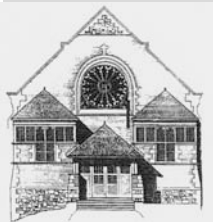


Crediton Methodist Church

Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter

November 2007



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441
Email: calvert2@fish.co.uk

Services in November:

Nov 4th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert - World Church Sunday - Sacrament
6.30 Mrs P Murphy
Nov 11th: 10.30 Mr S Lawson - Remembrance Sunday
6.30 Rev D J Easton – Sacrament
Nov 18th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert – All Age Worship
6.00 Talkback
Nov 25th 8.45 Rev Dr D Calvert – Sacrament
10.30 Rev D Gregory
6.30 Rev B Calvert

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 2.00 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 December newsletter to Ken Saunders
by November 18th**

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

We must be human: being a Christian is fun!

'It is the first time for a long time that as a church we have had a fun day out' was one of the comments after our trip to **Pennywell farm** last month! A group of 40 of all ages from the church, Toddlers and Pippins, enjoyed the lovely autumn sunshine as we wandered around the farm admiring all the animals. Highlights were the litter of new born piglets, the Shire horses, the puppet show, ferret races and Prickly Encounters – a fascinating talk about hedgehogs, not forgetting the go carts and buggy races. All great fun! And there is more to come!

As part of our environmental awareness programme on Saturday November 3rd 10.30am – 3pm we are organising an all age activity day, '**I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas**', ways of celebrating Christmas simply (not driven by commercialism). Workshops will include making Christmas sweets, Christmas knitting and crochet, making Christmas cards, decorations, a wooden stable and drama workshops – 6 minutes pantomimes! Tea/coffee and a home made soup lunch will be available. This is an opportunity to have fun and rediscover the joy of preparing to celebrate Christmas simply.

Then on Saturday 17th November from 4 – 6pm we have the first meeting of **The Ark** organised by our Fresh Expressions group. It is a Saturday fun tea time event for families with young children - with story, and themed art /craft /drama/ cooking activities, tea and music. Our theme this first Saturday is: '*Noah's Ark*'.

Sometimes in the past, we might have been tempted to strain after too sober a piety in our church life and simply forgotten about having fun and enjoying ourselves. As Christmas approaches we remember again Jesus, coming among us, as the carpenter, the friend of shepherds, fishermen, women, widows, tax collectors, feasting, laughing, having fun, showing us God by being human.

Lord Jesus, it's good to know that you lived in the flesh; walked where we walk, felt what we feel: joy and sorrow; happiness and sadness; tears, fun and laughter. Thank you for being among us now and always. Amen

Barbara Calvert

‘Agricultural and Rural Affairs’, Exeter Circuit Church & Society

This meeting was held in our Church on Wednesday October 10th. The panellists Rev Philip Wagstaff, (The Methodist Rural Affairs Minister for the district), Brian Warren, (one of three coordinators for the Farm Crisis Network in Devon) and David Grant (a local farmer from the Ringsash Circuit). The discussion covered several topics connected to the rural aspects and how we as a Church can engage with it to make a difference.

Rev Phil observed that although we may feel the Church is lacking in numbers and positive feedback from the community, it was a focal point for the rural community, especially in times of crisis. The Church was there and was involving itself in all aspects of rural affairs. One of his examples was the Foot & Mouth epidemic hit in 2001: the constant involvement of the Church during, after and continuing to this day, has been appreciated throughout the rural community.

Brian Warren is a well known farmer in the area and even better known for his sterling work on behalf of the Farm Crisis Network. The team was literally a lifeline to the rural community during the stressful period of Foot & Mouth and beyond. His organisation has been tried and tested over the years and were ready to galvanise into immediate action when the latest scares cropped up, which they did at a moments notice. Brian found that his focus on prayer and remembering that God could help, even when his days were so full of calls for help, kept him equipped for the task ahead.

David Grant told the story of how his own family had made life changing decisions to reduce their livestock and go out to work for other people, when it became apparent that their particular type of farming was going to be difficult to sustain to make a sensible

living. They as a family had prayed hard to come to this decision. He gave instances of how things have become much more difficult for farmers in the present Foot & Mouth Crisis, with restrictions on livestock movements at this crucial time of year. The lack of local abattoirs had meant travelling long distances to take stock to slaughter, making commercial viability questionable. He was fearful that the average age of people in farming was too high and wanted to see more youngsters encouraged into the business, but knew that things have to change for that to happen.

In question time, many points were raised.

- Supermarkets were labelled as the ‘bad boys’ who kept prices down to the farmers. Most of the big supermarkets now have dedicated ‘local sourcing’ managers, who are actively seeking new products from local suppliers, which is a step in the right direction.
- It was pointed out that global food prices are going to rise, due to a world food shortage, which will happen sooner, rather than later.
- China was buying as much milk and as many dairy products as they can get their hands on; they are also one of the largest purchasers of organic produce.
- If food prices are going to rise, we must all expect our food-shopping basket to cost considerably more in the not too distant future. It was hoped that when this happens, the supermarkets take a responsible humanitarian role in giving the prime producers (farmers), the applicable market rate for their produce.
- The price of wheat had rocketed this year, due mainly to American farmers growing bio-fuel crops. This would inevitably lead to more farmers in this

country turning to wheat growing. David mentioned that this was already happening and where some had grown swedes for a particular company in past years, they were now growing wheat next year, so he questioned what price would swedes be next year?

- Environmental issues are having an effect in ways that no one predicted when looking at the basic ‘carbon footprint’ argument. It was mentioned that the New Zealand government had proven that their lamb on a British butchers slab had a lower carbon footprint than an equivalent joint of lamb from this country.

There is an initiative called ‘Year of Food & Farming’ launched this September by the Prince of Wales, which is aimed at getting children to reconnect to the land. At the end of the year, it is hoped that every child has visited a farm, grown something for themselves and prepared a plate of food. This may seem quite surreal to us country folk, but there is a significant number in the generation of adults, (who are the parents of these children) who do not know where their food comes from, so it is vital that the re-education of the children themselves takes place, before it is too late.

Natural England sees the importance of preserving the landscape for future generations and is committed to that in their plan. Hopefully this will benefit rural areas in more ways than one.

It was agreed at the end of the meeting that survival of the rural community and all that entails in terms of livelihoods preserved, services upheld and coordination with all the various bodies that can help, can only be a good thing for the future.

Christine Marshall

Crediton Methodist Church receive Eco Congregation Award

(article in the Crediton Courier 19th October 2007)

Crediton Methodist Church are delighted to be one of the first churches in Devon to receive the national Eco congregation award.

The Green Group at the church is led and enthused by Bob Wright. Bob says, 'I feel very honoured that we have received this award. We have had to show how much we have done towards reducing our energy consumption, recycling, saving water which has included rain water harvesting but it is not just about these physical changes we have made. The assessors who came from Eco Congregations were looking to see what we had done both physically and spiritually as a Church to make our congregation and the community aware of our need to preserve God's creation. They were very impressed with what they saw especially the way our minister has linked services and events around environmental issues and made us aware that climate change effects the third world countries more than us.' But the granting of the Eco Congregation award is just the beginning. The Revd Barbara Calvert, minister of Crediton Methodist Church said, 'We cannot continue to act in a way that harms creation. Our belief in a God of justice compels us to care for the poorest, those most affected by climate change, and to try to repair our damaged world.'

At lunch time (12.30 p.m.) on the 'I'm dreaming of Green Christmas Day, Nov 3rd, the Mayor, Mrs Joyce Harris will formally present to the Church the Eco Congregation award.

Job Vacancies

Job filled! We are very grateful to Bob Wright (and Priscilla) for all the years he attended to the boiler and made sure the church and buildings were warm for us and all the groups that use our premises. With his Councillor role, serving the community, taking up so much time he understandably asked to be relieved of his post as heating officer. We are delighted to say that Clifford Webb (and Marjorie) have volunteered to take on the role. Many thanks indeed Clifford and Marjorie.

But we still have other vacancies...we would dearly love to have some more **door stewards**. The more stewards we have the less the number of times for each one to be on duty. If you think this is something you could offer to help with then just have a word with one of the stewards. Many thanks,

Barbara`

Barn Dance at Sandford Hall on September 29th

Everyone who attended the Barn Dance had a marvellous time, the band Mint Sauce were brilliant and did not allow anyone to get away with not dancing! A good number of children attended and really got into the spirit of it and were very energetic. It was making us all feel tired, just by



watching them dancing around.

The buffet was enjoyed by all and a supply of Fairtrade refreshments during the evening ensured we did not



dehydrate! Thank you so much to all who came and supported (60 plus of us) and to all the helpers who put so much effort into making it a success.

It was a good social occasion and we made a profit of £110.17 for the Church Funds whilst enjoying ourselves - can't be bad Eh?

Christine Marshall





Who would have thought 'Stripping the Willow' could be such fun?



And some people's partners were just not where they should have been!



It was good to laugh at others - and even yourself at times.



Such elegance - even from the younger generation!

God still at the Centre

I'm sure there are few of us who haven't at some time looked with wonder at a sunset or the stars at night. For many these things are an affirmation of the power of God.

Yet we hear a lot about the stars and about how the universe was made that seems to lead in another direction. We now live in a very scientific world, and it often appears that the more men of science – men like Richard Dawkin for example – learn about such things the less room they find for God.

Fifteen years ago as a teacher in a crowded city comprehensive school where the word 'management' was very much in vogue I began to feel the need for more nature in my life. We began to take family holidays in a shack on a quiet beach near St Bees Head in Cumbria, and I started to read Wordsworth. I began to look at wild flowers again and at sunsets and the stars, but it took me a while before I could see, with Wordsworth, how 'love of nature' can lead to 'love of man'. And ultimately to love of God,

It was round about this time that I began to write poetry and I include two poems here, one written at the shack and another at home in Crediton. I don't rate them very highly as poems but I offer them simply as an example of one person's recognition of God in our modern world.

SEAMILL LANE

'Into the moment which is now comes the mystery which is eternity'
Paul Tillich

O shacks that sing with sea and sun
all summer long
whose cream glossed boards reflect the roar
all winter through –
the old eternal song –
summer's concentrates build in your cupboards;
the Calamine Lotion we left last year ...
still there
by the Calor Gas cylinder's clanking blue.
In your garage time's grown quiet cool,
stretching till the shaft of sunlight from the door's
another year
and crickets tick on the back door bank.

At the well remove the dumb soft boards,
dip in still dank black,
water's silver splash and see-through drumming
dull on my mottled bucket ...
The Irishman after his heart attack
has electricity put in
and sits all day in paradise on his bank.
His table's a sun dial
and his blood ebbs with the tide,
lilting to the tune in his talk,
this morning I found him up among the harebells
as the sea sang all round The Head
on its green stones.

Where dusted on the bank the day's pale yellow
promise
sparks with the chaffinch on the wire railway fence
and evening rock pools cool to black and white
as seats are taken for the evening show;
the butcher's built his bungalow next door –
good meat paying to assuage his soul;

he'll watch The Head's majestic geometry
of fields fade out
beneath cinematic skies, and talk of peace;
like the Irishman he knows he's found his spot.
The composer in the last real house
knows time that's counted in each grain of sand.

O sands where God's ancient echo's ringing still
with His love for mortal man.

TRUANT COSMOLOGY

‘The radiation that fills space between the sun and
galaxies is left over from a time when everything in the Universe
was squeezed into a hot fireball –
the Big Bang –
the point of infinite density –
the singularity –’

John Gribben - In the Beginning

Today the breeze holds many older days.
Their essence blows and fades in windy light.
Indoors faint wash of passing traffic soothes
the house’s dreaming red brick ear,
birds slowly ‘twirrrl’ ... ‘twirrrl’ ... ‘chock’ –
high scent of hyacinths unlocks
perspectives of the years.

Red brick absorbing sun and rain,
rimed with frost or shining lamplit black,
like a shell to the truant ear
gives back its murmured testament;
its concentrate of joy and pain.

No single blue Spring morning
paints orange stacks this incandescent sharp;
such radiance sings in the day-star:
love processed at the singularity’s heart.

Len Jenkinson

Eco- Congregation update.

We have heard from the Eco-Congregation organisation and they have awarded us the status of an Eco-Congregation Church. The presentation will take place at our 'I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas' event on the 3rd November, at 12.30 p.m. We are one of only 72 Churches in England and Wales and the first Methodist Church in Devon to have got this award. Visit

www.ecocongregation.org

The Green Box Tip of the Month

Autumn Leaves

Put wet autumn leaves in a plastic bag, stab with a fork to make some holes, and a year later you'll have leafmould. Even better, pick the leaves off the lawn with a mower. The grass cuttings and the chopped leaves will mix together and you'll have leafmould even more quickly. Don't burn leaves as they produce highly carcinogenic smoke and it's a waste of all that lovely material.

Francisco Rojas School (Peru)

Anniversary Service at
Tedburn St Mary Methodist
Church
Sunday 2nd December

Soup and sweet lunch from
12.30 followed by
Francisco Rojas School
Anniversary Thanksgiving
Service at 2.15pm led by
Rev. Barbara Facey

Everyone welcome, but an idea of numbers for lunch would be helpful, if poss. Please contact Janet Adams (01647 61249 or Chris Martin 01647 61311). Hope to see you there.

Sayings I have heard

'If each before their own door swept

the whole street would be clean'

Eileen Tarr.

Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District Training Calendar

For further information please contact Keith Elliott, District Training and Development Officer Tel: 01934 861018 Fax: 01934 863967

Email: keith.elliott3@virgin.net

District Web Site – www.plyexetmethdist.org.uk

November

3rd District Prayer Day – Resourcing our Prayer Life - Workshops, practical support, ideas and lots of prayer. The day will be co-ordinated by Phil Walsh.

Venue - Fairplace Church, Okehampton. 10am - 3.30pm

Contact – Keith Elliott or Phil Walsh phil-w@tiscali.co.uk

6th Ann Morisy - Author of “Beyond the Good Samaritan” and “Journeying Out” speaks on **Local Mission: Connecting with your Community**

“Our commitment to social action and community involvement provides a platform for us to ‘do it like Jesus’ and this in turn brings authenticity to the Church.” ***Book today!*** (Lunch will be provided)

Venue - Exeter Cathedral (The Chapter House) 10.30am - 3.00pm

Contact - CMU office administrator: 01392 294930 or email carol.linsley@exeter.anglican.org ASAP if you would like to come

14th Exploring Prayer and Spirituality – The day will be led by Yvonne Walker. A day to reflect, to be aware of God in the ordinary and the extraordinary things of life. A day to explore creative ways of praying and find time to *be*, as well as to *do*. Yvonne has recently retired as Chair of the Methodist Retreat and Spirituality Network.

Venue – Buckfastleigh. 10.30am to 4pm

Contact – Keith Elliott (E)

22nd Bible Study Day - Preaching on the Gospel of St. Matthew – led by Louise Lawrence from Exeter University. Louise Lawrence is a research fellow with the South West Ministry Training Course. In this session she will explore Matthew’s Gospel, which is the Gospel set for the coming lectionary year. Louise is gifted in opening up the over arching themes of scripture and the aim of this day is to equip and inform preachers for the coming year.

Venue – Exeter University, SWMTC Library. 10am - 1pm with a light lunch.

Contact – Keith Elliott (E)



'I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas'

Ways of celebrating Christmas simply

(with a Peruvian flavour)

Crediton Methodist Church

Saturday 3rd November 2007

10.30am - 3.00pm

Workshops: (using recycled paper/sustainable materials)

- Christmas cake and table decorations
- Christmas petit fours (sweets)
- a BIG Christmas card
- Christmas knitting and crochet
- sustainable Christmas tree
- Christmas billboard
- Peruvian nativity collage
- Drama workshop - 6 minute pantomimes!

...a day of fun and creativity, reflecting the simplicity of the Christmas message of justice and peace.

10.30am Coffee, Spanish music and songs

11.15am Workshop One

12.30 Lunch - Homemade soup, bread, cheese n chutney

The Mayor will present our Eco Congregation award and Debbie Thompson of 'Esperanza', a group of women in Peru who make handmade cards out of recycled paper, will give a multi media presentation.

1.45pm Workshop two

2.45pm Tea, and our day's work exhibited!

Traidcraft and fair-trade, Esperanza cards stalls

Workshops £2, Lunch £3 (children just £1.50 inclusive)

For Esperanza and Francisco Rojas School, Peru

More details: Barbara Calvert 01363 772441

barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk



Pennywell Farm Visit

On Saturday October 6th 38 children and adults had a great day out to Pennywell Farm. Having a ride on a coach was lots of fun for the children and an exciting start to our day out together. The younger children enjoyed meeting the animals- including some piglets who were just 8 hours old, jumping on the bouncy castle and getting lost in the Willow Maze!

Activities are organised every half hour and we especially enjoyed a Puppet Show and Ferret racing! Other older members enjoyed a talk about Shire Horses and chatting over coffee and lunch in the Coffee Shop and watching our children have lots of fun together. The older children – (Lauren and Tom) proved to be expert Quad bike racers and Stanley and Jamie managed to crash on their turns! Peter got to sit in a real tractor which he loved, Tom, Lauren and John enjoyed trying to lose their parents in the Willow Maze and Rowena and George liked their train ride.

We were really pleased to welcome 2 Families from Pippins- (1 also attends Toddlers) and 2 other families. Pennywell Farm was a brilliant day out and we returned home all very tired but having had a lovely day out together - helped in part by the lovely sunny weather and good company! Everyone from the youngest to the older found plenty of fun things to do all day.

Next year we would like to have another Family day out- If you couldn't make it this time do try to come next year so we can at least fill the coach.



Churches Challenge Climate Change

Several hundred participants are expected to attend a special “Climate Challenge Festival” at Exeter Cathedral next January. Under the theme ‘Hope Rising’, the day is intended to emphasise the urgency of the situation for the world’s most vulnerable countries and communities. Speakers will include someone from Kenya, where drought is already destroying life on a large scale.

Others will be Ann Pettifor (Operation Noah), George Gelber (CAFOD), Mark Dowd (Channel 4) and Daleep Mukarji (Christian Aid).

The event is being organised by the new Devon Christian Climate Change Coalition which brings together different agencies to work together on this vital topic.

‘Hope Rising’ will not only be about words. There will also be young people’s activities, film, poetry, music, dance, art, market place, worship and refreshments. Its emphasis will be on urgent action and the need to both campaign and change.

Co-organiser Martyn Goss from the Council for Church & Society said,

“It is clear that the poorest countries and communities are those which are being affected first and worst, when they have made little or no contribution to the problem of carbon emissions. This therefore makes the matter one of justice as well as survival.”

He added, *“All across the world people are saying for the sake of the future and the poor, we have to change ourselves not the climate. This is an opportunity for local churches to join together and make a difference – to plant seeds of hope.”*

Further information and booking forms are available from The Old Deanery, The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1

1HS. Tel: 01392-294940 E-mail: dccc@exeter.anglican.org or via www.exeter.anglican.org/ccs

Pastoral Page

The Church Community

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

Give us peace.

We remember in our prayers those who are unable to come to church at present: Rita Ash, Allan Hooper, Ruth Macmurdo (Hillbrow), Phyllis Maunder, Kathy Nicholson (Kenwyn) and Clara Paige (Kenwyn).

We also think of Sid and Cynthia Dixon.

Services in Residential Homes

We now have a regular pattern for holding services in Summerhayes, Kenwyn, Hillbrow and St Lawrence which have been well received by the residents. The services during November will be:

Wednesday 7 November: At Summerhayes, 2:30pm

Wednesday 21 November: At Kenwyn, 2.00pm

Thursday 22 November: At St Lawrence 2:30pm

We are very pleased that we have been supported by church members, and anyone who would like to join us will be most welcome.



Hillbrow October 07

St Lawrence September 07



Monthly Diary of Events November

World Missions weekend 3/4th Nov

- Sat 3rd 10.30 – 3pm ‘I’m dreaming of a Green Christmas’
Sun 4th 10.30am Morning Service with Debbie Thompson
 from Esperanza, Peru
Mon 5th 7.30pm Pioneer Disciple, Old Deanery
Weds 6th 12.30pm Midweek Service
Weds 7th 7.30pm Pioneer Disciple group planning meeting for
 The Ark, The Manse
Thurs 8th 7.15- 8.15pm Advent Taize singing practice, the
 Church
Wed 14th 12.30pm Midweek Service
Weds 14th 7.30pm Pastoral Visitors meeting, Epworth Room
Thurs 15th 7.15 -8.15pm Advent Taize singing practice, the
 Church
Sat 17th 4 – 6pm The Ark
Mon 19th 7.30pm Pioneer Disciple, Old Deanery
Weds 21st 7.15pm Steward’s meeting, The Manse
Thurs 22nd 7.15- 8.15pm Advent Taize singing practice, the
 Church
Mon 26th 7.30pm Circuit Review meeting, St Thomas
Weds 28th 12.30pm Midweek Service
Weds 28th 7.30pm Church Life group, Epworth Room
Thurs 29th 7.15- 8.15pm Advent Taize singing practice, the
 Church

Bright Hour

Nov 2nd: Rev David Gregory
Nov 9th: Mrs Barbara Platt
Nov 16th: Mr Roger Thorne
Nov 23rd: Holiday memories
Nov 30th: Mrs J Hext
Meetings start at 2.30 p.m. on
Fridays – all are welcome.

Bright Hour will be celebrating
their 65th anniversary on Sunday
25th November with members
taking part.
Our speaker will be Rev David
Gregory

Ode to Poetry

To make things rhyme, line by
line

Is not my scene at any time

Sums I do all day long
These I enjoy, so, I sing along.

We all have gifts to pass along
Rhyme in me, is not so strong
Maths I'll do from dawn to
dusk
It really is an all time must.

I leave to Ken the words of
Rhyme
On other things I spend my
time
Adding up, the rows of sums
To me so very easy comes.

To this lovely meeting, I have
come
But for the evening that's me,
done
I hope we have some fun and
laughter
And that David joins us after.

*"An Ode to Poetry
Written by Ken for the Open
House evening of poetry
as Tina's worst subject at
School was Poetry
and who would rather play
with figures"
Tina*

Talkback

Sign of our Times

Bringing God into View

Developing Spiritual Sight

Anthony Freeman

**Jesus heals the blind
man**

John Chapter 9

**November 18th
6 p.m.**

**Methodist
Church room**

**Book Now for this
this year's great
QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday 10th
November
7p.m.**



Mint

**£5 a head - including
a light supper)**
Why not come along
& share in a fun quiz evening?

The Mint Quiz works just like a standard Pub Quiz – each team of four sits round their own table. Questions are asked from the front and teams agree (or not) about what answer to put fill in on the answer sheets provided. Each round has five questions – then the sheets are collected in, answers are given, and then it is on to the next round....

Sixteen rounds in all (each on a different theme) with a extra half time quiz to keep your mind active during interval refreshments. Nothing too heavy – the emphasis is on having a good time, rather than proving you are the Brain of Britain....

How to enter:

Just find three friends, think up a name for your team (the sillier the better), and let Andrew or Liz Sails know that you are coming. Teams can come from anywhere – and every year we have been pleased to welcome teams from other Churches in the Circuit and beyond. We would be delighted to welcome teams from friends across the Circuit – could your Church enter a team? Individual entries are also welcome – let us know you are coming and we will put you into a team.

**More details from Andrew or Liz Sails (275070)
Andrew@asails.freeserve.co.uk**