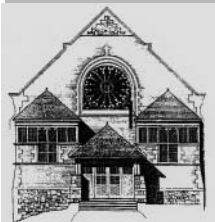


Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
May 2009

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- May 3rd: 10.30 Rev Jarvis (Sacrament)
6.30 Rev D Easton
- May 10th: 10.30 Rev P Collings
6.30 Mr R Canvin
- May 17th: 10.30 Miss M Hext (All Age Worship)
6.30 Rev M Dillistone
- May 24th: 8.45 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
10.30 Mr J Curtis
6.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
- May 31st: 10.30 Rev D Gregory
6.30 Rev A Sails

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 June newsletter to Ken Saunders
by Sunday May 24th**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

kend.saunders@tiscali.co.uk

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Bluebell Walks Chenson Farm

Sunday 3rd
Monday 4th &
Sunday 10th May
2pm-6pm

Entrance £1.50

Come and enjoy a stroll in 60 acres of ancient and semi-natural woodland and across open farmland when the woodland flowers, especially the bluebells, are at their best.

~ Cream Teas ~ Donations for the work of local churches with young people including



~ Art and Craft Stalls ~

Chenson Farm is on the A377 between Eggesford and Lapford.
For more information please phone 01363 832363

Dear friends,

I trust you had an enjoyable Easter; a time of great celebration within the life of the Christian Church. It was good to join in the silent walk of witness on Good Friday; a great way to remind people of the real significance of Easter.

Judging by the amount of traffic on the North Devon link road on Easter Monday a great number of people took advantage of the weather and the surrounding countryside and coastline.

Spring is a wonderful time with the signs of new life all around us, in our gardens and in the surrounding fields and woods. How thankful we should be to be surrounded by so much beauty and tranquility. In a time of economic trauma isn't it good to know there are those things which are not controlled by the money market,.

How appropriate are the words of the hymn:

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made.
When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.*

All this we can experience; how good it is to be alive.

The hymn then reminds us of the depth of God's love:

*And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die- I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

Yes how great is our heavenly Father's love for all of us.

I wish you joy and happiness.

David Gregory

Easter

A record number of people took part in the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Starting from St Boniface Roman Catholic Church the procession visited Holy Cross, The Town Square, The Methodist and Congregational Churches. The large column of people walking in silence, preceded by someone carrying the cross, was a powerful witness. The Bishop of



Crediton carried the cross part of the way and gave a short but inspiring talk at the Town Square, on the last moments of Christ's death.



The mood was very different on Easter Sunday morning. Everyone who came to the service brought a flower and during the singing of a hymn, processed up the aisles and placed the flower on the cross.

Photographs: Hazel Hooper

Personally Speaking

May I think aloud about one of the most intractable problems facing the wider church – the relative absence of children and young people in the church family?

First, let me deal with some misunderstandings that sometimes attach themselves to such questioning. The centring of attention on the young must not mean that the elderly are considered less important. They are not – they are of infinite value in God's eyes. Neither must we fall into the trap of thinking that it is only children and young people who can be won for Christ. People can come to faith at any age.

Second, let me indicate how deep and wide the children/young people issue is. It is massive. Church after church has either no children's work or very little – across the denominations, across the country and across Western Europe. When I was twelve, Methodism was in close touch with a million children and young people. Now I normally preach to congregations wherein every head is grey or white.

This is in spite of massive effort. Churches nationally have run commissions, offered training, prepared material for use of teachers/youth workers and called the church to prayer. Generally there has been little change in a terrible trend. Even churches that have expended colossal resources, as for example, the Catholic Church of Germany, have still seen massive decline in the numbers of children and young people.

What can be done? We must use whatever influence we have to encourage national churches to work together – even across Europe as a whole – to consider how a culture can be won back to Christ.

It is a complex issue. Some places have succeeded in bucking the trend. The simple telling of Bible Stories is not enough. What transmits is often the faith and experience of adults who are prepared

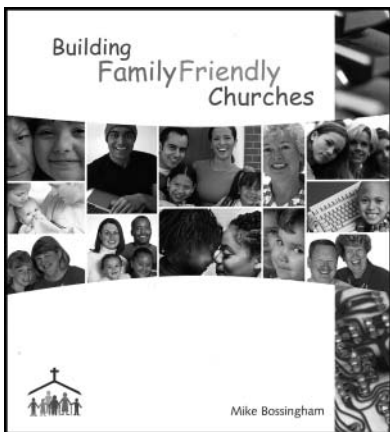
to give time. Helping to discover is better than telling. Three-quarters of young adults in the Church of England had no contact with Sunday School.

What does all this mean for our own church? We should give thanks for the children, young people and young adults we do have. We should offer them the very best we can – we are not required to offer more and we dare not offer less. We should cherish parents who bring their children to us and make it an absolute priority to do all we can to see their needs are met and that they have our support. To hold each child and young person in our prayers is crucial.

Now for the really controversial. I believe that we should cease having All-Age Worship. This is not because it is wrong in principle (I conducted such services regularly for years!). It is simply what, in practice, results. How few preachers can begin to cope with the demands of this extremely difficult medium. Very, very often the children are as bored and embarrassed as the adults.

Finally, we should always remember that the future is in God's hands. He works in and beyond the church, in ways we cannot begin to imagine.

Rev Kenneth Hext



Building Family Friendly Churches is a book written by a Methodist minister Mike Bossingham.

In his preface he says 'The gospel challenges us to be welcoming and open to all :the elderly widow, the recently retired couple, those with teenage children, those with young children, and single people of all ages. This is what I mean by 'family friendly'; a church that welcomes and meets the needs of all age groups.'

Ken Saunders

Christian Aid

For more than 60 years Christian Aid has been providing relief to those hit by disaster, helping people help themselves out of poverty and speaking out against injustice regardless of religion or nationality.



Christian Aid's work is founded on a Christian faith and is driven by the gospel of good news to the poor and inspired by the vision of a new earth where all people can live in justice, peace and plenty.

A large proportion of the money Christian Aid receives is through Christian Aid Week which this year is from 10th to 16th May and again volunteers are required to help deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes in Crediton.

The total amount collected in Crediton during last year's Christian Aid Week was a record but unless we get more volunteers this year we will not be able to get the same result as a number of last year's collectors are not available this year. **Please see Priscilla 773566** for details if you think you can help.

We do not want a few people to do a lot, but we want a lot of people to do a little each. This is your chance to help change the world.

Looking for 'Talents' to help boost Church Funds

The Fundraising and Social Committee are always trying to find innovative ways of boosting the Church Funds, in order that the good work and service can be carried forward within the Church, with the best possible support that we can give as a community.

Here is our latest wheeze! Knowing that there is a plethora of talent amongst all the members, we are asking if you will join in with an idea of using those talents to help raise funds. We would like each person to either create produce/crafts to sell, or have a talent that could be hired, in order to raise funds.

We are going to hold a '**Talent Event**' on the Harvest Festival Weekend, just after the new Minister will have taken up his post, on **Saturday September 26th**. It will take the form of an Open Evening, where stalls will be available to sell the produce/crafts created and an area where the talents that are being offered, can be purchased by customers.

I understand that this type of event worked extremely well once before when everyone was given an amount of money and asked to double it somehow. This time we are offering anyone who wishes to participate **£10 in advance**, (if you wish, or you can donate yourself if you would rather), in the hope that you can **at least double it** for the church funds.

The '**Talents**' may range from making jam, chutney, cakes, arts and craft work, knitting, sewing etc or by offering to do something such as cut grass, dig gardens, car ride etc. The list is limitless....

Hopefully, with this amount of advance notice, it will enable you to get your thinking caps on and start producing products for sale etc.

Forms will be available from Glenn Turner to participate in this venture (to give us a good idea of numbers etc) and he will also be available to issue the £10 notes, if required. Please contact Glenn at church or Tel 774370

Any other queries, please contact Christine Marshall 772012

WHAT IS A CIRCUIT?

This short article is the first of a quarterly series from the Exeter Methodist Circuit aimed at informing local church members about current Circuit business and initiatives. As a starting point, this first piece seeks to summarise the purpose of a Methodist Circuit.

STRUCTURE

The Circuit is normally a group of churches served by a team of ministers who are appointed or 'stationed' by the Methodist Conference. A minister will have pastoral charge of one or more churches, but will preach and lead worship in different local churches in the Circuit. Ministers normally serve in a Circuit for a minimum of five years. The Circuit is also responsible for the training of local preachers, who with the ministers share in the preaching ministry of the church.

The Circuit is led by the Superintendent Minister (currently for the Exeter Circuit, the Rev David Easton) who presides over the Circuit staff (both lay and ordained) and the Circuit Meeting, and with lay and ordained colleagues facilitates and encourages mission throughout the Circuit. He or she is also responsible for drawing up the quarterly preaching plan and arranging the gathering of information about activities (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals) and about membership statistics in the Circuit.

ROLE

The Circuit Meeting carries the principal responsibility for setting the tone of the strategy, and identifying the resources to support it, that directs Methodism within the Exeter area. The recent Circuit Review and resulting Circuit policy document, together with current discussions within the Exeter churches about their individual missions, illustrates how such developments may impact on each church. Subject to the decisions of the Circuit Meeting, implementation of the strategy falls to both the lay and the ordained. Voluntary Circuit Stewards also have responsibility for maintaining, buying and selling Circuit property (usually manses), and for the general welfare of the ordained and employed staff in the Circuit. There is also a Circuit Treasurer.

FOCUS FOR MISSION

Of course, no strategy would be sound without a focus on mission and worship. The Circuit is the place where new initiatives and changes in the pattern of church life are reported and, as appropriate, developed and resourced. Ministerial staffing capacity and the future of chapels are also debated. Importantly, it is at the level of the Circuit where Fresh Expressions of church or new Pioneer Ministries are launched and commended to member churches. Indeed, the basic principle of any Circuit business must be the extension of God's mission in a world faced with increasing religious and secular changes!

Pastoral News



*Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you.
Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress.
(Psalm 102: 1 – 2)
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.

It has been good to see that Rita Ash and Eileen Tarr have been able to be with us in church again recently. We wish Ken Turner continued recovery following his operation in April, and a speedy recovery for Marjorie Ings who has serious injuries following a fall. Also for Cyril Wollacott who has had another fall, but is at home.

Our prayers are also especially asked for: Ray Burnett; Kim and Alan Clemens; Ray Heard; Harold Hollingsworth; Allan Hooper; Frank Howarth; Rob Ings; Len Jenkinson; Phyllis Maunder; Lynda & Norman Medcraft; Clara Paige (Kenwyn); Rene Sankey; Shirley Sharpe; Anne Spry; Arthur Tancock; Mary Tyson.

Residential Homes

Services for April are:

Summerhayes :	Thursday	7 May	2:30 pm
Hillbrow:	Wednesday	20 May	2:20 pm

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.

Diary

- May 2nd: Games afternoon 3 – 5 p.m.
May 6th: Ark Planning meeting 7.30 Oake House
May 12th: Children & Young People's group 7.30 p.m.
May 13th: Stewards' meeting 7.15 p.m. 7a Newcombes
May 14th: Church Life meeting 7.30 p.m.
May 16th: The Ark 4 p.m.
May 16th: Coffee Morning for Christian Aid
May 19th: Open House Cynthia's 7.30 p.m.
June 3rd: Andrew Brazier's Testimony Service 7.30 p.m. Sidwell St.
June 7th: Ecumenical Service for Crediton festival
June 9th: Circuit Meeting at Crediton 7.30 p.m.
June 16th: Church Council
June 20th: The Ark 4 p.m.
June 20th: Strawberry Teas 3 p.m.

Bright Hour

Speakers for May:

- May 1st: The Rev Kenneth Hext May 8th: Roger Thorne
May 15th: Betty Kirk May 22nd: The Rev D Gregory
May 29th: Joan Musty

FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 16th May 2009 – 10am – 3pm

PLYMOUTH AND EXETER DISTRICT WORLD CHURCH DAY – the Speakers will be Rev David Morris talking about his experience of ministry in Malta and Bideford Methodist Youth will introduce the UK Charity edukid, the Cambodia Student Support Programme.

South West Autumn Conference METHODISTS FOR WORLD MISSION

30th October to 1st November. 'Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land'.

If you would like more details please contact Geoff Barraclough Tel: 01202 841240.

FARM CRISIS NETWORK – much good work is undertaken by a group of 260 volunteers, as always more funds are always needed, so please consider organising an event to support this good work. You can always visit their website www.fcn.org.uk to find out more.