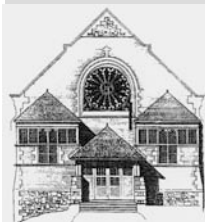




Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter
May 2008



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Barbara Calvert, Tel: 01363 772441

Email: barbara.calvert@methodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- May 4th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (Sacrament)
6.30 Mrs S Jones
- May 11th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory
6.30 At Topsham for Circuit Service
- May 18th: 10.30 Rev B Calvert (All Age Worship)
6.00 Talkback (Rev B Calvert) Boniface Centre
- May 25th: 8.45 Rev D Calvert (Sacrament)
10.30 Dr K Kite
6.30 Mr D Bradford

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: 1st Tuesday of each month (contact Margaret Kenshole 775144)
- Mid-week service: Wednesdays 12.30 Bring a sandwich lunch/drinks provided.
- Knit & Natter: Wednesdays 2.30 to 3.30 (Contact 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

**Material for the June newsletter to Ken Saunders
by May 18th.**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

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Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Cover picture: Chinese Christian Art: Feeding the Five Thousand

In search of Jesus

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land can be a disappointment. Jesus did not write anything or leave any physical remains that we can see and touch. Herod the Great on the other hand built five magnificent, mountain top fortresses. We visited the most famous of these, Masada, which rises out of the sand of the Judean desert, overlooking the Dead Sea. And you can read about the Jews who led the revolt against Rome in 70 AD and fled to Masada after the fall of Jerusalem. The Romans came and laid siege to the stronghold for two years finally constructing a huge earth ramp to breach the walls. Rather than be taken captive the Jews holding out in Masada committed mass suicide. The rich history of the Holy Land was a fascinating part of our trip but where is Jesus to be found?

Perhaps, at the holy places associated with the life and death of Jesus. We visited the tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well in Nazareth. Each of these places is very special and rendered holy by their association with Jesus and by the prayers of Christian pilgrims down the centuries. The serenity of the Mount of Beatitudes and the peace of the boat on a calm Sea of Galilee were also extraordinary experiences but what do they say about Jesus? Perhaps their very serenity is unhelpful, suggesting that Jesus words were calm and soothing when in fact they were radical and demanding.

So my search for Jesus continued and took me to two places; firstly, the Judean desert. We stopped at Wadi Qelt as the sun went down, a harsh terrain with no protection for travellers on the lonely path we could see winding its way down from Jerusalem to Jericho. In the wilderness of the Judean desert, Jesus spent 40 days alone with God and here there was a sense of being closer to Jesus. The second place was the sparsely furnished office of my friend Zoughbi (a Palestinian Christian I have known for 13 years). Here, in the poor, sprawling Arab town of Bethlehem, Zoughbi, who has been imprisoned, tortured and is now virtually a prisoner in his home town of Bethlehem, follows in the footsteps of Christ sacrificially living out his life for his people working for justice and peace and transforming the desert of peoples lives into a place of life and seedbed of hope.

Fairtrade Devon

You are warmly invited to a session at the Global Centre on Tuesday May 6th at 5.30pm, entitled "*Fairtrade consumer ethics: moral problems and pragmatic perspectives for the future*"

Our guest speaker is Dr Matthias Varul from Exeter University, who some of you may remember speaking at our fairtrade celebration in February. He has been carrying out research in Devon & in SW Germany, talking to consumers about their purchasing habits and their motivations, and analysing the way fairtrade organisations market their products. He discovered that there are both practical problems and moral dilemmas in our supermarket choices. He will outline these problems and dilemmas at the Global Centre, and discuss possible ways to tackle them.

With Devon well on the way to becoming a fairtrade county (see <http://www.fairtradedevon.org.uk/>) and fairtrade fortnight a great success throughout the county, the local interest has never been stronger. Fairtrade consumption is growing at the rate of 40% per year, and a third of the world's fairtrade chocolate is bought in the UK (most of it by my own family, I think!)

Pentecost and Christian Aid Week

Circuit Service

Topsham Methodist Church

May 11th

4pm Riverside Walk

5.30pm Tea

6.30pm Service

Holiday with a purpose 2009

Forget the stereotype images of India and come to enjoy the real India of the twenty-first century :-

See the rural beauty of South India
The magnificent city of Palaces, Mysore
The enchanting villages and friendly people

Meet the dedicated medical team
serving the poor in city and village
Worship with English speaking Indians
and meet theological students

Engage with Christians and Hindus
Visit a coffee plantation and
the school Queen Victoria started and so much more.

Already the world's largest democracy, India is also emerging as one of the world's greatest industrial and commercial nations, which will deeply affect us all. This is a chance to see where India has come from and where it is going -- and to enjoy a very special holiday.

The holiday is in January 2009 and will be led by Gordon Chambers.

Tel: 01803 851284. e-mail: g.chambers284@btinternet.com

Christian Aid Week Walk

Saturday 10th May 2pm

Meet at Tedburn Methodist Church for a guided walk meeting back at the Methodist Church for tea. Tea donations for Christian Aid.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid started more than 60 years ago after World War II to help European refugees who had lost everything. It was originally called Christian Reconstruction in Europe. The aim was to alleviate suffering for ordinary people, no matter what their faith. In the 1950s work expanded to Africa and Asia and to respond to emergencies worldwide. The first Christian Aid week was in 1957 and in 1964 the name was changed to Christian Aid.

As world food shortages increased Christian Aid began to look more deeply into the causes of poverty – not just at dealing with its symptoms. It challenged governments on their decisions and started to consider how to work for people's rights alongside traditional relief and development.

Christian Aid is currently working with around 60 overseas partners across 47 countries but the world isn't getting any fairer. The life expectancy for women in Zimbabwe is now 34 years old – it was 65 just a decade ago. The income of some multinational companies exceeds that of entire countries.

Christian Aid will continue tackling the causes of poverty and work so that everyone can fulfil their right to a decent life. "We believe in life before death."

Christian Aid Week 11th – 17th May



Christian Aid Week this year is concentrating on providing clean, safe, drinking water in Bangladesh where a rise in sea levels as a result of climate change is making fresh water salty. People, usually the women and children, often have to walk for up to 24 hours to collect water to drink.

If you would like to help solve the water problems in a village in Bangladesh by collecting house to house during Christian Aid week, please see Priscilla (773566).

Our coffee morning on Saturday May 17th will be for Christian Aid



The Ark



The Ark began last November as a Saturday fun tea time once a month for families. We begin with a Bible story and then there are lots of art, craft, drama and cooking activities for all to enjoy! When all the messy activities are done some of us

prepare a drama whilst others clear up ready for us to enjoy a cooked tea together. After tea the children “perform” their play followed by singing and we end with a few minutes of quiet prayer before all going home tired out!



These pictures were taken last month, when we celebrated Easter. This month we had the story of Jesus sharing breakfast on the beach and enjoyed fish fingers and chips for tea! The next Ark will be on 17th May when we will be finding out about Moses in the bulrushes.



Pause for Thought: 'Fathers 4 Justice', another meaning

Joseph came to our hotel in Bethlehem with his daughter, Elise. He told us how one Sunday in October 2001 his 17 year old son was walking across Manger Square with his young nephew when he was shot through the heart by an Israeli sniper one mile away. His son was emerging from Communion at the Orthodox Church where he was a church deacon. The incidence of such shooting of entirely non-political persons by bored soldiers has been confirmed by Breaking the Silence, a group of ex-soldiers. Joseph's reaction has been to pray that his son's blood might not be in vain and that there will be peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

We gathered on the pavement in Anothath, the prophet Jeremiah's birthplace, now in East Jerusalem, where a 10 year old girl, Abir, was shot in the head by a rubber bullet fired by Israeli security police as she left a sweet shop. As we sang and prayed there on the pavement by the plaque commemorating her death, we were joined by her father, Bassam Aramin. Two years earlier he had been one of the founders of Combatants for Peace, a group of former Palestinian freedom fighters and Israeli soldiers united in their conviction that a great injustice was being done to both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, and that violence was not an answer.

Shlomo Vishinsky, one of Israel's most popular actors, is to play the part of the Palestinian peace activist, Bassam Aramin, in a new Hebrew-language drama. His own son, Lior, was killed nearly four years ago in Gaza while serving in an Israeli military unit. He has long argued for a peaceful two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The play, written by Idan Meir, an Israeli former soldier now turned playwright, is called 'Don't act miserable round here'. The play begins with one of Aramin's sons presenting him with a gun and calling for him to take revenge. As in the real story, the father in the play rejects this way of seeking justice.

Characteristic of each of these three grieving fathers was a quiet dignity. However, this refusal to enter into an escalating self-destructive avenue of vengeance does not signify a mere acceptance of the cruel deaths of their children. Their quiet dignity was an expression of a hope for justice rather than revenge.

There is another 'father' to add to this story. This is the one whom Jesus of Nazareth spoke about as our heavenly father, the one he prayed to, and invited us also to relate to as 'father'. Jesus taught us that this father God is indeed a God of love, mercy and forgiveness and also a God of justice and righteousness, which is the only true foundation of lasting peace.

That's why these three people of God, Joseph, Bassam and Shlomo – Jew, Christian and Muslim alike – seek justice, not revenge, when they and their children were sorely wronged.

And then there are the mothers, the women with broken hearts, reflecting the broken heart of God, the mother and father of us all.

Rev D Calvert

Bright Hour

May 2nd: Rev D Gregory

May 9th: Rev C Edwards

May 16th: Rev Ruth Green

May 23rd: Mrs Jenny Hext

May 30th: Mr Savage

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

Advanced date

World church festival

Exminster

Wed. June 25th

7.30 p.m.

Wanted



Haberdashery (especially Needles) For sewing kits to be included in shoeboxes being sent to Eastern Europe. with International Aid.

Please see Rene or Wendy

*The Green Box Tip
Of The Month*

- Plastics used in inkjet cartridges can take over 10 centuries (1000 years!) to decompose
- 90ml of oil is used to produce each inkjet cartridge.
- In the last six months alone, inkjet cartridge recycling has saved
- more than 50 million litres of oil. This is more oil than what was tragically spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska's Prince William Sound in 1989.
- Carbon-based gas is a major cause of global warming. Inkjet cartridge recycling helps reduce carbon emissions as well as to conserve resources and reduce waste.

To help us all to reduce our carbon footprint there will be a container for recycling your inkjet or toner cartridges in the Green Area at back the Church.

**Arranged by the
Connect Team**

May 31st

**6p.m. to 10 a.m. (Sun 1st
June)**

**At Crediton Methodist
Church**

**We need to have someone
present all the time.**

**A list will be placed in the
foyer – please sign-up for as
long as you are able**

Bluebell Walk

Sun May 4th/Mon May 5th

At

Chenson Farm

2 – 6 p.m.

On A377 near Eggesford

Cream Teas

**All proceeds for
CONNECT**

Pastoral Page

The Church Community

*John 10:10
'I came that they may have life
in all its fullness.'*

*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 and best wishes Kath Metherell and Beatrice Curl who are home from hospital and making good progress.

Our prayers and thoughts are with the family and friends of Edna White who recently died. 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; Harold Hollingsworth; Allan Hooper, Len Jenkinson; Iris Mackie; Phyllis Maunder, Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Eileen Tarr; Mary Tyson, Harold and Sybil Bayley (Hillbrow), Frank Howarth.



Kathy Nicholson, at Kenwyn, had a wonderful 100th birthday celebration at the end of March, with family and friends visiting and sending their good wishes. Here she is, pictured with her message from The Queen.

Congratulations, Kathy.

Services in Residential Homes and Hospital

Our services this month are:

Summerhayes	Thursday 1 May	2:30 pm
St Lawrence	Thursday 15 May	2:30 pm
Kenwyn	Wednesday 21 May	2:00 pm

All are welcome to come.

Monthly Diary

May 2008

Tues 6 th	7.30pm Ladies Supper Club
Weds 7 th	12.30pm Midweek Service
Sat 10 th	2pm Christian Aid Week Walk
Sun 11 th	6.30pm Circuit Service Topsham preceded by walk and tea.
Mon 12 th	1.30pm Toddlers
Tues 13 th	7.30pm Church Council meeting
Weds 14 th	12.30pm Midweek service
Sat 17 th	4 – 6pm The Ark
Mon 19 th	1.30pm-3pm Toddlers
Tues 20 th	7.15pm Steward's meeting, Marjorie Ashley's
Weds 21 st	7.30pm Fundraising and Social Committee
Sat 24 th	12 – 2pm Christian Aid lunch Cheriton Cross Methodist Church
Tues 27 th	7.30pm Women's Open House, the Manse. Topic: Watch BBC's The Passion (last episode). Discussion.
Weds 28 th	12.30pm Midweek Service
Sat 31 st	Prayer Vigil 6pm until Sunday morning

Spring

Spring's the time of life's
renewing,
After winter's cold.
From the earth the bursting buds
Their living green unfold.
Bright golden gleam of daffodils,
The pale primrose's hue.
Sweet violets hiding neath the
leaves,
In modest gown of blue.
And song-birds in the thickets,
A-darting to and fro',

To gather twigs for downy nests,
Beneath the green hedgerow.
Thy glories have been sung sweet
Spring,
By abler pens than mine.
Of all the seasons you are
'Queen',
Such honour should be thine.

By O.M. Marett, submitted by Eileen Tarr