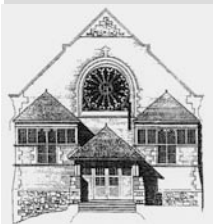




# Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter  
July/August 2008

## Crediton Methodist Church

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

**Email: [barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk](mailto:barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk) (July only)**

### Services this month:

- July 6<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Prof S Lea  
6.30 Dr J Wragg
- July 13<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev P Collings  
6.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
- July 20<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age Worship)  
6.30 Circuit Service at Crediton
- July 27<sup>th</sup>: 8.45 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)  
10.30 Rev A Brazier  
6.30 Mr D White

*Services for August – see back page*

### Church Groups:

Toddlers – meets on Mondays 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month (contact Margaret Kenshole 775144)

Mid-week service: Wednesdays 12.30 Bring a sandwich lunch/drinks provided.

Knit & Natter: Wednesdays 2.00 to 3.30 ( Wendy Homeshaw 01363 772786)

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.

The Ark: Saturdays monthly 4 – 6 p.m. (contact the minister)

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

Every Sunday: 10.30 a.m. Sunday Club

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**Material for the September newsletter to Ken Saunders  
by August 24th**

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

**[ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com](mailto:ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com)**

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

**Cover Photo: Chinese Christian Art – The Garden of Eden**



## Farewell to Barbara and David



This month we look forward to Barbara's circuit Farewell Service on July 20th, here in Crediton at 6.30 p.m., and a change for us all. We have been truly blessed in this church with Barbara's ministry and we are grateful for the support and back-up that David has provided throughout their time here.. Both Barbara and David will be greatly missed for their enthusiasm and leadership as we all seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.



We wish them well as they move to 'pastures new' and pray that Barbara's ministry in Chislehurst is the beginning of another chapter filled with His blessings.

*Marjorie Ashley (Senior Steward)*



## In the Ebb and Flow

For three days in the first week of June, I was on a 'Multimedia in Worship Course' which was held at Willersley Castle in Derbyshire. We worked hard – starting at 9.30 in the morning and finishing at 9.30 in the evening but we learnt a lot. It was enjoyable and we were inspired by the leadership of Mike Bossingham, a Methodist minister, who runs the Family Friendly Churches Trust ([www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk](http://www.familyfriendlychurches.org.uk)).

Willersley Castle itself is a beautiful place to stay in the Peak District. The grounds were at their best, full of birdsong, pink, purple and yellow wild flowers and trees splendid in new green leaf, leading down to the River Derwent in full flow after a wet spring. The water flowing over the weir sparkled in the June sunshine.

Willersley Castle was built 200 years ago by Sir Richard Arkwright, the great industrialist who developed the Water Frame which revolutionised the cotton milling industry. The family lived in the Castle throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then it was commissioned as an Auxiliary Hospital during the Great War.

After the war the family's fortunes ebbed and the castle was sold. It would seem its life had come to an end. However in 1927 it was bought by a group of Methodist businessmen as a Methodist Guild Holiday Centre. It became a popular location for young Methodists, with its tennis courts, bowling green, games field and organised excursions in the Peak District proving a real success. New life flowed. During the Second World War, the Castle was used as a Maternity Hospital by the Salvation Army, which had relocated from Clapton in the East End of London. Life flowed again when over four thousand babies were born at Willersley between 1940 and 1946!

However by the 1980s changing patterns of family holidays brought the Methodist Guild Homes to a low ebb. The future of Willersley

was in doubt again but then the



was set

up which now runs all the old Methodist Guild Homes including Sidholme in Sidmouth. The Castle, with its new swimming pool (in

which I enjoyed a pre breakfast swim at 7.30 each morning!) is now a popular Residential centre once more, for holidays, courses and for school groups. It was lovely at meal times for all the week's residents to sit down together - our ministers group on the multimedia course, a group of older people on a Guild holiday from the Bury St Edmunds circuit and about forty 10 year old children and their teachers on a residential school trip. The rich mixture of people, the history of the castle and the ever flowing river running through the grounds brought to mind this prayer:

As you were in the ebb and flow,  
as the beginning becomes the ending,  
and the ending a new beginning,  
be with us  
ever-present God.  
*(Kate McIlhagga)*

Barbara Calvert



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### **Rev Helen Roberts**

Owing to health problems, Helen, our new minister, is unable to take up her ministry here in September, but is hoping to join us later in the year. We are pleased that Rev. David Gregory has agreed to take pastoral care of the church in the interim period.

## **Church Centenary Mugs**

Greetings from California USA! I recently purchased a pair of your centennial (1892-1992) bone china mugs at an estate sale. I especially liked the well-done watercolor of your church on the mugs. I currently have them for sale on Ebay. However, having worked on a centennial celebration myself, I know that some people in your area would appreciate them far more than others. I would be happy to just donate them back to you if you know of someone in your congregation who missed out on these commemoratives.

Hope to hear back from you. I also went to your website - great historical information. Hope you don't mind - I added some of your historical information to the item description on Ebay.

Best Regards,

Kathleen Mason

*Please let Ken Saunders know if you are interested.*

## **Two Christenings**

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, Matthew Thomas, baby son of Ruth and Steve (and grandson of Majorie and Clifford) will be christened.

On 31<sup>st</sup> August, Bethany Rose, baby daughter of Caroline and Richard (and granddaughter of June and Adrian) will be christened. The preacher at this service is Rev Kevin Hooke.

You are invited to:  
**Crediton Methodist  
Church**  
on  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**  
for  
**Coffee/Tea from 10 a.m.**  
and  
**Home-made soup &  
Sweet**  
**from 12 to 2.30 p.m.**

**There will be stalls**

**All proceeds for  
Francisco Rojas School,  
Peru**

## **Bright Hour**

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Members & Friends  
afternoon

July 11<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Kathryn Cole

July 18<sup>th</sup>: Musical afternoon

July 18<sup>th</sup> will be our last meeting  
for this session. We resume on  
5<sup>th</sup> September. We meet on  
Friday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.  
and everyone is welcome.

We continue to pray for our  
members who are unwell at the  
moment, Mrs Eileen Tarr, Mrs  
Ann Spry, Mrs Beatrice Carle,  
and for those who have to go into  
hospital for operations in July.

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## **Hall Bookings**

It is very fortunate for the church  
to have many organisations using  
the rooms downstairs, some on a  
very regular basis. It brings in  
much needed funds. The  
downside is the rooms are not  
always free when members  
would like to use them. So if you  
are thinking/planning an event it  
is advisable to check with me  
first. That way you will avoid  
being disappointed if the room  
you require is already booked.  
Thankyou. *Christine*

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## **Security**

During the last few weeks lights  
have been left on both in the  
church and in the downstair  
rooms. The church door was also

found to be unlocked when a  
member went to go into the  
church.

Please check all lights are  
switched off and doors locked.  
The organisations who use the  
premises are also being asked to  
check lights and doors before  
they leave. Thankyou.

## **Cake Stall**

At Phillips

**In aid of Mercy Ships**

August 9<sup>th</sup>: 9 – 12 noon.

Donations will be  
welcome

Margaret Scott 776477

## **A new arrival**



Ray and Linda with Charlie,  
their new grandson.  
Congratulations to the parents  
Caroline & Andy.

Congratulations also to Ray  
who reached a big '0' birthday  
on June 12<sup>th</sup>!

## Pause for thought

I went on a course on Thursday. Two of the many things we had the chance to look at in depth were time management and communication. To no ones surprise these two were also the best attended!

It seems that even though we have never had so many ways to communicate we have lost the ability to do it in any meaningful way. Like wise, have we ever, in all of history, had so many time and labour saving devices to aid us with our cleaning, cooking and travelling. But instead of using these things to free up our time we seem to have just tried to cram even more things into our lives to fill the time we've saved!

Perhaps it is time for us to stand back and reflect on the time we have been given and the ways in which we use it.

When God created the world he built in down time, a day of rest. How many of us feel that we can take a day a week out to pause, look at where we are, workout where we are going or how we can get there? For most of us, myself included, it can even seem a struggle to find the hour a week to join in with worship!

My course had many suggestions for more successful time management and better communications and very few of them involved electronics. The most powerful ways of improving both these areas it seems is to take more control of how you spend your time. To recognise the fact that there is a finite amount of time in every day, and to be clear about what is really important when you decide how to use it. To prioritise.

Jesus was very clear about our need to set aside time for clear communication with our Father and Creator. He told us to find a quiet place away from everyday noise. A space where we could both speak and listen to God. He told us we needed to do this every day.

Where and when will you spend time with God today?

*Chris Mann*

**NCH Supper Party  
St Thomas Methodist  
Church. 6 for 6.30 p.m.**

**Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**Price £5**

**Entertainment by Gospel  
Choir**

**Tickets from the stewards**

**Bible Society**

Exeter Vision Event

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> July 10 – 3 p.m.

St Leonards Church, Exeter  
Light Buffet Lunch provided

Respond by Friday 4 July

0179341822

[contactus@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:contactus@biblesociety.org.uk)

**Cake Stall**

At Phillips: July 12<sup>th</sup>  
9 – 12 noon

Proceeds for Jose at Francisco

Rojas School, Peru

Donations of cakes to

Margaret Scott

**Coffee Morning**

Front of Methodist Church  
Wed: 30<sup>th</sup> July 10 - 12 noon

Proceeds for Mercy Ships

**Connect 2007 – 2008**

Our two workers this year have been: Tracy who comes from USA She has just finished her 3<sup>rd</sup> year and degree in Youth Work, training with SW Ministries who partner us in Connect. Clinton, our other worker, was born in S. Africa but has been in England a number of years. Before joining SWYM he had worked for three years for BP on a ship in the Far East. He is here for two years to work for his degree in Youth Work.

Over the past year they have taken various groups of young people to Christian camps during holidays and half terms they also go to Soul Survivor and Hope08 events. This is in addition to working in QE school and helping in the town's Youth Clubs. As Tracy leaves us we send our prayers with her in her future, and ask that you join us in prayer to find a new worker to be with Clinton in 2008/2009.

The Sponge in Shobrooke Park for young families and youth in Crediton has just finished and was a huge success. May God's blessing be with all our young people.

*Margaret Scott*

# GLIMPSES OF CHURCH LIFE IN CHINA TODAY

*With the Beijing Olympics in mind and knowing that the eyes of the world will be focused on China in 2008, the Methodist Church has produced a CD called Whispers of China. We include a few extracts from the CD: Here three Chinese Christians describe what church life is like for them:*

My church is a small church in the mountains of Guizhou province. It is made out of wood and looks like the other buildings in our village apart from the fact that there is a red cross hanging above the door with a sign with the church's name on it. I like the inside of the church. We have put newspaper on the wall and there is a small bulb which we use if it gets too dark or if we have a visitor. We sit on small wooden benches. At the front there is a chair for the preacher and a small table for his bible and a tape recorder. The men sit on the left hand side of the church and the women sit on the right. We sit with our families and friends and also with other people from our village. People from lots of different villages come to our church. Everyone in our village knows that it is the church and many of the villagers come to church. About 140 people attend every week. The service is held every Sunday and starts at 2pm. It is held at that time so that people from other villages can come, having done some of their farming beforehand. The service is led by an evangelist who has graduated from bible school. He is from our village but also serves in different villages. He travels a lot from place to place. When he is away in another village the village elder takes the service for us. His family have been Christian for 3 generations. Most of us are farmers and so each week a different person stays at home to look after the animals. Some people have to walk several miles across the mountain to get to church. It is a long way but the paths are beautiful and they sing hymns on the way. There is a lot of singing at church and we often sing hymns that we know off by heart. Lots of people play instruments and dance in praise of God. It is wonderful.

My church was built just a few years ago. It is a small catholic church in the city of Huangshan. We have a sister who lives at the church. She works hard at running it well and making it look very beautiful. She can sew well and has made curtains for the windows and cushions for us to kneel on when we pray. She thinks that prayer is very important and encourages us

to pray a lot. Her room is downstairs near to the little bookshop that we have. She looks after the church and is also there if we need someone to pray with or talk to during the week. We have one service a week on Sunday mornings at 8am but there are other gatherings during the week. The priest comes once a month to say mass for us. When he comes the church is always full. Most of the people at church are old ladies but there are a few young people and a few men too. We have a bible study meeting once a week.

I come from a small village in Fujian province. My church is on the top of a small hill. It is the highest building in the village. We have a big cross on the top of the church and in the evening when there is an event on in the church the cross is lit up so that all the villagers know and they can come along too. It is a quiet village and so lots of people do come and join in. We have a large vegetable patch, two pigs and 5 chickens in front of the church. Some of the Christians are responsible for looking after the animals and others look after the vegetables. They work on the vegetable patch during the week. The food is used for the church. Every Sunday after church a simple lunch is cooked for anyone who wants it. Usually about 100 people stay. It is a good time to chat and spend time with one another. We have a large Sunday school and lots of the children from the village come. The Sunday school is held in a building opposite the church. The children enjoy singing and playing games as well as learning more about Jesus. Last Christmas we built an extension to the Sunday school and made two large open stoves so that we could invite the whole village to a Christmas party. It was such fun. About 40 of us helped in making presents for everyone. We put sweets and fruit and some bible passages into a small bag for everyone who came to the service. We had about 600 people there. We had a huge performance, with songs and sketches which the whole village was invited to. It was a great day. A lot of people in our church are there because they have been healed in some way. Last Easter we had a baptism service for 23 new believers. They had been to classes to learn more about their faith before being baptised. Some of them have other family members who are Christians but many of them were the first Christian in their family.

*Churches in China are growing at an incredible rate. Many are growing because they regularly invite their friends and family along with them to church. If you wanted your church to grow considerably by next year what kind of things could you do?*

## **Creative Arts Workshop**

**By Bev Smerdon (District Creative Arts Officer)  
26<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (morning) at Credenon Methodist Church**

**An interactive workshop for anyone interested in Creative & Performing Arts  
A 2-hour workshop on-**

**\* Introduction to what can be achieved (Puppets, Drama, Dance, Storytelling,  
Art, Craft, Media Arts, .....**

**\* A skills audit & training skills analysis (undertaken in a fun way)**

**\* Exploring hopes & dreams**

**\* Deciding "What next?"**

**Further details to follow**

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## **Street Market Weekend: 2nd, 3rd August, 2008**

**Silverton** looks forward to hosting a mini Circuit gathering on Sunday, 3rd August - six Circuit churches getting together. Wonderful ! **4 pm from SMC two guided walks** will set forth, one along footpaths giving great views over the countryside (dress appropriately !), the other walk through the byroads of this fascinating Exe Valley village. So, welcome to all Credenon friends. **Cream Teas, etc., served at 5 pm.** Please sign 'the list' to give a rough idea of numbers for walks/teas. **At 6.30 pm Worship** will be kindly led by the Revd. Trevor Beardsall, so ably supported by Mr. Wensley Palmer and other friends. (The Saturday Street Market theme this year is Heroes and Villains, with **SMC a street market refreshment centre again (Sat. 10-4pm)** for the village charities. There'll also be 'Singing Ladies' popping in and active members of the RSPB will be around to help with ornithology queries - definitely heroes. All worth a visit. Look forward to see you over this Street Market Weekend

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## **On the Edge of Pentecost**

**Tom Stuckey**, former President of the Methodist Church; author of several books on mission; widely traveled preacher and teacher. He says, 'God is calling us to take risks with faith. God is re-shaping His church and He wants us to do things we have never done before.'

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral**

**10.30 – 3.30 p.m.**

**To book ring: 01392 294930; email-fishing@exeter.anglican.org**

**No Charge – Lunch provided**

## Pastoral Page

### The Church Community

*Psalm 8:4 "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, Mortals that you care for them?"*

*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.*



### Our Church Family

We pray for all members of our church family who are ill or distressed, and those who are no longer able to join in fellowship with us on Sundays. We are pleased to hear that Ken Turner is making good steady progress. We are thinking, too, of Harold & Sybil Bayley (Hillbrow); Kim & Alan Clemens; Sid & Cynthia Dixon; Harold Hollingsworth; Allan Hooper, Frank Howarth, Bob Ings; Len Jenkinson; Iris Mackie; Phyllis Maunder, Joan Musty; Kathy Nicholson (Kenwyn); Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Eileen Tarr; Mary Tyson, Joy Wilshire.

Congratulations! – to two happy couples celebrating their diamond wedding anniversaries: Kath and Cyril Wollacott will have been together for 60 years on 5<sup>th</sup> July, and Doris and Horace Crispin on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We send both couples our love and best wishes for the happy occasions.

**Residential Homes** services for July and August are:

Summerhayes	Thursday 3rd July	2:30 pm
Kenwyn	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	2:00 pm
St Lawrence	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	2:30 pm
Summerhayes	Thursday 7th August	2:30 pm
Kenwyn	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2:00 pm
Hillbrow	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2:30 pm
St Lawrence	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	2:30 pm

We are pleased and very thankful for the support we receive from those who come along and join us. All are welcome.

Contacts: Karen Theedom: Pastoral Secretary: 775704  
Pam Murphy: Pastoral Page news 773414

## **China: Religious freedom rhetoric fails to translate into reality**

The Chinese government has announced measures that are, in the words of the official China Daily, “a significant step forward in the protection of Chinese citizens’ religious freedoms.” Good news then for all of those being persecuted for their religious activities in China? Good news especially for the prominent church leader Zhang Rongliang, who was detained by police in Henan Province on 1 December, and others detained and imprisoned for their beliefs?

Unfortunately, closer examination of the new “Regulations on Religious Affairs”, due to be promulgated on 1 March 2005, shows that there is little change in Chinese policy, where religion is strictly controlled by the government. The rules do not define “religious belief” nor do they give any elaboration of the “normal” and “legitimate” religious activities it is claimed the regulations protect.

While five religions are officially recognised -- Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Protestantism and Catholicism -- these are only allowed to organise under the control and scrutiny of the authorities. For example, Catholicism in China exists in the form of the Patriotic Catholic Church of China, which is not united with Rome and its Bishops are chosen by Beijing and not by the Pope. Members of the Roman Catholic Church in China are heavily persecuted, as are members of any other church not among those recognised by the state.

Zhang Rongliang is the leader of the China for Christ Church, one of the largest “house church” networks in China, and is also leader of the Protestant Fangcheng Mother Church. He was detained in Xuzhai village, where he lives, in Zhengzhou city. According to a church member, the police searched every household in the village and confiscated Christian DVDs, other materials and photos revealing Zhang’s “connections with foreigners and foreign agencies that showed Zhang had contacted organisations overseas.”

Communicating with people overseas can be grounds for imprisonment in China. His wife and child are in hiding. Zhang Rongliang has already been imprisoned five times for his beliefs, for a total of 12 years, during which he was severely tortured. He is the co-author of “House Churches of China - Confession of Faith and Declaration” and he has been mentioned in a

number of international media reports on religion in China. This puts him at greater risk of arrest and torture.

The police also raided at least three unofficial “house” churches in nearby Fangcheng county, at around the time they detained Zhang Rongliang. This case is far from an isolated incident; Amnesty International’s recent report “Human rights defenders at risk” included the case of three other members of the unofficial Protestant church, Liu Fenggang, Xu Yonghai and Zhang Shengqi, imprisoned for their peaceful investigation and disclosure of the persecution of fellow Christians in Zhejiang Province.

The three Christians were detained during an intensified crackdown against unofficial churches in Zhejiang Province, launched by the authorities in March 2003. In July 2003, more than a dozen house churches were reportedly destroyed and at least 300 Christians arrested, some were reportedly ill-treated and beaten.

On 6 August 2004, the court sentenced Liu Fenggang to three years, Xu Yonghai, to two years and Zhang Shengqi to one year. These sentences included the period of time that they had already served in pre-trial detention. While Amnesty International has been unable to confirm his release, it is thought that Zhang Shengqi has been released from prison as his one-year sentence ended in November. However, Liu Fenggang and Xu Yonghai remain imprisoned in Hangzhou Xijiao Prison. The new regulations do nothing to reduce the restrictions on underground churches or the persecution that accompany them. On the contrary, the new regulations merely define the supervisory role over religious affairs for various government departments and offices. While they may improve the administration of state-recognized religions and allow for input from members of state-recognised churches in some decision-making, there is nothing that would curtail the ongoing patterns of arbitrary detentions, arrests, sentencing and demolition of churches and buildings.

China Daily reports “the new provisions are designed to deal with new situations and issues that have emerged in recent years, with China’s rapid socioeconomic development.” For China to be taken seriously on these issues, it will have to do more than extending the government’s control under the guise of extending religious freedom. If religious freedom is going to exist beyond rhetoric, the Chinese authorities must acknowledge the right of all individuals to peacefully practice their own religious beliefs, whatever they are.

## **A SEDER MEAL with the Exeter Hebrew Congregation A Heggadah for the Four Childen in each of us!**

### **The Wise Children in us – *that seeks depth and multiple answers.***

- The traditional text with innovative commentary
- What we do and why we do it
- Reflections on slavery and freedom

### **The Rebellious Spirit in us - *that demands personal relevance from the traditional text***

- Provocative questions and debates
- Contemporary stories of liberation
- Spiritual reflections and personal memories

### **The Simple Curiosity in us - *that listens and looks with wonder***

- The Exodus story retold dramatically
- 20 artistic portrayals of the four children
- New translation, transliteration, and simple directions

### **The Non-Verbal in us - *that does not know how to ask but wants to experience***

- Games, songs and cartoons
- Role playing, dress up and recipes
- The Exodus retold in pictures

**Exodus 12:39** *“They baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had taken out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, since they had been driven out of Egypt and could not delay; nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves”*

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April I joined members and friends of the Exeter Hebrew congregation for a Seder meal. Before going, I had no idea what I was going to experience! So I felt very privileged to be asked to attend and to be made really welcome by everyone and to be involved with the congregation when they were remembering a night when Jewish people recall what it must have been like to be strangers in the land of Egypt.

As my Jewish friends and I arrived early, I became involved in laying up the rows of tables. I was very intrigued with the various items I was asked to set out. There were bunches of parsley on each table, a bowl of salted water, a plate containing a lamb bone, bitter herbs, **Matza (unleavened bread)** and so on, each item having

a meaning and included in the 15 steps of the Seder. Although the order of 'service' was conducted in both Hebrew and English, I did not feel out of place, as I soon got 'caught up' with the story telling, singing, joke telling and remembrances. The Seder meal as well as remembering Jewish history, emphasises the importance of the family. The involvement of children formed a large part of the evening and it was so lovely to see all the families eating, singing, taking part and generally welcomed into the larger Jewish family. I loved hearing and participating in this rich tradition of celebrating memories.

**N.B.** the Matza biscuit/bread represents the haste of the departure of their Jewish ancestors from Egypt – **Exodus 12:39.**

*June Redfern*

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### INTERNATIONAL AID NEWS

I was sitting down in front of the computer with Adrian, not feeling too well with a bothersome cold and not really wanting to look at a CD received from International Aid put together by Derrick Leach on his return from visiting sponsored families in Belarus. The CD contained photos and reports of about 20 families which we needed to copy and send out to their various UK sponsors.

My mood soon changed when I read the reports – here are two you might like to see.

*Victor **Chernousick** has had the sadness when his wife died just before Christmas. She had been diagnosed with lung cancer just a few weeks before she died and Victor felt that there was negligence on the part of the hospital in not recognising her symptoms earlier. However Victor is getting over her loss and was really pleased to see me, we had a laugh and joke about a future wife. He is very fortunate that an elderly lady from the Church*



*comes in every day to help the family with the feeding, washing and cleaning.*

*Victor has now got 11 children at home with 3 or 4 coming home at week-end. Just prior to the death of his wife he was asked by the authorities if he would foster another little boy from the local orphanage. His wife only saw their newest child for about a week but he has brought great*

*blessing to the family.*

*We took a lot of fruit, vegetables and oil to Victor on our visit. It is a wonderful family home and all the children are so grateful that Victor's heart is so large to take them all in as part of his own.*

*Victor and family sends their thanks to the sponsors from England for all the help and support given to them.*

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I visited the **Kovalencho** family last year and I was really moved at the needs of this family and was very pleased to be able to visit Pasha, Vanya and Maria the mother again. The boys both remembered me from my last visit. The two boys are both bed-fast and the mother receives very little help from the state. The local Messianic Church come in to help whenever they can.

The two boys are both mentally handicapped and Vanya was injured in a car accident from which he has never recovered. Pasha loves to watch TV and listen to music and gets very excited when there is music on the television. Vanya is interested in sport on television and last year he asked me about cricket and I tried to explain the rules of the game. On my journey out I had a cricket magazine that I left with him to look at the pictures. Vanya was also interested in trying to understand a little of

English and our interpreter wrote out the alphabet for him and I wrote some little phrases which our interpreter translated for him.

Maria the mother was very grateful when we passed on the extra £20 which had been sent for the family earlier in the year. I also took with me on my visit a bag of fruit and juice and cakes.





The family were very appreciative of my visit and send their greetings and thanks to the Ainsworth family in the United Kingdom.

Nearly every report gave details of families in very serious situations regarding health and accommodation hardship. The first pictures we had of the Kovalenko family we downloaded from

an e-mail on Easter Sunday morning two years ago, and to think that two years later these two young men are still lying on the same beds, not having gone out of their flat and their mother still cheerfully looking after them!

*June Redfern*

## **Church Walk – Heywood, near Wembworthy**

You are invited to come and join us for a beautiful woodland walk on August Bank Holiday (August 25<sup>th</sup>). The walk is graded as moderate and takes about one and a half hours. Things of interest on the walk are a magnificent Douglas fir (circa 1840) and other conifers planted by the Forestry Commission in 1920. You will also encounter an impressive motte and bailey, all that remains of a once imposing Norman fort.

Please meet in our church car park at 10.00 a.m. to arrange car sharing. Refreshments, if required, will be available after the walk at The Lymington Arms or Eggesford Garden Centre or bring a picnic if you prefer.

*Bob & Priscilla*

## **The Green Box Tip Of The Month**

There are approximately 1.3 million plastic bags given away by traders in Crediton each year. (This does not include Boots who will not give any figures.) The good news is that Crediton hopes to go plastic bag free later this summer. And don't think you are doing the right thing by using biodegradable bags. They cause pollution when being made and when they eventually degrade which might take up to 50 years. There are some ethically produced long life shopping bags available on the Church Traidcraft stall. Shop with a clear conscience!

## Diary

## July and August 2008

### July

Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> 12.30pm Midweek Service

**4<sup>th</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> July Methodist Conference, Scarborough**

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Children and Young People's Group,  
at Margaret Scott's.

Weds 9<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Midweek Service

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm Steward's meeting at Margaret Scott's.

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Midweek Service

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Town Band Concert in the church

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> 12.30pm Midweek Service

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> The Ark 4-6pm

Weds 30<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Midweek Service

### August

There will be no midweek service in August

**Please Note: The welcome service for Rev Helen Roberts,  
planned for 30<sup>th</sup> August. has been postponed.**

### Services in August:

3<sup>rd</sup> August: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)

6.30 At Silverton

10<sup>th</sup> August: 10.30 Mr S Lawson

6.30 Mr D Bradford

17<sup>th</sup> August: 10.30 Rev D Gregory

6.30 Rev M Dillistone

24<sup>th</sup> August: 10.30 Rev K Hext

6.30 Mrs C Colin

31<sup>st</sup> August: 10.30 Rev K Hooke

6.30 Rev V Vine

# Crediton Town Band

**Concert Friday 18th July**

**7.30 p.m.**



**Crediton Methodist Church**

**Tickets £5 from Phillips & Co  
or 773566 (includes refreshments)**

**Organised by the Methodist Church in aid of Connect**