are several areas in our church life where we are short of helpers. We need door stewards, communion stewards, a flower secretary and someone to take responsibility for our heating. So don't be bashful! – If you think you could help, speak to one of the stewards or Barbara to find out what is involved *Marjorie Ashley*

CALLING ALL MEN!

The ladies of the church have opportunities for fellowship through the Evening Supper Group and Open House, but there is no gathering for men, at present.

A Saturday morning breakfast club is proposed from 9.00 to 10 a.m. with a mixture of speakers and outings. If you are interested, speak to Alan Clemens (776993) and let him know your suggestions. *Marjorie Ashley*

CIRCUIT REVIEW

During the next couple of months our Circuit churches will be involved in a review at the request of the Circuit Leadership Team. The review will be undertaken by lay people from each section within the Circuit and staff of the District Team.

The object is to identify individual and Circuit areas of growth, where there are areas of immediate potential for growth and to evaluate where we are offering a Christian presence in the community.

It is vital that as many people from each church have the opportunity to give their views and, in order to achieve this, there will be meetings at each church in the next few weeks.

There will be a meeting at our Church on Monday 2 July at 10.00am and I urge as many of you who feel able to attend. **YOU ARE THE VOICE OF OUR CHURCH – YOU ARE CREDITON METHODIST CHURCH.** *Marjorie Ashley*

Pastoral Page

The Church Community

We remember those who have died:

Sid Morgan was born in Canada in 1911 but sadly his mother died when Sid was just one month old. Sid's grandmother insisted the baby was brought back to England. So Sid grew up in London in the care of his grandparents and then of an aunt and uncle. In 1937 he met Thelma and they were married during the war in 1941. Sid saw active service in the Tank regiment in Egypt, the Western Desert, Sicily, Italy, France and Belgium.

When Sid retired he was determined to fulfil his beloved Thelma's life long ambition which was to live in Devon where they had spent many happy holidays. Finally they settled in their bungalow in Threshers and enjoyed a very happy retirement until Thelma died in 1999. Her death was a tremendous blow to Sid as they had done everything together. They had no family but many loving, caring and loyal friends especially from amongst our Methodist family. He appreciated the visits of all his friends enormously. He died on 4th May 2007 at the age of 95. His funeral took place at Crediton Methodist Church on Monday 14th may 2007.

We give thanks to God that several of our members who have been unwell recently are now feeling so much better – Rita Ash, Kim Clemens and Pam Murphy. It is a real delight to see them back amongst us.

We remember those who are not normally able to come to church at the present time:

Joan Cornish, Enid Garrington, Phyllis Maunder, Ruth Mackmurdo (Hillbrow), Kathy Nicholson and Clara Paige (Kenwyn), Eva Whiting (R.D. and E.) and all others of our church family in special need at this time.

**In memory of
Margaret Alice Ashley
who died peacefully 23rd October 2006
we acknowledge with grateful thanks
the generous gift to
Crediton Methodist Church
of a PowerPoint data projector.
We are very grateful for this gift
which enhances our common worship.**



June Monthly diary of events

- Mon 4th Pioneer Disciple Course 7.30pm The Old Deanery
Weds 6th Midweek service, 12.30pm Wesley Room
Crediton Church Council 7.30pm
- Tues 12th Women's Open House: Topic, a favourite painting/
picture.
- Weds 13th Steward's Training with Keith Elliott 7.30pm,
Epworth Room
- Sat 16th Strawberry teas in the Church garden
- Mon 18th Pioneer Disciple Course 7.30pm The Old Deanery
- Weds 20th Interfaith Panel Discussion 7.30pm Boniface Centre
- Tues 26th Children and Young peoples Support Group 7.30pm,
Epworth Room



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