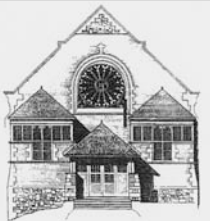




FAIRTRADE



Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
October 2008

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- Oct 5th: 10.30 Miss M Hext (Bright Hour Anniversary)
6.30 Mrs J Lee
- Oct 12th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament) (All Age Worship)
6.30 Mr R Canvin
- Oct 19th: 8.45 Rev D Easton (Sacrament)
10.30 Mrs V Dyke
6.30 Rev J Carne (Sacrament)
- Oct 25th: 10.30 Mr D House
6.30 Mr P Luscombe

Church Groups:

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

Women's Open House – 3rd Tuesday each month at 7.30 p.m.

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 2.00 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

Material for the November newsletter to Ken Saunders by October 19th

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner
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Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Cover Photo: Mexican Christian Art

Dear Friends,

It is harvest time and within large cathedral and small country chapel we celebrate. Ministers who have several country chapels under their pastoral care generally put on weight at this time of year due to numerous suppers. Now that I am retired (well semi at present) I have time to do crosswords and other word games, and I just want to share a few thoughts with you on words found within the word **HARVEST**.

EAT: Within our western world we are so fortunate to have such a rich variety and ample supply of food. Yes, we may complain about rising prices, but compared to many third world countries we are so blessed. Think of Zimbabwe! For us, despite a lack of sunshine and much rain there will be a harvest.

The second word is **STARVE**: We sometimes hear on our news programme that our country has too many people on the poverty line. I agree we do have some very poor people, even within our community in Crediton, but I will be bold to say there are very, very few who experience the pain of starvation. When I visited the Eden Project I read these words: *If you have food in your fridge; clothes on your back; a roof overhead; a place to sleep – you are richer than 75% of the world.*

The third word is **HEART**: Does not appear to be a harvest word except if you think of a cabbage! However, when we think of heart we think of the word love. Love is one of our most important Christian words; if we love it must surely lead to action. If we appreciate what we have and love the Lord for His abundance we cannot ignore the starving; love will motivate us. Amy Carmichael said ‘You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.’

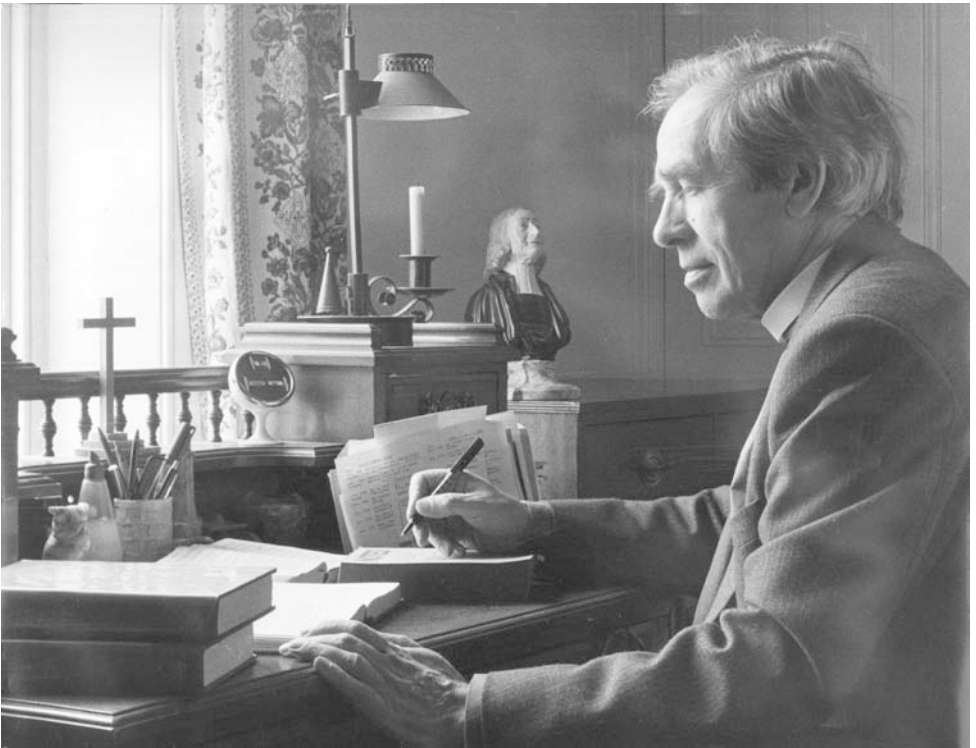
The last word is **SHARE**: Our response at Harvest time must be to share. Our thankfulness for the abundance of our harvest compels us to respond to those less fortunate. Thankfully, through many caring agencies like Christian Aid, we are able to help.

What is our response to the words ‘Come ye thankful people come’?

In Christian love, David

Tribute to Rev. Sidney Owen Dixon

Sidney & Cynthia came to live in Crediton when Sidney had to take early retirement because of ill health. I was privileged (and I say that sincerely) to be the minister in situ' at that time. It could have been difficult for both of us – especially for Sidney who, after a most effective ministry, had to sit under the ministry of someone with much less experience. In turn, I could have felt very intimidated, but such was Sidney's gracious and supportive attitude that he enhanced my ministry.



He soon became a much loved senior minister among us, whose life-long dedication to his calling was not in doubt and whose ministry continued here, in spite of, and probably because of, his physical impairment.

He became my 'mentor' (unofficially of course) and although he was a man of few words (and those words so often spiced with a quiet, quirky humour) I knew our conversations were shared with none other and I came away from such encounters with the benefit of his wisdom.

No-one knowing Sid in any way could forget his humour. One example comes to mind. Just recently, when Sid was very weak and slept a great deal, Cynthia went in to his room and said ‘Sid are you asleep?’ Out of his sleep he said ‘No, I’m half awake – I’ve got one eye open!’

Sid loved books (that’s a given if you’ve seen his immense library). He loved the scriptures and the Methodist hymnbook, and in Cynthia’s great care for her husband (to which I pay tribute) they shared prayers together each evening.

Retired ministers, as you know, carry the label ‘supernumerary’. Look up the word in a dictionary and it means – an extra –a spare- surplus to requirements! In the world of theatre it describes an actor who **appears** on stage but does not **speak**. In this regard Sidney Dixon was no supernumerary. To his dying day to know Sidney was to discover a Christian gentleman who endured prolonged illness with great dignity and patience; one of the Wesley’s preachers whose advocacy of the gospel of Christ was preached with power and certainty and one whose total life expressed in word and deed – and in silence- the very presence and goodness of God.

Remembering Sid is to thank God for one who lived the faith and died in confident hope of eternal life. As Charles Wesley wrote and bids us

*Rejoice for a brother deceased
Our loss is his infinite gain
.....
The voyage of life’s at an end
The mortal affliction is past;
The age that in heaven ‘they’ spend
For ever and ever shall last*

And to God be the glory. Amen

Rev Barbara Facey



The Ark



The Ark started again after the summer break and our theme this month was 'Hands'. Here are some pictures that were taken. Next months' Ark is on Saturday 18th October and our theme is 'Soldiers'. Please come along if you are free.



What's so Amazing about Grace?

In the first session of this course we heard the following story told by an American social worker:

A prostitute came to me in wretched straits, homeless, sick, unable to buy food for her two year-old daughter. Through sobs and tears, she told me she had been renting out her daughter- two years old!. – to men interested in kinky sex. She made more renting out her daughter for an hour than she could earn on her own in a night. She had to do it, she said, to support her own drug habit. I could hardly bear hearing her sordid story. For one thing, it made me legally liable – I'm required to report cases of child abuse. I had no idea what to say to this woman.

At last I asked if she had ever thought of going to a church for help. I will never forget the look of pure, naïve shock that crossed her face. 'Church!' she cried. 'Why would I ever go there? I'm already feeling terrible about myself. They'd just make me feel worse.'

And some of the questions for discussion were?

1. Read John 8 v 1 – 11 in which Jesus forgives an adulterous woman. What do you find interesting about this story?
2. What effect does Jesus' grace have on the crowd? On the woman?
3. In what ways would our response to this modern-day prostitute parallel the Pharisees' response to the adulterous woman? How should it differ?
4. What might it look like if an individual or a church responded with Grace to the prostitutes' plea for help?
5. How does our church currently reach out in grace – to our members to our community, to the world?
6. Read 2 Thessalonians 2 V 16 – 17 What impact should this verse Have on our interaction with those around us?

The course consists of five sessions, meeting on alternate Thursdays in the Wesley Room. The next two sessions are on October 9th and 23rd.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT – PERSONALLY SPEAKING

What might I say to the wider church? Stop trying to be relevant? The attempt to be relevant across the years has led the church into all manner of silliness and trivia. Constantly jumping on an endless series of bandwagons has left the real needs of people frequently unaddressed.

It is the church's job to be incarnational. What does that pompous phrase mean? It means being where people really are – with the love of Christ. Let me give an example. When Jenny was bereaved – her father died – we received many kind cards and even sympathetic 'phone calls. We valued them. What really made the difference was when someone came and sat with us and prompted us patiently to tell our story, really to listen to our experience and enter into it with us – and then speak to us the word of Christ. It was good to get things off our chests in this way, the care of God, and the victory of His love were 'enfleshed' for us.

Every family has its burdens and its needs, as well as its joys. Everyone needs someone who will give time to listen, to understand and to encourage.

I cherish some words of Edith Lovejoy Pierce:-

*'He did not send technical assistance....
Gabriel and a company of experts....
He did not arrange to send us food
Or the cast-off garments of angels.
Instead, **He came Himself**'*

The central instinct of the church must be to come oneself to each and to all. Pastoral care is the fundamental core business of the church. It is time and energy consuming, it is costly – but there is no cheap alternative. It is a means whereby sermons and public prayers start where people actually are.

There is more to the incarnation business than this. It recognises God's Spirit already at work in those who don't believe or come to church. It sees the church's task not as taking Christ to them but helping them to recognise the Christ who is already with them.

Forty years of Ministry has taught me – first and second-hand – that the best evangelism is when groups of those 'outside' are encouraged and enabled to talk about their spiritual experience, about their understanding of what the word of

‘God’ means. It isn’t what we say so much that matters but the quality of our listening. We find new dimensions to our faith and they often convert themselves. A learned journal recently said: ‘The most exciting and effective mission of the church across Europe is where those who do not profess to believe are encouraged to share their experience before real listening’.

I can never understand why churches are so very often slow to arrange ways whereby we meet with those outsiders where discussion of the faith can occur and we really listen.

If we believe in the incarnation it is core business.

Rev. Kenneth Hext

Behold the Fig Tree

Apologies to Judith for the errors in the above article which appeared in the September newsletter.

‘picked up a seed’ should have read ‘picked up a seed pod’

The church mentioned was the ‘Mensa Christa Church’

‘As members of’ should have read ‘As a momento of’

Thanksgiving Service Francisco Rojas School Peru

At Cheriton Fitzpaine Methodist
Church
Sunday 5th October
2.15 p.m.

The speaker is Mr Chris
Bradnock, retired headmaster of
Queen’s College Taunton
Soup & Sweet Lunch
From 12.30 p.m.

Bright Hour

Oct 3rd: Mrs Jenny Hext **

Oct 10th: Mrs Kathryn Cole

Oct 17th: Mrs Margaret Hayman

Oct 24th: Mrs Barbara Pratt

Oct 31st: Praise afternoon

** Harvest Festival with bring &
Buy Stall.

We shall be celebrating our 66th
anniversary on Sunday October 5th.

The speaker is Miss Mary Hext and
members & friends will take part.

Meetings are on Fridays and start at
2.30 p.m.. All welcome.

Another new arrival

Another grandson for Marjorie and
John – Rufus George was born on
18th August.

Congratulations to Thomas and
Klare

...Imagine No Bible Sunday...

You walk into church and a member of the "No Bible Police" (formerly such a nice young lad in the youth group) confiscates your Bible (you did bring one didn't you?). All the church Bibles are locked away, as are the hymn books and OHP slides because they've all got Bible verses. What will you sing? How are you going to worship God? And for the Bible reading someone reads from the Greek New Testament (probably very badly). At least you assume it's the New Testament!

The sermon is all very interesting but you would like to check... did Jesus really say that?

Churches throughout the UK and Canada are planning No Bible Sunday services. Others have threatened to rebel and reinstate the Bible before the sermon but however far each church takes it, this is an event that will make people think about what they may take for granted, and about the many 'unreached peoples' for whom every day is a '*No Bible*' day.

No Bible Sunday is an innovative church event challenging Christians to apply Scripture in every aspect of their lives and to share God's life-giving word with their neighbours, here and around the world. If you want to see more people in your church and community using the Bible, maybe it really is time for a No Bible Sunday!

No Bible Sunday is sponsored by Wycliffe Bible Translators. Currently Wycliffe has translation, literacy and development work going on in more than 1200 languages around the world. Wycliffe workers have been involved in almost 600 New Testaments and completed work affecting languages spoken by at least 45 million people. Their goal is to see that a translation programme will have begun in every language that still needs one by the year 2025.

Bible Sunday is 26th October!



Pastoral News

Loving God,

Those who met with Jesus found acceptance, healing and the possibility of new life;

Despite their imperfections his disciples, through prayer and touch helped others find healing through your power, So, in Christ's name we bring our prayers for those who are unwell, those mourning or in distress, those who are lonely.

Church Family news

Our prayers are with all those amongst 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; Iris Mackie; Phyllis Maunder; Joan Musty; Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Anne Spry; Eileen and George Tarr; Ken Turner, Mary Tyson, Joy Wilshire; Cyril Wollacott.

Residential Homes services for October are:

Summerhayes :	Thursday	2 October	2:30 pm
Kenwyn :	Wednesday	15 October	2:00 pm
St Lawrence:	Thursday	16 October	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

October Diary:

Wed	1 st :	Midweek Service	12.30	
Sun	5 th :	Thanksgiving Service		Francisco Rojas School
Mon	6 th :	Property Meeting		
Wed	8 th :	Midweek Service	12.30	
Thurs	9 th :	Amazing Grace Course	7.30	Wesley Room
Wed	15 th :	Midweek Service	12.30	
Sat	18 th :	The Ark		
Wed	22 nd :	Midweek Service	12.30	
Thurs	23 rd :	Amazing Grace Course	7.30	Wesley Room
Tues	28 th :	Church Council	7.30	

Fairtrade

Devon, Exeter and Torbay Fairtrade Groups invite you to an information and networking day for all Fairtrade campaigners and supporters in the Southwest - a chance to get an update on Fairtrade, meet fellow campaigners and share ideas.

**11:00-4:15, 4th October 2008,
at the Belmont Chapel,
Western Way, Exeter**

Further details from Ken
Saunders

Quiz Night

7 p.m on Sat 25th October

Mint Methodist Church

Exeter.

£5 per head including light
supper.

Teams of four members

Proceeds to Mint
Redevelopment Fund

Details & to enter

a.sails@exeter.ac.uk