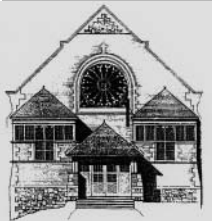




FAIRTRADE



Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter

Dec 2009/January 2010

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- Dec 6th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
6.30 Mr S Nightingale
- Dec 13th: 8.45 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
10.30 Mrs C Dixon
6.30 Rev H Moon
- Dec 20th: 10.30 Rev M Gilborson (All Age Christmas Service)
6.30 Rev D Gregory (Carols by Candlelight)
- Dec 24th: 4p.m. Rev D Gregory (Carols & Drama for Christmas)
- Dec 25th: 10.00 Christmas Day Service
- Dec 27th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory
6.30 At St Thomas Methodist Church

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: 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; Jesus Squad (10+ age group)

**Material for the February newsletter to Ken Saunders
by January 24th.**

**editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner
kendsaunders@btinternet.com**

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Dear Friends,

If you were asked ‘Which of the following is your favourite Christian festival: Easter, Pentecost or Christmas?’ which would you choose? Opinions would vary. I guess children would certainly say Christmas. For some adults it would also be Christmas. Others may express such views as: ‘Christmas is for children’; ‘It is too commercialised’; ‘I shall be glad when it is all over’. Behind the views expressed there are often personal experiences.

Most children obviously enjoy Christmas, the excitement of opening presents, and giving presents too, especially when it is something they have made – and to parents such gifts are treasured and kept.

‘Only for children’ Christmas? It can be if we forget why Jesus came into our world.

‘Too commercialised’? If in our grandparents time there had been as much money as there is today, would there have been more than an apple, orange, a few nuts and one toy in each sack? We could ensure that every Christmas card we send depicts the original Christmas story. We could also invite friends, neighbours to attend a Christmas service with us.

‘Glad when it’s all over’? I know that for some people Christmas can be a very painful time. For some it brings back bad memories. There are those who spend it alone - like a young woman called Sally who had just one Christmas card on the shelf ‘To Sally...From Sally’. A greeting of ‘Have a Happy Joyful Christmas’ has no meaning for some unless someone can be where they are. It was not the best of times when Jesus came into the world but he came to be one with us and his Christmas gift is that of hope, joy and love.

My prayer for each one of you is that you will know of the Saviour’s love for you and experience the Peace he promises to you.

David

FINDING A MINISTER

This short article continues the new quarterly series from the Exeter Methodist Circuit aimed at informing local church members about current Circuit business and initiatives.

One of the mysteries of Methodism for many members of our local churches is the process for making a new ministerial appointment within the Circuit as the time comes for one of our current postholders to move on. The process begins during the year before a vacancy is due to be filled. Thus, at the current time, the Circuit has been working for a few months in preparing its bid to fill the vacancy in the Crediton section with effect from September 2010.

First, the Circuit must decide whether a vacancy would best be filled by an experienced minister or by a probationer (generally fresh from theological college). Once decided, the Circuit submits a short description of the vacancy for inclusion in the Connexion's Circuit Appointments Profile Book. At the same time, those ministers and probationers seeking appointments also complete profiles for separate ministers and probationers books. Circuits filling appointments then review the ministers' profiles looking for close matches with their needs and make their preferences known to the Chair of their respective Districts (Plymouth & Exeter, in Crediton's case).

The actual matching of ministers to vacancies falls to the Connexion's Stationing Matching Group comprising the Chairs of the Districts and members of the Methodist Connexional team. Superintendencies are sorted out first followed by the matching of other experienced ministers to potential Circuits. (Probationers and Deacons are allocated under separate schemes.) Suggested matches are followed by a visit of the minister to the Circuit concerned and both parties decide whether to agree the match. If the match is declined by either party, the profiles of both minister and church are submitted to

the next meeting of the Matching Group. Work addressing any remaining unfilled appointments is completed by mid-January.

It sounds easy on paper! In fact, demand never seems to match supply. For instance, in the current round there are 160 vacancies chasing the 122 experienced ministers seeking appointments. However, fewer than 25 of the latter would consider working, usually for family reasons, in the South West and, of those, some are earmarked as Circuit Superintendents. And then, like any job application, the Circuit officers have to consider experience, aptitude, vocation, etc, which in turn reduces the options. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will prompt the right person to come to work amongst us, ministering to the folk in the Crediton section.

Christmas Greetings

Warmest greetings for Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year to members and friends of Crediton Methodist Church.

With every blessing. Margaret Rees.

Green tip of the month.

Don't bin batteries, recycle them instead.

An estimated 600 million batteries are dumped in landfill sites every year.

When batteries decompose, deadly poisons, including mercury, lead and lithium seep into our waterways killing fish and wildlife.

You can recycle your used household batteries by putting them out with your fortnightly kerbside recycling collection. To make it easier for the operatives please put them in a carrier bag.

TEDBURN ST MARY METHODIST HALL

Saturday 12th December
2009
12.30pm - 2pm

LUNCHES and STALLS

Donations for the
Francisco Rojas School,
Peru

Everyone Welcome

Open House

Tuesday 19 January
7:30 pm
At 4 Okefield Ridge
'Games evening'

Getting the Church Ready for Christmas

It's that time of year again when help is needed to decorate the church for Christmas. Help will be required for the following: Putting the Christmas tree in place; Candles around the Church for the carol service; Outside lights; Decorating the Church; Clearing-up. Dates when this will happen will be given later. The more help the easier the jobs!

Thankyou.

Christine, Margaret & Meg

January Jollies

Sat January
16th
5 - 8 p.m.

To include
**Family X Factor
Entertainment
Pantomime &
Food**

We invite individuals or families to entertain and create a happy, hilarious evening. Don't hide your talent, we need you. Please speak to John Ashley or David

Tickets from Glenn
Turner or the Stewards
Adult: £4, Children-
free.

Fellowship

On a recent visit to A La Ronde, Exmouth, I walked up to the Point-in-View Church, at the top of the hill with delightful views. It is run by the Mary Parminter Trust and is a little gem, sparkingly clean and inviting. In the porch hang the following lines which I copied down to share with you.

Judith Lowe

Point-in View, A La Ronde 27. 10 2009

If after church you wait

Someone will greet you with a smile.

But if you quickly rise and flee

We'll all seem cold and stiff, maybe.

The one beside you in the pew

Perhaps is just a stranger, too.

All here, like you, have cares and fears.

All of us need each other's prayers.

In fellowship we bid you meet

With us, around God's mercy seat.

(Found in a tiny Lakeland church)

Through the years



Our Methodist partnership

Thomas Bowman Stephenson, a Methodist minister from the North East of England, had a passionate commitment to social justice and campaigned on behalf of the vulnerable of his day. From the time he moved to London, Stephenson challenged the Methodist Church to address the plight of homeless children on the street.

Methodist pioneers

Stephenson founded The Children's Home in 1869, with the help of two friends from Bolton called Francis Horner and Alfred Mager. They called it The Children's Home as they wanted to provide the same quality of care that other children received in a loving home – a vision that was radically different to the workhouses of the day.

The work grew and developed, and it was initially Methodists, staff and volunteers who developed new ways of caring for children and young people. The National Children's Home (as it became known) has featured prominently in the history of child welfare as a leader and force for change.

Methodist principles

Action for Children's ethos is deeply rooted in Methodist principles. The famous words of John Wesley to 'go not only to those who need you but to those who need you most' eloquently and simply describe our vision and values today.

How we help

We give practical support and speak out for vulnerable children and young people : **Family support** We support families at critical times and with difficult problems **Children in care** We help find carers for children who can't live with their families

Our schools We help children and young people reach their full potential

Young people We help vulnerable and excluded young people

Disabled children We provide specialist care.

<p>At our Christmas day Service this year an offering will be taken for Action for Children.</p>

Church Crawl

We have arranged a visit to Topsham and Wonford Methodist Churches on Sunday Dec 6th. There will be a church lunch on this day, and we shall leave for Topsham at 2 p.m. From there on to Wonford where they will kindly provide us with a tea, and we shall join the Wonford folk for the evening service. Please put your name on the list in the foyer for lunch; transport required; tea at Wonford. Suggested donation for lunch is £5.

The purpose of the Church crawl is to look at the refurbishments of the two churches we are visiting.

Bright Hour

Meetings in December:
Dec 4th: Mrs Margaret Scott
(Possibly lunch in aid of
Mercy Ships)

Dec 11th: Jenny Hext
Carols and Mince Pies

TALENTS – A GREAT SUCCESS

A **BIG Thank You** to everyone who took part in and also supported the Talents so that we could raise funds for the Church.

The initial idea of ‘doubling your money’, by giving out a £10 note to participants was the start of the ideas flowing from everyone. A good number of members made a huge variety of produce, gifts and gave their services to raise their money. A lot of people made far more than the allotted ‘double your money’ and the support from everyone in the Church for all the ventures was greatly appreciated.

The **Total raised to date is £2200**, with dribs and drabs of money still coming in for some items.

The Talents resulted in a really good social event for all concerned and it brought out the flair, abilities and in some cases genius of the people who gave their time to be involved in the whole idea. Thank you to you all.

Christine Marshall

Francisco Rojas School – Peru

The Junior Church is now sponsoring Elizabeth – a student at Francisco Rojas School, Peru. We have recently received this letter from Elizabeth.

Arequipa, October 2009

Dear friends,

My name is Elizabeth Quispe Pérez and I am a student at Francisco Rojas School. I am in Year 1 Secondary and I am 12 years old. I will be 13 on 20th December.



I came to Francisco Rojas School at the age of 6 and stayed for two years studying in Year 1 and Year 2 Primary. Despite the fact that my parents did not pay for my education, because I received a grant from the school, I was unable to continue my studies as we live far away from the school. My family is very poor and our home consists of just one room, where we cook, eat and sleep. We have no running water. We buy water and carry it in buckets. My sister Alissandra and I were very sad to leave Francisco Rojas School, but she is back in the school in Year 5 Secondary. I have two younger brothers, one is 5 years old and the other 10.

A year ago my parents separated and our home situation got worse. We did not have money to buy food or clothes. Thanks to you, I have been able to return to Francisco Rojas School as my mother does not have to pay for my studies. This also helps my mother who is looking after my brothers. I would very much like to finish my secondary education. I enjoy learning and have good marks. At present I am ninth in a class of 25 pupils.

I write this letter with much love to you all and would like to thank you for your help.

God bless you.

Elizabeth Quispe Pérez

Pause for thought

A Christmas Carol

I am looking forward to seeing the latest film of Charles Dicken's 'A Christmas Carol', this time in 3D. I've read the original story, seen the TV plays, the films, the Muppets Christmas Carol, and I like to listen, in the car, to a narrated version on CD. I never tire of this tale about the transformation of a life. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable old miser, experiences an advent and epiphany in one night, and wakes a new man: a man who is happy, and generous and willing to share. It's not overtly a religious tale, but I think Jesus would approve of this 'parable' that came out of 19th century morality.

The Victorians also gave a boost to Christian Christmas carol singing. Carols started, it's thought, in the middle ages as secular songs, probably for dancing to. Gradually, they became associated with the story of Jesus' birth and were adopted into church services. Charles Wesley, of course, wrote the much loved 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' in the 18th century. Christmas Carols are songs of rejoicing – perhaps we should dance to them as people did in days of old. And the Victorian era gave us such treasures as 'O, come all ye faithful', 'O little town of Bethlehem', 'Silent Night' and 'Away in a manger'. The Victorians sang them in their parlours, they sang them in the street.

Of all the Christian traditions, the singing of carols is probably the one with which people who do not regularly attend church will feel most comfortable. Up and down the country, we can find carol services being held in pubs. In our churches, the congregation is often swollen by visitors to the carol service.

Lives are still touched by these Christmas traditions, swamped as they are by all the commercial emphases about the Christmas season. It's up to us, as followers of Jesus, to help people see that the Christmas baby is Jesus, the Son of God, and that with him, lives are transformed. And that the baby Jesus is not just for Christmas, but for life. *Pam Murphy*

Shoebox Service

THANK YOU ALL so much for supporting the shoebox appeal as you do every year. As well as shoeboxes coming from our members, once again I am so grateful for the very generous NINE big boxes from Haywards School just brimming with all sorts of



children's things. There are many pressures on Mums at this time of the year, but the School and children never let us down. Thank you too for the boxes from Sandford Parish Church, Sandford Brownies, friends of friends, Christchurch Methodist Church, Barnstaple and in the next week or so there will be boxes from Crediton Parish Church, Exeter Cathedral, Yeo Valley Primary School, Barnstaple - have I forgotten anyone? Advent is with us and starting the advent season in such a way is so heart warming

- Thank you!"

Glen tells me the retiring collection for International Aid was £182.15 - wonderful - thank you all for your care and concern. With all the shoeboxes that this church has sent during the year, I suspect the total, as in past years, will be almost 1000" *June*

(Thanks to Hazel for photographs)



Birthday Congratulations

Congratulations to Rene on reaching the amazing age of 99 years.

It was lovely to see her at the shoebox service – a cause very dear to her heart and one for which she has worked tirelessly in recent years.



A letter

Dear Friends,

In the November newsletter this question was posed, 'Is the Crucified Christ window theologically representative of our tradition?'

The answer must be 'Yes'. St Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians, 'As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles; but for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God'.

A little later, Paul continues, 'I made up my mind to forget everything except Jesus Christ and especially His death on the cross.'

I know we worship the Risen Christ and so in the Methodist Church we rejoice in the more familiar image of the empty cross. However, surely it does us no harm to contemplate, and be reminded of, the price of our salvation.

We do have an empty cross on our communion table, so let us continue to appreciate our lovely window and its' message and to value the generosity of our predecessors who loved this place and whose inspiration it was.

Cynthia Dixon

Wanted

Someone to represent our church on the Christians Together in Crediton committee.

It meets four times a year, usually on a Saturday morning.

For more information please ask Margaret Scott
and tell her if you are willing to serve.

Thankyou *David*

Pastoral News



God, kindle a light in our darkness .

*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 the continued strength, commitment and unity of our whole church family and for those who minister to us: Revd David Gregory and Revd Mark Gilborson, as together we seek to spread the word about the love of God and to reach out to people in Crediton.

Please remember in prayer those in our church family named here: Rita & Roland Ash; Ray Burnett; Alan & Kim Clemens; Beatrice Curle; Ray Heard; Harold Hollingsworth; Allan Hooper; Frank Howarth; Len Jenkinson; Phyllis & Gillian Maunder; Lynda & Norman Medcraft; Bronwyn & Colin Nott, and daughter Rachel; Clara Paige; Rene Sankey; Ann Spry; Tom Squire; Arthur Tancock; Eileen Tarr; Mary Tyson.

Pray, too, for the families who are coming to learn of the Gospel News through the Ark and for those in the Residential homes we visit.

Contacts: Karen Theodom: Pastoral Secretary: 775704
Pam Murphy: Pastoral News page: 773414
June Redfern Prayer Requests 84058

Residential Homes

Services for December and January are:

Summerhayes :	Thursday	3 December	3:15 p.m.
Hillbrow:	Wednesday	16 December	3:15 pm
Summerhayes:	Thursday	7 January	3:15 pm
Kenwyn:	Wednesday	20 January	TBA
St Lawrence:	Thursday	21 January	3:15 pm

Dates for December & January

Dec 5th Whiddon Down Christmas Fair in the Village Hall at 2.30pm

Dec 8th Carols Down the Line. Buckfastleigh Station at 7.00pm (bring torch)

Dec 15th Carol Singing at Redvers house, 7.00pm

Dec 19th The Ark Christmas Party at 4.00pm

Dec 20th Worship for All Ages with Rev Mark Gilborson at 10.30pm

Carols by Candlelight with Rev David Gregory at 6.30pm

Dec 24th Carols & Drama for Christmas at 4.00pm

Dec 25th Christmas Morning Celebration at 10.00am

Dec 27th Morning Worship with Rev David Gregory at 10.30am

Evening Worship at St Thomas with Rev David Easton at 6.30pm

Jan 3rd Covenant Service at 10.30am with Rev David Gregory

Jan 8th Mother Goose Pantomime at Northcott Theatre, 7.00pm

Jan 16th January Jollies at 5.00pm

Jan 26th Stewards Meeting, 7.15 at Oake House

Christmas at Crediton Methodist

Dec 20th: 10.30 a.m. All age worship with a Christmas Theme; led by Rev Mark Gilborson.

6.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

**Dec 24th: 4 p.m. Carols and Drama for Christmas
Led by Rev David Gregory**

**Dec 25th: 10.00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
Led by Rev David Gregory**

