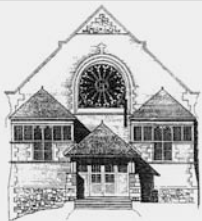




Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter
March 2008



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- March 2nd. 10.30 Rev B Calvert /Mrs C Dixon (Mothering Sunday)
6.30 Mr J Curtis
- March 9th: 10.30 Mrs P Murphy
6.30 Mr D Bradford
- March 16th: 10.30 Miss M Hext (All Age Worship) (Palm Sunday)
6.30 Prof S Lea
- March 23rd: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament) (Easter Sunday)
6.30 Rev D Gregory
- March 30th: 10.30 Prof A Wragg
6.30 Mr S Lawson

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 April newsletter to Ken Saunders by March 23rd

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com

cover picture: African Christian Art- *Healing of the epileptic boy*

Green Church Network (Crediton Area)

We are an ecumenical group affiliated to Crediton Climate Action and Devon Christian Climate Change Coalition (DCCCC).

Our purpose is to:

- help churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community.
- encourage, enthuse and inspire one another!

The group was inaugurated at the Crediton Climate Action Open Space Day on Saturday 9th February 2008.

The first meeting of Green Church Network (Crediton Area) is:

Where: Crediton Methodist Church
When: Wednesday 26th March
Time: 7.30pm

Topic for our first meeting: *How to become an Eco Congregation*

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ALL WELCOME

Easter early, but still the same!

Lambs at Christmas, daffodils in January, warm sunshine in February, and now - Easter on 23rd March. Well, we cannot blame global warming for that! This is the earliest that Easter has fallen since 1913 and it is all because of a table of calculations made long ago when it was decided that in the Western calendar Easter Sunday would follow the first full moon (the Paschal moon) after the 21st March equinox. So Easter can be anywhere between 22nd March and the 25th April. Mothering Sunday is always three weeks before Easter so this year will therefore also be very early on Sunday 2nd March.

Mothering Sunday is a relatively recent tradition whereas Easter, celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus, marks the beginning of over 2000 years of the Christian faith. At Easter too we remember a mother, Jesus' mother Mary, standing near the foot of the cross. Would she be looking up at Jesus or standing in fervent prayer with her head bowed? In some parts of the country snowdrops are known as 'Mary's tapers', their flower heads white, bowed, delicate to the eye but yet so strong to withstand the harsh climate they endure in the early part of the year. Mary too must have thought that Easter had come too soon. All of us will at some time have grieved the loss of someone whom we felt we had lost too soon, whose death had come too early. Even when our loved one is old the moment of parting can still seem too soon as we do not want to let them go.

One mother who lost a child describes how in the days and weeks immediately following the death she felt her whole being completely overcome by grief. As the weeks and months went by she expected the grief to shrink a little so that it inhabited just part of her. But she found this did not happen; the grief remained just as big, just the same size, but as time passed she found that life grew, expanded and blossomed and was enriched in new ways around the pain of her grief.



On Good Friday we silently gaze on the wooden cross, reflecting on the pain and anguish of the crucifixion of Jesus. On Easter Sunday the cross is still there but now it is covered in spring flowers signs of new life bursting forth.

‘Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.’

Barbara Calvert

Easter 2008

Palm Sunday	10.30am All Age Service
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm The Lord’s Supper
Good Friday	10am start St Boniface RC Church Ecumenical Procession of Witness
Saturday	4- 6pm The Ark at Easter
Sunday	10.30pm Easter Day Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Service

On Easter Sunday morning please will everyone bring a flower – a daffodil or spring flower. These will be used to transform the bare wooden cross of Good Friday to the glorious Easter cross of the resurrection.

Easter Offering 2008

All proceeds go to the Methodist Church Fund for world mission. This enables the following to be funded: Grants for partner churches overseas; Training, placement and support of mission partners; Nationals in mission appointments; World church in Britain programme; Special Project grants; Scholarship & Leadership training; Experience Exchange programme and a grant to Women’s network GB to support its work and mission. Please give generously in the Easter Offering Gift Aid Envelopes.

The Ark

a fun tea time for families.

Story, and themed art/craft/drama/cooking activities, tea, music, reflection, prayer



4-6pm

Saturday 22nd March

Easter Ark

Saturday 19th April

Saturday 17th May

Saturday 28th June

Saturday 26th July

Saturday 20th September

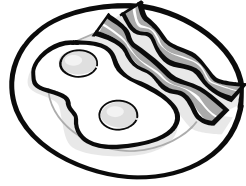
The Ark - Saturday February 16th

Jesus and a crowd of poorly people

17 children and 17 adults (helpers and parents) came to the Ark in February. The theme was Jesus and the 10 Lepers. Following badge making on arrival the children gathered in the story corner with the adults gathered round too. The story told it is in to the hall for workshops. We had large lengths of paper laid on the floor for the children to draw round themselves and then paint and stick bits of bandage on as one of the 'poorly people'. There was model making with plasticine and play dough, origami cats (cats are much loved by people suffering from leprosy), painting on ceramic tiles for the adults - a picture to express gratitude or thankfulness and then 2 cakes to ice and decorate - one sad face, one happy face. Tea was served - bangers, beans and mash for all 34 of us and the sad and happy cakes. After tea the adults were entertained to a drama in which the children delighted in dressing in slings and bandages as the poorly people whom Jesus healed but only one of whom returned to praise God. Our closing worship was an expression of praise as God's gift to us. We experience full healing only when we recognise our need of God. All gathered together in a circle we sang 'Thank you God for...' and 'Let us praise the Lord our God' and to close we passed a 'poorly' teddy around. As each of us held the teddy we offered our own line of thankful prayer to God.

Thank you God for the Ark

Breakfast News from Cheriton Fitzpaine!



On Saturday 6th October we opened a breakfast club in our Church.

The Breakfast Club is held on the first Saturday of each month from 9am – 12 noon and is proving very popular.

Our objectives for the club are to provide a social outlet for families and to earn a little money for Church funds. It is our great joy that this is precisely what we are achieving.

It gives us great pleasure to serve our friends and neighbours in our community and it is lovely to see a number of family groups, especially the children, who have become regular customers.

A good number of volunteers are required to run such an operation, most of whom are Church members, but it is with delight that I can say that some are members of the Anglican Church, and some are non Church members. This is indicative of the wonderful community spirit that exists in Cheriton Fitzpaine.

All good things come from God.

Mike Pratt.

Ready and Able – Disability Adviser appointed

Devon churches have a new adviser to help them welcome people with disabilities into the life of the church. Debbie Starling is the voluntary Disability Adviser for the Exeter diocese and has made it clear that she is ready to help churches of all denominations.

Debbie wants to hear from churches ready to be more welcoming. She can advise them on improving their access and on including people with disabilities in services. Activities in the pipeline include worship for adults with learning disabilities and welcoming children with Asperger's syndrome or autism into Sunday schools.

Debbie can be reached on dstarling@blueyonder.co.uk or 01626 981071.

INTERNATIONAL AID working with THE METHODIST CONFERENCE, Kenya

A few months ago you may remember that I wrote an article in the newsletter saying that contact had been made with the Methodist Conference in Kenya. Bernard Cocker CEO of International Aid had visited Kenya and had seen the need there and felt that God wanted him to be involved in the situation. So in collaboration with the Methodist Conference in Kenya help has now commenced.

Rev John Calhoun (Co-ordinator of Humanitarian Relief and Church Development, Methodist Church, Kenya) has asked, quote – *“The Methodist Church in Kenya is willing and able to act as your partner in these initiatives. In our internal discussions regarding your proposal, a number of questions have arisen, which I have been asked to direct to you”*



Bernard Cocker (International Aid CEO) writes -

Dear Friends,

1) Here are the details of the first few of our sponsored Kenyan families from Rev. John Calhoun in Nairobi. (More emails with attachments to follow)

2) Sponsorship of these families is being covered by our existing African support.

3) Plus, we already have some pledged support from new sponsors.

4) Please continue to hold them in your prayers during this difficult time for Kenya

They have worked hard on this project and I am both blessed and excited at what God is doing.

Blessings Bernard

Item 1. refers to details of families needing sponsorship and as you can see these first families are now receiving help! We have received details of the families from the Synod Bishop, Rev Pius N Kagwi, and at least two are Methodist Ministers and their families needing support.

As well as sponsorship for individual families, humanitarian aid will now go out to Kenya, distributed through the Methodist Churches there. This is how aid is distributed in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

Of course this is very exciting with more families being sponsored, but as always we still have a long list of needy families! So your continued support for the mission of International Aid is very important.

June Redfern



A new arrival

Welcome to June and Adrian's latest grandchild. Bethan Rose was born on 23rd January – a daughter for Caroline and Richard.

We look forward to meeting Bethan soon.

Pause for Thought

'Be still and know that I am God'

Be still

No rippling on the water

No rustling in the leaves

Be quiet

Be still

With open hands

Waiting to receive

And know

Knowledge comes from without

But knowing comes from deep within.

We know

That I am God

The one who knows

The one who understands

The one who loves you.





Local Author - Hazel Hooper

Hazel has recently had a children's book published through the Book Guild, Brighton. Its title is 'The Mystery of the Treetops'

The hardback version is priced at £7.99 and is on sale at Phillips & Co (£1 a book for everyone sold goes to the Methodist Church at Crediton). To discover the mystery you will have to buy a copy – you won't be disappointed.

Church Pedestals

A Teaching flower demonstration will be given by Julia Harrison at the Mint Methodist Church on Saturday 8th March – starting at 2 p.m. The cost is £4 – payable at the door. Open to all who do church flowers or to anyone interested in the demonstration.

World Church Day

The Plymouth & Exeter District are holding a 'World church day' on Saturday March 8th at St Thomas Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

10 a.m. Refreshments & quiz on arrival

10.20 Welcome & devotions.

10.30 Key into Korea with Andrew Sails and the Mint Korean congregation.

11.30 a.m. Speaker: Rev Dr Jonathan Pye – Principal, Wesley College, Bristol.

12.30 p.m. Packed Lunches.

1.30 p.m. 'Whispers of China' Including activities and craft for all.

2.45 p.m. Closing devotions led by Rev Geoff Hays



Loaves & Fishes from Whispers of China

January Jollies 2008



little red riding hood





A day conference for preachers, worship leaders and all interested in developing worship appropriate to a changing culture and society.

Led by Rev Dave Martin
District Evangelism Enabler

Saturday 1st March 2008
10am – 3.30pm

Sidwell Street Methodist Church, Exeter

Session One: Changing church for a changing culture
Is cultural diversity destroying what it means to be church?

Session Two: Mission-shaped worship
Are we doing our theology the wrong way round and missing the heart of worship?

Session Three: Fresh Expressions of Sermon
This week 40 people in Exeter will decide not to attend worship again - because of the sermon.

Further info: 01392 439408
BYO lunch – drinks provided

The Green Box Tip of the Month

Manufacturing one ton of recycled newspaper results in 74% less air pollution and 43% less water pollution compared to the manufacture of paper using virgin wood pulp.

Fair Trade Fortnight 25th February to 9th March

“Change Today – Choose Fair Trade” is the theme of this year’s Fair Trade Fortnight.

Thank you to everyone who supports our Fair Trade stall. By buying Traidcraft items you are helping the producers build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Traidcraft fights poverty through trade. It was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty.

Could we tempt anyone who does not usually buy fair trade products to try something from our stall during Fair Trade Fortnight? Our prices range from 20p for a Fairbreak caramel wafer to £7.50 for a child’s jigsaw. If everyone from our church made a purchase each week, think what a difference this could make. Every purchase that you make has a direct impact on improving the lives of the producers.

To mark Fair Trade Fortnight our Geobars are at the special offer price of £1.50 for a box of 6. This is equivalent to one bar free with each box.

The new Traidcraft Spring/Summer catalogue is now available. Please help yourself to a copy from our Green area. If you would like to order something from this catalogue, which we do not stock, please write your requirements on the order form and leave it in the white container or contact Bob or Priscilla direct on 773566.

Thank you in anticipation.

Bob & Priscilla

Holy Land Pilgrimage

4th - 13th March 2008

It has been a long time in the planning and preparation but now excitement is really growing as we prepare to depart for the Holy Land this month. We are delighted to have a group of 24 pilgrims - 12 from our own church here in Crediton and others from Tedburn, Exmouth, Dawlish, Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol and Scotland. It is largely a Methodist trip and we do hope our two Anglican friends will not feel overwhelmed!

This is a journey that you must choose to travel. Pilgrims of old travelled slowly, observantly, in community. They shared experiences, food, stories and prayer. So shall we. We travel as Christians to Israel and Palestine, seeking to contact and support Palestinian Christians. We want to listen to their stories and rekindle our faith by connecting with holy places and holy people – for everywhere we go is sacred ground.

Our journey begins in Jerusalem where we will always be aware of the rhythm of prayer: in ourselves, in seeing the orthodox Jews making their way to the Western Wall, in hearing the Muslim call to prayer. This is followed by a two-night stay in Bethlehem, where we will see clearly the economic and social effects of the Separation wall. The final three days will be spent in Nazareth. Here we will be more relaxed and think about Jesus' early ministry and the calling of the disciples. As we reflect on the places we've seen, the people we've met and the conversations we've shared, we will be called anew to discover what it means for us to follow Jesus.

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.



NEWS from Toddler Group



Have you any idea how many years our Toddler Group has been running? 10, 20 or 30 years? You will probably be very surprised to hear that it is a lot longer than that. It's an incredible 45 years since Margaret Saunders and Margaret White started the group and then it was the only Toddler group in Crediton. Just as amazing is that Margaret is still helping most weeks put out the toys and play with the many children we see each week.

Toddler Group has always met on a Tuesday afternoon during term time downstairs in the hall but after Easter we are changing to a **MONDAY AFTERNOON**. Our first Monday will be on Monday 21st April and we really need some help to keep our very active noisy Toddler group going.

Helping to put the toys out at 1pm would be brilliant but if that isn't possible the most important job of the afternoon is making the tea/coffees and washing up afterwards for the parents/carers who come (From about 2.30-3.15.) We would like to have a rota so your commitment would be about once a month.

Our Toddler group is very popular and some weeks there are as many as 18 children playing downstairs with their parents/grandparents. We always finish the session with very noisy singing and playing the instruments. If you think you might be able to help us out in any way please talk to Margaret Saunders, Margaret Scott or Sarah Turner.



Pastoral Page

The Church Community

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



We send our love to Joan Musty following her mother Ruth's death and pray for strength and peace for Joan and her family. Our love and prayers are with Christine Gregory and her family following the death of Christine's mother and our dear friend Eva Whiting. Although they arrived home at a time of sadness, we warmly welcome back granddaughter Elaine and the children from their two year stay in New Zealand and hope they speedily settled in once again.

We hold in our hearts and prayers Sid and Cynthia Dixon, Sid is very unwell; Rita Ash - we are pleased to hear that Rita has been having days at home and pray for her continuing progress; Joy Wiltshire and her sister; Kim and Alan Clemens; Allan Hooper, Phyllis Maunder, Kathy Nicholson (Kenwyn), Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Eileen Tarr; Len Jenkinson; Harold and Sybil Bayley (Hillbrow).

We remember, too, those in our church family who have on-going health problems or who face difficult situations, causing them daily struggle.

Happy 100th birthday wishes to Kathy Nicholson for Monday 31 March. Kathy will have a family celebration on Saturday 29 March, and another celebration on the day itself!! Congratulations, Kathy, have a lovely time with lots of love surrounding you.

Services in Residential Homes

Our services this month are:

Thursday 6 March:	Summerhayes	2:30 pm
Thursday 6 March:	Crediton Hospital	2.30 p.m.
Wednesday 19 March:	Kenwyn	2:30 pm
Thursday 20 March:	St Lawrence	2:30 pm

All are welcome to come.

World Mission Boxes

We have several members using our mission boxes, donating loose change for the valuable work of the Methodist Church overseas. If anyone else would like to join with us, please do ask me for a box.

I shall be collecting in the boxes once again this month, for banking. Please hand them to me or a steward, and I'll return them to you as swiftly as possible.

Pam Murphy

True friendship

Friends may come and friends may go,
Some melt away like winter snow.

But some are like a breath of air,
Refreshing sweet and always there.

For friendship which is always true,

Enriches lives the whole year through.

It's not like leaves on autumn trees

Which fall and scatter in the breeze.

It's not like rain in early spring,
No swift, sudden torrential thing.
It's something you can always touch,

For real friendship means so much.

To know no matter what you do,
That someone will be there for you,

To share your troubles, ease your strife,

To be a friend indeed for life.

As lasting as abiding love

Eternal as the stars above.

For friendship which has real worth

Can be the greatest thing on earth.

Author unknown – submitted by Eileen Tarr - 'To all my friends who have visited me or enquired for me since I have been unable to come to church.'

Bright Hour

March 7th: Women's Day of Prayer at Crediton RC Church

March 14th: Rev K Hext

(Communion)

March 21st: Good Friday –no meeting

March 28th: Miss Hazel Boyd

Meetings are held at 2.30 p.m. on Fridays – All welcome.

Monthly Diary

March

Sat 1 st 10.30am	Posy making for Mother's Day, Church Hall
Tues 4 th	Holy Land pilgrims depart – early!
Tues 4 th	Ladies Supper Club
Weds 5 th	No midweek service
Thurs 6 th	Local preachers meeting. 7.30pm Wonford
Tues 11 th	Circuit meeting 7.30pm Sidwell St.
Weds 12 th	No midweek service
Weds 19 th	Midweek Service 12.30pm
Thurs 20 th	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7.30pm
Fri 21 st	Good Friday Walk of Witness 10am St Boniface RC Church
Sat 22 nd	The Ark 4 – 6pm
Tues 25 th	Women's Open House 7.30pm The Manse: Easter poem – yours or someone else's!
Weds 26 th	Green Church Network 7.30pm