



Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter
May 2007



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: calvert2@fish.co.uk

Services this month:

May 6th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)

6.30 Dr. K Kite

May 13th: 10.30 Rev Dr D Calvert

6.30 Rev B Calvert

May 20th: 10.30 Rev B calvert

6.00: Talkback

May 27th: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)

10.30 Prof. S Lea

6.30 Fellowship

Church Groups:

Toddlers – meet 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 01363 775445)

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 June newsletter to Ken Saunders
by May 20th.**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

cover photograph: Crediton Station: Terry Brown

The Darling Buds of May

After Easter we had a few days holiday in Cornwall. We had decided to explore the Roseland Peninsula, and in lovely sunny weather headed for a campsite by the sea. Following the directions in our camping guide we arrived in the right village and looked around for a sign to the campsite. There was nothing to be seen but a very small and narrow lane and so rather doubtfully we drove down it. There at the bottom of the lane was a rather ramshackle little farm and an old, dilapidated cottage. Against the cottage was a little home-built 'lean to' which said 'reception', so we pulled up and went in. But there was no waiting politely in reception. As soon as the previous arrivals had been dealt with, we were ushered into the small, cluttered and homely kitchen. The kettle was put on the Agar and within minutes of our arrival we were drinking a mug of tea and chatting to Rosa our Portuguese 'hostess'.

We soon discovered that Rosa and her husband Jack had established the campsite just a couple of years ago to make their small farm viable. In addition to campers, they kept chickens, a few Jersey cows and their young calves, and a couple of majestic Shire horses. Around the campsite, a rather undulating field, were littered old pieces of farm machinery which Jack was 'doing up' when he had time. It reminded me of nothing more than 'The Darling Buds of May'. Jack had umpteen projects on the go and was busy all day, looking after the animals, tinkering at this and that, but he liked nothing more than having a good chat with you, as of course Rosa did too - and they loved children. One day we saw Jack driving his ancient tractor and in the trailer were a cart load of children. He was taking them around, feeding the chickens, checking the cows and horses, and they were chatting and laughing and having the time of their lives – and so was Jack!

There is a story in the Old Testament about Abraham and Sarah offering hospitality to three strangers and by so doing entertaining angels. In this case it was those who offered the hospitality, Jack and Rosa who were the angels. The camping may have helped them to eke out a living, but what was more important to them was to see families enjoying themselves and people relax and unwind from the pressures of their daily lives. In a simple, hospitable, warm and loving way they lived out their mission in life, which was to ensure, that everyone had a good holiday.

For me this example of simple, open, warm hearted, hospitality offered without expecting anything in return is a parable for the life offered in our churches.

Barbara Calvert



2007 Devon Churches Forum
Together in Hope
2 May, 2007 at 7.30 pm
The Boniface Centre, Crediton

Speaker: **Ian Chisnall**, National Co-ordinator of **Hope 2008**
Worship will be led by **Andrew Maries**, consultant on worship
to the Diocese of Exeter

Also featuring presentations by:

- **Christian Police Association** on working with and supporting your local police force
- **Martin Nicholls** of Christian Aid who will perform a song from his new production *Harvest of Hope*.
- **Bishop Bob Evens** on plans to mark the 1100 anniversary of the Diocese of Exeter to be celebrated in 2009; it is hoped that all denominations will share in this event.

This meeting is open to all and aims to inspire and enthuse those involved in enabling Christians to work together.

Tea and coffee will be served from 7 pm. The Boniface Centre is easily accessible and has plenty of nearby parking. It is located in Crediton next to the parish church on the A377, only ten minutes north of Exeter.

Ian Chisnall will also lead a seminar on Hope 2008 at 5 pm at The Boniface Centre, giving more details of this exciting initiative.

For further details contact 01822 890412 or staylor921@aol.com

HOPE 2008

Talkback 2006~2007

*“Are we channels of His
peace?”*

Sunday 20th May at
6:00pm
in the Boniface Centre

*“Where there is despair,
let me sow hope”*

Martin Nicholls

*Martin is the Chief
Administrator for Christian Aid
in Devon and Dorset. We are
delighted that he is able to
come and talk on this Sunday
at the end Of Christian Aid
Week. He will be able to
share with us ways in which
Christian Aid is sowing hope
in desperate places.*

Bluebell Woods

Chenson Farm
A377 between Eggesford &
Lapford
Bank Holiday Monday 7th
May
Sat & Sun 12th & 13 May
2 – 6 p.m.
Raising Funds for
CONNECT
Walk the bluebell woods &
have a cream tea.

**Cheriton Cross
Methodist Church
invite you for lunch!**

For  on
Saturday 12th May
12 – 2pm

A buffet salad lunch,
homemade rolls, puddings
and drinks are being
served – choose what you
would like.

They would be delighted
to see you.

Flowers

April 1st: Donated & arr. by
Margaret to remember Wyll.
April 8th/15th: Church
decorated for Easter.
April 22nd: Donated by
Wynne Bradley to
remember Arthur & arr. by
Margaret.
April 29th: Donated by the
Clemens family to
remember Nan, Peter and
David. Arr. by Christine G.

Causeway Drop-In

After a Sunday morning service, Ken Saunders asked if I would write a few words about 'Causeway' and how I became involved in working with people with learning disabilities. Well, here goes!

Some twenty years ago there was a group of about six of us who worked with the League of Friends at Western Hospital, Crediton. We used to have a regular happy social afternoon when we played various activity games or just sat and chatted, sadly, that section of the hospital disbanded and I, personally, lost contact with the learning disabled people.

However, several months ago I was asked if I would like to help with the clients who came to Causeway on Wednesday mornings at the Congregational Church. So now I try to be there every third Wednesday. What a wonderful experience it is! People drop in for coffee, in the Foyer. If they want to come in and join the clients they are most welcome. Each time I have been at Causeway there is just a buzz of good feeling. Some clients dance, draw, colour, play table games, darts etc.

On the last Wednesday I was there I was so touched to see that some of the younger lady clients had almost dressed and made-up as though they were coming to a party. Obviously causeway is quite a big event in their lives and a place where they can meet other clients who live not only in Crediton but further afield.

There are some clients who just like to sit/stand and watch what is going on. It's fascinating to see that by attending Causeway each Wednesday their confidence has grown and new friendships are made.

So if on a Wednesday a.m. twixt 10.30 and noon, why not just drop-in for a coffee at the Congregational Church and see what goes on. Or, if you prefer, on the third Thursday of each month at 6.30 p.m. in the Congregational Church there is a very informal fellowship group where all are welcome.

It's wonderful to know that Causeway is a Christian organisation, working with clients across the UK and abroad, but however large or small the individual groups are it's good to know that God's work goes on in this particular field.

Shirley E Sharp

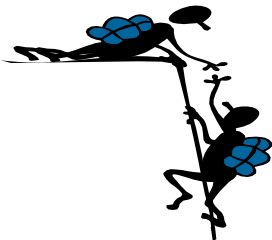
Prayer Vigil

When: 6pm Saturday 19th
May through the night
leading into morning worship
Sunday 20th May 10.30am

Where: Wesley Room,
Crediton Methodist Church
Tracey from Connect helped us
to construct a wonderful prayer
room last year for a 24 hour
prayer vigil. We are delighted
that Tracey is able to help us do
something similar again this
year. An hourly rota will be
drawn up so that there is
continuous prayer through the
night. Many of us can testify to it
being a memorable and
rewarding experience!

Calling all Church Stewards

Again!



Following the very successful
stewards training evening run
by Keith Elliott, District
Training and Development
officer, Keith will be running a
second evening for all church
stewards – whether you were
able to come to the first

evening in December or not –
this is for you!

When: Wednesday 13th June
2007

Time: 7.30pm – refreshments
served from 7pm

Where: Crediton Methodist
Church.

Why: To help stewards
develop their understanding of
their role and responsibilities
and share experiences with
others

An idea of numbers would be
helpful so please ring or email
Barbara Calvert if you are
planning to come, Thank you.

Tel: 01363 772441 Email:

calvert2@fish.co.uk

Bright Hour

Speakers at the May
meetings:

4th: Mrs Jenny Hext

11th: Mr Ken Saunders

18th: Mrs Ruth Green

25th: Mr Roger Thorne

All are welcome



*Good
Friday*

*Walk
of*



Witness



Everlasting Light

There's a light upon a hill
Shining brightly, beckoning still,
Ever lit with brightest beams,
O'er the world its light doth stream.

There's a cross upon a hill,
Upright, tall, silent still,
Through that cross a Father's
love,
Brought from heaven the son of
God.

The only way God found to
bring,
To save mankind and banish sin,
Jesus, saviour, crucified,
For everyone our saviour died.

Still a light streams from that
cross,
Leads and guides, there is no
loss,
For loves freedom like a sea,
Keeps and draws us Lord to thee.

George Camp

Submitted by Eileen Tarr

The Green Box Tips of the Month

**Cut your carbon
emissions.
Book a holiday in
the UK this year.**

Used Cooking Oil. Keep a container of sand and oil and use it to clean garden forks and spades. It cleans and oils at the same time! If you can't find another use for it, then cooking oil can be composted. It's better to mix well with paper or cardboard first.

Barbeque



Members of Junior Church, after a lesson on John 21, had their own barbeque of fish and bread.

Church Life group

“Helping the Church to Grow and Develop”

An open meeting was held on Tuesday 17 April 2007.

Review and feedback on our recent activity:

Fresh Expressions

It had been encouraging that 8 people from this church had tended the Pioneer Disciple taster session at the end of March, and that 7 had signed up for the course. The level of commitment needed is quite high as the course lasts for 12 months and includes 3 full Saturday sessions. The first evening meeting will be held on 30 April.

Taize Service

The feedback from the Taize service held on the evening of Palm Sunday was good, with comments that it had been varied, it had flowed well and been easy to follow. Our minister's meditation was praised as 'lovely'. It was felt that this had been an appropriate time for a Taize service. There had been a largish congregation of about 40 people. The singing group had enjoyed the experience, too. The meeting agreed that we would like to hold a Taize service twice a year with the next one on Advent Sunday, and integrate a variety of Taize music into our services e.g. during the offering or before the service.

AP: Barbara will approach Dorothy about helping with the Advent Sunday service.

Mid-week service

These started in October 2006, regularly held on Wednesdays during term time. There is an average attendance of 6 – 10 people. The service lasts about 30 minutes, with a chance for people to discuss the Bible reading. The service is followed by refreshments and packed lunches.

The original hope was that the service might attract people working in the town to come along and join in, and it was agreed that it might now be the time to advertise the service more widely.

AP: John Ashley will write an article for the Courier.

Membership classes

No-one has yet approached Barbara about membership. She will speak to non-members personally to ask how they feel about it.

Planned preaching

The next series of planned preaching will take place in the autumn, on the theme 'Reading the Bible', and Barbara will prepare a booklet to accompany the series. As usual, fellowship groups will meet during the week for discussion sessions.

Other issues discussed:

Ministry to those who use our premises

Pippins pre-school

Barbara was pleased to tell us that she had received an invitation from Pippins, and had visited them on 4 April. She had had a very positive

experience, with the staff showing her around, and being shown their giant snails. Barbara talked to the children about Jesus, and encouraged them to join in by using her model donkey as a prop.

It is hoped that this has been the beginning of a good relationship with Pippins, and that regular visits will continue.

New Life Group

This caters for the needs of people with learning difficulties. It had been part of the group that met at Newcombes until policy changes asked for more integration into the community. Now smaller groups meet together in various church premises, and coming together on Wednesday mornings at the Causeway project, meeting in the Congregational church. These Wednesday meetings invite people to meet them and join them for coffee.

AP: Pam Murphy to explore the possibility of a church representative calling in at our premises occasionally and briefly, to say 'hello' and assure them of their welcome.

Toddlers

Barbara has regular invitations to visit. The Toddlers group also takes part in our Saturday coffee mornings.

Singing Group

Following the success of the Taize singing, the Singing group are going to explore Gospel music. Barbara will contact suitable leaders and report back at the next meeting.

List of Readers

The current list is up-to-date, but will be retyped and distributed to stewards again.

AP: Glenn Turner to retype list

Connect: 24 hour prayer vigil

Connect will lead another prayer vigil over 19/20 May. The meeting recognised that young people especially benefited from their experience of the last vigil, and adults valued their experience of prayer during the quietness of the night.

Agenda items for next meeting

- i. Explore our views about the church layout and furniture
- ii. Gospel Choir
- iii. Feedback from Pioneer Disciple course
- iv. Church calendar / Special Services, inc. Church Anniversary
2008; Home Missions; Overseas Missions
- v. Hymn Books
- vi. Quiet Day – date & venue

Date of next meeting

29 May 2007

Pause for Thought

Church as spiritual community.

As we approach the time of Pentecost and reflect on the coming of the Holy Spirit, we think again about what it means for the Church to be a spiritual community.

It seems a bit obvious to say that the Church ought to be more spiritual. After all, the Day of Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church, when the first followers of Jesus, gathered in Jerusalem, received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was this gift of God which renewed the followers and sent them out in mission throughout the world. This was in fulfilment of what Jesus himself had promised for the disciples, the coming of the Spirit from the Father. And Paul persistently speaks of the body of Christ as a spiritual community, and he names the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit. So, of course, we seek to be more spiritual. But . . .

Paul saw danger in some people claiming that they had received a greater gift of the Spirit. He was particularly sceptical of the claims made about the more exotic gifts. It was not that he was rejecting such gifts - far from it; but he rejected any claim of spiritual superiority. Paul was clear that those who thought they alone had spiritual gifts were plain wrong. He saw that the body needs every part, if it is to function fully as a spiritual body. As he makes clear to the church at Corinth, the only spiritual gift that matters is love.

In all this, Paul was echoing Jesus who smelt hypocrisy whenever people, for example the Pharisees, made claims of spiritual superiority. Jesus warned that when people were preoccupied with their own spiritual condition and claiming their own salvation they missed the point of what it mean to be the people of God. The

Jesus who welcomed all people into discipleship was critical only of one group: the spiritually superior who were judgemental of others.

It helps to recall what the Bible means by ‘spiritual’. Unlike Greek thought (which became the main vehicle by which the Christian faith spread through Europe), Hebrew thought does not divide life into what is spiritual and what is material. Nor does it divide a person into a separate spiritual part and a physical part. The Bible knows of a God who treats us as whole persons, a God who wants people to be more whole (‘have life more abundantly’, as Jesus put it). Of course, this includes developing the spiritual dimension of our life. But what we sometimes think of as three separate parts of being human – the mental, the physical and the spiritual – the Bible sees as one. Life is for the development of the whole person; So God wants the church to be whole too. And God’s dream is wider still - for growth towards wholeness for all human society in every time and place - and for the whole creation. So, Jesus taught us to pray, Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

With these hints from Jesus and Paul, we see that Pentecost is a season when we celebrate God’s abundant and varied gifts. Together, we seek to receive that gift of new life which God offers to everyone and which expresses itself in a whole variety of forms. Within the Church, we value other people and each other’s gifts. It is when we are open to God that we become more open to seeing God’s Spirit at work in others. Within the Church, the one who tends the garden or serves the tea is as much exercising their spiritual gift as the one who leads a bible study or a prayer meeting. We all need each other’s gifts for the spiritual body to be made whole. That’s the way God, the Spirit, has made it.

David Calvert.

**Barbara's Testimony Service
Credition Methodist Church**

7.30pm

Monday 21st May 2007

**Preacher: Chairman of the District the
Revd John Carne**

In accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church all ordinands are required to give public testimony prior to ordination and being received into full connexion with the Methodist Conference. I look forward to doing this at my testimony service to which everyone is very welcome.

District

Charles Wesley

Tercentenary Celebration

7.30pm

Thursday 24th May

at

The Avenue Church, Newton Abbot

Further details: Valerie Couch 01823 284289

Network & World Church

News

Easter Offering Service

This year's Easter Offering Service will be held at Silverton Church on **Wednesday 23rd May at 3pm.**

Maggie Mudalige (Julian) will be our speaker.

Lifts should be available for those who would like to attend, so please see me by 20 May if you would like transport.

Contributions of cakes etc for the tea afterwards would be very welcome.

Quiet Day

There will be a Network Quiet Day on **Wednesday 6th June**, at Cheriton Fitzpaine.. The leaders will be Mary Bailey, Val Facey and Pauline Squires, and Barbara Calvert will take the Communion Service at the end. Please let me know if you would like to go.

Circuit World Church Festival

Everyone is invited to attend the Festival, also at Cheriton Fitzpaine, on **Wednesday 20th June** at 7.30pm, for **An experience of Kenya**, with Mrs Sue Jones.

Autumn District Network Day

This will be at Totnes, on 3rd October, this year. Our own circuit's Mary Bailey is going to be inducted as President for the next two years. It would be lovely to show her our support by being there.

Sidholme Conference

Here's an opportunity to spend a weekend away with your Methodist friends!

The Conference dates are **13th - 15th November**. The leaders are our District chairman, Revd John Carne and his wife, Mrs Val Carne, and the subject is entitled '**Not all pip and peel**' - mmm, intriguing!

The cost for the residential weekend are from £81.00, and daily rates from £9.00. Please see the booking form, available in the church or from me, for full details.

The latest date for making a booking is 31st July. Please let have your forms, when you are ready, to send on.

Pam Murphy 773414



Christian Aid week goes gold and green

Christian Aid Week (this year 13-19 May), Britain's longest running door-to-door fundraising week, turns 50. To mark its golden jubilee it is going green by encouraging people of all ages to plant trees in support of its overseas work on climate change projects.

The first Christian Aid Week, in 1957, mobilised residents in 200 towns and villages across Britain collecting £26,000 for overseas development work. Half a century later Christian Aid hopes to raise £15.5 million from the annual fundraising week.

Christian Aid works with 700 local organisations across 50 developing countries. Working with poor communities, it trains people to deal with the effects of climate change and prepares them for the threat of natural disasters.

These local organisations – or 'partners' – also work on HIV, training and education, health and sanitation and peace and reconciliation. 'The world has changed significantly in the past 50 years,' said Daleep Mukarji, director of Christian Aid.

'Little did we know in 1957 we would be facing the problem of climate change which is already destroying the lives of thousands of vulnerable people across the world.

'Christian Aid Week remains a vital part of our annual fundraising efforts and as we face new challenges, and our work increases, so too does our reliance on the generosity of the public. Without the incredible support of individuals and churches across the UK and Ireland Christian Aid would not have become the organisation it is today.'

Pastoral page
The Church Community



We offer our congratulations and very best wishes to Julie Marshall (Christine's daughter and also of course Reg and Margaret Nott's granddaughter) and Richard Branston as they celebrate their marriage on Saturday 5th May 2007 at Crediton Methodist Church.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly destroyed.

Song of Solomon 8:7

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

Rita Ash (Franklyn Hospital, Exeter), Kim Clemens, Joan Cornish, Enid Garrington,(St. Lawrence) Allan Hooper (Crediton Hospital), Phyllis Maunder, Ruth Mackmurdo (Hillbrow), Kathy Nicholson and Clara Paige(Kenwyn), Les Sutherland (now at home), Eva Whiting.

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

*God of love, you watch with all who weep or worry,
You offer hope to those in despair
and your calming presence to the troubled.
Give us peace.*

