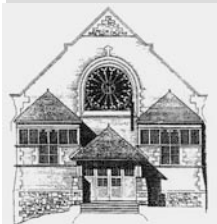


# Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter  
November 2008

## **Crediton Methodist Church**

**Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312**

**Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk**

### **Services this month:**

- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>: 10.30 Mrs P Murphy  
6.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
- Nov 9<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev D Gregory (Remembrance Sunday – All Age Worship)  
6.30 Rev P Collings
- Nov 16<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev B Cocker  
6.30 At Wonford
- Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>: 10.30 Prof. S Lea  
6.00 Talkback
- Nov 30<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)  
6.30 Rev A Sails

### **Church Groups:**

Toddlers – meets on Mondays 1.30 to 3.15 during term time  
(contact Sarah on 01363 774370)

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 December newsletter to Ken Saunders  
by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner  
ken.d.saunders@btinternet.com**

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

**Cover Photo: Christian Art. 'Light'**

## **Rev. Helen Roberts**

As you will know Rev. Helen Roberts should have joined us in September as a probationer in place of Rev Barbara Calvert, but this was delayed until Advent 2008. The Rev. David Gregory had agreed to take on a care taker role during this period.

However, Rev. Roberts will not now be joining us at all, due to her health and Rev. David Gregory has agreed to carry on until next August when hopefully we shall either have a Probationer or Minister join us.

We offer our thanks to David for taking up the role of our Minister until then.

Tina, Circuit Section Steward

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### **2008 Visit to The Holy Land**

The film created by Cliff & Ken on the visit to The Holy Land earlier this year is going to be screened in the Wesley Room at The Methodist Church, Crediton on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 6.30pm.

Light Refreshments available  
Donations to Church Funds

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### **Job Vacancy**

Someone is needed to check that the emergency lighting on our premises is working. This needs to be done on a regular basis. For more details, please contact Glenn 774370.

Thanks,

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### **A Grace**

Bless this food dear Lord,  
And keep us all alive.  
There are ten of us  
And only enough for five!

*Anon- submitted by Rene Sankey*

## **Are you wrinkly yet?**

You know you're getting old  
when:  
Your idea of a workout is trying  
to chew a toffee;  
Your knees buckle but your belt  
won't;  
Your new reclining chair has  
more optional extras than your  
car;  
Combing your hair seems to take  
less and less time;  
Happy hour is a 30 minute nap;  
You're 18 around the neck, 44  
around the waist and 105 around  
the golf course.  
Middle-age is when your glasses  
and your waistline get thicker  
and your hair and your wallet get  
thinner.

*Submitted by Christine Gregory*

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## **Bright Hour**

Nov 7<sup>th</sup>: Anniversary Tape  
Nov 14<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Jacqin Stewart  
(Exeter Quaker Meeting)  
Nov 21<sup>st</sup>: Mrs Jenny Hext  
Nov 28<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Parry  
Meetings commence at 2.30 p.m.  
on Fridays.  
All are welcome.

## **Flowers**

Sept 21<sup>st</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>: Church decorated  
for Harvest. Thanks to those who  
gave greenery & flowers and to  
Meg and Margaret for helping.  
Oct 12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>: Donated by Gill &  
Rowly Sutton to celebrate their  
Ruby Wedding –  
Congratulations! Thanks to  
Bridget Deeble for arranging the  
flowers which looked lovely.

There is a lot of space on the  
flower rota; if you would like  
flowers arranged for a special  
date let me know and your name  
will be added to the rota.

Thank you *Christine G.*

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## **Christmas Cards**

Do you send Christmas Cards to  
friends in the church? If so you  
might like to consider sending  
just one card to everyone and  
placing it on a board which will  
be provided. In this way we shall  
spend less money on purchasing  
cards and with the money we  
save we could make a donation to  
National Children's Home – a  
bag will be provided by the board  
for donations.

## World Aids Day – 1<sup>st</sup> December

Simona lives in Bucharest, Romania. She is nine years old and HIV-positive. When Simona's mother found out about her illness five years ago, her first reaction was to tell everyone, looking for support. "That's when I found out who really was my friend, and who wasn't," she said. "Quite a few people stopped visiting me and asked their children not to play with Simona anymore. Because of this, quarrels began in my family. My husband became more and more hostile and aggressive toward me and toward Simona with each trouble brought about by her diagnosis. He didn't understand how important it was for Simona to receive regular examinations by a doctor or why she needed proper treatment for her sickness."

When her mother tried to enroll Simona in school, the teacher warned her that when other parents found out about her illness she would be shunned by the other children. "I am a woman who fights hardships, but now I felt overwhelmed." Simona's mother looked for help and found a social worker from the Community Resource Center. The social worker helped her enroll Simona in another school and provided emotional, financial, and material support for the family. Simona's parents were able to receive counseling and ease the tension in the family. Her mother now attends parenting classes and support groups at the Center.

**Prayer:** *Loving God, you have placed us in families upon this earth to provide us with the love, support, and nurture we need to be healthy, happy, and productive people. We pray for families in Romania and throughout the world who do not have the resources or skills to properly care for each other. Bless the work of the Community Resource Center in Bucharest, Romania, as they provide support for families in need. Help us to provide a nurturing environment in our own families and communities. Inspire us to work tirelessly to ensure that all children, parents, and grandparents have a loving, safe home. In Christ, we pray. Amen.*

## The Ark - Getting Bigger and Challenges Ahead



It seems like ages ago that the Pioneer Disciple Course was underway, with 7 of us taking part. The enthusiasm created by that course spawned our Fresh Expression of Church as The Ark, a two hour session every 3rd Saturday in the month for parents and

young children. We have developed a successful formula which starts off by reading a Bible story as the theme of the day, last month it was the soldiers marching

around the Walls of Jericho. This sets the scene for all the activities for the afternoon, 4-5 different things to do, which are tied in with the story. The children usually rehearse and act out a play. Just as important is how we can make the parents feel wanted and we try to organise it so that they can have a 'Chill Out' time, nattering amongst themselves or quietly getting on with something that contributes to the story. We always have a communal meal which is really civilised - kids on one table, adults on another. It can be a challenge trying to get the food to relate to the story! We finish off the day by quietly visiting the chancel in the Church, having a song or two and a prayer before we part.

The Ark is growing in numbers with many looking forward to and attending loyally each time, approx. 12-15 children and 12 adults each session.

We are looking for and hoping to encourage volunteers to help us maintain what we can offer to the community. It would entail 3 hours once a month and we would be happy to have anyone, even on a rota basis, if people are interested.

We would love to show you what is happening, so please feel free to drop in (no obligation) at the next Ark on November 15th at 4pm

If you wish to explore the volunteering side, please contact one of the organisers through Christine Marshall 01363 772012

**Low Carbon Exeter**  
**City in Transition**  
[www.lowcarbonexeter.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonexeter.org.uk)

**You are invited to two exciting events:**

- 1) **'The Power of Community – How Cuba Survived Peak Oil'** - a chance to see this inspirational documentary which shows how the people of Cuba adapted to the loss of their oil imports when the Soviet Union Collapsed. Film screening and discussion:

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
**7.00 p.m. at Sidwell Street Methodist Church EX4 6PH**

- 2) **Open Space day:**  
**How Will Exeter Survive and Flourish After the Age of Cheap Oil?**

You are invited to join a group of people in our community who want to take positive action locally to influence the way our city will be in 20 years time.

Open Space is an exciting method of enabling any number of people to discuss and put together ideas on a particular question. There is no pre-set agenda, and everyone who comes will have the opportunity to contribute to deciding what is discussed\*

Although it may be difficult to think about, life in our community is bound to change as the climate changes and the currently spiraling oil prices continue to rise. Add to that the stresses of our current economic climate and things don't look good. However we can still look forward to rewarding and enjoyable lives if we can tap into our collective genius and creativity, and don't leave the future to chance but start preparing now.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November,**  
**10.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**  
**St Matthews Church Hall, Lower Summerlands, Exeter**  
**(by the triangle carpark)**

The day will be free of charge, although we will ask for donations for lunch and refreshments, which will be provided. **Booking is essential. Details from K Saunders.**

**Come and join us for a  
Quiz and Buffet  
on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Nov at  
7.30pm  
Tedburn St Mary  
Methodist Church**



**Tickets £4 per person  
Individuals or Teams of 3 or  
4 welcome  
Don't worry if you haven't  
got a team  
Proceeds to the Francisco  
Rojas School in Peru  
Tickets from Chris tel. 61311  
or Janet 61249**

## **Financial Crisis**

Recently my 18-year old grandson Tim has gone to Ecuador. He is taking a gap-year and is working with the Baptist Missionary Society in one of the poorest areas of Ecuador's largest city Guayaquil.

He sends an e-mail each week. I was very moved by this extract from his latest which puts our financial crisis in perspective:

**'I can see that there will be a lot of tough things to think about, living and working where we are. For instance, what should I say to someone asking for money, given that Jesus said 'Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me'. It's easy to say that money won't help them enough, or might be spent on the wrong things but then, I'd give Jesus my money if he asked, wouldn't I? So, please also pray that I and the team will be able to follow the gospel with integrity, and not be stopped by worries for personal security and the like. '**

*Tim*

*Ken Saunders.*

## **For our Farming Friends**

Dear Secretary of State,

My friend, who is in farming at the moment, recently received a cheque for £3,000 from the Rural Payments Agency for not rearing pigs. I would now like to join the "not rearing pigs" business.

In your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to rear pigs on, and which is the best breed of pigs not to rear? I want to be sure I approach this endeavour in keeping with all government policies, as dictated by the EU under the Common Agricultural Policy. I would prefer not to rear bacon pigs, but if this is not the type you want not rearing, I will just as gladly not rear porkies. Are there any advantages in not rearing rare breeds such as Saddlebacks or Gloucester Old Spots, or are there too many people already not rearing these?

As I see it, the hardest part of this programme will be keeping an accurate record of how many pigs I haven't reared. Are there any Government or Local Authority courses on this?

My friend is very satisfied with this business. He has been rearing pigs for forty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was £1,422 in 1968. That is until this year, when he received a cheque for not rearing any.

If I get £3,000 for not rearing 50 pigs, will I get £6,000 for not rearing 100? I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 pigs not raised. which will mean about £240,000 for the first year? As I become more expert in not rearing pigs, I plan to be more ambitious, perhaps increasing to, say, 40,000 pigs not reared in my second year, for which I should expect about £2.4 million from your department. Incidentally, I wonder if I would be eligible to receive tradable carbon credits for all these pigs not producing harmful and polluting methane gases.

Another point: These pigs that I plan not to rear will not eat 2,000 tonnes of cereals. I understand that you also pay farmers for not growing crops. Will I qualify for payments for not growing cereals to not feed the pigs I don't rear?

In view of the above you will realise that I will be totally unemployed, and will therefore qualify for unemployment benefits.

I shall of course be voting for your party at the next general election.

Yours faithfully,

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Len Jenkinson

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore be not anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.”

Matthew 6. 25-33

What with the financial crisis and the poor summer we’ve had there seems more than usual to get us all down at the moment. But there seems to be something about autumn itself that can turn our minds from cheerful thought. True, it can be a very beautiful season, yet it is also a time of melancholy when the past – and perhaps those who are no longer with us – can seem to crowd close.

Hearing the above reading from Christ’s Sermon on the Mount again in church the other day I thought of Wordsworth’s poem about the old leech-gatherer; how his encounter with an old man whose life was so hard, and who had so little, taught him a powerful lesson.

Wordsworth gave his poem the title ‘Resolution and Independence’ and writing about it in later years he says “I consider the manner in which I was rescued from my dejection and despair almost as an interposition of providence.” In the poem itself he goes further, writing that his encounter with the leech-gatherer was the result of, “Peculiar grace a leading from above, a something given.”

Christian perfection has been described as a freedom from anxiety and fettering self-consciousness – a freedom from the “weary burden” of self. Such freedom may be said to be symbolized in Christ’s Sermon on the Mount: the birds of the air don’t sow, yet God feeds them; lilies don’t toil, yet God clothes such “grass of the field” gloriously, and will clothe his children much more so. In short Christ taught that necessary material things are added to those who seek God’s kingdom first. Such perfect trust is described at the beginning of Wordsworth’s poem but it is soon replaced by anxious thoughts:

V            I heard the skylark warbling in the sky;  
              And I methought me of the playful hare:  
              Even such a happy Child of earth am I;  
              Even as these blissful creatures do I fare;  
              Far from the world I walk, and from all men;  
              But there may come another day to me –  
              Solitude, pain of heart, distress, and poverty.

VI            My whole life I have lived in pleasant thought,  
              As if life’s business was a summer mood;  
              As if all needful things would come unsought  
              To genial faith, still rich in genial good;  
              But how can he expect that others should  
              Build for him, sow for him, and at his call  
              Love him, who for himself will take no heed at all?

With his implicit trust in God Wordsworth begins by feeling no burden of “old remembrances”, he seems, “calm, like the rising sun” and has no “care”. In this he resembles John Wesley’s “True Christian” in being a man with, “no thought of anything past” – “at all times calm” and “anxiously careful for nothing.” Yet no-one can be entirely free of infirmities; self-will, writes Wesley, will eventually cause us to fall short and suffer fear of things to come, anxiously desiring “supplies in want” and “ease in pain”. When the poet is tempted to take heed for himself – to do his own building and sowing – he begins to have fears about *another day* that may come bringing pain of heart and poverty. His anxiety for self – his “Fear that kills” - destroys his perfect trust. It is at this point that Wordsworth meets his leech-gatherer. There is much more that could be said but far better to let the poet tell his own tale. (It is a long poem so I regret I’ve had to select verses):

- VIII        Now, whether it were by peculiar grace,  
A leading from above, a something given,  
Yet it befell, that, in this lonely place,  
When I with these untoward thoughts had striven,  
Beside a pool bare to the eye of heaven  
I saw a Man before me unawares:  
The oldest man he seemed that ever wore grey hairs.
- X            Such seemed this Man, not all alive nor dead,  
Nor all asleep – in his extreme old age:  
His body was bent double, feet and head  
Coming together in life's pilgrimage;  
As if some dire constraint of pain, or rage  
Of sickness felt by him in times long past,  
A more than human weight upon his frame had cast.
- XIV        His words came feebly, from a feeble chest,  
But each in solemn order followed each,  
With something of a lofty utterance drest –  
Choice word and measured phrase, above the reach  
Of ordinary men; a stately speech;  
Such as grave Livers do in Scotland use,  
Religious men, who give to God and man their dues.
- XV         He told, that to these waters he had come  
To gather leeches, being old and poor:  
Employment hazardous and wearisome!  
And he had many hardships to endure:  
From pond to pond he roamed, from moor to moor,  
Housing, with God's good help, by choice or chance;  
And in this way he gained an honest maintenance.
- XVI        The old Man still stood talking by my side;  
But now his voice to me was like a stream  
Scarce heard; nor word from word could I divide;  
And the whole body of the Man did seem  
Like one whom I had met with in a dream;  
Or like a man from some far region sent,  
To give me human strength, by apt admonishment.

XVIII      He with a smile did then his words repeat;  
And said that, gathering leeches, far and wide  
He travelled; stirring thus about his feet  
The waters of the pools where they abide.  
“Once I could meet with them on every side;  
But they have dwindled long by slow decay;  
Yet still I persevere, and find them where I may.”

XX            And soon with this he other matter blended,  
Cheerfully uttered, with demeanour kind,  
But stately in the main; and when he ended,  
I could have laughed myself to scorn to find  
In that decrepit Man so firm a mind.  
“God,” said I, “be my help and stay secure;  
I’ll think of the Leech-gatherer on the lonely moor!”

William Wordsworth

## SHOEBOX SERVICE

### 16<sup>th</sup> November @ 10.30 a.m.



Speaking personally I am very much looking forward to the visit of Bernard Cocker (CEO and Founder of the International Aid Trust) who will lead our Shoebox Service. It is always inspirational to hear Bernard talk about what is being achieved, so I hope that you will be able to come along on this special Sunday. If you feel able to prepare a shoebox, great, if not just come and enjoy the service.

**On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November**, Knit and Natter are putting on a ‘free’ cream tea so that as many of you as possible will be able to meet Bernard and Elaine his wife, and hopefully he will show some slides of the work of the International Aid Trust. The afternoon will start at 2pm and end at 4pm when Bernard will then be with the children for their part of their activities. So please come to the tea, so many of you help the Charity in so many different ways, it would be helpful for you to be able to meet with Bernard and hear first hand of the wonderful work of the International Aid Trust.

### **Timetable**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November** 2 – 4pm Meet Bernard and Elaine Cocker and have a chat over a **Cream Tea in Church**. (no charge for the tea)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November** 10.30am Bernard Cocker will lead the morning service and give a presentation on the work of International Aid.

Following morning service there will be a **Church lunch** – there will be the usual list to sign in the foyer to indicate numbers for the lunch.

*June Redfern*

## Pastoral News

*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.*



## Church Family news

Please pray for all in our church family who are ill or facing difficult times, and those who are no longer able to join in worship and fellowship with us on Sundays.

Amongst those of our church family who we pray for, we remember by name Rita Ash; Harold & Sybil Bayley (Hillbrow); Kim & Alan Clemens; Harold Hollingsworth; Allan Hooper, Frank Howarth, Bob Ings; Len Jenkinson; Clara Kerry; Iris Mackie; Phyllis Maunder; Lynda & Norman Medcraft; Joan Musty; Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Shirley Sharpe; Anne Spry; Eileen and George Tarr; Ken Turner, Mary Tyson, Joy Wilshire; Cyril Wollacott.

## Residential Homes

Services for November are:

Summerhayes :	Thursday	6 November	2:30 pm
Hillbrow:	Wednesday	19 November	2:30 pm

Thank you 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

## **NEWS RELEASE - Methodist Church**

*20 October 2008*

### **People urged to join call for justice for persecuted Christians in India**

- Concern that authorities are failing to prevent violence and unwilling to protect Christians

People killed for their faith in Orissa and victims still suffering at the hands of religious extremists were remembered in prayer at the Synod of the Church of North India (CNI), in Punjab. Churches are not being permitted to contribute to the relief effort, but people are being urged to pray and join in the call for justice.

The 350 Synod members were visibly moved as they listened to two Christians from Orissa tell of their experiences in one of the 311 villages that have suffered violent attacks from religious extremists.

One victim told how his congregation had been attacked during a service and people were forced to flee into the forest. He had been attacked with an axe and left for dead among the trees. To this day he wonders how or why God saved his life. Although he has had to sell almost all he owned to pay for the medical treatment, he said; 'I praise God for his mercy. My faith is now stronger than before.'

Concern was expressed at the way the police and authorities are failing to intervene to prevent violence, unwilling to protect Christians and their homes, and being partial in their upholding of law and order.

Christine Elliott, Methodist Secretary for External Relationships has written to the Indian Prime Minister, asking him to assure the British Methodist Church that the religious rights of all Indians will be protected and that the police and the courts will do all they can to guarantee the personal safety of individuals, families and communities.

The CNI General Secretary, Revd Enos Das Pradhan, expressed gratitude for statements of support from Partner Churches - including the British Methodist Church – and noted that the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, had been forced to acknowledge the communal violence against individuals because of their faith as ‘a national shame’.

‘The immediate need is for emergency relief for those who are homeless or hiding in the forests and to bring an end to violence and threats’, said Revd Das Pradhan, adding, ‘Religious tolerance has been the basic tenet and hallmark of India’s ancient civilization and history. We condemn all religious violence.’

After discussion with CNI Synod Officers, Partnership Coordinator with responsibility for India Steve Pearce said; ‘Although no Church is allowed to be part of the current relief effort, I know British Methodists will be keen to help the affected Christian communities rebuild their lives and we will launch an appeal when the time is right. Meanwhile, I encourage everyone to pray for peace and to add their voice to the call for justice by writing to the Prime Minister of India and the High Commissioner in London.’

## **November Diary:**

Wed 5<sup>th</sup>: 12.30 Mid-week service

Thur 6<sup>th</sup>: Amazing Grace Course. 7.30 Wesley Room.

Mon 10<sup>th</sup>: Stewards meeting 7.30 p.m. Oake House

Wed 12<sup>th</sup>: Mid-week service

Sat 15<sup>th</sup>: Meet Bernard Cocker , 2 – 4 p.m. plus cream tea.  
The ark. 4 – 6 p.m.

Sun 16<sup>th</sup>: Shoebox Service & Church Lunch

Mon 17<sup>th</sup>: Rev Tom Stuckey – Day Conference in Exeter.

Wed 19<sup>th</sup>: Mid-week service

Thur 20<sup>th</sup>: Amazing Grace Course 7.30 Wesley Room

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>: Holy Land Visit – The Film 6.30 p.m.

Wed 26<sup>th</sup>: Mid-week service