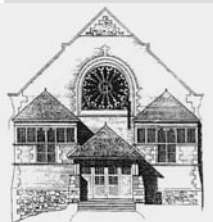


Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
March 2009

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- March 1st: 10.30 Rev Dr D Keep
6.30 Rev A Brazier
- March 8th: 10.30 Mr L Smale
6.30 Rev A Sails
- March 15th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory (All Age Worship)
6.30 Mrs J Mann
- March 22nd: 8.45 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
10.30 Mrs C Dixon (Mothering Sunday)
6.0 Talkback
- March 29th: 10.30 Mrs S Jones
4.30 Concert & Buffet Supper

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

**Material for the April newsletter to Ken Saunders
by March 22nd ..**

**editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner
kend.saunders@tiscali.co.uk**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Dear Friends,

What are you going to give up for Lent? Will it be chocolate? Sweets? Biscuits? Or something much more substantial, a time of self-denial? Why give up something for Lent?

Originally Lent was observed as a prolonged period when Christians would 'tone up' spiritually – could be called spiritual aerobics. It can be a time of not necessarily giving up something materialistic, but rather giving up of valuable time to reflect on the very centre of our Gospel of Jesus dying upon the cross to redeem the whole of mankind, his sacrifice and self-denial. Maybe we could set aside a period of time each day for quiet reflection and reading?

Lent is a time of preparation, the original meaning of Lent was 'holy spring'. A time when Christians prepared themselves for Easter by asking God to show them their failures and repenting of any of their wrong doings. A spiritual spring clean.

I was always fascinated by my mother's annual spring clean of the house, it was the time when every nook and cranny would be cleaned, wardrobes pulled out to remove any cobwebs or dust, cupboard drawers emptied, cleaned, new lining paper. Dust etc unseen normally, but it was there.

Joyce Hugget in her book Reflections for Lent included the following prayer:

Lord God, forgive me that so often I ignore the grime which soils my life; the grubby little sins collecting in the nooks and crannies of my heart, the cobwebs of guilt hanging from the walls of my life.

Shine your Spirit's light into the dark crevices within me.

Expose the murky fantasies, desires, ambitions and hopes which lurk there.

Help me to deal ruthlessly with anything there which grieves you.

Strengthen my resolve to go through with this internal spring-cleaning.

Let me taste afresh your understanding, kind and patient love.

Thank you that as I draw near to you, you are coming close to me. Amen

I trust that the period of Lent will be an enriching time for each of us.

God bless.

David Gregory

MINISTRY AT CREDITON

The day after I arrived in the Circuit, Rev Barbara Calvert informed me that she wished to leave the Exeter Circuit earlier than anticipated for sound pastoral reasons. The Circuit Leadership Team reluctantly accepted that Barbara needed to leave and on the advice of the Chair of District applied for a Probationer Minister. We were allocated Revd. Helen Roberts but sadly for personal reasons Helen was not able to join us last September as anticipated. We applied for a Probationer Minister for 2009 again on the advice of the Chair of District. We have not been allocated a Probationer for September 2009 but an experienced Minister from the United States who wishes to come and work in the United Kingdom.

Ed Kimes will be coming initially for two years but it may be possible to extend this in due course subject to agreement of both Church and Minister. Until all the papers have been processed it is not possible to correspond with Ed, but I hope this will be possible before too long.

The stationing process is rarely straightforward. Looking positively at the situation, we have an experienced Minister coming amongst us who wants to work in the United Kingdom. If we had been allocated a Probationer Minister there would have been considerable training demands required of the Crediton section as we sought to train someone with no ministerial experience. Many churches waiting for a minister will not have been appointed any minister, so in that sense we are fortunate. I will let you know more about Ed Kimes as I receive news and I am sure we will give him a good welcome when he comes in the summer.

A strength of the Methodist Church is our Circuit system where the churches belong together under the care of a team of ministers stationed to the Circuit. As Superintendent Minister I have always tried to say to the Church Stewards at Crediton that I am willing to give you every assistance that I can through this unsettled phase and even beyond that into the future. Be assured of the prayers from others in the Circuit and my own practical support.

Rev David Easton
Superintendent Minister

FRUSTRATION

I think no one feels the frustration of stationing more than myself, as I had certainly felt that by this time we would have met and have all the details and information regarding our future probationer/minister.

I would say the appointing of a Probationer or Minister has nothing to do with our Circuit or District and is totally in the hands of the Stationing Committee.

One thing maybe I should point out, is, that this year in the Methodist Church we have a shortfall of 40 ministers and therefore there must be many churches in the same or worse position as us. Maybe this is no consolation to some people, but we must be, and are, very grateful to Rev David Gregory leading us this year and if we had not been appointed Rev. Ed Kimes, I am sure he would have been pleased to help out a further year. I therefore feel that we have been, and are, indeed blessed.

Due to the security that surrounds persons coming into this country to work we were not allowed to know or inquire about our experienced American Minister, only to know his name. This was frustrating, but as we knew nothing, there was nothing we could pass on. This is not the fault of the Methodist Church or the Stationing Committee, just a fact.

I can assure you all, that as soon as we have any information it will be passed on to everyone, but this will not be until he has been cleared by the government powers that be.

I know for certain that there has been a lot of prayer from the Circuit Staff, myself and stewards regarding the future Minister here at Crediton and the way forward for our Circuit.

Tina Turner – Circuit Steward



January Follies Pantomime
2009



The Building of Noah's Ark

Bright Hour

March 6th: No meeting.
Women's World Day of Prayer
Congregational Church 2.30 p.m.

March 13th: Holy Land Film 1

March 20th: Holy Land Film 2

March 27th: Rev David Gregory

Women's World Day of Prayer

March 6th
Congregational Church
2 p.m.



**A service which has
been arranged by ladies
of Papua New Guinea**

Talkback

March 22nd 6.00p.m.
Congregational Church

Caroline Ralph
A certainty of heaven?

Apology

My apologies for omitting the
name of the author of last
month's Pause for Thought. The
article was written by Chris
Mann. K.S.

SATURDAY 14TH
MARCH
12NOON - 2PM

**Lenten Lunches will be
available at**

**TEDBURN ST MARY
METHODIST HALL**

Donations for Christian Aid
& The Francisco Rojas
School, Peru

No ticket required
Please come and enjoy good
food
and good company.
Everyone welcome.

Janet 01647 6124

CONCERT

**Torrington Methodist
Church
Band & Singers**



Followed by Buffet Supper

**At Crediton Methodist
Church**

**Sunday March 29th
4.30 p.m.**

**The band has approx 15 musicians and has played in
several venues in Devon & Cornwall.
The singers are led by Rev Peter Bolt (past minister at
the Mint and leader of the Praisemakers).**

**Concert in aid of Connect
Wed: March 18th
Holy Cross Church
7.30 p.m.**

The International Aid Trust

Most months I receive a prayer request so I would like to share some of these requests with you.

Please pray for -

- the Kenyan Ministry and the linked educational programme. For Tatyana as she works with the orphans and Bishop Joseph Munyan's "Real Love Centre" on the outskirts of Nairobi.
- the Indian outreach programme and for Andhra Pradesh with Bishop Henry Devadas – Bernard's visit February 15th – 2nd March
- the proposed link between Inglewhite Fellowship and the work in Brusalov, Ukraine.

International Aid gives thanks for –

- a very large amount of pasta received, much needed and appreciated.
- for the thousands of shoeboxes delivered over the Christmas and New Year period. Thanks for all the volunteers throughout the UK and for the Rotary Box scheme (350 shoeboxes delivered every hour for three days! – just in Odessa)
- for the positive financial forecast and pray for extra funding so that International Aid can reach out to more with the Gospel of Christ.

New Year letter from Bernard Cocker

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2009 has arrived and has brought with it a host of new challenges. It seems that the many that have already lost their jobs because of the economic situation will soon be joined by many more in the coming weeks and months. The values of this broken world have now shown their true value – and that value is worthless.

God's instruction book has all the answers to life's needs and problems, we only need to look at Matthew 6:19-21 "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth*" a message just as important now as it was then.

The world Jesus entered 2000 years ago was not much different than our world in many ways. Sin had a hold on much of the world as it does today, greed, corruption, self serving, self pity, false gods, hatred and bitterness; there is nothing at all new in the world today, apart from one thing. The Good News of Jesus Christ

Jesus also brought a new way of reaching the unreached. He ushered in the Good News by underlining a simple truth that could be seen through the ages - God coming to man. For millennia man had chased gods, but now Jesus'

disciples were sent out to share the gospel – the one and only true God had come to man.

And he introduced something totally different - He reached people through compassion. God's Compassion was clearly revealed in the Old Testament but man had conveniently forgotten to practice that which God commanded. Jesus successfully reached the unreachable and the untouchable because he reached out in true, perfect compassion. If only we could get this message across the way that Jesus did...

If we are to have an influence on our world, if we are to be effective in our evangelism, in telling people about Jesus, if we are to be a light in an ever darkening world, then we must have, and show, a large dose of compassion.

But what are we to do about it? It is in difficult times like this that it is more important than ever to stay faithful to the calling that God has put upon every Christian life, to be obedient to what God requires of each and every one of us as followers of Christ.

- 1) To love the unloved
- 2) To reach the un-reached
- 3) To teach the untaught
- 4) To touch the untouchables

Gal 6: 8-10

"For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Times are hard for many but compared to ninety percent of this world we in the West are still millionaires. As believers we are spiritual millionaires with treasure that will never rot away.

May God bless you all for your support over 2008. We wish you a very happy and peaceful New Year and we thank you for being faithful in helping us to carry the practical and spiritual gospel to the needy.

*I gave a talk at Exeter Cathedral last September, and subsequently during November the Cathedral congregation filled 93 shoeboxes and gave me £100 towards transport costs. So it was a big surprise in February to receive a further £500.00 from Exeter Cathedral towards costs. – **June Redfern***

Pause for thought Persevering in Prayer

"I look at a stone cutter hammering away at a rock a hundred times without so much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the 101st blow it splits in two. I know it was not the one blow that did it, but all that had gone before."



‘An outstanding example of perseverance is Madame Marie Curie, who worked together with her French physicist husband, Pierre Curie, "in an old abandoned leaky shed without funds and without outside encouragement or help, trying to isolate radium from a low-grade uranium ore called pitchblende. And after their 487th experiment had failed, Pierre threw up his hands in despair and said, 'It will never be done. Maybe in a hundred years, but never in my day.' Marie confronted him with a resolute face and said, 'If it takes a hundred years, it will be a pity, but I will not cease to work for it as long as I live.' She was eventually successful, and cancer patients have benefited greatly from her perseverance’.

Jesus said: ‘Ask and keep on asking

Knock and keep on knocking

Search and keep on searching’

Ken Saunders

Not Mentioned!

The Yellow Book 2009 is delivered by Royal Mail to all households in the area; I find it a strange omission that our Methodist Church isn't mentioned, while Morchard Bishop has two entries. There are listings of services from the cradle to the grave (from child minders to funeral directors) but nothing about our church. Perhaps, as the publishers invite, we should secure our entry in their next edition now. *Judith Lowe*

Holy Land Film

If you do not like coming out in the evenings or if you missed the showing of this film last autumn, you have another opportunity to see it. It is showing at the Bright Hour, in the Wesley Room on Friday 13th and 20th of Feb at 2.30 p.m.



"An Excellent Oil"

- Psalm 141 v.5 (King James Version)



I was proud to advertise Palestinian olive oil in a photo for last year's Fairtrade tree at the lovely Christmas Tree Festival, especially after our Holy Land pilgrimage a year ago, when we saw the plight of the Palestinians. In Aboud, we were told about thousands of olive trees deliberately cut down, wanton destruction that is repeated again and again by Israeli military and settlers. As Laura Conyngham wrote in February, Palestinian olive oil is available here in Crediton, and every bottle bought helps to support the Palestinian farmers. I can recommend its flavour and purity and Priscilla would be delighted to order more for you! *Judith*

Shoe Boxes

Shoe boxes are filled the whole year round. Last week Wendy filled ten, mostly for elderly men and women. Finding 'fillers' for men is difficult.

June Redfern tells us there is a great need for food. The small plastic containers – for which I am always appealing – are filled with rice, teabags, raisins, dried apricots, dried milk, drinking chocolate, coffee etc. They are clearly labelled and the lids firmly fixed with Cellotape. For women and girls 14 and over we usually include a sewing kit. They are made with pretty material – about 10X8 ins- and contain 2/3 reels of cotton, needles, pins & safety pins, pens, tape, press studs, hooks & eyes etc.

In my flat I have a small room that houses my fridge, freezer, shelves that hold this and that, and two trolleys that provide working surfaces. This little room is called 'The Packing Station' and it is here that I spend a good deal of time preparing items and filling shoe boxes. Haberdashery and small plastic containers with LIDS! are always welcome and needed.

Thank you. 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 March are:

Summerhayes :	Thursday	5 March	2:30 pm
Hillbrow:	Wednesday	19 March	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.

Beetle Drive



**Sat March 7th 3 – 5
pm**

**Crediton Methodist
Church
Prizes!**

**£1.50 per person for
set of beetle sheets
(Children under 10
free)**

**Faith Tea (Please
bring a plate of
food)**

Drinks provided

