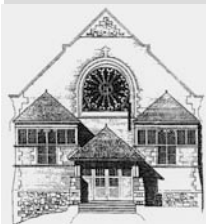




FAIRTRADE



Crediton Methodist Church Newsletter September 2008



Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- 07 Sept: 10.30 Rev. D Gregory
6.30 Rev D Easton (Welcome Service for Rev D Gregory)
- 14 Sept: 10.30 Miss M Hext (Family Service)
6.30 Rev P Hardy
- 21 Sept: 10.30 Rev P Jarvis
6.30 Miss J Mann
- 28th Sept: 8.45 Rev D Easton (Sacrament)
10.30 Mr D Bradford (Harvest Festival)
6.30 Ms. J Walmsley-White (Harvest Festival)

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 October newsletter to Ken Saunders
by Sept 21st.**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Cover Photo: African Christian Art

My dear friends,

When I was contemplating retirement in the early part of 2007 I had no idea of my future destination, or if I would be undertaking any part-time work. Crediton was certainly not on my agenda at that time. However, thanks to the Methodist Ministers Housing Society offering me the bungalow at Newcombes as a stop-gap abode until I formulated more definite plans, I arrived here in August 2007.

I have settled well, enjoy the town and its good facilities and have therefore decided to settle here, enjoying the challenge of learning to be a gardener, and the opportunity to preach most Sundays in the surrounding circuits.

Was it just by chance that I came to Crediton, or was it part of the unfolding plan of our Lord, especially as I am to fill-in for three months until your minister Helen arrives? I believe it is the latter. Have you not discovered yourselves how what could appear as just chance or circumstances is really part of the Lord's plan? So many examples in the Bible: Joseph sold into slavery and yet becomes a sort of modern day Prime minister of Egypt; Moses flees into the desert away from Egypt yet returns after the burning bush incident, to lead the Israelites free from slavery; Paul and Silas in the Phillippian jail and the subsequent conversion of the jailor and his family. How the Lord uses situations (some of them can even be frightening or dangerous) to further His work and reach out to others.

So I am pleased to serve as your minister for this short period of time and will do my best to care for you as you also care for me. I shall also be looking after Tedburn St. Mary and Cheriton Fitzpaine. I will be working on a part-time basis and where practical this will be a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, plus Sundays. However, I will be completely flexible, so if necessary can be available on other days.

Every blessing to you all as together we embark upon a new Methodist year.

David R Gregory

A Busy Summer

Despite the dismal weather there has been plenty for young people in Crediton to do. On July 26th there was an Arts day at our church for both young people and adults. It was led by Bev Smerdon (District Arts officer) and a team of people from Plymouth. We considered what artistic talents we have and the



way we use these to contribute to the life of the church. Some time was spent on the use of puppets and, judging by the photographs on the next page, we might well see these being used in the future. Then on the afternoon of the same day was The Ark.

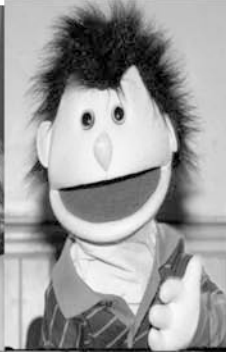
Two holiday clubs have been operating. The one at the Boniface Centre took the story of Moses as its theme. The Olympic Games was the topic for the club held at the Congregational church.



Then, during the holiday Sundays our own Sunday Club has been working on various activities to do with China.



Lucy



Arts Day



Safe-guarding

*What we need to be aware of
and put in place*

Sat Sept 27th

Copplestone Methodist Church
10 – 1.30 p.m.

To book a place contact Keith
Elliott on 01934861018 or
keith.elliott3@virgin.net

What's so amazing about Grace

Philip Yancey's book 'What's so Amazing about Grace' has sold over a million copies. Because of its popularity and influence the material in the book has been adapted for small group study and discussion. The sessions include DVD extracts of true-life experiences and there is a study guide for participants.

Rev David Gregory will lead a group using this material, meeting on alternate

Thursdays starting on Sept 25th. The other dates will be: Oct 9th, Oct 23rd, Nov 6th and Nov 20th.

Meetings will be in the Wesley room starting at 7.30 p.m.

Everyone welcome.

Farewell Again!

On September 13th Des & Elaine, Emily, Lucy and Sam fly off to New Zealand. They have been home just long enough for us to feel that they may be permanent fixtures again. But no, they have decided to have another spell of two to three years working in New Zealand. We envy them the lifestyle; the weather; the lack of traffic; the slower pace. They go with our prayers and best wishes.

Changes

With the new Methodist year upon us we have many changes within our fellowship.

It is a great joy to welcome Revd David Gregory who is caring for us pastorally for the next few months. There will be a service at 6.30pm on 7th September when we shall officially welcome David, and there will be a faith tea from 5 o'clock onwards, with our friends from Cheriton Fitzpaine joining us, as David will be looking after them too. However, we have been fortunate in welcoming Gill Sutton as an evening Vestry Steward recently. Ken Saunders has agreed to take on Alan's duties, but would like his appointment to be reviewable on a yearly basis. We are truly grateful for the help and support that both Gill and Ken are able to give to the stewards.

Marjorie Ashley.

‘Behold the Fig Tree’

On 12th March 2008 I picked up a seed near the Sea of Galilee. We had walked down an avenue towards the lake, under big shady trees, and in the Shensa Christa Church I had asked the priest if he spoke English (he nodded) as I wanted to know the name of the trees.



Ficus benjamina, he told me. At home, my husband, Charles, planted six tiny seeds, three of which germinated. We checked ficus benjamina on Google (no help) and I could not relate the little plants to the large specimens I had admired. At the R.H.S. garden at Wisley there are several ficus benjamina in the splendid new Glasshouse, all extremely tall and whose leaves are different. So what have we grown? As members of our Holy Land pilgrimage, I gave Barbara and David one of the plants, another to Fay and Jack as Fay was with me when I picked up the pod. We are waiting to see if ours survives an English winter. Waiting too, to identify it accurately. Whatever it is, it is a living reminder of the Holy Land. Read Psalm 1:3 and Jeremiah 17: 8, and praise the Lord!

Judith Lowe

Bright Hour

Speakers for September:

5th: Mrs Jenny Hext

12th: Holiday Memories

19th: Rev Norman Skinner

26th: Mrs Pam Murphy

Meetings are held on Fridays at 2.30 p.m.

All are welcome

Advanced Notices:

Bright Hour harvest Festival on October 3rd. Speaker is Mrs Jenny Hext.

Following Sunday October 5th: We shall be celebrating our 66th anniversary at the morning service. The preacher will be Miss Mary Hext.

Circuit Breakout

As I write I have just returned from 'Breakout' at Cliff College in Derbyshire.

Seventeen of us, young people and leaders, left Exeter on Friday 11th July for a six hour journey, we finished putting our tents up at 1.15am and I reckon got about 3-4 hours sleep that first night!

Breakout is organised by MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) and happens every other year. The theme for this year was to 'go beyond' that is to not allow our experience of God, one another or the church to stagnate but to explore wider and deeper. The worship, games, activities, talks and spaces all encouraged those who attended to go 'beyond' in some way.

For me it was my first time at a 'Breakout' event, I did not quite know what to expect but I am glad to report that it went 'beyond' my expectations. The site was wonderful, Cliff College has a 'special' atmosphere and we were made very welcome. The food was plentiful and varied (so important to teenagers and leaders!) The activities were varied and no long queues. The worship was modern, accessible,

relevant and most importantly it challenged us all with a clear gospel message that many responded to publically and privately.

When we returned at 6pm on Sunday evening we were tired, a little muddy but glad to be home, the biggest criticism of the event was 'we wished it was longer'.

I want to thank the churches, Circuit and District who made this possible with some financial help and with your prayers and encouragement, it is so important that we do all we can to enable our young people to go 'beyond' their everyday experiences by providing opportunities to explore their faith and make friends throughout the church.

May we, like our young people at Breakout, continue to be challenged to 'go beyond': ourselves and how God really sees us, our expectations and what we are being called to, our hopes that are often too small and our understanding of God that is often too limiting.

Yours in Christ

Mark Gilborson



Barbara with a 'Fresh Expression' of David



Des—master chef



A fine day, some lovely food and good company

The Sunday Club Barbecue



Fun & Games devised by Elaine



Lauren & patient Mark



Farewell Lunch

A farewell lunch was held for Barbara & David on Aug 3rd. David received a gardening voucher from the church—presented by his good friend Peter. Barbara was presented with a number of Christian Aid Gift Vouchers representing the many aspects of her ministry here. The gift vouchers will benefit many needy people in the Third World.



After an excellent lunch prepared by the two Christines we were entertained with a dramatic sketch by the January Jollies Drama Group.



Those ugly sisters again!



Such drama! -
We shall miss you Elaine.

Visit to the Holy Land in November

Are you interested in visiting the Holy Land and meeting Palestinian Christians who live there? If so, there is a great opportunity this autumn to attend the International Conference of Sabeel, an ecumenical grassroots movement of Palestinian Christians. Sabeel seeks to develop a spirituality based on love, justice, peace and non-violence. The conference includes a sightseeing tour with 3 days in Nazareth before the conference and 2 days afterwards in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Dates are Monday the 10th to Friday the 21st Nov, ie; 11 nights in all. Other visits will take place during the conference.

For more information contact Ben Barman, C/o Sabeel UK, 8 Silver St, Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 4ND ...or bencandia@waitrose.com
Or locally contact Gerald Conyngham on 01363 773000
gerald@eclipse.co.uk

Two New Arrivals



Another grandson for Marjorie & John. Daniel Andrew – born on 14th July. Congratulations to Tim & Sarah.



And another grandson for Ken & Tina – Samuel - born on the 8th July. Congratulations to Mark and Paula.

Congratulations

To Victoria Rattenbury on her appointment as Head of Music at the Comprehensive school where she has been teaching for the last three years.

Ruby Wedding

Again - Congratulations to Ken & Tina as they celebrate their Ruby Wedding on September 5th



Crediton Methodist Church June 2008

Congratulations to all those born in the 1930's – 1970's

First we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us. They took aspirin and ate blue cheese dressing, and tuna from a tin. Then, after that trauma, our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets, not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.

As children we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a van – loose – was always exciting and great fun. We drank water from the garden hose or tap and not from a bottle. We ate cakes, white bread and real butter and drank cordial with sugar in it. But we weren't overweight because we were always out playing.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day – and we were OK. We would spend hours building our go-karts out of scraps and then ride down the hill only to find we had forgotten the brake! We did not have Play Stations, Nintendo's, X-boxes; no video games at all. We even had no mobile phones, no text messaging, no personal computers. But we had friends.

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits following these accidents. We played with worms and mud pies and the worms did not live in us for ever. We made up games with sticks and tennis balls. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them. Local teams had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't learnt to deal with disappointment. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50 years has seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility and we learned how to deal with it all.

AND YOU ARE ONE OF THEM – CONGRATULATIONS!

Submitted by Sid Gardner

Flowers

July 6/13th: arr. by Margaret Saunders.

July 20th: Donated by Mrs Crang to remember her husband.

Arr. by Christine M.

July 27th/Aug 3rd: Donated by Horace & Doris Crispin to celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary. Arr. by Margaret.

Aug 19/17th: Arr. by Christine G. Flowers were arranged by Margaret, Meg and Christine G. for the funeral services of Mrs Tancock and Rev Sidney Dixon.

Hall Bookings

It has been suggested I write a week in the life of the downstairs lettings:

Mon: Pippins all day; Toddlers p.m.; Dancers p.m.; Creedy Choral evening.

Tues: Pippins all day. Dancers p.m.

Wed Pippins all day. Mid-week service p.m.; Knit & Natter p.m.; Dancers p.m.; CODS evening.

Thurs: Pippins all day. Evangelical Church p.m.

Fri: Pippins all day; Keep Fit a.m.; Bright Hour p.m.; Hall Booking evening.

Sat: Coffee morning a.m.

Some bookings are every week, some term time only, and others such as National Trust, Mid-

Devon crafts, Hospice, Crediton Hospital League of friends and more have not been included. Add to this the use of the rooms by Church members for meetings, funerals etc – it can be a bit complicated.

Also, when a meeting has been planned the temptation is to go in earlier to get things ready. This can cause, and has done in the past, a problem.

So my request to the room bookers is to check the calendar in the downstairs kitchen and make sure the date you have picked suits your needs for setting-up. I am sure if we all work together this will not be a problem. Of course, the lettings bring in much needed monies to help with the upkeep of the buildings, and allows us to be part of the wider community.

I look forward to your help and support. I am just a phone call away to help in whatever way I can.

It will help to let me know your booking dates, and also if you cancel for whatever reason.

Thank you. *Christine*

Knit & Natter Group



Members and friends of Crediton Knit and Natter Group met on Wednesday 6th August at the home of June Redfern of Coplestone.

June is the local organiser of work for International Aid Trust. They combined a shared lunch with packing aid boxes for families in the Ukraine.



The following week 13th August the group celebrated five years of charity work with a birthday cake made by member Connie and a power point presentation by June on the work of the IAC.

Dear Friends,

SHOEBOX SERVICE – Sunday 16th November @ 10.30a.m.

For some of you I know that filling a shoebox is an important part of preparing for the Advent season and Christmas, so you will be pleased to know that we will be having another Shoebox Service on 16th November. I know that many of you enjoy filling shoeboxes throughout the year, in fact to date well over 400 children's boxes have already been sent by our Church. (Picture taken at one of the many children's orphanages)



This year I am very pleased that **Bernard Cocker (CEO International Aid Trust) and his wife Elaine** will be with us for the weekend, (14th – 16th November) and Bernard will preach at our morning service and receive the shoeboxes. No doubt Bernard will be showing moving examples of the vision and mission of the International Aid Trust. I know it will be a memorable service and I am hoping there will be an opportunity over the weekend for some of you

who are able, to meet Bernard and Elaine in a more informal setting, when Bernard will be able to chat with you. *(Yet to be arranged)*

The Charity receives so much support from countless people in Crediton and around Devon. Some do not normally attend a Church but never the less have a real heart for helping others not so fortunate as themselves. It would be really good if you know of anyone who contributes in any way and ask them if they would like to come to this special service. Maybe you could arrange to meet up with them beforehand to accompany them into church – sometimes this can be a bit difficult for people.

Finally on the subject of shoeboxes, I have a lot of empty boxes if anyone has difficulty in obtaining one as it does prove difficult around Christmas time. I know that covering the shoeboxes can be a bit of a problem, so if you feel that it will be difficult, why not just paste on some pretty pictures, and maybe tie the box up with a ribbon, or whatever you have to hand. **Thank you !**

June Redfern

World's biggest Coffee Morning

Help Create a huge stir in Crediton

At the Methodist Church

On Thursday 25th September 2008-08-25
From 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon

Everyone welcome

To raise funds for Macmillan Nurses

Pause for Thought

Perhaps you'll agree that the 2008 Beijing Olympics was exciting, spectacular, challenging *and* heartening. It has been described as having provided the 'feel good factor' for both the competitors and for spectators alike.

Feeling good about ourselves and the people and situations around us helps us to feel content and cheerful, and that has frequently been said to be good for our health. In fact, it was said a few thousand years ago – in the book of Proverbs chapter 17, verse 22:

'Being cheerful keeps you healthy.'

Have you noticed how infectious cheerfulness can be? Being alongside cheerful people can perk us up, lift our spirits. It's hard not to smile when someone smiles at us. As it says in another Proverb, in chapter 15, verse 13:

'A glad heart makes a happy face.'

Without doubt a legacy left to those who had known him by our late friend, the Revd. Sidney Dixon, was this wonderfully infectious quality of cheerfulness. So many people who had known Sid longer than I have told me how, no matter what the circumstance, Sid was always ready with a smile and cheery word, and I shall never forget the way his face lit up when I spoke to him.

As the song says: 'Spread a little happiness as you go by.'



Pam Murphy

(Ed. Note: We hope to include a tribute to Rev Sidney Dixon in the next Newsletter.)



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

Sadly, during July and August we have said our final farewells to three friends and members of this church.

We remember with affection **Revd. Sid Dixon**, and send our love at this sad time to Cynthia and her family. Also, **Edna Tancock**, sending our love to Arthur and family. And **Cathy Nicholson**, sending our love to Donald and his family. Please remember Cynthia, Arthur, Donald and their families in your prayers.

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 fellowship with us on Sundays.

Several of our church family have found themselves in hospital recently, but it's good to hear that they are making progress. We pray for Jenny Hext; Phyllis Maunder; Eileen Tarr; George Tarr; Cyril Wollacott.

We think too, of Harold & Sybil Bayley (Hillbrow); Kim & Alan Clemens; Harold Hollingsworth; Allan Hooper, Frank Howarth, Bob Ings; Len Jenkinson; Iris Mackie; Joan Musty; Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Ken Turner, Mary Tyson, Joy Wilshire.

Residential Homes services for September are:

Summerhayes Thursday 4 September 2:30 pm

Hillbrow Wednesday 17 September 2:30 pm

Thank you for the support we receive from those who come along and join us.

All are welcome.

Contacts: Karen Theodom: Pastoral Secretary: 775704

Pam Murphy: Pastoral Page news 773414

Diary September 2008-08-10

Thurs 4th Sept: Ark planning meeting 7.30 Oake House

Sun 7th Sept: 6.30 p.m. Welcome Service for Rev David Gregory.

Sat 20th Sept: The ark 4.00 to 6 p.m.

Mon 22nd Sept: Stewards' meeting. 7.30 p.m. at Sid Gardner's

Thurs 25th Sept: Start of fellowship meetings looking at 'What's so Amazing about Grace'. Details in Newsletter.

Sun 28th Sept: Harvest lunch following Sunday service.

Greetings from Chislehurst

Dear friends,

We have settled very well into our new Manse, unpacked every box and worked together on clearing and tidying the garden. We have even taken an allotment! David's enthusiasm for growing vegetables was not to be thwarted by the unsuitability of our new Manse garden and just 15 minutes walk from here are some very nice allotments.

However the one we have been given is waist high in weeds so there is much work to be done – and I have promised to help! So you can be assured that the Garden Tokens you so kindly gave to David will be put to very good use.

We wanted to thank all of you for the time we spent with you and for the wonderful and very thoughtful leaving gifts you gave us. The Present Aid gifts to Christian Aid were so carefully chosen and I deeply appreciated the remarks written into each card. They are a great encouragement to me as I prepare to take up my new appointment. And then, just after we had been here a couple of days the most beautiful bouquet of sunflowers and apricot coloured roses arrived from you all. They were really lovely. So, thank you to all of you from us both and may God bless each of you and Crediton Methodist Church.

With love,

Barbara and David