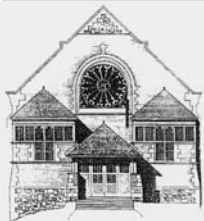


Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter
April 2008



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- April 6th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
6.30 Rev D Easton
- April 13th: 10.30 Mrs P Murphy
6.30 Rev B Calvert
- April 20th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory (All Age Worship)
6.0 Talkback
- April 27th: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Rev D Martin/Rev B Calvert (Church anniversary)
6.30 Mrs J Lee

Church Groups:

Toddlers – meets on Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.15 during term time
(contact 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 Margaret Kenshole 775144)

Knit & Natter: Wednesdays 2.30 to 3.30 (Contact Ann Spry on 01363 777796)

Bright Hour: Fridays at 2.30 p.m. (Contact Kath Wollacott 01363775445)

Fellowship Groups meet regularly. (Contact Ken Saunders on 01363 773078)

Every Saturday: Coffee Morning from 10.30.

Church is open for prayer 9a.m. – 10 a.m.

Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m (most Sundays)

Every Sunday: 10.30 a.m. Junior Church and Creche

Material for the May newsletter to Ken Saunders by April 20th

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com

cover picture: Christian Art – *The Empty Tomb*

Midweek Services Wednesdays 12.30pm – 1.30pm

April – June Informal worship followed by lunch (bring a packed lunch, tea/coffee provided)

9 th April	The Lord's Feast	John 21. 1-14	193 Christ the Lord is risen today
16 th April	Shepherding of the Flock	Matthew 20. 17-28	260 Jesus is Lord
23 rd April	The Way the Truth and the Life	John 8. 31-38	220 God is love: his the care
30 th April	God's Promises	Acts 17. 32 – 18.11	687 When we walk with the Lord
7 th May	Priestly Prayer	John 3. 31-36	551 Lord, teach us how to pray aright
14 th May	Life in the Spirit	Acts 1. 15-26	68 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
21 st May	Joy in the Trinity	1 Kings 8. 10-30	400 All glory to God
28 th May	The Compassion of God	Micah 7. 18-20	46 What shall I do my God to love
4 th June	The Way of Wisdom	Matthew 7. 13-20	593 And now, O Father, mindful of the love
11 th June	The Everlasting Mercy	Acts 14. 18-20	337 O Lord of heaven and earth
18 th June	A Chosen people	Luke 6. 12-19	538 O the bitter shame and sorrow
25 th June	The Cost of Discipleship	Jeremiah 38. 1-13	714 Make me a captive, Lord

Via Dolorosa – the Way of the Cross ‘Our way of life’ A reflection following our Holy Land Pilgrimage, March 2008

In the Old City of Jerusalem is the Via Dolorosa, or ‘Way of the Cross’. The 14 stations of the Cross, marked by plaques on the wall, commemorate the journey that Christ took after his condemnation as he carried his cross to the place where he was to be crucified. The First Station commemorates the moment Jesus is condemned to die, The Second Station, Jesus carries his cross, the Third Station Jesus falls the first time, The Fourth Station, Jesus meets his mother. At each station pilgrims pause for prayer and meditation ...the Twelfth Station, Jesus dies on the cross, The Thirteenth Station Jesus is taken down from the cross and then finally the Fourteenth Station, Jesus is laid in the tomb and after the third day is raised from the dead. No wonder Christian pilgrims down the ages have been drawn to Jerusalem, Holy City of Zion, the place of Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection. Today groups of pilgrims come from all over the world to process along the Via Dolorosa and in the weeks leading up to Easter increasing numbers of these groups will carry a heavy wooden cross. A group of Korean Christians made their way along the Via Dolorosa taking it in turns to drag the heavy wooden cross. One, slight, elderly Korean woman, a member of the group was clearly in pain as she took her turn and struggled to drag the heavy wooden cross. It was a disturbing sight, is this then what Christ meant when he said, ‘Take up your cross and follow me?’

Later that day we picked up Nora Kharmy from the Sabeel Liberation Theology Centre office, outside the Old City in run down East Jerusalem. Sabeel means ‘the way’ in Arabic and also a ‘channel’ or ‘spring’ of life-giving water. Nora, a very articulate and dignified, middle aged Palestinian woman expressed her joy at our visit and said how good it was that more Methodist groups were returning to the Holy Land. Nora explained that this afternoon we were going to explore Sabeel’s Contemporary Way of the Cross, what it means for Palestinian Christians who walk the way of the cross today.

Our first station was the village of Lifta. Lifta was once an idyllic, rural Palestinian village on the outskirts of Jerusalem set in a green fertile valley with a tumbling mountain stream and the valley



covered with olive, fig, almond and apricot trees. Palestinians had lived here for hundreds of years, babies born in the small stone houses, grandparents died, parents working the land, generation upon generation. We stood looking down into the valley of Lifta. It is still green and fertile but today stands abandoned the family houses of stone empty and lifeless as tombs. Lifta is a depopulated Palestinian village and has lain empty and abandoned since its residents old and young, men and women were driven out by the barrel of a gun and threat of massacre. Many of the residents fled abroad into permanent exile for ever dreaming of their home village others live in refugee camps in the Holy Land today.

Our next station along the Contemporary Way of the Cross was the refugee village of Anata in East Jerusalem. As we drove along the potholed road, past drab grey low rise flats, the children on the way home from school stopped and stared. It was an unusual site to see a tourist coach in a refugee village. We stopped and alighted from the coach. . An atmosphere of depression, destitution, suspicion and fear swirled around. We walked down the road and stopped opposite the school. Here on the wall was a plaque, just like the plaques in the Via Dolorosa in the Old City which tell of the suffering of Jesus as he carried his cross. And this plaque too told a terrible story of suffering. It marked the spot where just 12 months earlier a 10 year old girl had been shot by an Israeli soldier on her way home from school. She was just one of over 1000 Palestinian children killed since the year 2000 by the Israeli military. As we stood by the plaque we began to realise that for so many Christians today the Way of the Cross, the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Suffering is for them a Way of

Life. They do not have to be taught about suffering or try to re-enact it, it is a way of life.

We stood and prayed. As we did so a small group of adults and children, passers-by stopped to watch and were clearly moved and warmed by our presence. They had not been forgotten. And then a man approached our group. Nora's face lit up and they exchanged warm greetings.

This was Abu Arab the father of the dead girl. With a quiet dignity he told us about what had happened to his daughter. He told us how, long before this disaster he had set up a group called 'Combatants



for Peace'. He had worked for peace but his daughter had been shot. The hardest thing had been trying to explain to his other children that he had failed to protect their sister. There were lines of suffering and exhaustion on his face but no bitterness. He was taking his case to the United Nations and since his daughter's death support for 'Combatants for Peace' had grown with not only Palestinian members but also members who were Israeli soldiers who realised that they were not serving Israeli security and peace through the military. When Abu Arab's daughter had been shot hope had been kept alive he told us by family, friends, neighbours *and* Israeli members of 'Combatants for Peace' who had kept vigil at her bedside. She died on the 4th day. But hope did not die.



Throughout the world today, at this Eastertide, in Zimbabwe, in Iraq, in Pakistan... as in the Holy Land, Christian communities are living the Way of the Cross, the Way of Suffering. They are carrying their cross. The Palestinian Christians that we met, in Jerusalem, in Bethlehem, in the small villages of the West Bank, the remnants of the first disciples powerfully live out the

resurrection message of love and hope in a situation of illegal occupation and suffering witnessing to the whole world. Despite their suffering they live in resurrection hope. Their faith, as ours is in Christ crucified and Christ risen. One day their dawn will come and the whole world will resonate with the cries of all believers, 'Christ is risen, Alleluia,'

Barbara Calvert

Church Anniversary 2008

Sunday 27th April

10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher Revd Dave Martin, District Evangelism

Enabler

12 noon Church Lunch

1pm AGM

Sunday 13th April

5pm Full Devon Tea

(Donations to Christian Aid for their work in the Holy Land)

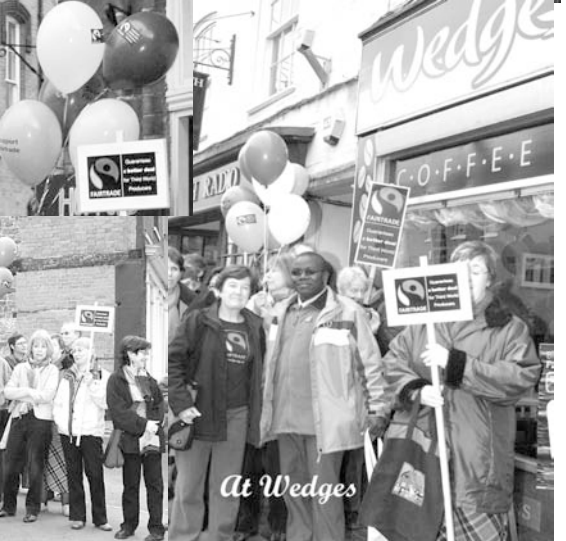
6.30pm Holy Land Pilgrimage Service – a powerpoint presentation from the returned pilgrims with readings, prayer and song.

Crediton's Fairtrade Café Crawl

Visiting retail outlets which sell Fairtrade goods



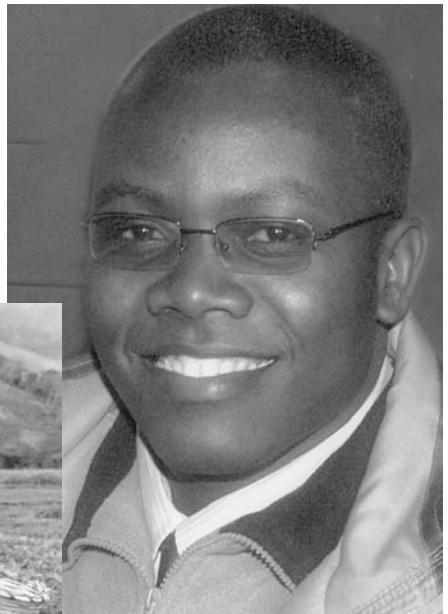
On Saturday 23rd February a group of people assembled at the Green and, with balloons and banners, went through the High Street stopping at each of the retailers who support Fairtrade .





At the Station Tearooms

We were fortunate to be accompanied by Martin from the Manga Tea factory in Uganda. At the Station Tearooms he told us how Fairtrade is helping the people in his country, not only by paying higher wages but also by contributing to community projects.



Picking tea in Uganda

The Fire of Fellowship and Forgiveness

There are some wonderful incidents of the Easter story recorded in the gospels.

One such story is recorded by St John. Peter and some other disciples had been fishing all night, but had caught nothing. Early in the morning Jesus standing on the shore directs them to a great catch.

Try and picture the scene as the disciples land the boat:

Sound of water running over the pebbles on the seashore.

Cool early morning breeze.

Smell of a wood fire.

Aroma of fish cooking.

Jesus doing the cooking.

Jesus feeding them with what he had provided, but also with some fish the disciples had caught.

The laughter, banter, questions to Jesus.

Answers by Jesus.

There is bonding happening there gathered around that fire.

Fire has often been a gathering place. In the homes of yesteryear the gathering around the fire – warmth and love. Today within the church, (our church) the fire of fellowship is provided by the Holy Spirit.

He will, if we are open to him, create this fellowship so vital to us as Christians as we reach out to others with the Gospel of Good news.

Jesus had such love for all his disciples, despite their differences, they were bonded together by his love. So to with us, despite all being different in so many ways, we can be bonded together in fellowship.

Secondly, it was the fire of forgiveness. After the meal I imagine Jesus saying to Peter ‘Let’s go for a stroll along the beach.’ Was Peter dreading this possibility, when Jesus would remind him of his denial?

Would Jesus say: ‘Sorry Peter, I made a mistake, you cannot be the rock upon which I will build my church.’

NoJesus simply asked Peter three times ‘Do you love me?’

Peter was forgiven and commissioned on that seashore.

This lovely story always encourages me that when I have failed my Lord, but come to him and respond: ‘Lord you know that I love you.’ I too am forgiven and given my commission to serve him still. May the Lord bless you all.

Rev David Gregory

Tedburn St Mary Methodist Church

Friday 11th April at 7.30pm

The Newton St Petrock Choir in concert.

Supper to follow
No tickets, collection for
Church Funds
Everyone welcome

Bright Hour

April 4th: Mr Ken Saunders
April 11th: Mrs Margaret Scott
April 18th: Mrs Jenny Hext
April 25th: Mrs Mary Jarvis

Bright Hour members enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Margaret Scott and Catherine Janion. Money received by donations was £70.00 for Mercy Ships. Margaret Scott will be giving us a talk on this charity on April 11th, when our offering will also be for Mercy Ships. We hope to raise £100 in all.

Bright Hour meetings are held at 2.30 p.m. on Fridays.

Flowers

During February the flowers were arranged by either Margaret S., Meg or Christine.

March 9/16th: Donated by Alan & Ken Hooper to remember their parents and arr. by Christine.

March 23/30th: Church decorated for Easter.

Many thanks to those who helped get the church ready for Easter.

Christine

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Lots of people went on the walk of witness. I saw Margaret, Ken and David. We walked to lots of different churches. We sang lots of songs. Different people carried the cross. I think it was really heavy. We were all quiet because we were thinking about Jesus because he was put on the cross on Good Friday. But he came alive again on Easter Sunday. By the end I was tired and I had a biscuit at the Congregational Church, then I went home with Mummy, Daddy and Peter.

by John Turner

Pilgrimage Highlights (Hazel & Margaret)



Wed: In Jerusalem we went to the garden of Gethsemane with all its olive trees and went in the church there. It was rather overwhelming to think of Jesus praying here in the garden before his arrest.

Also visited the Princess Basma Centre for disabled children and felt saddened to see so many children being pushed around in wheelchairs due to polio etc. They were being well cared for.

Thurs: In Jerusalem Old City we have been to see Jesus's journey to Golgotha. We walked along the way where he carried his cross and where he collapsed – it must have been sheer agony in the crowd. It was quite a struggle for us to walk it without any hindrances. We saw his tomb which was quite large, in dark wood, and high up. Also went to the wailing wall and Hazel left a prayer for her friends and family. Margaret was watching a lady praying and touching the wall, in such a distressed condition that she felt she wanted to go and give her a hug and comfort her.

Fri: We drove across the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea – we both went in for a dip and floated around. Also went to Mt Masada where the dead sea scrolls were found. Then on to Jericho and on the journey we saw two camels roaming wild in the desert. Today made the bible come alive as we thought about the scrolls and Jesus walking in this area.

Sat: We travelled to Bethlehem and visited the Shepherds Fields and caves and went inside a church that has been built in memory of the angels appearing to the shepherds. We also visited the Church of the nativity – the birthplace of Jesus and felt a very special presence there.



We visited this Bethlehem Christian Bible College which had been built by money raised through faith and now they are extending their premises.

Sun: We were taken to visit a lady who lived in a house very close to the Wall. Although she is still living there, half the house has been knocked down by the Israeli soldiers. Originally she had a restaurant as part of the house and planned to make it into a hotel. Now she lives there on her own, confined to one or two rooms with the soldiers watching her house night and day. She refuses to leave. There were bullet holes in two of her windows. Before leaving we prayed for her and gave her a hug and a kiss. We felt scared here and were relieved to be back on the coach.

Mon: On our way to Nazareth we stopped at a village called Aboud. The people explained how the Wall had ruined their lives. The majority of people in this village were Christians and we both felt a sense of unity and peace here. Stopped at a village and visited a house as it would have been in Jesus's time. A minister gave us a talk on how Jesus used household objects in his parables and this brought the parables alive.

Tues: After visiting the Arch-angel Gabriel church of Annunciation we went to an elegant restaurant for lunch, After a course of bolognaise and salad we thought that was it but they brought a rice and hot chicken dish (we already felt full-up). So that really was it? No, they brought two dishes of lovely chips and this was followed by apples – never had a meal like it!

Wed: Off to Galilee, passing the Mt of Beatitudes on the way. We travelled by boat, (similar to those used by fishermen at the time of Jesus) to Tiberias, where the coach was waiting for us. We had a service on the beach, overlooking the sea of Galilee. Barbara led the service in which we celebrated communion. This was a very special time and a fitting end to what had been a deep and moving experience.

Post-Pilgrimage Prayer

New images are seething in my mind:
The stoniness of paths, steepness of hills,
The rainbow flowers, strange trees and flat-topped roofs,
The sense of history that the land instills.

But oh the hurting pain of Bethlehem,
Of Aboud's loss, of tears in Jericho.
Of families torn apart, yet faith
And hope like grains of mustard seed still grow.

Oh may your children share their blessed land,
Break down dividing walls that spoil and shame,
Hold hands, not guns, and hear, dear Lord,
The prayers we offer in your holy name

Judith B Lowe

What a Surprise!

We were very surprised to receive a letter from a lady in Belarus. In it she says:

I come from Belarus. It is a small country which is situated by Russia. I think that you are interested in why I am writing you. Some years ago in our church some presents on Christmas from England. Inside the presents were postcards with congratulations and addresses. There was your present with a postcard. In those days I didn't speak English but I was guarding your postcard. Now I am studying English (already 7 months). That's why I am now writing you. Anastasiya Nastya

From Angela & Cyril

Cyril & Angela give thanks for the safe arrival of Holly Ellen May and are pleased to share the good news of a lovely grand-daughter, a sister for our dear grandson Fergus



Pastoral Page

The Church Community

*Jesus Christ is the resurrection
and the life.*

*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 hold dearly in our thoughts and prayers our minister, Revd. Barbara Calvert following her father's death, and also Muriel Crang who recently lost her sister. We pray for all members of our church family who are ill or distressed, and those who are no longer to join in fellowship with us on Sundays. Amongst those we name: Sid and Cynthia Dixon; Joy Wilshire and her sister; Kim and Alan Clemens; Allan Hooper, Len Jenkinson; Phyllis Maunder, Kath Metherell (going into hospital this month), Kathy Nicholson (Kenwyn), Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Eileen Tarr; Mary Tyson, Harold and Sybil Bayley (Hillbrow). We welcome Harold Hollingsworth who recently moved to Crediton. And we give thanks that Rita Ash is able to join us at church again.

Services in Residential Homes and Hospital

Our services this month are:

Summerhayes Thursday 3 April 2:30 pm

Hillbrow Wednesday 16 April 2:30 pm

All are welcome to come.

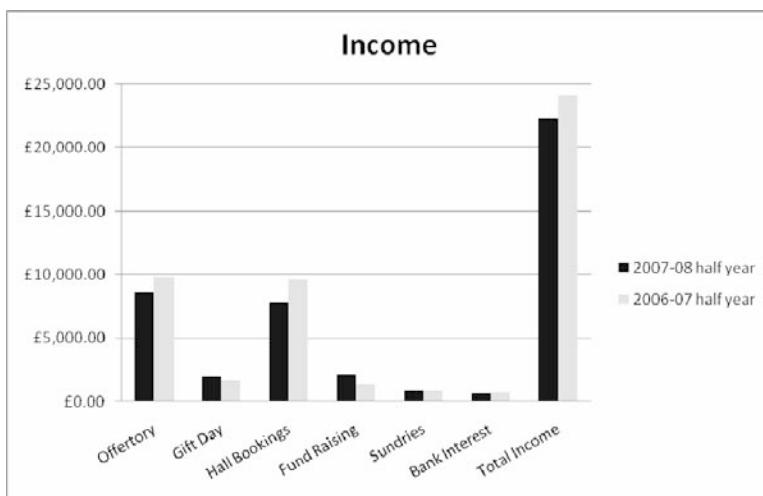


Half Yearly Accounts



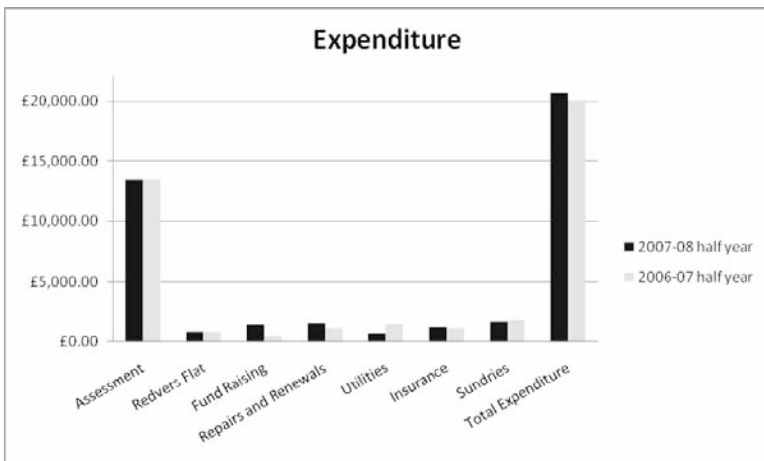
As we are now half way through the church's financial year, I thought I would bring you up to date with our church finances. As you can see from the graph below, our income so far this year is down by £1,850 compared to last year. This is due for a couple of reasons, firstly hall bookings are down by £1,750 as last year we had a regular booking from Crediton Life Services which has now ended. Also our offertory is down by £1,150.00 for a number of reasons. This will also have a knock on effect with gift aid. With the loss of some of the offertory which we can claim gift aid on, the government has also reduced the amount we can claim from 28p in the pound to 25p in the pound from April. So we are expecting Gift Aid to be down this year.

I would like to thank everyone who has responded to our Gift Day appeal, so far we have received £2,020, which is £310 up on last year. I also would like to thank everyone who has helped with fundraising, as so far this year we are up by £780. I would especially would like to thank Ken Saunders whose calendars were a great success, the team behind the Barn Dance, John Ashley and everyone involved with the January Jollies.

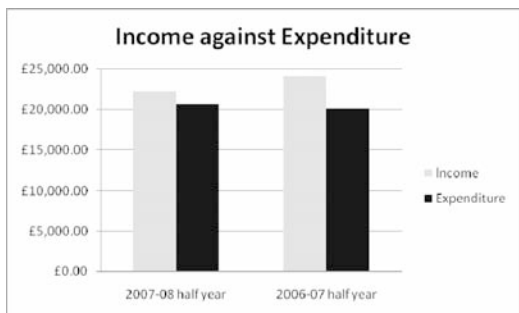


The graph below shows that so far this year our expenditure is only £530 more than last year. This has been achieved with the help and a lot of hard work from people working quietly in the background. We thank you all.

As you well know our greatest expenditure is our assessment to the Circuit. This is around 65% of our total expenditure. Repairs and renewals are slightly up from last year. Producing the calendars has also increased the fund raisings costs. Where we have saved so far this year is in the cost of electricity and gas. With the installation of some energy saving devices, we have built up a considerable credit. This is being repaid back to us over this year and by the summer we will no longer have any credit. Our electricity rates have been fixed for the past 2 years and are up for renewal in July. So with the new increased electricity rates next year I am expecting our electricity bills to increase back to the level of last year. I am hoping that with the installation of the new boiler we can keep our gas bills the same as this year.



As we have mentioned a couple of years ago, our income is slowly falling, while our expenditure is rising. If we are not careful in a couple of years time our expenditure will be greater than our income. Please would you consider raising your weekly giving as our costs go up all the time and also as from April the Gift Aid we are able to recover will be going down from 28p in the £1 to 25p in the £1.



If you want any more information, about the churches finance or you don't quite understand something, please come and ask me. Thank you, Glenn Turner.

Network News

District Project 2008/09.

Each year, our District adopts a project. For 2008/09 this will be to support one of the few schools in Bethlehem working with disabled children, and the aim is to raise £1393.75 to build a classroom.

The Spring District Network Day is on 30 April 2008, at Torrington. The main topic is on Ethiopia.

Quiet Days will be held at:

Bossington on Wednesday 4 June

Chillington on Wednesday 24 June.

Cost £5.00

The Plymouth and Exeter District Women's Network Event is to be held at Sidholme, Sidmouth from 11th – 13th November 2008. The theme is 'Through all the changing scenes of life' and the speaker will be Mrs Margaret Sawyer. Application forms are in the foyer. Margaret Saunders and I went to the last event, and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

Recipe for Coconut Bread (using Traidcraft ingredients):

350g SR flour 150g shredded coconut

225g sugar 2 eggs

1 tsp vanilla essence 300ml milk

2 tsp cinnamon 75g melted butter

Preheat oven to 190c (170 for fan oven).ix together all ingredients except flour, beating to a smooth consistency. Fold in flour and turn into a greased loaf tin. Bake until when tested with a knife, the blade comes away clean. Turn out and cool for 10 – 15 mins.

District Network Recipe Book, and Calendar 2009

A recipe book 'Not all Pip and Peel', using a variety of fruits, is now available for order at £3.00

A District Network Calendar for 2009, compiled from a calendar of events that have taken place in the District, is also available for order at £3.00. For more information or to place orders, please see Pam Murphy.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2008 – 2009

I shall be re-ordering copies of the Handbook for everyone on my list. The price is expected to be £2.50, and they are also available in large print. Let me know, please, if there are any changes to be made or if you would like to order a copy.

Pam Murphy

Circuit Easter Offering Service

Crediton Methodist Church will be hosting the Circuit Easter Offering service this year, on Wednesday 30 April at 3pm. Our Minister, Revd. Barbara Calvert is the speaker.

Everyone is very welcome to attend. We will be needing help with stewarding and refreshments after the service, and any offers of contributions of cakes for the tea.

Monthly Diary

April 2008

Tues 1 st	1.30pm Last Toddlers on a Tuesday (moving to Mondays)
Tues 1 st	7.30pm Ladies Supper Club
Weds 2 nd	12.30pm Midweek service
Weds 2 nd	7.30pm Fresh expressions team with Rev Dave Martin at Ken and Tina's.
Mon 7 th	Steward's meeting 7.30pm The Manse
Weds 9 th	12.30pm Midweek Service
Weds 9 th	7.30pm Church Life Meeting. All welcome.
Sun 13 th	5pm Full Devon tea leading into 6.30pm evening worship prepared and led by Holy Land pilgrims.
Weds 16 th	12.30pm Midweek Service
Sat 19 th	The Ark 4 – 6pm
Mon 21 st	1.30 – 3pm Toddlers
Weds 23 rd	12.30pm Midweek Service
Weds 23 rd	7.30pm Children and Young Peoples Support Group The Manse
Sat 26 th	District Synod, Torquay
Sun 27 th	Church Anniversary
Mon 28 th	7.30pm Property and Finance meeting
Weds 30 th	12.30pm Midweek Service
Weds 30 th	2.30pm Easter offering Service, Crediton