

Crediton Methodist Church

Newsletter
March 2010

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev D Gregory Tel: 01363 774312

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Services this month:

- 7th March: 10.30 Rev D Gregory
6.30 Prof. T Wragg
- 14th March: 8.45 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
6.30 Rev M Gilborson (Mothering Sunday All Age Worship)
6.30 C. Colin
- 21st March: 10.30 Rev D Gregory
6.30 Rev D Gregory (Sacrament)
- 28th March: 10.30 C. Dixon
6.30 A Collings

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 01363 775445)

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 April newsletter to Ken Saunders
by March 21st**

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

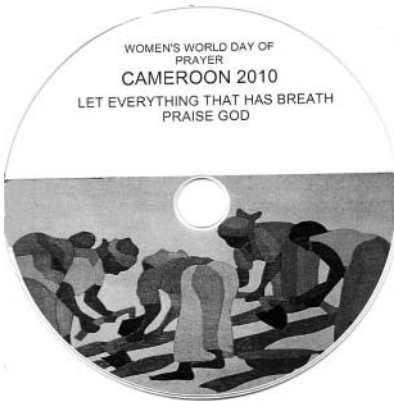
Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Cover photo: Mrs Annette Greenslade

Fund Raising Committee

Due to David's commitments, I am changing the date for our meeting from March 16th to April 20th. I hope this is not inconvenient for you.

Regards Christine



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday March 5th

2 p.m.

Congregational Church

Beetle Drive



Saturday 13th March
3 – 5 p.m.

Adults £1.50

Children (under 10) – Free

**Shared Tea – please bring a
plate; drinks provided**

**Organised by the Church
Fundraising Committee**

Bright Hour

March 5th: Women's World Day
Of Prayer. 2 p.m.

March 12th: Mrs Pam Murphy

March 19th: Mrs Maria
Knowlton

March 26th: Holy Land Film
2.15 p.m.

April 2nd: Good Friday
Meditation 7 p.m.

Meetings are held on Fridays at
2.30 p.m.. Everyone welcome.

LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE GOD

On Friday 5th March over 3 million people world wide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian women in Cameroon.

Emma Wilcock, president of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer Movement, said:

'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls' School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and over 5,000 services will have been held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.'

The Republic of Cameroon is said to be 'Africa in miniature'. It is a country of great cultural diversity with more than 240 ethnic groups and languages. The constitution promotes equality between men and women but traditional rights and attitudes discriminate against women in many areas of life. However giant steps have been taken towards assuring women's rights and women are involved in the struggle for peace, justice and integrity.

Cameroon faces many challenges as its people seek to move forward into a modern age without losing their distinctive characteristics. But at all times, in all circumstances, Cameroonians are able to praise God with joy and exuberance and the service reflects this.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend. Further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, can be found on the WWDP website at www.wwdp-natcomm.org.

WORLD CHURCH NEWS

There was a circuit World Church Team meeting on 9 February, at which these topics were discussed:

Monies received: Thanks was given for the monies received from circuit churches. The sums received so far this year are up on the previous year, which is a welcome and encouraging sign.

Speaker for Women's Meetings: Maggie Mudalige (nee Julian) will be home from Sri Lanka on furlough in May and June. She would be happy to be invited to speak, and details can be obtained from Mrs May Hardy.

World Church Festival: This is our annual mid-week circuit event, being held here at **Crediton** on Wednesday 30 June at 7.30pm. The speaker is Natalie Husk who is the Regional Co-ordinator for the Leprosy Mission. Information about the work of the Leprosy Mission can be found on their website www.leprosymission.org.uk.

At the Festival, the 'purses' for World Church will be received from each church.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

World Church Circuit Service: This year, one of the circuit services is being dedicated to World Church. It will be held at St Thomas Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 17 October, and **June Redfern** will speak about the International Aid Trust and Shoeboxes. There will be a 'Bring and Share' tea beforehand at 5pm.

World Church Congregations in Exeter Circuit: We are hoping that during 2011 or 2012, we will be holding a Circuit event/service to which members of the Chinese, Indian, Korean and Zimbabwean church congregations that meet in Exeter will be invited to join us to celebrate and support the World Church.

Pause for Thought

I have been thinking about 'The Window' in our church. In a recent newsletter question have been asked about whether a picture of a man being tortured to death on a cross is the best introduction to the Christian faith.

Sometime ago we had a cross in the foyer. It was composed of pictures from around the world depicting how other cultures interpreted the crucifixion. We were asked by Pippins Pre School to cover it up as the pictures were frightening the children.

I went to hear the Archbishop of Canterbury when he spoke at the Exeter Cathedral celebrations. His subject was 'What is new about the good news?' He began by talking about the gospel incident when Jesus asked Simon if he could use his boat as a pulpit to preach to the crowds. After the crowds had gone Jesus said to Simon 'Push out into deep water and let down your nets'. Simon protested that they had been fishing all night and caught nothing. Nevertheless he obeyed Jesus' instructions and the result was a huge catch of fish for which they needed help to haul in. It was then, when Simon was surrounded by a mass of wriggling fish that he exclaims 'Lord depart from me for I am a sinful man'.

The Archbishop pointed out that Simon came to this conclusion because he had just experienced God breaking into his life with something absolutely new and wonderful – a super abundance – making such a difference; leaving Simon bewildered and amazed. Some evangelical preaching begins by making people feel bad about themselves – a sinner needing to be saved. But when Jesus encounters 'ordinary' people in the gospels he doesn't make them feel bad about themselves. He affirms them; shows them that they can be new people – a new creation- living as a part of God's kingdom.

The Archbishop described our mission as inviting people to fall in love with God. During this deeply moving process they might well come to the point, like Simon, of saying 'I am a sinful person,' but that is not necessarily the starting point.

In Exeter Cathedral there is a wonderful display entitled Creation. The last panel is entitled The Rest and is a message from God. The Cathedral guide told me that she often sees people standing in front of this panel, weeping.

They may be tears of repentance or
they may be tears of acceptance of the
overwhelming love of God.

The rest

*When all things were complete
I rested
Not because I was weary
But so that you could rest too
And take time*

Just to be yourself

*You are precious beyond words
Priceless
Just as you are*

I love you

*Every particle
Every fragment
Every detail
Every smile
Every tear*

*When you feel unloved
When you don't love me*

*Still
I love you*

*I came for you
I am here for you always*

Come to me and find rest

Ken Saunders



Discipleship Course

Discipleship is at the heart of the Christian faith. The disciples were at the core of Jesus' ministry and their calling is well documented in the Gospels. Those who are called to be disciples are also called to 'make' disciples, that is, share the Good News that they have received. Maybe it is just as well that the word 'disciple' more or less means 'learner'. So, we are called to be learners of Jesus' way and help others to learn too.

Exeter Methodist Circuit has asked if I would run some 'disciple' courses for the Methodist churches in the Circuit, and that means for you and your church! Starting in April, the Circuit has chosen 'Freedom in Christ', run twice, the same course, but on different nights of the week.

At Wonford Methodist – Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm 12th April – 2nd November
and at

Crediton Methodist – Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm 21st April - 10th November

In effect the same course will run in two locations, a total of 13 sessions over a period of 6 months, with a break in the summer. The idea is that the two geographical locations mean that there should be one relatively close to you. It also means that, if you can't make one night on a particular week, you can 'catch up' by attending the other.

The 'Freedom in Christ' course uses a tried and tested format that allows an exploration of your personal and individual walk with God. Each week there are DVD clips, group work and individual reflection, all biblically based and in the context of fellowship and worship. In short, it gives you an opportunity 'to grow as a Christian'; and it is suggested that every Christian would benefit from it. I have included the website for anyone with computer access who would like to know more -

<http://www.ficm.org.uk/discipleship/contents.html>

Also, please feel free to contact me (or David Gregory who is helping me at Crediton).

I am excited to explore and develop my own discipleship, please consider joining on this journey of learning and growing together.

Yours, In Christ

Mark Gilborson

**‘An Evening with Dana’
Palace Theatre Paignton**

Wednesday 12 May 7.30 p.m.
Tickets Adults £12 Children £6
Box Office Tel: 01803 665800

(Coordinated by Paignton & Torquay Methodist Churches)

Features the international singing star Dana in a programme of great music from her chart-toppers and Eurovision to rock-n-roll and back again, with an opportunity to hear about her life, work and faith.

The show mixes music and conversation to express how life in showbiz is changed when God gets involved! The evening will intrigue and attract the general public, and be an effective, cringe-free, clear introduction to church and to the gospel. Those who do not normally attend church functions can enjoy the event without feeling pressured.

The show bursts with popular music and great laughter together with costumes and lighting effects creating an excellent visual presentation.

Dana talks openly about her life as an international singer, her experiences in Northern Ireland, and her career as a member of the European Parliament. She talks easily about her walk with God and how He has made a difference every step of the way.

The show is in two halves about an hour each half, with an interval for refreshments.

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

It seems as if I am always writing about shoeboxes or the amount of clothes/aid you very kindly donate, but there is so much more to the vision and mission of International Aid. Everything you donate is certainly vital and as I am writing this, lorries are being loaded for the far east of the Ukraine and Sierra Leone.

Apart from all this, together with Adrian, we are volunteer UK Sponsorship Secretaries handling the news/letters/photos and keeping records for 170 sponsored families. It is a great joy to do this, although sometimes it can be heart-breaking. There are so many families in dire trouble and when we receive the details and accompanying photographs it is wonderful to be able to e-mail back to the Ukrianian/Belarusan Churches to say – “we have a sponsor”.

A few days ago we received this photo and the accompanying text.

Bichenkova Family

“The mother of the children died in childbirth, so the grandmother who was working, gave up her work to look after these two little ones. Sonia and Sasha were born on 28th October 2002, they are twins. The Father is in very poor health and only works when he can, so the Grandmother is in sole charge of these two. Healthwise, Sonia is well, but Sasha was born with anaemia and once a month has to have special treatment, he is classed as an invalid and this treatment will continue until he is 18. Undoubtedly this will have a drain on their meager financial situation, there is very little income for this family, so the Grandmother must cope alone”.



We were delighted to say – “*we have a sponsor!*”

Then there is the funny side!
Some few days ago we received
the following e-mail from a local
source saying –

**“Hi,
I've just had a message come
through from the Property
Department to say that there
will be about 350 mistresses
being re-placed here later this
summer.**

**Are the old ones any good to
you?”**

You will gather he actually meant
“mattresses”! International Aid
replied to this e-mail – ***“do the
mistresses know they are being
replaced”!!***

Thank you for all you do!
June Redfern

The Hidden Congregation

Dear ???,

A strange letter, this. I don't know
how or if you'll know what I write.
Maybe, you pick it up somewhere;
or hear of it through a mutual friend.
My wife, Ros, and I go to the
Methodist Church. [No, don't switch
off !] It's friendly, welcoming and
stands for what's important. But
something's wrong!

I know many people it's good to be
with; fine people; would never do a
dirty trick; have a high set of
standards. Yet they'd never step into
Church. If that includes you, this
letter's for you.

It's clear there's a breakdown in
communication. What? Does the
Church give off wrong signals; or
are you on a different wavelength?
In these monthly 'letters' I want to
explore what's wrong. I invite you to
get back to me by phone, or talk to
that mutual friend who can patch
your message through to me. It'll be
great to hear from you. Good
wishes,

Will Robinson (777544)

Sounds Familiar

Just a line to say I'm living
That I'm not among the dead.
Though I'm getting more forgetful
And mixed up in the head.

I've got use to my arthritis
To my dentures I'm resigned.
I can cope with my bi-focals,
But-ye-Gods- I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember
When I'm standing by the stair,
If I should be going up for something
Or have just come down from there.

And before the fridge so often
My mind is full of doubt,
Now did I put some food away
Or come to take some out?

So remember I do love you
And wished that you lived near,
And now its time to post this
And say goodbye my dear.

At last I stand beside the post box
And my face – it sure is red.
Instead of posting this to you
I've opened it instead!

Pastoral News



*Lord Jesus Christ, who went about doing good
and healing all manner of sickness,
may your light of peace and hope shine on all who suffer
pain of body, mind or spirit.
Give us all strength, wisdom and gentleness to be beside
people who need your healing power.
Speak your word of peace in all our hearts
and uphold us in your love. Amen.*

Please pray for the work of God's Church in this place as together we seek to spread God's Word and to reach out to people in our community and the world.

Your prayers are asked for all in our church family who are unwell, anxious or vulnerable. We name here: Rita Ash; Jane Avery; Ray Burnett; Alan & Kim Clemens; Ivor Coram; Beatrice Curle; Mary Greesley; Ray Heard; Harold Hollingsworth; Frank Howarth; Rob Ings; Len Jenkinson; Phyllis & Gillian Maunder; Lynda & Norman Medcraft; Bronwyn & Colin Nott, and daughter Rachel; Clara Paige; Rene Sankey; Margaret Scott; Ann Spry; 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

Summerhayes:	Thursday	4 March	3:15 pm
Kenwyn:	Wednesday	17 March	3:15 pm
St Lawrence:	Thursday	18 March	3: 15 pm

Diary Dates for March

- 1st March The Ark Planning Meeting, 7.00pm at Oake House
- 2nd March Planning Meeting for Prayer Vigil,
7.00pm at David Gregory's
Ladies Supper Club will meet at the
Devonshire Dumpling, 7.00 for 7.30pm
- 3rd March Lent Study Course 'When I Survey'
11.00am in Wesley Room
7.30pm at Congregational Church
- 5th March Women's World Day of Prayer
'Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord',
2.00pm at Congregational Church
prepared by women from Cameroon
- 10th March Lent Study Course 'When I Survey'
11.00am in Wesley Room
7.30pm at Congregational Church
- 13th March Church Music Group, 2.30pm in Church
Beetle Drive with bring & share tea, 3.00-5.00pm
- 16th March Stewards Meeting, 7.00pm at Sid's
- 17th March Lent Study Course 'When I Survey'
11.00am in Wesley Room
7.30pm at St Boniface R.C Church
Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm at Mint Methodist Church
- 18th March Women's Open House 'Anniversary' at Meg's
- 20th March The Ark 4.00-6.00pm. 'Lost & Found'
- 24th March Lent Study Course 'When I Survey'
11.00am in Wesley Room
7.30pm at Congregational Church

Services for Easter

Maundy Thursday - Service with Sacrament 7 p.m.

Good Friday – Procession 10.a.m.

Starting at St Boniface RC Church

Good Friday – Service – ‘Personalities of The Cross’ 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.



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An extract from **Blooming into the Void** by Peter Patrick Barreda

Imagine a tree, vast and ancient, reaching high into the unknowable distance. Imagine its trunk so thick, so strong, that it takes up all of space. Its bark is deeply gnarled with the ravages of time, the rings within its heart a remnant of its passage through the ages. Imagine its roots, so deep and ancient that their origins are a mystery, their very existence the source of countless myths. Imagine the infinity of branches that spring from this tree, growing from the energy emanating from the trunk, pouring forth from the roots, these branches taking every shape, in every direction possible. Imagine that on some of these branches—with the proper conditions, a conducive environment—springs forth a richness of leaves, bursting with evident life, swaying, moving, seeking light and swaying in the breezes of time. And imagine, finally, that on a few of these green branches, when the air is just right, when the sun grants its warmth and the water flows freely, there sprouts a profusion of bright and vibrant flowers, colors never before seen in the history of this ancient tree, images electric and diverse that pulse with energy and beauty and the everlasting fire of wonder.

Imagine that this vast living tree is the whole of the universe. The roots are its birth, the trunk its expanding space, the branches are the myriad structures that have formed from the fantastic interplay of forces and matter. The leaves, rare and precious but ultimately inevitable, are the glimmering bastions of life. And even more difficult to find, necessarily more challenging to achieve, are the flowers of consciousness, the sentient, living vibrancy that reaches far beyond itself to probe the very boundaries of reality. This blooming, beautiful awareness is a product of all that came before it, born of all of the growth and energy seeping from the heart of the tree, the sweeping motion of the universe.

This way of looking at the universe is as accurate as it is beautiful, and it shows us our true place within the course of all things. We are part of the universe, as flowers and leaves are parts of a tree. We are a brilliant and amazing presence, with the ability to see and know and think and wonder. But imagine now that the flowers have become so occupied with the business of thinking, of analyzing, of learning, that they've forgotten that they are one with the tree itself. Imagine that the flowers look down at the branches from which they grow and ask themselves, "How did this branch come to be? What is at the heart of the trunk? Where do the roots reach, and upon what do they feed?" Given the wondrous variety of flowers, there are of course many possible answers to these questions, and these differences of opinion result in a most powerful tension and hatred between the flowers. They take up arms against each other, cut each other to pieces, vowing revenge and destruction in endless cycles of violence. That is precisely where we are as a species—pointlessly arguing about origins and ways. Worse than arguing, we are killing, destroying, and butchering each other to prove one point or another. And all we need to do is to realize, in one breathless moment of enlightenment, that we are all one, inextricably united with each other, with the animals, the rocks, the sun, the very breath between the stars.

a submission from one of the 'Hidden Congregation'