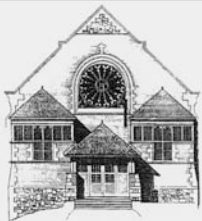




Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter

February 2008



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk

Services this month:

Feb 3rd: 10.30 Rev S.Taylor (Sacrament)
3.00 Cheriton Cross
Feb 10th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory
6.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
Feb 17th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age Worship)
6.00 Talkback (Boniface centre)
Feb 24th: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Mr D White
6.30 Dr K Kite

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 March newsletter to Ken Saunders
by 17th February**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Crediton Methodist Church Wednesday Midweek Service 12.30pm January –March 2008

Date	Reading	Hymn	Theme
Jan 16 th	Matt.12.15-21	803 Teach me, my God and King	A Servant Community
Jan 23 rd	<i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	<i>Prayers at the Methodist Church</i>	<i>led by Revd Nigel Guthrie</i>
Jan 30 th	Judges 7.12-22	1 All people that on earth do dwell	The Guiding Light
Feb 6 th Ash Wednesday	Matt. 6. 1-21	136 I heard the voice of Jesus say	Hunger for God
Feb 13 th	Matt. 18. 6-14	559 What a friend we have in Jesus	Temptation and Forgiveness
Feb 20 th	John 8.1-11	764 Christ, from whom all blessings flow	Mission to the World
Feb 27 th	John 7.14-31,37-39	416 As pants the hart for cooling streams	Living Water
March 5 th	No midweek service		
March 12 th	No midweek service		
March 19 th	John 13.21-32	173 My song is love unknown	Christ's Passion and Death
March 26 th	Joshua 3. 1-17	209 The head that once was crowned with thorns	The Lord's Victory

All welcome for Bible study, prayer, worship, reflection, fellowship...do join us in the Wesley Room each Wednesday at 12.30pm....and bring a sandwich as we follow the half hour service with lunch together...tea/coffee provided.

Barbara

In praise of...**the covenant service**

Each morning at about 7.30am, I go out for a short, brisk walk, having already had a cup of tea and done Bible study and prayers. Peering out of the front door I make an assessment of the weather and then set off enjoying the opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise. I look at what is coming up in people's front gardens – (daffodils in January!), nod 'Good morning' to those I pass, have a chat with Nathan in Landscore stores as I buy our daily paper, and then walk home along Threshers, admiring the interesting old cottages, St Lawrence Chapel and the view through the early morning mist of horses grazing in the fields beyond. It is a good, uplifting start to the day; and then before sitting down for breakfast I have a quick glance at the paper's headlines. This usually has a sobering effect...flood, famine, violence, corruption. Imagine my surprise then when on a Monday in the middle of January there was an article in our paper called 'In praise of the ...covenant service!

And it started like this:

'Hymns rich in workaday yet powerful images are usually ranked as Methodism's main contribution to literature, but yesterday witnessed another example of this small but hugely influential church's power of inspirational writing. Many Methodists across the country celebrated their annual covenant service, a renewal of faith comparable to new year resolutions, but one that impressively emphasises the importance of doing as much as believing. "Put me to do what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you." It should not be misinterpreted as a sort of fatalism, for many Methodist have held eminent positions, espoused radical politics, and gone to prison for opposing injustice and war.' (The Guardian, 14th January 2008)

How inspiring! But in order to be involved in the 'doing' we have to be aware of the situation in our world. We need the daily newspaper reporting and we are indebted to far too many journalists who have

lost their lives to bring us the news from conflict situations around the world. Then, equipped with our faith in a ‘Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit’ we make our covenant promise, publicly once a year but personally anew to God each morning:

I willingly offer
all I have and am
to serve you,
as and where you choose.

Barbara Calvert

A Lenten Challenge!



Methodist Church launches ‘Buy less: Live More’ card

The Methodist Church has launched an alternative “Buy less: Live More” credit card in a bid to encourage people to transform their shopping habits this Lent.

“Buy Less: Live More” aims to challenge people to curb their spending and shrink their carbon footprint. The card cannot be used to make purchases, but has been designed to be placed in a wallet in front of other credit and debit cards to remind people to think twice before they spend.

“Buy Less: Live more” isn’t about depriving yourself of those things you want; it’s about looking at life in a new way, trying different things and taking a few risks. So as well as reducing your carbon footprint by getting off the consumer treadmill, you can live life in all its fullness.

You can sign up for the card at www.buylesslivemore.org.uk and during Lent you will receive a daily email with two challenges, offering ideas on how to buy fewer items and get the most out of life.

Cheriton Cross Methodist Church

extends a warm invitation to
all our friends at
Crediton,
Tedburn St Mary,
Cheriton Fitzpaine
and Crockernwell
Methodist Churches to join us
for a Section Service

3pm

Sunday 3rd February

Revd Barbara Calvert

“Do you want to be happy?”

Followed by a pre Lenten tea

Pause for thought

Recently, there being 'nothing else on', I watched a programme on BBC4 about Quantum Physics. There was an awful lot I didn't understand together with some I thought a bit fanciful – or as a friend described it, farcical. But what set my heart beating faster and made my jaw drop in awe and wonder were references to three things: simplicity, beauty and vastness.

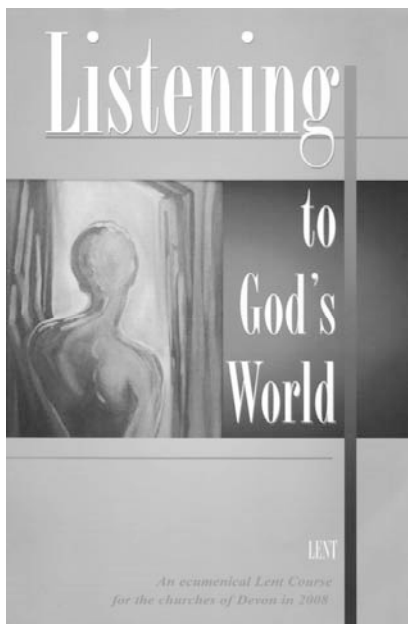
Simplicity: the theory that every bit of matter in the universe is made up of the same atoms, whether the matter is living tissue, or rock or gas. And is this so unbelievable? We already know that each human being begins from a single cell that divides and divides, and that at first it's not determined whether these stem cells will be muscle, or brain or blood or whatever. What a wonder!

Beauty: the Quantum physics theorists look for the beauty in the mathematical formulas – which match the beauty of the universe and help them trust their findings.

Vastness: from the most minute particle that can be measured to the vast expanse of the universe – or universes. Beyond imagination, but just think about computer language being made up of two digits: 0 and 1 in infinitesimal combinations to produce a vast capacity to store information, make calculations, send e-mails and create beautiful pictures.

For me, simplicity, beauty and vastness point directly to the essence of God. Science, far from disproving God is, for me, confirming our faith in the loving, creator God who cherishes all he has made.

*Formless, all lovely forms
Declare his loveliness;
Holy, no holiness on earth
Can his express.
Lo! He is Lord of all!
Creation speaks his praise,
And everywhere, above, below,
His will obeys.*



It helps you to reflect on how the Christian faith is viewed in our society today, and why that might be the case. The aim is to understand why Devon people have gradually abandoned the churches that they were once so committed to.

An ecumenical Lent course for the churches of Devon in 2008

This is being
organised by
Christians Together
in Crediton.

Easter Sunday is 23rd
March – the earliest
date it can be!

Consequently Lent
begins early on Ash
Wednesday 6th
February

Listening to God's Word

The Churches in Crediton are joining together for this course. The first meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 14th February at the Congregational church, to which all are very welcome.

We then meet in small ecumenical home groups for three consecutive weeks at a night of your choice, joining together again for the final meeting in the week before Easter week.

The pattern for each week includes a short video presentation to watch, with some questions to consider together, a passage of Scripture to read and discuss and time spent in prayer over the issues you have talked about.

Please sign-up on the list in the foyer if you are interested.

Volunteers are needed to host and to lead the groups.

Education Education Education

After spending 50 years working in the education system of our country I am still surprised that more attention is paid to teaching than to learning. Since learning is the end result of education one would expect that that is where the focus and emphasis would lie.

Yet it is not so. The national curriculum has very little to say about learning but a huge amount to say about the ‘what and when’ of teaching. Today the trend is to control teaching. In many schools teaching is becoming less personal, less creative and less rewarding. Subject matter and teaching methods are more constrained by the decisions of others and performances are more mechanically and impersonally measured.

I was half-way through my teaching career when I met someone who passionately believed that education should focus on the learning abilities of the students. When I observed him teaching my classes I noticed how much more responsive the students were – how differently the teacher/student roles operated – how space was created for initiative and exploration- how mistakes were regarded, not as failure, but as a learning opportunity - how learning became communal and an adventure – how trust was given and responsibility accepted.

My friend was not alone. Others were practicing and writing about a similar approach. To quote just two of them:

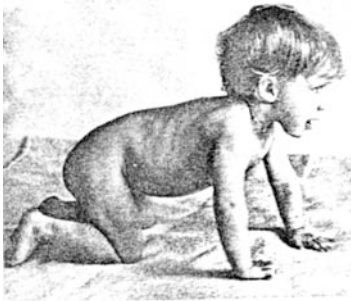
‘But a child who is learning naturally, following his curiosity where it leads him, adding to his mental model of reality whatever he needs and can find a place for, and rejecting without fear or guilt what he does not need, is growing – in knowledge, in the love of learning, and in the ability to learn.’ John Holt.

‘A radical transformation occurs in the classroom when one knows how to subordinate teaching to learning. It enables us to expect very unusual results from the students – for example, that all students will perform well very early and on a much wider area than before. There are no gimmicks in this approach; only the intelligent use of the powers of the mind in all the individuals involved, both teachers and students. But it is so different from what has been going on for so long that it requires a true conversion

from the teacher so that he no longer neglects to consider the most important component of education – the learner himself.' Caleb Gattegno.

Eventually the conversion happened in me and I made a profound change in the way I taught. The change was painful at the time but brought many rewards and fulfilment in the remaining years of my career.

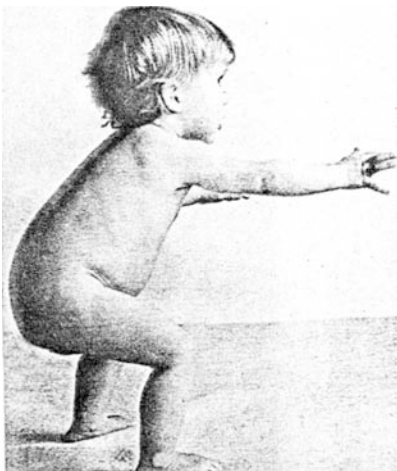
Before young children enter our Education System they display remarkable powers of learning.
Ken Saunders



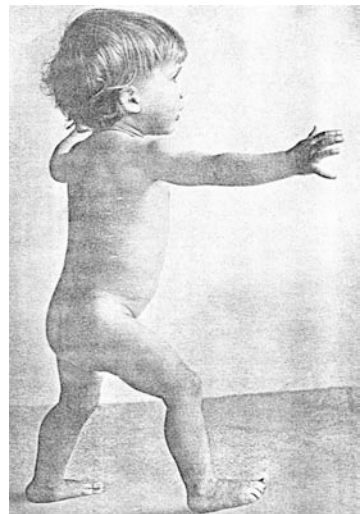
Each of us



has been by far



the best teacher.....



each of us has ever had.

Bright Hour

Feb 1st: Mrs Pam Murphy
Feb 8th: Anniversary tape
Feb 15th: Mr John Gooding
Feb 22nd: Mrs M Knowlton
Feb 29th: Members & Friends
Meetings commence at 2.30
p.m. on Friday afternoons.
All are welcome.

Flowers

Dec 2nd/9th: Donated by Pat Rogers to remember Helen and arr. by Meg.

Dec 16th/23rd: Church decorated for Christmas.

Jan 6th/13th: Donated by Mrs Crang to remember her husband Jim, arr. by Christine.

I would like to thank all those who helped before Christmas, getting the tree decorated; Sid for putting up the outside lights, and Meg and Margaret for helping to decorate the Church.

A big thankyou to the large number of people who arrived to take down and put away the decorations. It made such a difference; the job was done in a very short time.

Thanks to Ken & Hazel for donating and delivering the Christmas tree.

If you would like to donate money to the flower fund or would like flowers arranged for a

special occasion, or to remember someone, please let me know.

Christine Gregory

The story of four people Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody

When there was an important job to be done Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. When Nobody did it Everybody got angry, because it was Somebody's job. Everybody thought Somebody would do it but Nobody realised that Nobody would do it,. So it ended up with Everybody blaming Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

Submitted by Eileen Tarr.

George and Eileen would like to thank members of the church for the Christmas Gift which was delivered by Mike Pratt.

***Women's
World day of Prayer***

***Friday 7th March
2.30 p.m.***

St Boniface R.C. Church

The Wisdom of the Young

A teacher took a class of little children into a wood, caught a toad and put him into the middle of the group, saying ‘Our lesson today is to be about toads. But as I know nothing about toads; someone else will give you the lesson.’

One child said, ‘I suppose God will give us the lesson.’

Another interposed, ‘I think the toad will.’

The teacher was Mary Boole – died 1916

‘Noah’s wife was called Joan of Ark.’

‘Lot’s wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.’

‘The seventh commandment is ‘Thou shalt not admit adultery’’

‘The epistles were the wives of the apostles.’

‘A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.’

The Mum’s & Toddlers Group enjoying their Christmas Party



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.



Let us remember in our prayers all who are no longer able to join us regularly on Sundays to worship with us, though they might dearly love to do so. We remember, too, those in our church family who have on-going health problems or who face difficult situations, causing them daily struggle. Our thoughts are also with those who were unwell over Christmas and the New Year and hope they are making a good recovery. We hold in our hearts and prayers Sid and Cynthia Dixon, Sid is currently very unwell; Kath Metherell as she waits to go into hospital; Rita Ash as she continues to struggle with her illness; Ruth Macmurdo who has been in hospital following a fall and is now back in Hillbrow, though still in discomfort; Eva Whiting who is presently in St Lawrence following falls before Christmas; Joy Wilshire and her sister who is seriously ill; Kim and Alan Clemens and wish them better health and strength; Tom and Pam Squire and hope they are feeling better after being unwell over the Christmas period.

We also hold in our hearts and prayers our friends Allan Hooper, Phyllis Maunder, Kathy Nicholson (Kenwyn), Clara Paige (Kenwyn) and Rene Sankey.

Len Jenkinson is now home after being in hospital for some weeks. We wish Len a speedy return to health and strength. Our best wishes go to Harold and Sybil Bailey from The Mint who are now resident in Hillbrow. We hope they will be happy and comfortable in their new home. We are

very pleased to see that Mary Tyson is now getting out and about, and is able to come to services again, and hope she continues to get stronger.

Services in Residential Homes

Our services this month are:

Thursday 7 February: Summerhayes 2:30 pm

Wednesday 20 February: Hillbrow 2:30 pm

All are welcome to come.

TALKBACK

Sunday February 17th
6 p.m.

Boniface centre

Healing of the
Nobleman's son
John 4 vv 46-54

Steve Dunne

Welcome

In September we have the privilege of welcoming Helen Roberts, our new minister. Helen is a single lady and will be taking her first appointment after completing her ministerial training in Birmingham.

As we prepare for this time I ask that you will hold Helen in your prayers, so that together, we may continue to proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, here in Crediton.

Marjorie Ashley

Monthly Diary of Events February

Sun 3 rd 3pm	Section Service, Cheriton Cross Methodist Church
Mon 4 th	7.30pm Pioneer Disciple, Old Deanery, Exeter
Tues 5 th	7.30pm Ladies Supper Club
Ash Wednesday 6 th	Midweek Service 12.30pm
Thurs 7 th	7.15pm Steward's meeting, 9 Blagdon Rise
Sat 16 th	4-6pm The Ark
Tues 19 th	7.30pm Crediton Church Council
Mon 25 th	Pioneer Disciple, Old Deanery, Exeter

Barbara and David would like to thank all those who helped to make the **Christmas Coffee morning** at the Manse a happy and enjoyable occasion. The sum of £75 was raised and sent to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund for their work supporting Street Children in Bangladesh.

GIFT DAY first Sunday in Lent, 10th February. With the February newsletter you should have received a letter from the Minister and a Gift Day envelope. We would be very grateful if these could be returned for Gift Day on February 10th...but we are of course grateful to receive it any time! If you are a tax payer please remember to Gift Aid all your giving in the coming year. This has made a big difference to our finances as we are able to reclaim 25% of your gift – so every £1 you give to the church becomes £1.25

Many thanks.