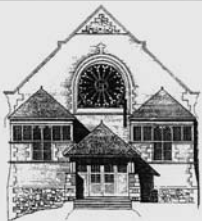




# Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter  
March 2007



## **Crediton Methodist Church**

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

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

### **Services this month:**

- March 4<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
6.30 Mr L Smale
- March 11<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Mr G Bowstead  
6.30 Rev B Calvert
- March 18<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev Dr D Calvert (All Age Worship)  
6.00 Talkback
- March 25<sup>th</sup>: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
10.30 Rev R Ely  
6.30 Mrs M Hardy

### **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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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

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

## Capturing the Sun

Even in winter the sun shining in through our lounge windows makes the house feel beautifully warm. It is warm enough to turn the heating off which is good for our gas bills and also of course for our carbon footprint. A bowl of spring hyacinths has been sitting on the windowsill mysteriously guarding their secret colour. Now the warmth has revealed flowers a beautiful deep blue, like the sky on a clear day, and the room is filled with their lovely fragrance. But as soon as the sun goes in the room goes cold, except in the flowers we fail to capture the sun.

The sun's rays though can be captured and stored by solar panels - although solar energy may not be the best solution for Britain! But what about in hot countries?

Poor countries and poor people in Africa are in the gravest danger from climate change although they themselves have done the least to cause global warming. Millions of people in Africa have no access to electricity, no power for lighting, refrigeration, water pumps or energy to run their businesses. The dream is for poor countries to almost bypass the use of fossil fuels and develop renewable energy sources. And this is where we can help.

Lent has traditionally been a time when Christians make a special commitment in order to refocus on God and spend time in prayer and contemplation. One very tangible thing we can do is put some money in a jam jar each week in Lent for a **Solar Panel for Malawi**.

([www.presentaid.org](http://www.presentaid.org)) Christian Aid reports that each year in Malawi 100,000 children die before their fifth birthday. Most are killed by illness that could easily be prevented and cured, if only they had access to proper medical care. In isolated rural areas, solar-powered health centres are making all the difference. One solar powered health centre can bring life-saving medical treatment and vaccines to up to 30,000 people. We need to raise £600 for a solar panel for Malawi. Please send contributions you would like to make to me, cheques made out to Christian Aid.

*O God source of all life, in the stillness of Lent, may we hear the cries of the most vulnerable, and through your life giving power and energy be a source of new life to all. Amen.*

Barbara Calvert

## Exeter Circuit News

We are all pleased to hear that our Superintendent Minister, Revd David Laidler, is hoping to be back with us soon after his long illness. He is hoping to take up his preaching appointments in March or April and will then finish in June as he retires. The circuit is planning a farewell service for David on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm at Sidwell Street Methodist Church.

We will also be saying goodbye to Robert and Teresa Ely this summer as Robert takes up his appointment in the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Circuit. A circuit farewell service for Robert and Teresa is planned for 6.30pm either Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> or Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

We look forward to welcoming to the Circuit our new Superintendent Minister Revd David Easton who will be joining us from Sutton Coldfield and a Probationer Minister, Revd Andrew Brazier. David will have Pastoral Charge of St Thomas and Alphington and Andrew of Sidwell Street and Silverton. The circuit Welcome Service for David and Andrew will take place at 6.30pm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Whipton Methodist Church.** After much prayerful consideration the members at Whipton have made the positive decision that they could be more effective in their witness and mission by joining other churches in the circuit. Whipton Church will therefore be closing in July.

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### **Saturday 10th March 2007 12noon - 2pm**

LENT LUNCHES and stalls  
Tedburn St Mary Methodist  
Hall  
In aid of Christian Aid and  
Francisco Rojas School,  
Peru

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### **Friday 23rd March 2007 at 7.30pm Tedburn Methodist**

*Chapel Anniversay,  
celebrating the lives of the late  
Aubrey Fry and John Tapp*  
'Favourite Hymn Evening'  
Led by Dr Ken Kite  
Supper to follow - A Warm  
welcome to all  
In aid of Church Funds

## **A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Barbara and David Calvert 4<sup>th</sup>-13 March 2008**



Following a visit to the Holy Land last November, Barbara and David are leading a 10 day pilgrimage next spring. The pilgrimage is in association with McCabe Pilgrimages, a Christian company with considerable experience in organizing trips to the Holy Land.

We leave Heathrow in the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> March and stay four nights at the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem. While in Jerusalem, we visit the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Old City. We also spend time with the Palestinian Christian group, Sabeel, and visit the Princess Basma Centre which works with children with special educational needs. From Jerusalem, we have a day's excursion through the desert to the hill fortress at Masada, the Dead Sea and Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

On Saturday, we travel the short distance to Bethlehem for two nights at the Bethlehem Hotel. From there we visit the Shepherd's Fields, the Beit Sahour olive wood co-operative, visit Bethlehem Bible College, Manger Square and the Grotto of the Nativity. We worship with the local congregation on Sunday morning and hear about the work of Open Bethlehem in the afternoon.

On Monday we go to Galilee, visiting the villages of Taybeh and Aboud on the way to Tiberias where we stay three nights at the Ron Beach Hotel by the Lake. From there we visit Nazareth and Sepphoris and sites around the Sea of Galilee associated with the ministry of Jesus, such as Capernaum. We finish the pilgrimage with Holy Communion by the Lake at Tabgha.

The pilgrimage is a blend of holy places, archaeological sites and meeting Palestinian Christians: 'holy stones and living stones'. If you are interested in coming, contact Barbara or David.  
01363 772441 [calvert2@fish.co.uk](mailto:calvert2@fish.co.uk)

## Slavery

In October of last year I visited Ghana. I went as a member of a team of five people to run an inservice course for teachers. The team were all retired people who had worked in education and were doing this voluntarily. After a very interesting time when we were, as one team member described it, 'in Africa with Africans', we became tourist, for a few days. We visited Cape Coast and stayed in an area called Elmina.



Cape Coast and stayed in an area called Elmina.

Today Elmina is mainly preoccupied with fishing, but two large forts built by the Portuguese still exist. It was from these forts that slaves were deported to other parts of the world. The fort shown in the photograph is now a museum. The sign in the main hall reads:

For almost two hundred years, this room in which you are now standing was THE MAIN Trading Hall of the Castle. European trade goods were sold here – cloth, brassware, liquor guns etc – to African traders in exchange for the produce of Africa – gold ivory a variety of local foodstuffs and artefacts, and slaves For the greater part of that period until the Dutch Government abolished the slave trade in their colonies early in the 19th century the most lucrative commodities traded here were slaves



We were shown the dungeons in which the slaves were kept, in terrible conditions, often for two or three months, until they could be put on board a visiting ship.

Should any slave prove 'difficult' they were put in this cell and left without food and water until they died. Women slaves were allowed to wash in the female yard, but the yard was overlooked by a balcony from which the Portuguese officials would choose their victims for rape. Soldiers would be sent down to drag the victim up the stairs, through a trap door into the Portuguese quarters. When they had finished with her she was returned to the dungeon.



. When the slaves passed through the 'gate of no return' it was to leave their homeland, family and friends for ever. They passed through this gate to board a ship set to sail to America, the West Indies or Europe. Conditions on board were so awful that 20% of them would not survive the voyage. It is believed that over 10 million slaves were deported from Africa.

To be a white person, standing in the very place where this happened and to be told the story by an African was very humbling. Then to discover that missionaries who arrived in Elmina from Europe would stay in the Fort compound and use it as their base (indeed they built a chapel in the compound) with all this going on under their noses and apparently, making little protest about it, was even more humiliating for me as a Christian. Now, 200 years away we can look back and wonder why many Christians of that day made such little protest about the slave trade.

But what about us? Will Christians in 200 years time look back to our age and wonder why we made such little protest about slavery today - about boys forced to join rebel groups as soldiers in Burundi; about children who are scavengers on the rubbish dumps in Cambodia; about young children forced to work as domestic servants in Haiti; about children brick makers in Peru; about girls trafficked across the Nepal border into India; about boys who live on the railway stations in India, selling bottles of water, about children in West Africa forced to work on the cocoa plantations. We may even be supporting child slave labour in West Africa by buying cocoa or cocoa products made by certain well known companies!

*Ken Saunders*

## Pause for Thought

### Harmony on the Tennis Court

I'm due to play a tennis match tomorrow and I'm likely to struggle. I've only played once in four weeks because the normal foursome I've been a part of for several years has broken up. Without that regular practise my game goes downhill rapidly.

It's the same with most sports and skills. The regular discipline of practise is essential if you are to exercise that talent with control and freedom. The pianist, Arthur Rubinstein, said, "If I omit practice one day, I notice it. If two days the critics notice it, if three days the public notices it".

It would be brilliant if there was a shortcut to living well, of relating wholesomely to others and developing an intimate relationship with God. The reality is that building a harmonious life is a process requiring discipline, practise and the support of others. If I stop praying then after a week I will notice it, after two weeks my wife will suffer the consequences, after a month my tennis partners will become aware of it.

Like a child having to practise scales I sometimes rebel inwardly at making time for prayer amidst a busy lifestyle. However, if I want my life to be in harmony with God and with others there is no substitute for this patient, faithful, joyful spiritual discipline. In a society characterised by the breakdown of relationships a key question for us all is: 'How do you cultivate your inner life?'

*'Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.'*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16*

*Revd Andy Saunders*

## **Extract from an e mail from Irena Savochka.**

*A big "thank you" for the parcel you sent for my Dad's Church in Fastov. They received it, and are grateful for it. May God give you so much more for blessing others.*

*We are doing OK here. My Dad's Church in Fastov is doing OK, despite some of the challenges they had to go through. Everyone has that I think. They recently extended the building, adding a stage, so there is a lot more space now. They still have no permission to build a new building, but everyone continues to pray for this.*

*For me, I am still translating all over the country, but praying for a permanent job in Kiev, so I can get more committed in my Church. I know God will answer my prayers, but your prayers will be appreciated.*

*Please send our love to your Church and thank them for all their help and prayers. My Dad often asks about you.*

*Irene*

## **Thank you Tina .....**

"I would like to thank Tina for accompanying me on all my talks on the work of International Aid over the past few years. It would be very difficult for me to effectively give these talks without Tina and her technical support. We all know how busy she is - so thank you Tina!"

*June Redfern*

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## **Kiev Singers**

Dear Glenn and Sarah, We express you great gratitude for your kind response. We meet again with your parishioners with a great pleasure on a concert

21<sup>st</sup> April, Saturday, evening at your lovely church. We send you our main programme {European and Ukrainian church music and Ukrain.folk songs} and additional programme of popular classic music, which we prepare for our English friends.

With best wishes  
Yevgen Safronchyk.

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## Mali's children in chocolate slavery

At a run-down police station in Sikasso, a small town in Mali, the files on missing children are endless.

The sad truth is that many have been kidnapped and sold into slavery. The going price is about \$30



Malick Doumbia escaped

The local police chief is in no doubt where the children have gone. "It's definitely slavery over there," he said. "The kids have to work so hard they get sick and some even die."

In all, at least 15,000 children are thought to be over in the neighbouring Ivory Coast, producing cocoa which then goes towards making almost half of the world's chocolate.

Many are imprisoned on farms and beaten if they try to escape. Some are under 11 years old.

### Save haven

Save the Children Fund has set up a transit centre in the hope that one day these children will come home from the cocoa, coffee and other farms on which they are working.

“  
**I might have got out but there are thousands of children still over there. If by your report, you can help free just one, you would be doing a good job**  
”

**Former child slave Malick Doumbia**

But so far they haven't. The place is empty, although one who managed to escape has a message worth listening to.

"I might have got out," said Malick Doumbia, "but there are thousands of children still over there. If by your report, you can help free just one, you would be doing a good job."

The work of this former slave ended up in shops around the world, as products that often do not specify exactly where they came from.

“  
**Mali's Save the Children Fund director, Salia Kante, has a message for shoppers - think about what you are buying**”

So Mali's Save the Children Fund director, Salia Kante, has a message for shoppers too - think about what you are buying.

"People who are drinking cocoa or coffee are drinking their blood," he said. "It is the blood of young children carrying 6kg of cocoa sacks so heavy that they have wounds all over their shoulders. It's really pitiful to see."

*From a BBC Report*



# Fundraising Committee Report

Following Rev'd Barbara's letter on the finances, the Finance Committee would like to add their grateful appreciation to everyone who has supported all the fundraising schemes we have carried out this year.

One of the success stories has been the rota system for Saturday Coffee mornings, with each group within the Church taking responsibility for specific days and causes, which they have been allocated for that day. This has seen a huge involvement by everyone and tremendous support from the Church community to ensure success week on week

We give approx £4000 per year to a variety (16+) of good causes.

As well as the regular events, there have been a number of special services, fun evenings (January Jollies), flower festival, Sunday Lunch church meals etc. All of these take a deal of organising and I would like to thank everyone who gets involved with any of the preparations. It indicates that we have a vibrant nucleus of workers who work so hard for the church and a loyal community who are willing to give their support. Many thanks, one cannot achieve without the other.

We have some events planned for the forthcoming months and perhaps you may like to pop them in your diaries now:-

April 29<sup>th</sup> – Church Anniversary – AGM – Church Meal

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Our popular Strawberry Tea (hopefully good enough weather to hold in the beautiful garden), this year we are intending to have a few stalls as well as the delicious homemade scones, jam and strawberries with cream.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> Junior Barbeque in the garden with the Sunday School, after the morning service

Aug 14<sup>th</sup>: – Open Garden Lunch 12- 4 at the Manse with Barbara & David (1 Chapel Downs Road) – in aid of Home Missions

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Barn Dance at Sandford Parish Hall – 6.30 – 10pm. This is to tie in with our Harvest Festival Weekend. The band called Mint Sauce will be playing (they were great last time) and there will be a finger buffet available. We are hoping to sell 100 tickets to make it a good fundraiser, so please let everyone know about it now.

October 27<sup>th</sup> – ‘Simply Christmas’ Fair – to be held in our hall. The ethos of this event will be to portray that there are simple ways to enjoy Christmas. A number of workshops to portray a ‘Simple Christmas’ would be organised such as, Cake Decorating, Table Decorations, Making Christmas items from natural things around us, Home Made Christmas Sweet Treats, BIG Christmas Card (interactive for all to use) – made by the children (to alleviate everyone giving individual cards and perhaps donate money instead), Knitted items, Music, Serving simple food. The Fair will be used to get across the message, rather than just concentrating on making money.

We have the ideas! You are the Support! A big THANK YOU once again.

*Christine Marshall*

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### *Spring*

Crocus are breaking the earth’s  
dark crust;  
Daffodils spears upward thrust,  
Yes, the miracle happens again,  
Leaving behind the gales and the  
rain.  
A thrush an odd note begins to  
sing,  
Heralding yet another spring;  
Promising brighter days ahead,  
No more the earth is brown and  
dead.

Spring breathes joy into humans  
too,  
With its wonder of life anew.  
In a world of greed, lust and  
crime  
Spring will return until the end  
of time.

*Eileen Tarr.*

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### **Bright Hour**

**Women’s Day of Prayer  
Crediton Congregational  
Church**

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> March 2.00 p.m.**

March 9<sup>th</sup>: Rev Charles Edwards

March 16<sup>th</sup>: Bible quiz

March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Mrs J. Charters

March 30<sup>th</sup>: Rev Barbara  
Calvert

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### **Introduction to Buddhism**

Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mint Methodist Church  
Exeter

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ring 01392275070

## **A letter from Mike Pratt.**

Mike, a member at Cheriton Fitzpaine Methodist Church, has been a much valued member of our Pastoral Visiting team for almost a year now.

### **No Joke!**

Whilst in a greeting card shop I came across a so called joke card. It had a picture on the front depicting Jesus and on the inside a foul word. I found this really offensive and complained to the shop assistant. I bought the card to solicit the opinions of some fellow Christians and all found the card offensive.

While I was wondering what to do about it for some strange reason my mind was cast back some 30 years or so to a bigoted young man. A man who delighted in declaring himself an atheist, he knew all the sensible reasons why there was no God, and took pleasure in mocking and trying to belittle Christians. Of course, as with most mockers he spoke from ignorance, and we all know that empty vessels make the most noise.

All these prompted me to think that I must take some action about the offensive greetings card. I have organized a petition and it is in the foyer at church. Please sign it if you would like to and I will forward it to the publishers of the card.

Scriptures for consideration: Matthew 12. 35 – 37, Proverbs 14.6

Oh, by the way that bigot I spoke of earlier was me, but by God's grace I was found, for which I shall ever be grateful. Not surprisingly my favourite hymn is Amazing Grace and one of my favourite scriptures Luke 15: The Parable of the Lost Son.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, and now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

*John Newton – at one time the captain of a slave ship.*

## **Pastoral page The Church Community**

### **We remember those who have died:**

#### **Josie Hooper**

Josie died on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007. She was born at Orchard Cottage, Sandford, in 1943 and was an only child. Josie spent most of her life in Sandford, fulfilling her dream of running a Residential Home when she opened Summerhayes 23 years ago. She had a long and happy marriage to Allan, three children Julie, Sharon Anne (died aged 5 months) and Graham and three grandchildren Joe, Harry and Maddie. A much loved member of Sandford village and this church, she will be much missed and we hold Allan and all the family in our thoughts and prayers.



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

Rita Ash (Crediton Hospital), Kim Clemens, Joan Cornish, Enid Garrington, Phyllis Maunder, Ruth Murgogh (Hillbrow), Kathy Nicholson and Clara Paige(Kenwyn), Sylvia Sharland, Les Sutherland (Wonford), Eva Whiting.

And we also remember Sid and Cynthia Dixon and Arthur and Wendy Homeshaw.

### **And recovering from recent illness:**

Jenny Hext and Pam Murphy.

### **A Service of Remembering and Sharing**

for all families bereaved by miscarriage, still birth or neo-natal death  
will be held in

The Chapel., Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Wonford) on  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 2pm. For further information please  
contact the Hospital Chaplains 01392 411611

## March

## Monthly diary of events

Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Lent groups first joint meeting. Crediton Methodist Church 7.30pm led by Barbara.

Weds 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Stewards training 7.30pm The Manse.

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Taize Singing Group 7.15 – 8.15pm. The Church.

Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Taize Singing Group 7.15 – 8.15pm. The Church.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Exploring the Teachings and Insights of the Buddha and the fruits of Christian/Buddhist Dialogue. The Mint 10am – 1pm.

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Trinity Youth group. Methodist Church.

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Steward's meeting. 7.15pm, Margaret Scott's.

Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Taize Singing group. 7.15 - 8.15pm The Church.

Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Local preachers meeting 7.30pm Tedburn St Mary.

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> 10am Mothering Sunday posies. Helpers (esp. children) needed in the hall. Training given - no expertise required!

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Disciple Course. Taster evening 7.30pm Old Deanery.

Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit meeting. 7.30pm Wonford.

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Taize Singing Group 7.15 – 8.15pm. The Church.

Advanced Notice:

**Palm Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> 6.30pm Taize Service** (please put this date in your diary – the new singing group has been practising hard for weeks!)

**Maundy Thursday Service 7.30pm April 5<sup>th</sup>**

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### The Green Box

**15%-20% saving on fuel. 10%-25% reduction in CO emissions.**

**For details e-mail [envirosave@btinternet.com](mailto:envirosave@btinternet.com)**

## Newsletter Cover



During 2007 our Church newsletter cover page will include a photograph of CREDITON or the CREDITON area.

The three photographs used so far have all been of Shobrooke Park.



If you have an interesting photograph which would make a suitable cover picture (when converted to black & white) please see one of the editors.

# 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 27<sup>th</sup> February  
Crediton Methodist Church  
led by Revd Barbara Calvert

Final meeting together 7:30pm Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
Congregational Church

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.

**CHURCHES IN DEVON IN CO-OPERATION WITH BBC RADIO DEVON**