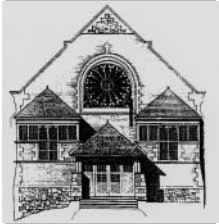


Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
October 2009

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

Oct 4th: 10.30 Rev K Hext (Bright Hour Anniversary)

6.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)

Oct 11th: 10.30 Rev M Gilborson

6.30 Mrs J Lee

Oct 18th: 10.30 Mr D Bradford (All Age Worship)

6.30 Prof. S Lea

Oct 25th: 10.30 Mr Lloyd Smale

6.00 Talkback

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 November newsletter to Ken Saunders
by October 18th.**

editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner

kendsaunders@btinternet.com

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Pause for Thought – Personally Speaking

The Diocese of Exeter has set itself the challenge of a 25% growth in the Church attendance over the next five years. I wonder what you think of that.

Some people in the church at national level have in recent years looked askance at such a suggestion. Certainly I would prefer a shrinking church that humbly points to its Lord, is faithful to the Gospel, and shows care and love to others, to a church that is successful and self-satisfied and taken up with its own achievement.

However, sharing the gospel of Christ with others is a fundamental part of the church's mission, and a growing church provides the extra resource – particularly in people – for the future work of the church.

How might a church grow in attendance? Clearly there are many factors – clear, thoughtful, well-ordered worship where the Gospel is central for example. The lowering of the threshold for those not so culturally at home – or those who are less aware of the language.

If this Diocesan aim is to be achieved, I suspect, it will be achieved by one age-old and very simple mechanism. Let me put it like this: the Mormons expect their young people to give a whole year of their lives in missionary work door to door selling of their message worldwide. Whatever you think of their message - what a venture! However, the Mormons report that 95% of their new recruits are by a member bringing a friend. Each one brings one. If that happens across five years the 25% growth will be easily surpassed. I can only commend that thought to us.

Very obviously there are much deeper issues to be addressed if the national church is to win a whole culture back to Christ. Part of that is to recognise that today the most important opportunities for faith sharing are not in worship (to start with). The absolutely fundamental need is for the church to produce ways whereby believers and unbelievers can meet where conversation is about the Gospel. The need gets more desperate by the hour. The Alpha group scheme (for all its weaknesses – as I see it) is at least an attempt to do that and it has produced very surprising results. What do you think?

Kenneth Hext

Carols down the Line



Paignton (Palace Avenue) Methodist Church are pleased to be able to give early notification of the 2009 'Carols Down the Line' - an evening of carol and steam nostalgia on the South Devon Railway. We are grateful for the continuing support of the staff of the South Devon Railway and volunteers of the South Devon Railway Association without whose assistance the event could not take place. 'Carols Down the Line' 2009 will follow the same pattern as previous years and will take place on Tuesday 8th December. Open House are making a Block Booking for Tuesday 8th December and would like to invite other church members to join them. Please see Marjorie Ashley by Sunday 1st November.

**See Poster for
further details**

Bright Hour

Oct 2nd: Mrs Dorothy Sheppard
& Jenny Hext

Oct 4th: Rev K Hext

(Anniversary Service)

Oct 9th: Mr John Gooding

Oct 16th: Mrs Kathryn Cole

Oct 23rd: Mrs Barbara Pratt

Oct 30th: Mrs Jenny Hext.

Francisco Rojas School Thanksgiving Service

Led by Rev Peter Jarvis

2.15 p.m. Sun 11th October

**Cheriton Fitzpaine
Methodist Church**

*

**There will be refreshments
and a stall
after the service.**

*

**Soup & Sweet Lunch (£4)
in the schoolroom,
from 12.30 p.m.**

ONE WORLD WEEK 18 – 25 October

One World Week is a Development Education Charity. Each year, "The Week" is an opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together to learn about global justice.

Hungry for One World

Bringing people together from diverse cultures or faiths to explore how we can contribute to alleviating the hunger we see in our world.

Hungry for what?

Food, shelter, comfort, laughter, joy, contentment, justice, acceptance, respect, well-being, peace, security, hope for the future.

- What do I hunger for?
- What do others hunger for?
- What does the world hunger for?

Together we can recognise and tackle some of the needs in our local communities and global community.

Who takes part?

Local community groups, inter faith groups, schools, universities, youth groups, campaigners, environmentalists, religious and voluntary organisations, people from all faiths and none plan activities together that are accessible yet challenging to their community.

Indeed, anyone who wants to make a difference and subscribes to OWW's vision that "when we understand each other's perspectives, our lives can be transformed and enriched".

When does it take place?

It is a week. Usually around 24 October (UN Day), but it can be any time. This year OWW is 18-25 October.

What others have said about One World Week

Thank you for having the passion (that) the people who support your One World project have... you have to keep reminding all of us that we are family!

Desmond Tutu
Archbishop of South Africa, February 2009

SHOEBOX SERVICE – Sunday 22 November @ 10.30a.m.

Time flies by, and again it is the time when some of you thoughtfully think about preparing and filling a shoebox. If you are, and you are unsure of what to put in, I have left an explanatory leaflet in the foyer.

As I say every year, a shoebox for the recipient is an unimaginable joy, so your efforts will not be in vain. Although International Aid sends shoeboxes to the Churches throughout the year, it is at Christmas that the Churches hold huge parties for the needy throughout their communities i.e. war veterans (as they still call them), families with little in life, children's homes and street children, not forgetting their Prison ministries and so on. The logistics of managing 1000+ people at a time in the churches is quite amazing!



From The Wisdom of the Celts,

Remember the poor when you look out on fields you own, on your plump cows grazing.

Remember the poor when you look into your barn at the abundance of your harvest,

Remember the poor when the wind howls and the rain falls, as you sit in your dry house...

The poor have no food except what you feed them, no shelter except your house when you welcome them, no warmth except your glowing fire.

June Redfern Tel: 84058



The blond lady is short because she has no legs and is getting around by means of a wooden pallet on wheels!



Suggested Refurbishment Plans

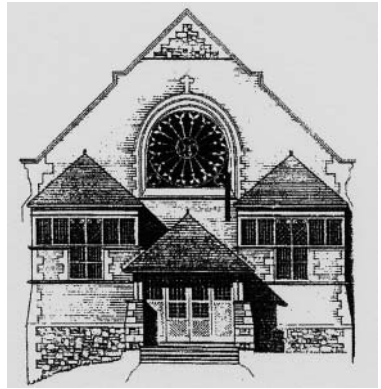
1. Removal of the pews (to be replaced by chairs)

Reason: To create a more flexible and usable building.

2. Enlarge the present porch (possibly by re-positioning the screen)

Reason: To create more space for 'after service' coffee.

To have coffee mornings etc visible to passers-by.



3. Screening off the chancel area (hopefully without obscuring the stained glass window.)

Reason: To provide an extra meeting room, suitable also for evening worship.

4. Installation of a lift.

Reason: Provide easier access for those with disabilities.

5. Replace existing lighting system; upgrade facilities for power point presentations and public address system.

6. Installation of a digital music system.

Reason: To provide alternative music for worship, especially when we have no organist.

JUST 10

An informative and entertaining presentation by J. John to discover whether the Ten Commandments can provide us with the key to a better life and society. J. John presents the commandments in a positive light, showing that far from being a set of rules to oppress us, they are the key to finding freedom in life.



J. John is regarded as one of the most creative speakers in the UK.

Meetings will be held at the home of David Gregory, 7a Newcombes:

Time: 7.15 for 7.30 start.

Dates: Thursday Oct 22nd: Subject: How to find true contentment.

Thursday Oct 29th: Subject: How to hold to the truth.

Thursday Nov 5th: Subject: How to prosper with a clear conscience.

Thursday Nov 12th: Subject: How to 'affair proof' your Relationships.

Thursday Nov 19th: Subject: How to manage your anger.

The second five commandments will be studied early in the New year.

David Gregory has already seen this presentation and recommends it.

Dear friends,

How things can change in a short period of time.

Last month I wrote about the proposed Children & Young Family worker for Crediton, which the circuit has now decided to put on hold for a time. BUT instead we have Rev Mark Gilborson coming to undertake work with children, young people and young families, and already he is involved. I am delighted to work with Mark here in Crediton. As a church this is a great plus for us because with Mark we have an instant input, whereas the appointment of the proposed Lay Worker would take time to complete.

We had a very well attended church meeting on Tuesday Sept 22nd when Mark encouraged us to highlight various aspects of our church life and also to think about the future. The November newsletter will contain more information which came from this meeting.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details of suggested alterations to our church which were presented at this meeting.

The consensus of this meeting was that we should proceed with a refurbishment scheme. The time scale we aim to work to is as follows:

1. To appoint an architect
2. Firm proposals to be presented to a Church Council meeting next February.
3. The accepted scheme will then hopefully be approved at the March Circuit meeting.
4. We then send it onto the District Property Committee for their approval.
5. With their agreement we can then proceed with the task of obtaining funding.

We have a small working party consisting of: Pam Murphy, Tina Turner, Glen Turner, Marjorie & John Ashley and myself. Please talk to us about the scheme and share your thoughts etc.

On a completely different matter I am inviting you to come and see an entertaining presentation on dvd of the Ten Commandments by J John. This presentation took place live in Exeter a couple of years ago. See the article in this newsletter for more information.

These are exciting times for our church; some changes may not please us all, but if guided by the Holy Spirit and a willingness to change and encourage each other, we can reach out to others with the Gospel of good news.

The Lord bless you all. David

Do you Remember?



Do you remember this couple? You may have to imagine what they looked like 32 years ago. For that is when they came to Crediton. They are Randy and Gayle Cooper from Tennessee, USA. Randy had trained as a Methodist minister and was offered a scholarship to study in Aberdeen for a year. He and Gayle arrived in this country six weeks before his course started and spent the time with us here at Crediton sharing in the life of our church and making quite an impression. Our minister then was Rev Reg Edmonds.

They have two daughters (one born in Aberdeen) and one grandson. Randy is now minister of a large church in Mitley Tennessee. We had a phone call from them a few days ago - they were in Exeter, on holiday, and were able to come over and spend a morning with us. They have fond memories of their time in Crediton.

Margaret & Ken

Valuing God's gifts in us all

Blind Marathon runner and former paralympian, Alan Whetherly, is taking part in a special service of dance, drama, music at Exeter Cathedral on Sunday October 4th at 4.30-5.30pm to remember Disability Sunday. Alan lost his vision at the age of nine. Today he is Development Officer for British Blind Sport in the South East a mentor with church charity Through The Roof.

Involved as a welcomer and in the children's work at his church, Alan is committed to investing in young people and is keen to support and mentor young Christians with disabilities. Alan says, "Young people can achieve goals and grow in confidence and self-esteem. It is important to enable them grow spiritually and have a ministry."

Christian-based arts group EPiC will lead a dance and drama presentation. They work with people with disabilities in the UK, Cambodia and other international locations to increase access to the arts and develop confidence and skills.

'Celebrating God's gifts in everyone' is the theme and people from over seven local churches in the Exeter area will come together to affirm that churches need the contributions of disabled people. People of all abilities will be involved in the service to show how churches can involve people of all abilities. Everyone is warmly invited, including people of all abilities, carers and families.

Also taking part will be Esther Langrish, Revd Roger from the Roborough Team Ministry, Plymouth and Rt Revd Michael Langrish, Bishop of Exeter.

The Cathedral has wheelchair access and a British Sign Language interpreter for Deaf people will be provided at the service and a Braille order of service will be available on request. For more information please contact Debbie Starling, Council for Church & Society, on 01626 779803 or debbiestarling@btinternet.com.

Bible Sunday 25th October



William Cameron Townsend, known as “Uncle Cam,” and three associates officially founded Wycliffe Bible Translators, following the founding of our partner organization, the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), in 1942. A worldwide horizon opened following World War II. Wycliffe expanded to the Philippines in 1953, supporting Bible translation activity throughout Asia.

Other offices sprang up in areas of language concentration, especially in Papua New Guinea and central Africa. The addition of staff members continued to increase the pace of translation.

It was 27 years before Wycliffe celebrated completion of the 100th translation. Then it took only 7 additional years to reach completion of the 200th, and only 15 more before the 500th translation was dedicated in March 2000.

Wycliffe’s primary partner organization, SIL International, is a faith-based organization that studies, documents and assists in developing the world’s so-called minority languages.

Worldwide there are 110 organizations affiliated with Wycliffe and/or SIL, working with churches, language communities, and partner organizations to accomplish Vision 2025.

These organizations are currently participating in the greatest acceleration of the pace of Bible translation that the church has ever witnessed. This movement has worldwide momentum. It has an extraordinary history of results. And it has the calling and the passion to complete the last languages by the year 2025.

The finish line is in sight.

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 the continued strength, commitment and unity of our whole church family as together we seek to spread the word about the love of God and to reach out to younger families.

Pray for those who minister to us: Revd David Gregory and Revd Mark Gilborson working together, with us over the coming year; for vision, strength, guidance and assurance in the work before them. May they be upheld in our love and support for them.

Please remember in prayer those in our church family named personally 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; Arthur Tancock; Eileen Tarr; Mary Tyson, Marjorie Webb.

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.

Residential Homes

Services for April are:

Summerhayes :	Thursday	1 October	2:30 pm
Hillbrow:	Wednesday	16 October	2:30 pm

Contacts: Karen Theedom: Pastoral Secretary: 775704

Pam Murphy: Pastoral News page: 773414

October Diary

Sunday 4th Bright Hour Anniversary Service at 10.30am

Monday 5th Ark planning meeting at Oake House, 7.30pm

Tuesday 6th District Network Day at Braunton

Wednesday 7th Church Council at 7.30pm

Saturday 10th 'Make a Joyful Noise' Workshop (details from Andrew Maries 01884 34389)

Sunday 11th Francisco Rojas School Annual Service at Cheriton Fitzpaine led by Revd Peter Jarvis, 2.15pm

Saturday 17th The Ark at 3,00pm

Tuesday 20th Open House at Margaret Saunders', 7.30pm

Saturday 24th 'Last Night of the Proms' with Jackie & Wensley Palmer at Sidwell Street MC, 7.30pm (proceeds to ELF & Sidwell Street MC)

Wednesday 28th Church & Society Annual Meeting at Silverton MC – an MRDF evening -7.00pm

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