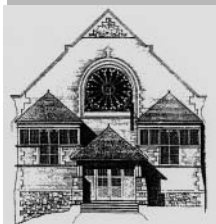


# Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter  
April 2009

## **Crediton Methodist Church**

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

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

### **Services this month:**

April 5<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)  
6.30 Prof. S Lea

April 12<sup>th</sup>: **Easter Day**  
8.45 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)

10.30 Mrs C Keep

6.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)

April 19<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Mrs S Jones (All Age Worship)

6.30 Mrs J Lee

April 26<sup>th</sup>: **Church Anniversary**

10.30 Rev P Collings

6.30 At Sidwell Street.

### **Church Groups:**

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

Women's Open House: ( contact Christine Marshall 772012)

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

---

**Material for the May newsletter to Ken Saunders**

**by Sunday April 19th**

**editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner**

**kend.saunders@tiscali.co.uk**

**Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk**

## Beetle Drive

There was furious shaking and clattering of dice as the competitors at the Beetle Drive battled to be the first to complete a beetle. The atmosphere was tense as people struggled to get the various anatomic parts of a beetle - 6 for a body; 2 for a feeler; 3 for a leg and so on. Then cries of dismay when someone shouted 'beetle' and that was the end of that game.



Ten games were played in all but there was an interval for a 'shared tea'.



Margaret Scott won the prize for the lowest score, and Glen Turner the prize for the highest. Thanks to the Fundraising group for organising a very pleasant social afternoon and to David Gregory for officiating and making sure no-one cheated!



## Easter Sunday

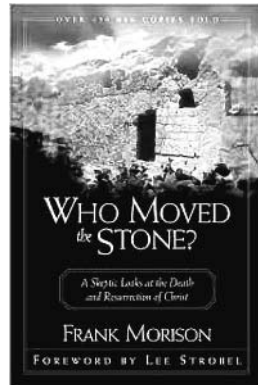
**Please bring a flower to the morning service.**

**During the service the flowers will be placed on the Cross.**

Dear friends,

## Who Moved the Stone?

-The title of a book written by Frank Morrison concerning the Resurrection of Jesus. It was not the book or title he intended, but as he did his research on the last seven days of the earthly life of Jesus he was taken in a completely different direction. He was writing at a time when science and Christianity were poles apart, unlike today when many scientists see religion and science interwoven. Morrison as an inquiring young man, noticed that the Gospel accounts of the death and particularly the resurrection of Jesus were claimed by many critics to be unreliable.



‘Frank Morrison himself was deeply interested in physical science which was obstinately and even dogmatically opposed to what are called the miraculous elements in the Gospels.’ (Morrison’s own words)

One of his reasons for writing his intended book was his belief that the last seven days of Jesus seemed remarkably free from the miraculous element which on scientific grounds he held suspect. To put it briefly he did not accept the claim in the gospels of the Resurrection of Jesus.

In describing his experience of writing a book so different from what he intended he wrote this: ‘It was as though a man set out to cross a forest by a familiar and well-beaten track and came out suddenly where he did not expect to come out.’

In the book he actually wrote he clearly dismissed claims that the stone of the tomb was removed by Jesus’ disciples who took, and hid his body; or that Jewish leaders had taken and hid his body. Dismissing too the claim that Jesus had not died on the cross and therefore recovered. All theories put forward by many to claim that Jesus did not rise from the dead. Put simply, it was the power of God which moved the stone.

Frank Morrison ends his book with these words: ‘There certainly is a deep and profoundly historical basis for that much disputed sentence in the Apostles’ Creed – ‘the third day he rose again from the dead.’

The resurrection of Jesus will not be proven by scientific means, or by arguments. Neither can we believe by simply repeating creeds. Like those

alive at the time, belief came through a personal experience of meeting with the risen Jesus. Some had their doubts like Thomas but worked through their unbelief.

So too for us, we need to have that inner conviction that God so loved the world that he sent Jesus who lived and died and rose again triumphant. This was so true for Frank Morrison. Furthermore Jesus has gone to prepare a place for all who believe in Him.

The joyful message of Easter is:  
He lives, and grants me daily breath,  
He lives, and I shall conquer death,  
He lives, my mansion to prepare,  
He lives, to lead me safely there. *Samuel Medley.*

I wish you a joyful and blessed Easter.

*David R Gregory*

## **Easter at Crediton Methodist**

**Maunday Thursday: Communion Service at 7 p.m.**

**Good Friday: Procession of Witness.  
Starting from the Catholic Church  
10 a.m.**

**Hymns, Readings & Prayers for Good Friday  
Wesley Room at 2.30 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday: Sacrament at 8.45 a.m.  
Services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m**

## **Crediton welcomes farmer from Palestine**

More than 50 Fairtrade enthusiasts aged 1 – 80 plus, from Crediton and beyond, welcomed Risq Abu Nasser, a farmer from Palestine, who is in Devon for Fairtrade Fortnight.

25 campaigners, carrying balloons and Fairtrade placards walked through Crediton to Emjay's coffee shop at Creative Furniture, by the Shell garage on Exeter Road, where as many again were already settled over coffee, ready to meet him.

En route through the town, wearing the flag of his country, Risq was introduced to Jess Bunday at Stevie B's Bakery and Jess Watson-Brown at the Green House. Both these shops sell Palestinian olive oil. The campaigners also stopped at Crediton Library, which was offering tasters of Palestinian olive oil and cups of Fairtrade coffee. Risq explained that 100,000 families in the West Bank rely on olive production for their livelihood. He spoke of the difference that Fairtrade makes to them, of improvements in olive oil production, the occupation of his country, 557 checkpoints, the loss of olive trees (20 of his own trees so far) and imminent loss of his land. "And I am not the only one" said Risq.

There are currently plans to build the apartheid wall near his village, into a large new loop, in order to include the Israeli settlement (built during the last 7 years on Palestinian land) within Israel. If this happens, it will mean that he will lose all three of his fields.

"I was awake half the night thinking about him losing those 2000 year old "Roman trees" ", said Laura Conyngham, organiser, "about what he said about Palestinian children not being able to concentrate as much at school in recent years, and how preoccupied with these matters he is. How would any Devon farmer feel, if it happened here?"

Palestinian products were tasted and bought. £108 was donated to Devon Development Education to share the cost of Risq's travel. "We are thrilled with the success of this event" says Laura. "Jason, Emma, Caroline and Bruce Mew at Creative Furniture were also pleased to have served Fairtrade tea and coffee to so many customers".

*Laura Conyngham*



## Go Bananas for Fairtrade

‘Crediton can be proud to register 80 on the Fairtrade website’ says organiser Laura Conyngham.

On Saturday 7 March, at Crediton's Farmers' market a crowd gathered, there was a group count down and photos were taken of over 40 people eating Fairtrade bananas simultaneously. The other 40 were also eaten before noon when the world record attempt



was over.

This was part of a national and European campaign to promote Fairtrade bananas as healthier for those who grow them as well as for those who eat them.



## Church Anniversary

Charles Moore, writing in the daily telegraph about Jeremy Paxman's programme 'The Victorians', screened on Sunday night, says, 'The most difficult thing about history is that those who write it must look back, whereas those who made it were looking forward.'

The same is true when thinking about a Church anniversary. On such an occasion, one thing we do is look back. For us at CREDITON Methodist Church this means we remember with pride that in spite of terrible persecution of the early Methodists in Exeter from around 1745 the work made steady progress and spread rapidly from 1798.

So, in CREDITON on April 15<sup>th</sup> 1808 a room on the ground floor of a house in Dean st. was licensed as a preaching place. Services were held there until the first chapel was built on Bowden Hill in 1816. They were people of faith, those early Methodists of our town and they were certainly looking forward and not back. For eventually they planned to build a 'beautiful new chapel'.



One of the chief visionaries was William Perkins Harper, a thatcher. He worked and saved to help provide the money to realise their dream. He never lived to see 'the beautiful new chapel' but the money he worked so hard to save enabled the site of our present church to be purchased. Our building is a tribute to the Harper's generosity and the devotion of our Fathers in God to the work of the Kingdom.

April 28<sup>th</sup> 1892 was described in the trustee's minute book as a 'red letter day' in the history of CREDITON Methodism 'when their beautiful new chapel' was opened by the President of the Conference, Rev Dr Stephenson, founder of the National Children's Home.

So at Church anniversary time, we are allowed a backward glance and a twinge of pride, but we too need to have a vision for the future. We had one in 1992, when we decided to build a new porch as a Centenary project, but what next? We give thanks to God for fresh ideas for the Church's witness and we see new shoots appearing. We must pray for our new minister who will come in September and be prepared to give him our full support.



As Christians we are having to live out our faith in an increasingly secular culture, but we must be strong and faithful for the world needs the gospel as much as it has ever done. The gospel does not change, but we may need to. One thing is certain, God goes before us and His grace and power will always be sufficient for us.

The historical notes in this piece I have taken from Sid's Centenary History of our Church. I'll finish by using some of his words at the close of the book. 'It is to be hoped that the above record .....will make it plain that ours is a church with a past. Those of us who are its members in (2009) must worship and witness in ways that will make it plain that ours is a Church with a future, 'We'll praise him for all that is past, And trust Him for all that's to come.'

*Cynthia Dixon*

## The 'Floating Village' People of Cambodia

Heading out towards the lake edge, we drove on mud tracks, past very basic dwelling houses overhanging a muddy, stinking river which drained into lake Tonle Sap. Subsistence living was the order of the day and we spotted a lone pig housed in a pen suspended over the river, being fattened for consumption. A scooter passed by with dozens of live chickens tied on it, hung all around the man and his bike, driving to market. Houses on stilts with batteries for electricity (if they were lucky), corrugated roofs, plastic bags covering holes where windows should be. Many families with Buddhist prayer alters (looking very much like bird tables), decorated, or not, depending on the poorness of the inhabitants of the house they stood beside. Stand pipes every 500 yards for 'clean' water.



We arrived at a mound of earth (jetty) where we would take a boat to see the 'Floating Village', a community of mostly Vietnamese, who had fled their own country and were living on the edge of the lake in makeshift boathouses made of anything that would float. We discovered that there was now a second generation growing up in this environment.

As we leaned out of the car, we were accosted by barefoot children selling bangles - 3 for a dollar (35p), children expecting a dollar if you took a photo and teenagers who were manning the boats to visit the village. We were guided to a boat run by 3 youngsters, our lives were in their hands for the duration of the journey out into the lake and back again – very scary, especially as the motor broke down in mid channel and belched out plumes of carbon filled smoke!



The 'Floating Village' was a sight to see – fifty or so dwellings - ramshackled floating homes, a general store, boats trading goods, a

crocodile farm (bred for skins), a fish farm and children paddling in cut off oil barrels, desperate to get a dollar. Adults were fishing for fish no bigger than an inch long, just to eek out an existence.

Tourists like us were a welcome boost to their meager income. We stopped at the floating store to buy books and pencils for the school. We looked at the fish and crocodile farms, we bought the bangles. The lives of the 'Floating Village People' are dictated by the rise and fall of the lake, the monsoon season which raises the level by 20 feet and the dry season for the remaining 6 months, where the dangerous muddy jetty becomes raised well above the water level (several tourists had fallen off a gangway, been injured and lost possessions in the lake, just before we arrived).



Despite all of this the children are cheerful, they are genuinely cared for within their own community. The school playground is encased in wire mesh, so that the footballs and children do not fall into the water when playing. There were two floating Christian churches helping the community. It was a salutary lesson to see how the families survive on such a small amount of money (approx \$10 a week), how the children cope with school (most spoke enough English to be understood) and what they endure to just get through a normal day. It really was a simple but very arduous way of having to live their lives.

*Christine Marshall*

## Ladies Open House Evenings Revived.

Following a successful first evening this year in February, when Christine gave the ladies a photographic review of her Malaysian holiday, they all felt enthused to revive the Open House meetings and a plan of events was duly agreed for the coming months.

Our second evening was held at Margaret Saunders' house on the subject of 'Bring something you have made and tell us about it'. A record number turned up, fifteen in all and the more agile ones sat on cushions on the hearth. The wealth of talent in the room was amazing and we all sat in awe at the delights which were being systematically pulled out of dusty boxes, carrier bags and folders that had, in some cases, not seen the light of day for many a long year.

Beverley took the prize for the longest unfinished project that had started in 1969 and was still waiting for final stitches to be added – a beautiful



bedspread. Judith won the accolade for her book, which was written by her aged 7 (a touch of the 'Adrian Mole aged 9¾' about it!). Jane brought crochet and tapestry work and told us how she had persevered to do it right. Margaret our

hostess had created a beautiful petite flower arrangement, using flowers from her own garden and Margaret Scott brought an embroidery picture which had taken 7 years to complete, always sewn whilst on holiday with her family. Cynthia was sporting a wonderful cardigan in the Kaffe Faccett style which had rejuvenated memories of her enjoyment in knitting the garment. Sarah showed us a work in progress for Rev Barbara and a Winnie the Pooh finely stitched picture, which Peter had loved so much that he declared he wanted it on the wall in his bedroom when she got home. Josie regaled us



with a tale of how a snake stealing eggs had prompted her to build a duck house.

Pam had challenged herself to create notelets on her computer, using a copy of one of her beautiful paintings as the cover. She has plans to use this idea as a fund raiser. Marjorie Webb brought a Humpty Dumpty that



she made for her own children's amusement and was now being enjoyed by the grandchildren. Margaret Nott showed a complicated Silver Jubilee crochet piece she had designed herself and a crochet tabletop she had made when she was 12. Meg showed her artistic skills by producing the most amazing pastel drawing of a red squirrel and a pen & ink drawing/watercolour of

an autumn scene.

Christine Marshall had experimented making glass pendants and earrings



using a friend's kiln, she had also brought along her daughter's wedding dress she had made some years earlier. Marjorie Ashley told the story of how she had offered to make the first grandchild a shawl, little realising that a total of 3 grandchildren would be born within a very short timescale of each other. She estimated that she was knitting from January to October and one of the poor little mites was going cold that night, as she had brought one shawl to show us! Tina had a potato in a box – signifying her love of 'making' in the garden, adding that she was to follow Sarah's example on how to grow spuds. A jar of runner bean pickle was in evidence, but no tastings, although Glenn can vouch for it I hear. We had a marvellous social evening, laughed, joked and marvelled at the talent. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Our next evening will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Marjorie Ashley's house.

## **Network and World Church News**

### **Spring Network Day:**

St Thomas, Thursday 16 April 2009, from 10am

There is an excellent programme. Speakers are:-

AM: Val Facey bringing an update on Mercy Ships

PM: Tom Davis will give an illustrated talk about this year's project, supporting the Al Shurooq School for Blind Children in Palestine.

So far, our District has sent £2000 to support a teacher for 3-4 year-olds.

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea / coffee will be available.

### **Easter Offering Service:**

Wonford Methodist Church, Wednesday 20 May 2009, 3pm

The theme for this year's service, when Circuit Churches gather to bring the Easter Offering envelopes for the work of the Fund for World Mission, is 'The Way'

Contributions to refreshments after the service will be gratefully received.

### **Circuit World Church Festival:**

The Mint Methodist Church, Wednesday 1 July 2009

This year's theme is Zimbabwe

### **Network Sidholme Conference:**

Sidholme, Sidmouth 11-13 November 2009

Subject: 'The Worlds We Live In'

Led by: Rev Christina Le Moignan

Booking forms are available in the foyer.

### **District Network Quiet Days:**

Tuesday 2 June 2009 at Culm Valley (Willand)

Wednesady 24 June at Yealmpton Booking forms are available in the foyer

### **Methodist Prayer Handbook 2009 – 10**

Our order for the new handbook is due once more, the price is expected to be about £2.50.

I will re-order for everyone on last year's list unless I hear otherwise. I shall be pleased to hear from anyone else who would like to order a copy.

*Pam Murphy*

## **Bright Hour**

2.30 p.m. on Fridays

April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jenny Hext

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Hymns, Readings &  
Prayers for Good Friday.

April 17<sup>th</sup>: Maria Knowlton

April 24<sup>th</sup>: John Gooding

## **Crediton Bible Convention**

Fri – Mon: 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April



Guest Speaker:

**Robert Amess**

Subject:

**‘The Holy Spirit’**

At the Congregational Church

Fri, Sat, Mon at 7.30 p.m.

Sun at 8.15 p.m.

More information from

Brian 0136384555

Mervyn 0164761474

## **Music at the Cross**

Whiddon Down Methodist  
Church



Led by

**The Beaford Choir**

and

Rev Mark Gilborson

**On Good Friday**

10<sup>th</sup> April. 7.30 p.m.

Followed by refreshments

Collection for Church Funds

**Paying attention to Jesus**

**25<sup>th</sup> April:**

**10 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

**Speaker Ann Morisy**

Ann is a keynote speaker on  
mission, community ministry,  
and ageing & faith.

She is the author of two best  
sellers.

The meeting (which is highly  
recommended) is to be held in  
Bridgewater.

Please see details in the foyer.

# GENERAL CHURCH MEETING – 26 APRIL 2009

We celebrate our 117<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary on Sunday 26 April with a Gift Day and after the morning service, conducted by Rev. Paul Collings, we shall have a lunch.

After lunch we shall hold our General Church Meeting to which everyone is invited. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss the life of our Church.

During the meeting we shall appoint our Church Stewards for the next twelve months and elect up to 15 representatives to the Church Council who are willing to serve for a further twelve months. There are vacancies for stewards and members of the Church Council. If you would like to know more about the work involved please speak to me or our minister.

If you wish to nominate a member please obtain their approval (including those prepared to be re-elected) by completing a nomination form which I can supply.

For your information the current stewards and elected members of the Church Council are:

## Church Stewards

Marjorie Ashley

Margaret Scott  
Gillian Sutton

Sid Gardener  
Ken Saunders

## Church Council

Meg Ellis

Christine Gregory  
Wendy  
Homeshaw

Christine Marshall  
Lynda Medcraft  
Pam Murphy

Margaret  
Saunders  
Kath Wollacott  
Priscilla Wright

Alan Clemens  
Ken Turner

Other members of the Church Council are the stewards, the secretary (John Ashley), the treasurer (Glenn Turner), the pastoral secretary (Karen Theedom) and the section Circuit steward (Tina Turner).  
John Ashley

## “Two’s Company”

### **Ashley Withey**

Ashley has now received his full title as a Bachelor of Music from London College of Music.

He is a grade 8 Honours Organist, Grade 8 Associated Board Pianist (Distinction), Grade 8 Associated Board Saxophonist (Distinction) and also plays the trumpet, drum kit and guitar to a high standard.

Ashley has been a Church Organist since the age of 10, playing for services and Weddings. He has been holding his own Annual Summer Charity Concerts since he was 15 years old and these are always a “sell out” to over 200 people.

He has also been a regular artiste on the Organ Club circuit in the South West, and has performed at the Athenaeum Theatre - Plymouth and the Birmingham Symphony Concert Hall.



### **Jessica Withey**

Jessica is 18 and performs alongside her brother, Ashley in many of the performances he is involved in. They have been performing together since Jessica was the age of 8. She is a Grade 8 Singer, Grade 8 Violinist, Grade 8 Pianist and has reached Grade 8 in Speech and Drama. Jessica is a dancer/choreographer and has her own dance troupe.

You can hear these talented young people at a concert at:

**Crediton Methodist Church**

**Sat: April 25<sup>th</sup>. 7 p.m.**

**Tickets on sale (including refreshments)**

**at Phillips & Co; Ivor Coram’s**

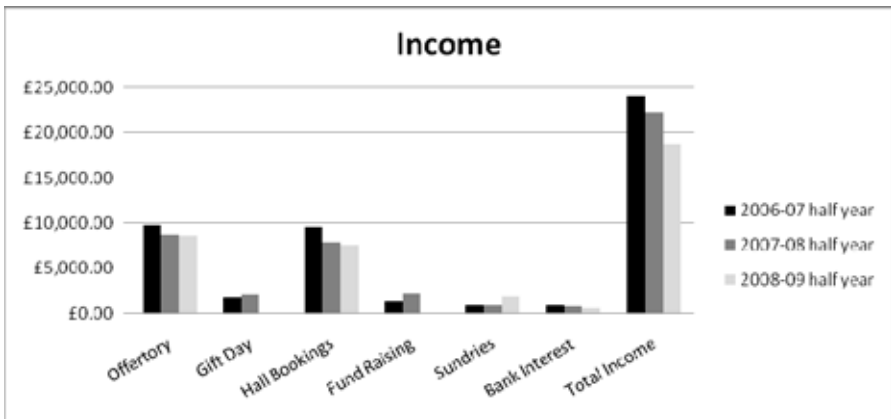
**or from the stewards.**



## Half Yearly Accounts

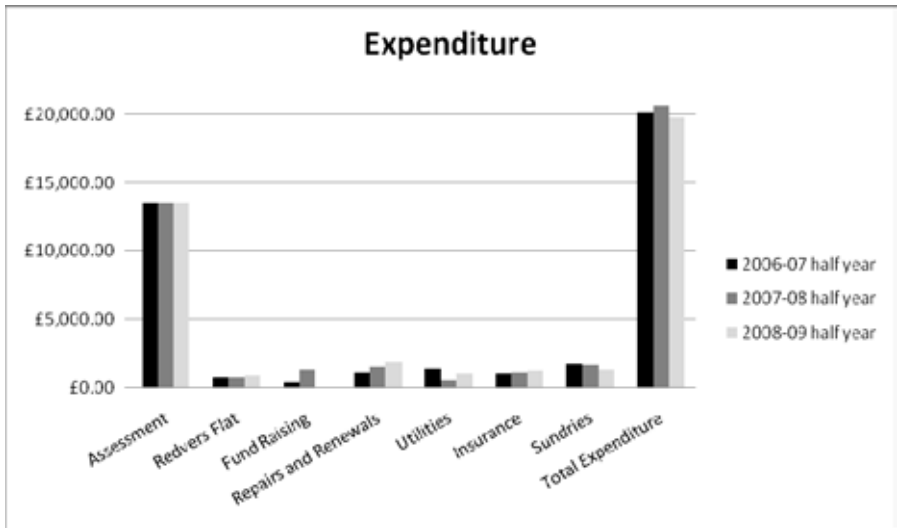
As we are now half way through the church's financial year, I thought I would bring you up to date with our church finances. As you can see from the graph below, our income so far this year is down by over £3,500 compared to last year. This is because of a couple of reasons, firstly last years' figures include gift day also fundraising is down by 96% (£2,050), which is due to the fact we sold calendars last year, and held a barn dance etc. The other item is the interest we receive is down by 16% (£130), due to the low interest rates, I forecast that by the end of the year the interest we received will be down by 43% (£615). Finally Offertory and Hall bookings are down slightly. The only item which was up on last year is sundries, by 102% (£950), this is the first years' grant of £1,000 for "The Ark". The grant is for 3 years.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with fundraising so far this year, through lunches, coffee mornings, January Jollies and many other events. Not just for the general funds but also for the charities we have supported. Every penny raised helps in some way.



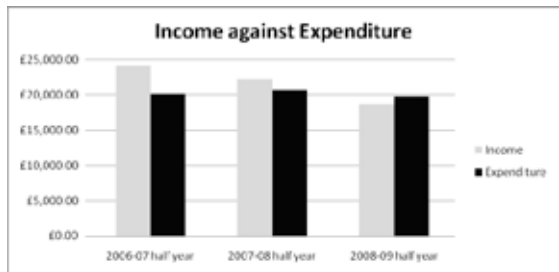
The graph on the next page shows that our expenditure is fractionally down by only 4% (£850). This has been achieved with the help and a lot of hard work from people working quietly in the background. We thank you all.

As you well know our greatest expenditure is our assessment to the Circuit. This is around 68% of our total expenditure and has remained the same as last year. The biggest increase in expenditure are for the utilities which are up by 63% (£400) from last year as we have now finished paying off a considerable credit we had built up. The other main increase in spending has been on repairs and renewals, up by 20% (£300). Insurance and rent for Redvers flat has also increased by around 7% each.



Where we have saved so far this year is the amount we had to spend for fundraising this is down by 98% (£1,330), this is due to the fact we produced calendars last year, and held a barn dance etc., we have not held any events this year which hasn't cost us any money. Finally sundries are down by 21% (£350)

The chart on the right clearly shows that our income is falling. Even if I include gift day and presume we will receive a smiliar amount as last year, this will only bring our income up to our expenditure, so at present we are breaking even.



As I said back in October if we are not careful our expenditure WILL be greater than our income in a year or two's time. Please would you consider raising your giving as our costs keep rising. Also please can you give as much as you can at this years' Gift Day. If you are a tax payer and at present we do not claim your tax back please see myself or Christine Marshall about Gift Aid. As every £1 you give we can claim back 28p from the Inland Revenue, even if you don't give on a regular basis. So whenever you give money to the church whether it is for offertory, coffee, lunch, flowers, or anything else please can you fill in an orange envelope so we can claim the tax back.

If you would like a copy of this years' annual report or want any more information about the churches finances please come and see me. *Glenn Turner*

# *Twa's Company*

*Twa Talented Musicians*

*in concert*

*at Crediton Methodist Church*

*April 25th 7 p.m.*

*Tickets from Phillipps & Co  
Ivor Coram's*