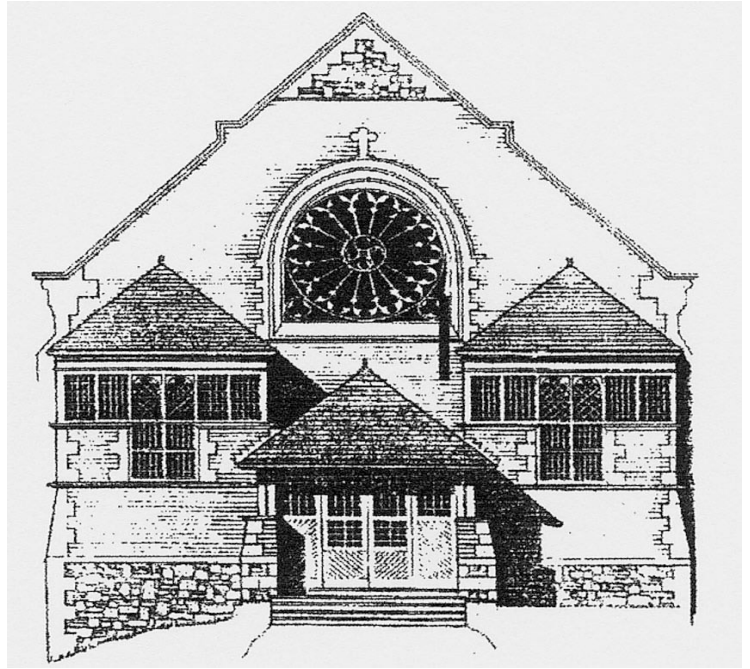
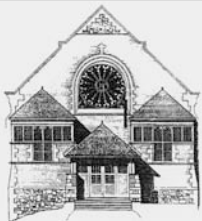




FAIRTRADE



# Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter  
February 2009

## **Crediton Methodist Church**

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

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

### **Services this month:**

- Feb 1<sup>st</sup>: 10.30 Rev D Easton (Sacrament)  
6.30 No Service (Section service at Cheriton Fitzpaine)
- Feb 8<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Mrs J Morrish  
6.30 Rev M Dillistone
- Feb 15<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Mr D Bradford (All Age Worship)  
6.30 Rev M Gilborson (Sacrament)
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>: 8.45 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)  
10.30 Mr D House  
6.00 Talkback (At Methodist Church)

### **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 March newsletter to Ken Saunders  
by February 15th.**

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE**

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

Dear friends,

Our most frequent greeting to others the first few weeks since Christmas has probably been 'A Happy New year', no doubt meant sincerely, yet it's reality for some could be rather difficult. The Collins English dictionary describes the word 'happiness' as a feeling or expression of joy or gladness. But what of people who would appear to have little to be joyful or glad about in 2009.

Consider the present credit crunch causing real hardship to many families, and even after careful spending over Christmas period they have added to their debts, with unemployment being a major factor for some.

For others prospective happiness has been shattered by a family tragedy during the past year; servicemen killed in Afghanistan; a tragic road accident; unexpected terminal illness; you could no doubt add to this list.

On the world stage the tragedies are multiplied by war, poverty, hunger and homelessness.

It seems the Christmas message of hope and peace is packed away along with the Christmas tree decorations. Or is it?

We have to face the future, or turn our face to the wall which brings even greater unhappiness. We cannot hibernate like the tortoise or hedgehog. Sometimes we say 'We must grit our teeth and plough on', or 'make the best of things'. Easier said than done I say! For often in our own strength it is beyond us.

But what of God's strength? I am so often encouraged by those facing adversity who are so positive, and in asking why, they reply that their rock is God; He, as it were, underpins them with His strength and love.

I commend to you the words of the late King George the sixth in his Christmas message broadcast of 1939: **And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'**

In the power and love of God I wish you all a new year of hope and peace.

*David R Gregory*

## **Thank You**

In December 2008, José Luis Larico Quispetupac completed his secondary education.

José Luis came to Francisco Rojas School in 1998 at the age of 6. His parents, who are Christian, wanted him to study at the school but had no money to pay for the fees, uniform, books and school materials. The family, father, mother and three boys, live in one rented room in a house with no running water, on the outskirts of the city of Arequipa. Over the years father has worked as a driver, away from home, and mother in a factory, but these jobs have been casual. The school has occasionally employed the mother as a cleaner. However, she has been very ill with a heart condition and last year she had an operation. Without it, she would have not survived. In the absence of his father, José Luis, being the eldest, has had to take responsibility for looking after his mother and brothers during her convalescence.

José Luis is quiet and well balanced. Despite his personal circumstances, he has shown determination and kept focused on his studies, every year occupying first place in his class. His parents have been grateful for the opportunity given to him, and his two other brothers, to study at the school.

On behalf of Francisco Rojas School, Peru, I would like to thank Crediton Methodist Junior Church for sponsoring José Luis throughout his education. Clearly he has benefited from the financial support he has received, and all your efforts have been rewarded. José Luis came first in his final exams and has been offered a place at university reading Civil Engineering. Thanks to the Junior Church he has been given the chance of a better life and now his future looks bright. In the long term his family will also benefit from his success, as he will become their principal provider. A thank you card from José Luis is being displayed in the foyer.

*Maria A Knowlton*

## THANK YOU!.....

to all those involved in Mothers and Toddlers held every Monday. It was only when I decided to take my little grand-daughter Bethan to the afternoon that I realised how much effort is put in. So thank you to all of you who every Monday get out the toys, paints and necessary carpeting and the clearing up afterwards. Thank you to, to the ladies who are on a rota for making tea and juice for the children and Mums. I purposely have not mentioned names, but most of you will know who are involved. THANK YOU again! *June Redfern.*

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### Bright Hour

Feb 6<sup>th</sup>: Rev D Gregory  
Communion  
Feb 13<sup>th</sup>: Lunch 1.00 p.m.  
Jenny Hext 2.30 p.m.  
Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: Mrs M Jarvis  
Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: Mrs M Hayman  
Mar 6<sup>th</sup>: No meeting.  
WWD of Prayer

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### Apologies

For typing error in Nov newsletter.  
Rene's grace should have read:  
*Bless this food dear Lord  
And keep us all alive  
There are ten of us for dinner  
And only enough for five!*

## Pancakes



### Lunches on Tues Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

12 – 2 p.m.

Savoury & sweet

£1.75 each

At the Methodist Church

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## Thankyou

I would like to thank the men who helped get the Christmas Tree in place and those who decorated it. Thank you to Val Barker (the jewellers) who kindly gave us the tree. (she said she would like it to go to a good home) and to Ken Hooper for felling and transporting it to church.

Thank you to Margaret and Meg for helping to decorate the church. Also a big thank you to the number of people who helped with clearing away the decorations after Christmas; the job was done very quickly.

*Christine*

## **Education Sunday February 8th**

What can a church do to support those who work in schools and colleges? And, conversely, what can those who work in schools and colleges do to make sure they are adequately supported by their own church? I believe Education Sunday may provide part, though by no means all, of the answer to these two questions.

For well over a century Education Sunday, as it has become known, has been an annual day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in education in England and Wales. Education Sunday is recognised by all the major Christian Churches and is celebrated on the ninth Sunday before Easter. Even the most sensitive and encouraging Education Sunday service cannot, however, redress 51 weeks of woeful neglect. So, what should churches be doing?

First of all, churches should resist the temptation to add to the burdens of those who work in education. Rather, they should actively seek to unburden teachers. A conversation might start like this: "I hear you're a teacher... I wonder if there's anything I could do to support you this year. For example, is there anything you'd like me to pray about?"

Once the teacher has recovered from the initial shock of being offered immediate, unconditional prayer support they will be able to share enough spiritual intelligence to keep even the most conscientious intercessor busy for hours on end!

But teachers don't just need prayer to help them manage their time more wisely and cope with their often excessive workload. They will need to be covered with the full armour of God if they are to be physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually protected in their day-to-day work. Many teachers would welcome powerful prayer support which sought to address the nitty gritty of life at the 'chalkface'. For example: dealing with relentlessly unruly pupils; coping with sometimes offensive and ill disciplined parents; and remaining clear headed and professional whilst trying to be an effective Christian witness.

So, if you know someone who works in education is part of your congregation do offer them a listening ear and your prayerful support and encouragement – they certainly need it!

## **A New Year – I ask myself ....**

We spend more but we appreciate less  
Houses are bigger but families are smaller.  
We acquire more knowledge but less wisdom,  
We are proud to have more titles but we lack sensitivity.  
We have more experts but major problems,  
We have increased our possessions but reduced our values.  
We know how to hurry but not how to wait,  
We know more people but have fewer friends.  
We go to bed late, get up tired.  
We read less, see too much television but hardly pray.  
We have travelled to the moon but find it difficult to cross the street to meet our neighbour.  
A New Year has arrived and I ask myself .....

*Maria Caza (Teacher at Francisco Rojas School, Peru)*

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**Talkback**  
**February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m.**  
**Methodist Church**  
**Marjorie & David Wolley**  
**Perseverance and Hope**



### **Job wanted**

Leah Saunders is taking a gap year in the hope of earning some money before starting her course at the Royal Academy of Dance. Unfortunately, in the present economic climate, it is not easy to get a job. Although she has some part-time work she desperately needs more. She would be willing to do household cleaning jobs, or shopping or almost anything! If you are interested or know anyone who may be, please contact Leah on 773287.

**A Date to Book**  
**Women's World Day of**  
**Prayer**  
**March 6th**

## FIVE A MONTH FOR FAIRTRADE

FIVE A DAY is a national campaign to educate and encourage everyone to eat more fruit and vegetables in order to keep healthy. Perhaps you are doing this already and noticing that that you feel healthier.

If you usually buy one Fairtrade item a month from Priscilla, or from the supermarket, could you consider, in 2009, buying FIVE A MONTH? What proportion of your total shopping bill might this be? Might it be manageable?

As I write, in early January, the news from Gaza is getting worse. The Farmers' Market was cold and quiet, but Traidcraft stall sold 7 litres of Palestinian olive oil.

When governments don't do as we wish, we can act differently through our shopping choices.

I like to use Palestinian olive oil in my cooking. From my Crediton kitchen I think about those who have produced it - those who have to wait each day for the guards to open the checkpoint so they can reach their olive groves, those who are trying to raise families in an occupied land.

The construction of The Wall has caused the uprooting of tens of thousands of olive trees. Agriculture is an important part of the Palestinian economy, but exporting fresh produce is almost impossible due to delays at checkpoints and ports. Olive oil is less perishable.

In October 2008 Devon became a Fairtrade County. The county steering group is planning for a Palestinian olive producer to come to Devon, during Fairtrade Fortnight 23 Feb - 8 March – exit permission permitting. Come and meet him/ her over coffee at Creative Furniture, Crediton on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> February.

The theme for Fairtrade Fortnight is "How far will you go for Fairtrade?" If you would be prepared to travel, by bus, to another Devon village to encourage Fairtrade, please let me know.

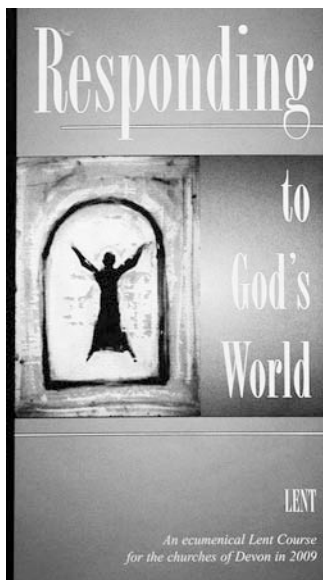
*Laura Conygham 773000*

## Lent Course

The Churches in Crediton will be using a Lent course prepared by the Diocese of Exeter. It is called 'Responding to God's World'.

Ecumenical house groups will be meeting but as yet no details are available. Please see the weekly notices later in the month.

It is planned to have a Methodist group meeting during the day, probably on a Tuesday or Wednesday morning.



## Causeway Ducks

The Crediton Causeway Group (for people with learning disabilities) meets once a month for Christian fellowship. At the last meeting it was decided to try to help a group of poor people in Bangladesh by having a sponsored sing. For every £24 raised, Christian Aid will provide these people with 24 ducks. If you would like to encourage the Causeway group and at the same time help people experiencing poverty then you will find a sponsored form in the foyer. The MAXIMUM sponsorship amount should be £1.

The sing will be on Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at the Congregational Church; 6.30 to 7.30. p.m. You would be very welcome.

## **Pause for Thought**

Am I alone at feeling angry and frustrated at the situation that we, as a church, find ourselves in at the beginning of 2009?

As I sit at my computer to write this pause for thought I find it difficult to rationalise the situation that Crediton Methodist Church has been left in my greater Methodism. What is it exactly that we have done that should mean that we have been left in a spiritual limbo. I hesitate to use the term 'leaderless' because we have David leading us, but I think you know what I mean. Why have those on the stationing committee, the district and the circuit left us in this dangerous and vulnerable position, without a properly appointed minister when they have had adequate time to provide us with one? Why has this happened to us again so soon after a long and difficult period of instability for our church?

If you are reading on hoping that I have answers to any of the questions that I have posed, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. In many ways my reason for writing this is to try to make some sense of the situation myself. We are still a church with attendances of 50+ for most Sunday morning services. We have active members happy to take part in services and church business. We are active in our local community and the community use our premises for a variety of activities and events. So why has it proved so difficult for our church leadership to find someone to lead us?

Can it be that we are difficult to lead? Are our expectations too high? Do we need to identify our needs rather than our wants? Whatever the answers are I'm certain of one thing, we need to find them quickly and we need to act upon them.

My one other plea would be that the church membership as a whole is kept better informed as to the way the process of stationing is proceeding so that we feel a part of it, rather than just feeling we're having it done to us.

Lastly I'd ask all of you to pray (if you aren't already) for God to provide us with the long term leadership we need to play our full part in the life of his church, both here in Crediton and the world.

## Open a Window

In the Sound of Music the Reverend Mother said, ‘When the Lord shuts a door He always opens a window.’

My door was shut in February 2007 when I was told I had macular degeneration in my left eye and a cataract in my right, and my eyesight would understandably degenerate.



My window opened when I acquired my guide lines and ‘Eclipse’. A wonderful piece of equipment and I am most grateful to the Queen’s Nursing Institute who reimbursed me for its cost.

It helps me to read, write and thread a needle. It’s very expensive but worth every penny – it’s a boon and a blessing.

My teeth are my own  
I’ve a good hair of hair,  
But I cannot kneel  
Nor climb a stair.  
My eyesight is failing  
My hearing impaired,  
My right ulna nerve is paralysed  
And I cannot lift a chair.  
I walk with aid;  
I’ve an unsteady gait,  
But I’m very well ‘thankyou’  
I’m 98!

*Rene*

## 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 whom we pray for, we remember by name Rita Ash; Ray Burnett; Kim & Alan Clemens; Doris Crispin; Ray Heard; Harold Hollingsworth; Allan Hooper; Frank Howarth; Rob Ings; Len Jenkinson; Iris Mackie; Phyllis Maunder; Lynda & Norman Medcraft; Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Shirley Sharpe; Anne Spry; Arthur Tancock; Eileen and George Tarr; Ken Turner, Mary Tyson, Joy Wilshire.

## Residential Homes

Services for February are:

Summerhayes :	Thursday	5 February	2:30 pm
Kenwyn:	Wednesday	18 February	2:00 pm
St Lawrence	Thursday	19 February	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

Please let me know of anyone who would like to be mentioned for prayers.

## Prayer Ministry

Following on from the article in the last church newsletter there has been sufficient interest in developing the prayer ministry of our church.

With this in mind we propose to set up a prayer chain within our church.

We have met with Sue Martin of Holy Cross who already have a very active prayer chain and she kindly gave us details of how the chain operates.



Basically it means a coordinator will pass on name(s) to one person who then passes on the name(s) to their link in the chain and this continues until every link in the chain has been contacted. Thus a whole group of people are praying for people on a regular basis.

Contact with each link can be by telephone or e-mail.

Would you please consider being one of the 'links'?

If you are willing, or would like more information please contact Ken or Margaret Saunders or myself.

Thankyou for taking time to read this notice.

David Gregory