



Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
November 2010

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Ann Varker

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Phone: 01363 777308

Services this month:

Nov 7	10.30	Rev K Hext	Sacrament
	6.30	Rev P Collings	
Nov 14	8.45	Rev A Varker	Sacrament
	10.30	Rev A Varker	
	6.30	Rev D Easton	
Nov 21	10.30	Rev A Varker	All Age Worship
	6.30	Rev A Sails	
Nov 28	10.30	Mr A Richardson	
	6.30	Rev A Varker	

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 776674)

Every Saturday: Coffee Morning from 10.30.

Church is open for prayer 9 a.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 December newsletter to Ken Saunders
by November 21st**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Dear friends,

I have always loved jigsaw puzzles; I love the way that a picture begins to emerge as the jigsaw pieces are placed together. As a small child I remember spending one wet seaside holiday happily poring over the pieces whilst the rain was pouring down outside. More recently friends and family have bought me jigsaws for birthday and Christmas presents. I haven't yet been beaten by a jigsaw but did struggle somewhat with the 3000 piece puzzle Julian bought me one year. This one took several attempts before I finally managed to complete it!

At the recent Church Council meeting it was agreed that there is a need to revisit the overarching vision we have as a church of who we are and what God is calling us to be in this place at this time. I believe we all have an important part to play in that process from the oldest to the youngest. I see each of us being like a piece in a jigsaw; as God brings us together so a picture begins to emerge. A date has been set aside for us to explore our vision of church together: Sunday the 21st November.

The intention is that 'Exploring the Vision' will begin at 11.30am, following the All Age service. After a short introduction we will break into small groups to consider: what we value about church at present; what we long to see happening within the life of the church; what contribution we have to bring; and how well that fits within the picture of church as it is at present. There will be a group for the children and young people, as well as groups for the adults so all can participate. At 12.30pm we shall break for a Bring and Share lunch before a further session together. We will guarantee to finish at 2pm.

This is an important time for the church as we contemplate a major refurbishment. I hope you will feel able to come along and offer your insights.

With every blessing,

Ann Varker

the promise of advent



The weeks leading up to Christmas can be a hectic time of preparation; writing Christmas cards, getting ready for visitors and visiting family and friends. In the midst of all the 'busyness' it can be easy to forget the 'reason for the season – Jesus'.

'The promise of advent' is a four week series for small groups, based on a series of paintings by the Chinese artist, He Qi. The series gives an opportunity to reflect together during this time of preparation. Each session will begin with a welcome and a short time of worship, before focussing on a Bible Passage connected with the overall theme.

The lunchtime service on Wednesdays at 12.30pm in the Wesley Room will explore **'the promise of advent'** for four weeks beginning on the 24th November.

In addition there will be a group meeting at the home of Ken and Margaret Saunders, 5 Fairfield Road, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24th November, Wednesday 1st December, Thursday 9th December, and Wednesday 15th December.

Calling all Creative Artists

Traidcraft is running a competition to design a Christmas card for 2011. All subject matter and materials will be considered, including collage for those who can't draw, but don't forget that the majority of Traidcraft cards show a religious theme.

The winner will be considered for publication and can also choose a selection of products from the Traidcraft autumn 2011 catalogue to the value of £100.

Send your designs to Susan Scott, Traidcraft, Kingsway, Gateshead NE11 ONE. The closing date for entries is 30th November 2010.

World Church Service – Sunday 17 October @ St Thomas Methodist Church

I would be most grateful if you could make a space in your Church newsletters to record on behalf of The International Aid Trust, my sincere thanks for the donation of the entire collection taken at

the recent World Church Service held on 17 October at St Thomas Methodist Church.

I would also like to thank the anonymous donor who sent a CAF cheque to me following the service. Obviously I am unable to thank that person, but I hope that through Church newsletters he/she will be able to read of my grateful thanks for the donation.

Many thanks
June Redfern

Bright Hour

Nov 5th: Mrs Pam Murphy

Nov 12th: Rev Ruth Green

Nov 19th: Rev Kenneth Hext

Nov 26th: Mr Anthony Savage.

Meetings are held on Fridays at 2.30 p.m. in the Wesley Room.

Everyone welcome.

Pause for Thought

'If we pay attention to God we won't stay inside the Church'
from Rev. Alison Tomlin's
inaugural address to the Methodist
Conference, June 2010

Alison's address also focuses on listening that's followed by action, as well as different ways of listening, and how this paying attention should affect our meetings and planning. She says that by 'paying attention to God, we will have to do the things God challenges us to do'.



Of course, this is not to deny that many church members may be doing this already and rightly nurturing very worthwhile fellowship inside the church, but what about this challenge to 'not stay inside the Church'.

Again, great work is going on in our communities. Outward-looking, relevant work, but could we be doing more of this or doing it differently? Meeting other more challenging or lesser known needs?

Before I end up sounding like a wordy politician, here are a few thoughts. However, they are only MY thoughts and you might want to improve on them or challenge them (thinking of Pam's piece last month).

How are we trying to pay attention to God?

What gets in the way?

Are we fairly sure, as far as we can be able, that we're listening to someone other than ourself? Perhaps those around us or those we find difficult?

Having said that, when should we be listening to ourselves more?
(Some of you may have been on Andrew Brazier's 'Just Listen'
course in October or perhaps he will repeat it. Pardon?)



Just recently I've been finding a kind of longing for perhaps a different kind of service. Perhaps a 'fresh expression of church'. It's easy to get a bit stale or into a routine. This might involve being out in the community more or involving the wider community more. Perhaps something more informal sometimes.

A way of 'not staying inside the Church' quite so much. Is God saying you must have at least 52 services a year inside your church? I prefer to think that He's where people are, right in their situations, and, clearly, there are a lot of people who aren't inside the Church, in the widest sense of 'Church'.

Finally, on a more light-hearted note, you may have seen that postcard of an annoyed couple, saying:
'I'm not talking to you now' The other replies, rather petulantly,
'That's alright, because I'm not listening!'

Christine Martin

(Christine is a member of Tedburn St Mary Methodist Church)

Chaplin at Dartmoor Prison

Dear friends,

It doesn't seem possible that over five years have passed since we left Crediton. Kay, Alex and I are now living in Alphington, and I am looking after five churches in the new Teignbridge Circuit. Alex has passed her GSCE's and is now studying for the International Baccalaureate at Exeter College, and Kay is working as an Early Years Language Consultant.

However, it's in my capacity as a member of the Chaplaincy team at HMP Dartmoor that Ken has asked me to write a short article for your magazine this month. I have been on the team for about four years now, and currently go into the prison half a day a week.

The first few times I found it daunting – the sense of responsibility and not wanting to make a mistake; not knowing exactly who or what I would come across; and the greyness of the granite buildings. For those of you who don't know, Dartmoor prison is just over 200 years old, built originally to house prisoners from the Napoleonic wars, and then American prisoners from our conflicts there. Its remoteness made it an ideal location back then – but now its distance from courts, hospitals, other prison establishments and public transport links is a difficulty for the prison service and for prisoners' families alike. Dartmoor is a category C prison (on a range where A is top security and D open) and houses convicted criminals – whereas, for example, a local prison such as Exeter, which holds prisoners awaiting trial and going through the courts is a Cat B.

The Chaplaincy at Dartmoor, as in all prisons, is a multi-faith team. All prisoners have a legal right to practice their faith and the team is there to support this. On a Friday morning, for instance, I am most likely to be working alongside the lay Catholic and Pagan chaplains,

and at lunch time to meet the Imam coming in to lead the Friday Muslim prayers. Respect for each others' faiths and learning from each other are both highly important, and help to encourage respect amongst the prisoners who of course have to live together closely day by day. We operate the Christian side of the chaplaincy ecumenically – Catholic Mass takes place on a Saturday, with separate services for the 'Main' and the 'vulnerable' prisoners, and Protestant worship on a Sunday, usually led by the full-time Anglican Chaplain on behalf of us all. During the week there are Alpha courses and Christian discussion groups, again run ecumenically.

We also see ourselves as chaplains to the whole prison, rather than just to the prisoners. We therefore try to support the staff, who like all public sector employees are facing difficult times, and whose role can be pressured and demanding.

We are there to support prisoners' spiritual lives and development, of course, and the worship and small groups are a part of this. One of the key roles of prison is to address people's attitudes and behaviour both to reduce reoffending and to enable prisoners to lead more fulfilling lives, and clearly faith has real things to say about these areas, as well as about facing up to truth, forgiveness and reconciliation. Small groups, then, are not just for those already committed to a religion, but also for those searching and questioning. Pastoral care is another vital role of the chaplaincy team. We are available for people 'of all faiths and none'. As you can imagine, pastoral care can take a number of forms inside a prison. Sometimes we have to inform prisoners of the serious illness or death of a family member (and sadly we have to verify the death has actually occurred – by contacting a hospital, funeral director or the police – before

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seeing the prisoner) and then support them in their bereavement; Sometimes we are just a listening ear; sometimes there are practical issues we can help with; not infrequently we bring a prisoner to the chapel to light a candle and for a quiet time at key moments in their lives (and this is often requested by those who wouldn't normally come to chapel services); sometimes we speak to prisoners' family members on the phone when there are particular concerns; we see each prisoner within the first 24 hours of their coming into Dartmoor – for some it is their first time as convicted criminal, for others it is a transfer further from home and family meaning that visits will be less frequent or non-existent. There is at least one chaplain on duty every day of the year, and we will always see any prisoner who requests a visit as soon as we possibly can.

I am rapidly coming to the end of the space Ken kindly allotted me for this article, and as you can imagine there is a whole lot more to say! I could write about the role of community chaplaincy supporting prisoners integrating into faith communities (eg churches!) on release, about Storybook Dads helping prisoners keep in contact with their children by recording stories on CD and DVD for them, about a baptism service I attended a couple of years ago, and a re-marriabout people who have made real progress with problems of addiction – but it will all have to wait for another occasion.

In short, however, I continue to find my chaplaincy rewarding and stimulating, and pray that my small part is helpful to those among whom I seek to minister. Can I ask you for your prayers also, for the chaplaincy team, but more importantly for those serving prison sentences and for their families, for prison and probation officers, and for all involved in the criminal justice system.

With my best wishes to you all,
Rev. Kevin Hooke

MWiB: Methodist Women in Britain

Change happens all the time. Sometimes it has a big impact on us, at other times we hardly notice. I expect that for most of us in Crediton Methodist Church, the change from Women's Network to MWiB will be smooth and trouble free. Our magazine, 'Magnet' will continue unchanged.

So, a new women's movement is being launched, bringing together Women's Network, a name we may be familiar with, and the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Called 'Methodist Women in Britain' or MWiB in short, the new movement will be committed to encouraging women to develop and find their place in mission and work in God's name. MWiB will also be making life-changing grants for local mission initiatives.

As with Women's Network, MWiB will continue to support World Missions and Mission in Britain. As a church, we have been generous in supporting mission work and this, I am sure, will continue. Our giving will be forwarded under four headings:

- **Easter Offering:** a cherished opportunity for everyone to give at Easter, remembering all that Christ Jesus gave for us. This will continue unchanged and MWiB will lead the circuit's annual Easter Offering service as Network has done for many years.
- **World Mission Fund:** for work in the mission field and the money we send is allocated to projects by the fund.
- **District MWiB project:** this is our choice of project, lasting for two years, and the project which started in September this year is for Methodist Homes. This is where our contributions through the 5p jar are used.
- **MWiB:** itself is not to be financed by the Methodist Church so we need to help cover the administration costs including information and publicity, and the grants made by MWiB for local initiatives.

Pam Murphy

REFURBISHMENT NEWS

After consideration of the refurbishment proposals by the Church Council in July, the refurbishment group met with the architect in October to discuss the changes to the original proposals so that new plans can be prepared.

Although the Church Council favoured an external wheelchair lift to improve access to the Church, the architect has recommended that we look again at providing an external ramp on grounds of cost (about one-tenth) and the risk of vandalism to any lift installation. As a result of various suggestions, the architect is going to look again at the front of the Church to include a ramp and possible modifications to the existing steps and appropriate landscaping.

Inside, there are new proposals to create an audio-visual room above the toilet and a storage loft above the kitchen. This will give us a secure area for the audio-visual equipment and vital extra storage base.

The “pod” will be removed but the four doors will be refitted in the archway between the lobby and the worship area and will be able to be opened and folded back so that there is maximum access available between the two areas thus allowing them to be completely integrated when required.

There are new proposals for access to the chancel from the worship area. Rather than installing a long ramp, the possibility of installing an unobtrusive stair/platform lift is being considered together with modifications to the existing steps.

The Church Council has agreed to move all the memorial tablets to the left hand wall in the chancel. This will allow for improved lighting in the worship area.

The architect has been asked to revise the plans and costings by the end of this month and these will be displayed next month.

Following the closure of the chapel at Cheriton Cross we have been offered the 51 chairs which are similar to the existing blue-seated wooden chairs that we already have. Although no definite decision has been made about the style of chairs which we will want after the pews have been removed the refurbishment group would like to take up this offer rather than see the chairs scrapped or sold for a pittance. However, there is no room at the Church and need to find somewhere to store these chairs. Does anybody have space to store all or a few of these chairs? If so please would you let me know (01363 773851).

During November we will be considering the refurbishment in the context of the vision of the Church. Details of the meeting are given elsewhere in the Newsletter.

John Ashley

Church Maintenance

Please let us know of any Church Maintenance problems. If you see or know of any property matters which need to be dealt with then please see our Property Stewards Sid Gardner, John Metherell or Priscilla Wright.

Fire Precautions at Crediton Methodist Church

- ***On the sound of the alarm the stewards will direct you to the nearest exit***
- ***On leaving the Church make your way to the assembly point as instructed by the stewards***
- ***Please leave in an orderly way and assist anyone who requires help***
- ***Should there be a suspicion of fire, tell the nearest steward.***

Pastoral News



Come, Holy Spirit, and fill us with your love and compassion

Our Mission:

Please pray for our church and our minister Revd Ann Varker as together we seek God's will and purpose for our mission and ministry. We pray for the families who are coming to learn of the Gospel News through the Ark, for those in the Residential homes we visit and for all whose lives we touch. We pray, too, for our Prayer Chain and for prayer the life of all our church family.

Our thanksgiving:

Though she has been unwell recently, with love and thanksgiving our thoughts and prayers are especially with Irene Sankey who will be 100 years old on 19th November. Congratulations from us all, Rene.

We also give thanks for the birth of Rhianna Lily to Emma and Richard, and grandparents John and Marjorie.

Our caring:

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.

And so your prayers are asked for all who are unwell, anxious or vulnerable. Of those, we name here: Rita Ash; Jane Avery; Margaret Bagwell, Ray Burnett; Alan & Kim Clemens; Jude Coram and all his family; Ivor Coram; Horace & Doris Crispin; Beatrice Curle; Mary Greasley; Jenny Hext; Harold Hollingsworth; Frank Howarth; Marjorie Ings; Rob Ings; Len Jenkinson; Phyllis & Gillian Maunder; Lynda & Norman Medcraft; Bronwyn & Colin Nott, and daughter Rachel; Margaret Scott; Ann Spry; Arthur Tancock; Eileen & George Tarr; Mary Tyson.

Contacts: Karen Theedom: Pastoral Secretary:	775704
Pam Murphy: Pastoral News page:	773414
June Redfern: Prayer requests:	84058

Residential Homes services:

Summerhayes:	Thursday	4 November	3:15 pm
Hillbrow:	Wednesday	17 November	3:15 pm

Please let Pam know of anyone who would like to be included for prayer: for their calling and work in God's name; for reason for thanksgiving; for their need. Thank you.

Diary Dates for November

- Ist: Ark planning meeting at Oake House 7.30 p.m.
- 4th: Circuit Church & Society Meeting at Wonford Methodist Church
Speakers from Initiatives in Christian Education.
- 10th: Freedom in Christ Course 7.30 p.m.
- 16th: Open House at 4 Okefield Ridge 7.30 p.m.
Topic: Christmas Preparations.
- 17th: Stewards meeting at 9 Blagdon Rise. 7.30 p.m.
- 20th: The Ark: 4 – 6 p.m. Theme – Mary the mother of Jesus
- 21st: Exploring our Church's Vision – see page 2 for details.
Circuit Youth Service at Exminster Methodist Church
Led by Rev A Brazier. 6 p.m.
- 24th: The Promise of Advent: 5 Fairfield Rd 7.30 p.m.
- 27/28th: Christmas Tree festival at Exminster Methodist Church
In aid of children's charities including AFC.
- 1st Dec: Promise of Advent: 5 Fairfield Rd., 7.30 p.m.
- 13th Dec: Okehampton Choral Society - Christmas Concert at Mint. 7.30

Crediton Foodbank
Flavours of the Month
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Meat
Jars of Pasta or Bolognese Sauce
Biscuits



Moreton

Residential Care Home
13 Drakes Avenue, Exmouth,
Devon. EX8 4AA

Autumn Fair **&** **Coffee Morning**

Wednesday 3rd November 2010

From 10.30am to 11.45am



Entry, coffee and biscuits £1

Christmas Gift Stall, Cake Stall,
Residents' Handicraft Stall,
Jigsaws and Books Stall,
and a Prize Draw.



There will be an opportunity to look around
the home and gardens.