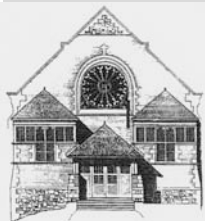




# Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter  
October 2007



## **Crediton Methodist Church**

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

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

### **Services in October:**

- October 7<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
6.30 Prof. Tony Wragg
- October 14<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev Dr D Calvert  
6.30 Mr Arscott.
- October 21<sup>st</sup>: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age worship)  
6.0 Talkback, St Boniface R.C. Church
- October 28<sup>th</sup>: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
10.30 Rev V Vine  
6.30 At the Mint

### **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 2.00 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

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## **Material for the October newsletter to Ken Saunders by October 21st**

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

**[www.creditonmethodist.org.uk](http://www.creditonmethodist.org.uk)**

**cover photograph: Evening light over Fordton: Terry Brown**

## Creators of Abundance

**‘You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.’**

Psalm 104. 14/15

Today I was reading in the newspaper the obituary for Dame Anita Roddick, the founder of The Body Shop. As I read of her life fragrances of Raspberry Ripple Bubble Bath, White Musk Body Spray, Dewberry Soap, Brazil Nut Face Wash, African Salt Body Scrub, Aromatherapy Lavender Oil waft around in my memory. Anita made it ok to indulge our bodies. None of her products were tested on animals and she sought supplies from poor and marginalised groups throughout the world providing them with much needed income.

Read Psalm 104 - it is a glorious harvest hymn of praise to God Creator and Provider and in the verses of the psalm we read ‘oil to make the face shine’! How beautiful is that? A God who, long before the Body Shop, indulges us with sensual gifts, everything our hearts and bodies could desire, even ‘wine to gladden the human heart’! A God who thinks of our every need and more but recognising the danger in such generous and abundant provision, also provides the rhythm of our days to regulate our indulgence - day and night, darkness and light, cold and warmth, work and leisure, sun rise, sun set.

Can we cope with the generosity of God or, like greedy children in the school tuck shop, do we try and grab it all for ourselves, overindulging and consequently being the harbingers of our own destruction?

‘O Lord, how manifold are your works’ May our gratitude be reflected in our just sharing of all that you provide.

*Barbara Calvert*

**Singing Group!**

**Good News!**



To all singers and musicians. In November we shall resume Thursday evenings singing practices to prepare for a Taize service on Sunday evening 10<sup>th</sup> December and for the Candlelit Service on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**Thursday evenings 7.15pm in the Wesley Room for 1 hour starting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November.**

We are very hopeful that both Dorothy will be able to join us and Caroline with her oboe. If you weren't involved before do join us. We shall meet from 8<sup>th</sup> November on Thursday evenings until Christmas.

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## **Circuit Service at The Mint Methodist Church**

6.30pm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
to celebrate the  
tercentenary of the birth of **Charles Wesley**  
the great hymn writer and brother of John  
Wesley.

## Update on Knit & Natter Group

On 1<sup>st</sup> August we agreed unanimously to raise our weekly subscription to £1 and at the same time to contact June Redfern about supporting a second family through International Aid Trust. On 8<sup>th</sup> August we had two surprise visitors – they asked to spend the afternoon with us. Ellie age 12 and Charlotte age 10, Wendy's granddaughters who were on holiday from Hinchley Wood. They were warmly welcomed and immediately taken under Joan Cornish's motherly wing. She was a patient, excellent teacher and they were apt pupils.



Innocence and Experience (with apologies to William Blake 1757-1827)

We soon heard from June Redfern. We were asked to support the family Kotus. The father Oleg 35 yrs has TB and is in prison. The mother Natalie is 24. She and her two children Vladimir 4 yrs and Roman 1 yr live with her husband's parents. I quote, 'Her father-in-law is an invalid of the 1<sup>st</sup> group and her mother-in-law an invalid of the 2<sup>nd</sup> group. They have no possibility of work. This is a very needy family. They do not have any opportunity to provide necessities (food, clothes, electricity, medical treatment etc).'

The circle of 'friends' of K & N group continues to grow and we are forever grateful for their help and support. In conclusion I repeat, we are a happy, friendly group. Do come and join us. *Rene Sankey*

## **Greenbelt Festival 2007**

This is an annual Christian Festival held at Cheltenham Racecourse on Bank Holiday weekend in August. Last year I went for one day and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This year I was persuaded by Rev Barbara and David to camp for the whole 3 days and experience the atmosphere of all the action that goes on over the period. (Photo No 1) shows our own little enclave of tents, camper van and gazebo, it was a home from home for us, including their friend Brian from Paisley.

Approx 20000 people turn up and a 'tent & caravan city' spreads all over the racecourse (see photo No 8).

The vast programme runs at 28 different venues and each has hourly changes, resulting in numerous choices each day of things to do, ranging from debates, lectures, practical courses, music and entertainment for all ages. One of the things that struck me immediately was the number of teenagers, young children and the variety of people who attend this festival. There is something for everyone, from civilised debate, to head banging music from Christian bands, which had the youngsters queuing in droves to listen to them.

Amongst the things we attended was a talk by Bishop Nelson Onono-Onweng from Uganda (see photo No. 3) and Barbara joined the debate by asking a question (photo No 2). We listened to a lecture by John Bell (photo No 5) and a concert of John Tavener's music which was conducted by Gavin Sutherland from Huddersfield (David's home town, so it was a must!) (Photo No 7) The music was not to my taste, but the following night we watched Kanda Bonga Man on the main stage and I was happier to listen to his Caribbean funky rhythms! One evening Barbara and I sang Taize for an hour, which was so melodic and peaceful.

Talking of Peace, Hilary who is Barbara's daughter, was organising her section in the 'Peace' tent where they had a theme of peace messages written on umbrellas (photo No 4). One of the highlights of the weekend was the Sunday morning service, where everyone gathered around the main stage (Photo 6). Thousands were given communion together, it was a sight to behold in a tremendous atmosphere.

The theme for the whole festival was 'Heaven in Ordinary' and that is exactly how it felt. All in all, the weekend was an eye opener to see what can be done in so many ways to express the Christian faith and it was good to look outside the 'box' of my routine church attendance on a regular Sunday morning. Thanks to Barbara and David who fed me all weekend and convinced me that staying in a tent for 3 nights would be fun – it was!

To see more details, check out the website [www.greenbelt.org.uk](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk) **Christine Marshall**



No 1



No 2



No 3



No 4



No 5



No 6



No 7



No 8

## **BLESSING of SHOEBOXES - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November @ 10.30a.m.**

I know that some of you prepare shoeboxes every week of the year, I do not take this for granted, and I thank you. For those of you who regard the filling of shoeboxes something you like to do as part of your preparations for Christmas, there will be a blessing of the shoeboxes on 18<sup>th</sup> November during the morning service. I am putting some more 'shoebox' leaflets in the foyer with suggestions about what you may like to put in.

In this picture you can see the Central Church in Odessa hosting one of the many parties they hold each year for children from the many orphanages, war veterans and old people. Everyone leaves with a shoebox so you can see why many thousands are needed. At this Odessa church alone just at Christmas 10,000+ shoeboxes are distributed. They also distribute shoeboxes throughout the year to people who have never received a present in their lives! Every year International Aid sends out 70,000 shoeboxes.

The Church in Odessa is known as The Good Samaritan Mission, supported by

**At Christmas we held parties for thousands of  
children they all received love and presents.**



International Aid and meeting the needs of people inside and outside the Church. Many lives are touched by kindness, practical help and love. (The wording on the picture is from the Odessa Church, not my words.) It is wonderful to think that this church started as a Tent Mission only a few years ago.

Thank you all for what you do in so many different ways to make a difference to needy people, may we never tire.

### *June Redfern*

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#### **The swallow departure**

I looked out of the window  
And saw swallows by the score;  
Swirling, chattering – it was the  
autumn scene once more.  
Half an hour later they all lifted  
off together,  
And flew off to a foreign shore.  
What makes them do it is beyond  
modern technology,  
'Computers' and 'Dot.Com'  
cannot explain it to me.  
So I lifted my eyes to heaven as  
away they flew,  
And once again I knew,  
The fact that 'God is in control'  
Must be really true.

*Eileen Tarr*

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#### **Bright Hour**

##### **Speakers for October:**

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>: Rev Norman Skinner

Oct 12<sup>th</sup>: Rev Charles Edwards

Oct 19<sup>th</sup>: Mr John Gooding

Oct 26<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Kathryn Cole

Meetings start at 2.30 p.m. on  
Fridays.

Everyone is welcome.

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#### **Fresh Expression**

Although the churches work in  
Crediton with learning disabled  
people has been going for 10 years it  
is very much in line with the present  
move towards 'Fresh Expressions'  
Over 40 attend the drop-in at the  
Congregational Church on Wed  
mornings and there is also a monthly  
fellowship group which meets on a  
Thurs evening. If you could help  
with either of these events please see  
Ken Saunders.

## Bible Translation Today

The noise of the helicopter rotor blades made it impossible to talk. However, there was plenty to see for we were flying over a tropical forest area of Papua New Guinea. Dense jungle as far as the eye could see, broken only occasionally by a sign of habitation – a whiff of smoke or a few huts in a clearing. As we climbed higher the forest thinned and gave way to bare mountain. We could see a trail below and later discovered that this was the trail which the two ladies we were visiting had to travel to get into the village of Kunimaipa before the days when they could fly in, like us, by helicopter. Three days of hard trekking through the jungle and up the mountainside.



Eventually we could see the cluster of huts which was Kunimaipa., and the helicopter came into land on an incredibly small pad.



We were visiting for a very special occasion. The two ladies, Elaine (Australian) and Joan (American) had lived in this primitive village for twenty years. When they arrived in the village they discovered that the Kunimaipa people had a perfectly good spoken language, unlike any

other, but the language had never been put into a written form. Painstakingly, over the years, they had first of all learnt to speak the language; analysed it and then created an alphabet for the sounds. This was only the beginning, for the people had then to be taught to read! Then, eventually they could consider translating the New Testament into Kunimaipa so that the people were able to read it. The task was made difficult because Kunimaipa is a tonal language, which means that the same sound spoken at different pitches means different things. Yes, it had taken them twenty years and this was the time to celebrate for the completed New Testament was to be dedicated.



We spent the rest of the first day being greeted by dancers and singers and then wandered around the village meeting folk in their homes. Communication was difficult but the friendly smiles made words unnecessary. The villagers had cooked a mu-mu - a mixture of vegetables and pigs steam-cooked in a pit in the ground. (We decided we were vegetarians and opted out of the pig) The men visitors spent an uncomfortable night on the schoolroom floor made of woven matting, sharing the room with cockroaches and rats.

The next morning we assembled for the dedication. Everyone from the village and visitors from other villages sat around the village 'square'. There isn't space here to describe the whole proceedings but the climax came when a cardboard box, decorated with feathers, was slowly lowered on a wire



attached to the top of a tree, accompanied by drumming and singing. Inside the box were six Kunimaipa New testaments. And these were solemnly distributed to the people who had assisted with the bible translation. It was a very moving occasion. We witnessed the love of Elaine and Joan for these people and how this was reciprocated. We could see something of



what it meant to these people to read material in their own language and how this gave them self-respect and identity. Above all we marvelled at the self-sacrifice of these two ladies. They gave without counting the cost; they asked for no reward save that of knowing they were doing God's will.

Elaine and Joan are just two of the many hundreds of people working for the Wycliffe Bible Translators in the most remote, and often the most dangerous parts of the world.

Margaret and Ken

# Bible translation Today

## The Statistics

### **What's been done. What's left to do.**

Through the Bible, God speaks directly to every man, woman and child. But unless people have the Bible in their heart language, they cannot read his message of life, hope and salvation. Thousands of languages still don't have a single verse of Scripture.

Let's take a closer look at the needs.

How many languages have Scripture?

2,426. Of these, 429 have a complete Bible, another 1,144 have the New Testament. 853 others have at least one book of the Bible.

How many languages still need translation?

In addition to more than 1900 active projects, work needs to begin in over 2200 languages.

How many people have no Scripture?

196 million speak these languages where translation still needs to begin.

How many languages is Wycliffe currently involved in?

About 1,370 languages (around 71% of all translation work currently being done)

In how many languages have Wycliffe been involved in the completion of a New Testament?

More than 700. Over 78 million people speak these languages.

How many countries are affected by the work of Wycliffe?

More than 90. This includes work among people who live outside their traditional homelands.

## Reading the Bible

How many people in England read the Bible at least once a week outside of church services?

"Pulling out of the Nose Dive" by Peter Brierley details the results of the 2005 UK church census.

Here are some stats about Bible reading in England:

27% of churchgoers in England in 2005 claimed to read the Bible personally at least once a week, outside of church services [versus 45% in the USA].

How does that work out according to churchmanship?

Anglican	24%
Baptist	27%
Methodist	27%
Broad	42%
Pentecostal	62%
Independent	64%
New Church	66%.

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## Pastoral Prayer

*Loving God,*

*Remembering that those who met with Jesus found acceptance, healing and the possibility of new life, Remembering that despite their imperfections his disciples, through prayer and touch helped others find healing through your power, So, in Christ's name we bring our prayers for those who are unwell, those who are not normally able to come to church at present, those in distress.*

We remember: Joan Cornish, Sid and Cynthia Dixon, Enid Garrington, Marjorie Ing, Arthur and Wendy Homeshaw, Allan Hooper, Iris Mackie, Phyllis Maunder, Ruth Mackmurdo, Kathy Nicholson, Clara Paige, Eva Whiting and all others known to us in special need at this time.

*Amen.*

## **Pause for Thought**

At the opening session of The Kansas State Senate the Rev Joe Wright was asked to pray. Everyone expected to hear the usual generalities but this is what they heard:

Heavenly father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance.

We know your word says ‘Woe to those who call evil good’ but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionist and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbour’s possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honoured values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out in protest. But in the following days Rev Wright’s church received over 5000 phone calls with only 47 of them responding negatively. The prayer was aired on a radio programme and the presenter received a larger response to this programme than any other he has ever aired.

## JANUARY JOLLIES

Although it is more than three months before our family get together on 26 January, the programme is already being prepared. As usual we will be staging a short version of a popular pantomime. Our choice this year is Red Riding Hood and I am looking for five or six people to play the various parts. I would rather have volunteers rather than pressed helpers. If any of you feel that you would like to be Mr Wolf or Grandma or even Red Riding Hood please let me know. It will be great fun to take part!

I am also looking for the other budding talent which I know abounds within our Church family but is often hidden under a bushel. If you have a talent – a poem, a song, a short play or something else - that you and a friend or perhaps a Church group would be prepared to share please contact me as soon as possible so that I can find a slot in the programme.

*John Ashley*

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Church Council will be held on Tuesday 23 October at 7,30pm. Please would all group secretaries let me have their written reports (if possible by e-mail to [john@oakehouse.co.uk](mailto:john@oakehouse.co.uk)) by Friday 19 October so that I can circulate these to members of the Council before the meeting.

*John Ashley*

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## Talkback

### *'Signs of our Times'*

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 6 p.m. St Boniface R.C. Church  
Pam Murphy will speak on John 6 v 15 – 21  
'Jesus walking on the water'

## Monthly Diary of Events

October

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm Pioneer Disciple Course 'Vision and Calling' Old Deanery
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm Ladies Supper Club
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30pm Midweek Service
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Church family outing to Pennywell farm
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Property and Finance meeting
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup>	7pm for 7.30pm 'Agriculture and Rural Affairs' Circuit panel discussion evening
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pioneer Disciple Course – all day
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Women's Open House (NB change of date from 18 <sup>th</sup> ) topic: A poem
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Children and Young people's group, The Manse
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	6pm Talkback, St Boniface R.C. Church
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm Crediton Church Council
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Reading the Bible – final session, the Church
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm Circuit Service, Charles Wesley, the Mint

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### A Panel on

### Rural and Agricultural Issues

Panellists: Rev Philip Wagstaff and Brian Warren  
(Farm Crisis Network)

Refreshments from 7 p.m.

Donations go to FCN

**Crediton Methodist Church**

**Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Organised by The Exeter & District Methodist Circuit.

Rev B Calvert will chair the meeting which begins at 7.30 p.m.

For more info: [JONCURTIS@EXE-COLL.AC.UK](mailto:JONCURTIS@EXE-COLL.AC.UK)

## **A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 4<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Led by Barbara and David. We have a good size group of 17 people signed up so far. But it is not too late. If you are interested in going see Barbara or David for a brochure. We would like to have numbers finalized by Christmas.

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### **Crediton Climate Action Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

**Energy Action Day!** Find out how you can reduce waste and fossil fuel consumption to save money and the planet at the same time! Talks, films and practical advice on alternative energy and conservation. Fun stuff for kids of all ages, yummy low-carbon lunch. Boniface Centre, 11am – 3pm .

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### **Singing for the Brain**

Do you have dementia or care for someone who has?

Would you like to sing in a group, in a warm and welcoming environment, with people who understand the situation?

When: Tuesday afternoons beginning 2 nd October

Where: Exwick Parish Hall, Station Rd Exeter. (5 mins walk from St David's Station.)

Time: 2.00 p.m. for refreshments. Singing 2.30 – 3.30.

Free parking and disabled access.

Contact: Jean Usher 01392 410516

(Alzheimer's society)



# 'I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas'

Ways of celebrating Christmas simply  
(with a Peruvian flavour)

**Crediton Methodist Church**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**

**10.30am - 3.30pm**

Workshops: (using recycled paper/sustainable materials)

- Christmas cake and table decorations
- Christmas petit fours (sweets)
- a BIG Christmas card
- Christmas knitting and crochet
- Christmas place mats and name plates
- sustainable Christmas tree
- Christmas billboard
- Peruvian nativity collage

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

10.30am Coffee, Spanish music and songs

11am Workshop One

12.30 Lunch - Homemade soup, bread, cheese n chutney  
Debbie Thompson of 'Esperanza', a group of women in Peru who make handmade cards out of recycled paper, will give a multi media presentation.

1.30 Workshop two

3pm Tea/cakes, and our day's work exhibited!

*Traidcraft and fair-trade, Esperanza cards stalls*

Workshops £3, Lunch £4 (children half price)

For Esperanza and Francisco Rojas School, Peru

More details: Barbara Calvert 01363 772441 [calvert2@fish.co.uk](mailto:calvert2@fish.co.uk)

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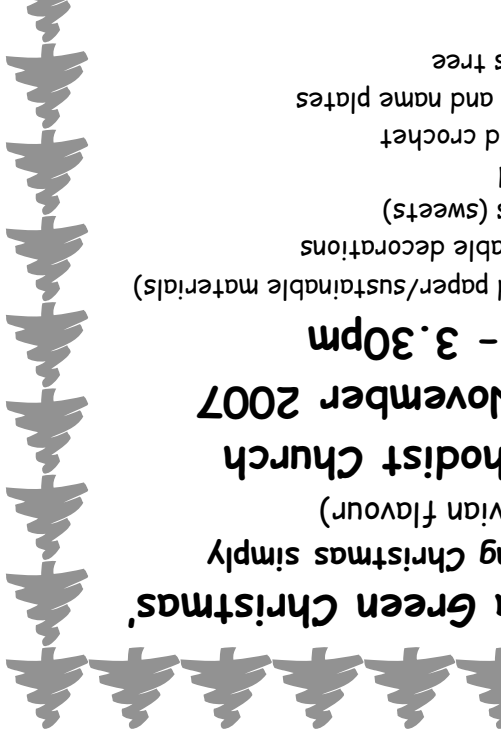
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