

# Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter  
October 2010

# Crediton Methodist Church

**Minister: Rev Ann Varker**

**Email: [minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk](mailto:minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk)**

**Phone: 01363 777308**

## Services this month:

Oct 3rd	10.30	Rev W Robinson	(Sacrament)
	6.30	Prof T Wragg	
Oct 10th	8.45	Rev A Varker	(Sacrament)
	10.30	Rev A Varker	Bright Hour Ann.
	6.30	Mr J Curtis	
Oct 17th	10.30	Rev A Varker	(All Age Worship)
	6.30	At St Thomas	
Oct 24th	10.30	Rev D Keep	
	6.00	Talkback	
Oct 31st	10.30	Mr C Mann	
	6.30	Rev A Varker	(Sacrament)

## 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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)

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**Material for the November newsletter to Ken Saunders  
by October 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Editors: Ken Saunders, June Redfern, Sarah Turner  
[kendsaunders@btinternet.com](mailto:kendsaunders@btinternet.com)**

**Church website: [www.creditonmethodist.org.uk](http://www.creditonmethodist.org.uk)**

Dear friends,

After what seemed like months of anticipation it has been a great joy to move to Crediton and begin to get to know you all. Thank you so much for the warm welcome you have given to Julian and I. It has been good to feel 'at home' from the beginning.

I am appreciating the fact that I can now see people out in the street and recognise faces, even better if I can attach a name to the face! That though is only the start of the process of getting to know you. As the weeks and months go by we shall get to know each other better: as we discover what makes each other tick, and identify the gifts that God has given to each one to use in his service.

The New Testament contains many images of the church. One that I particularly value is the image of the church as the body of Christ, as set out by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12. He writes of the unique contribution each member has to give, and describes how these fit together to make a whole. This seems to me to resonate well with the understanding of Methodist Church, which holds to the ministry of the whole people of God. *'All Christians are called through their Baptism and by the hearing of God's word to ministry and service among the whole people of God and in the life of the world'.<sup>1</sup>*

I have felt strongly since ordination that one of the key facets of my ministry is to encourage and enable others. I have discovered over the years that some people are able to use their gifts fully in the life of the church – what a joy that is! Others, though, have yet to find their gift, or find themselves in situations for which they are not well equipped. Sometimes people are aware of the gift God has given but find no outlet for that within a particular congregation. I suspect that Crediton is no different in this respect. My hope is that as a church we can move towards a time when all are able to find their place within the body, and we can work together to serve God in this area.

With every blessing,

Ann Varker

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<sup>1</sup> Introduction to the Ordination Services, Methodist Worship Book

## World Church Service

Everyone is invited to the World Church Circuit service at St. Thomas on Sunday, 17 October. Tea will be available from 5pm, and the service will start at 6.30pm. June Redfern will give an illustrated talk on the mission and history of the International Aid Trust, (which includes sponsorship of needy families, etc.,) and she will then talk about *Shoe Boxes*. With Circuit Meeting's approval, it is proposed that the collection taken at the service should be divided equally between the International Aid Trust and the Circuit



## From Rev D Gregory

Dear Friends,

I wish to thank you for your kind gifts presented to me on completing my two years ministry with you.

I have been truly blessed by your friendship and fellowship, and it has been a real joy to share in the Lord's work with you.

I pray as you continue your spiritual journey with Rev Ann Varker you will be enriched.

Every blessing

*David*

## Bright Hour

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup>: Mrs Dorothy Sheppard/  
Mrs Jenny Hext  
Oct 8<sup>th</sup>: Mrs Dorothy Sheppard  
Mrs Jenny Hext  
Oct 10<sup>th</sup>: (Sun) Anniversary  
10.30 a.m. Rev A Varker  
Oct 15<sup>th</sup>: Rev D Gregory  
Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs Jenny Hext/Pippins  
Oct 29<sup>th</sup>: Rev Will &  
Mrs Ros Robinson

Fridays 2.30 p.m.

## TO THE HIDDEN CONGREGATION

You may think I'm just trying to get you to come to Church - not necessarily this one - any Church. If so, you could be wrong!

There are some Churches it would be best for you to stay away from. Instead of enlarging your personality, they may well shrink you. Instead of healthy growth; they could stultify you.

I think of every human as born to be great. No, of course I don't mean getting a place in history. It's not easy to say what I mean but it's something like - dreaming your Creator's dream for you - then going after it.

If you say, 'But I don't believe there's a God with a dream for me.' then I say, "Poor you. You've stultified yourself before you start!" If that's the case, it wouldn't matter if you went to the wrong Church.

But, if you have a dream for yourself and it's anything like your Creator's dream for you; then you'd better either stay away, or (**much better**) choose a Church to help you grow.

Happy searching  
Will (01363 777544)

## Autumn District Network Day

This is at The Mint church on 7 October 2010. The morning session starts at 10 am for 11 am. If you are unable to go for the whole day, you will be very welcome at the afternoon session from 2pm to 3pm when Anne Kenyon will speak about The Gambia. Teas and coffee will be available during the day, and you are asked to provide your own lunch if you go to both sessions.

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## KNIT AND NATTER GET TOGETHER @ Middle Davidsland Barn in August



In August we once again welcomed friends from the Knit and Natter Group. This year there were 14 of us to lunch, smaller than most years but never the less it was all very enjoyable. Don't get me wrong, all I provide is the drinks! It's amazing the variety of food that turns up for our lunch without any organization!

The Knit and Natter Group supports two needy families on the Black Sea in the Ukraine, the Kojokar and Kotuz families. As well as this Knit and Natter donate hundred of pounds for the transportation of humanitarian aid throughout the world. So as well as



socializing, the group brings with them all sorts of food for these two sponsored families and it is all packed into boxes. Food such as porridge oats, sugar, Bovril, soups, pulses, pasta and so on. In other words non perishable items. As well as this flannels, soaps, towels and toothpaste are much needed and included.



Everyone knows my passion and commitment to the ministry of The International Aid Trust, so it is very heartening for me to be supported in this way. It's good to have fun and fellowship together as well as 'doing good'! Thank you Knit and Natter!

***June Redfern***

## Shelter Box – taken from their website

[www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org)



“We instantly respond to earthquake, volcano, flood, hurricane, cyclone, tsunami or conflict by delivering boxes of aid.

Each box supplies an extended family of up to 10 people with a tent and lifesaving equipment to use while they are displaced or homeless. The contents are tailored depending on the nature and location of the disaster, with great care taken sourcing every item to ensure it is robust enough to be of lasting value.

The cost of a box is £490, including delivery direct to those who need it. Each box bears its own unique number so as a donor you can track your box all the way to its recipient country via the website  
Highly trained ShelterBox Response Teams



distribute boxes on the ground, working closely with local organisations, international aid agencies and Rotary clubs worldwide.

Since its inception in 2000, ShelterBox has firmly established itself at the forefront of international disaster relief, providing emergency shelter for the people who need it most”

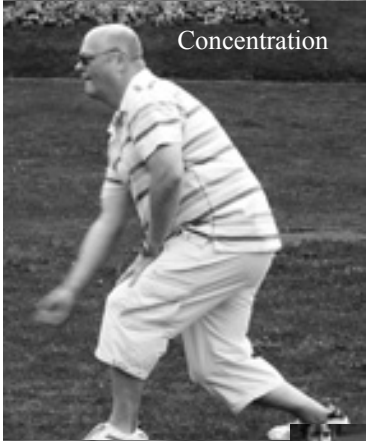
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*Sadly there seems to be a constant need for shelter boxes throughout the world, so it is wonderful that so much help is able to be provided in these simple boxes!*

**June Redfern**



To welcome our new Minister Ann, and husband Julian, we had a 'Picnic in the Park' The rain blew over and we had a fine afternoon for games and refreshments—a very enjoyable time.



Concentration

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Determination



Style



Enthusiasm



Strength

## Pause for thought

Where is our spirit of rebellion?

My first real act of quiet rebellion, in 1965, was against the lunacy of authoritarian injustice. I'd had to fill in a gap in my timetable at school, and I'd chosen a GCE in 'Human Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene' because the subject intrigued me. But I was an arts A-level student, not a scientist. My fill-in subject was just one part of the Pre-Nursing course and I had no ambition to go into nursing. However, I enjoyed this subject, not least because there was so much drawing attached to it, and gained a grade A GCE. As a result, the powers-that-be awarded me the Pre-Nursing prize. That just was not fair: I had not done any of the rest of the course. One of the others deserved it more than me. I challenged the award, but was told that if I did not accept it then the prize was not going to be awarded to another student. I had tried, but they did not listen. So, I chose my prize book: 'Collected Verse from 1929 on' by the American poet Ogden Nash. Eye-brows were raised, but I stood my ground. It was recently seeing a critique of Nash's poetry style describing him as 'a rebel without a pause' that brought this memory back to me. Pausing for thought, I can see that this mild streak of rebellion against unfairness has been with me all along my life journey but has any of it made a difference? When I told Tony Blair he would be wrong to go to war in Iraq he did not listen to me either, but I tried.

So, what is a rebel? Definitions of 'rebel' include not only the aggressive or the maverick, but also the spirit of resistance, defiance, independence of thought or action, rejection of authority. I recall discussions while he was in prison whether Nelson Mandela was a rebel or a freedom-fighter. Well, since he was released the fruits of his work in South Africa show that Mr Mandela has made a difference, for good to prosper.

Some followers of Jesus hoped he was a rebel and a freedom-fighter, and so he was – but not in the expected way. Jesus came to fulfil God's law (Matt 5:17) so that people could have the fullness of life that God intends for us (John 10:10).

In order to carry out his mission, Jesus found he had to challenge conventional religious perceptions about the purpose and practice of religious law. He stood his ground against the authorities when challenged on all sorts of issues from healing on the Sabbath to picking ears of corn on the Sabbath; about what could be eaten and what was defiled. God's laws are for our benefit: they are not there to enslave us. People, in Jesus' world, come first - with compassion and justice through the love of God for all being the rule we all should apply. Sadly, not everyone listened to Jesus. The authorities wanted him out of their hair and in the end the call came for him to be crucified. But, Alleluia! God raised Jesus, his Son, to life again and his work continues even today and tomorrow through the work of the Holy Spirit in those who are his followers.

Well, I really do not doubt that we have all made a quiet difference to other people's lives when we have stood against unfairness or wrongfulness and helped to make changes - even the smallest of changes. When we stand up and stand firm in Jesus, surely we allow his spirit of rebellion to do its work wherever we engage with the world. It makes all the difference.  
Pam Murphy

### **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 any one who requires help**
- \* **Should there be a suspicion of fire , tell the nearest steward.**

# Relay for Life

Hi Guys!

I can hardly believe this event happened a whole week ago!

It was an amazing experience. I actually ended up walking for two teams and I walked for around 4 and a half hours which is somewhere around 10-12 miles.

The first lap was led by a couple of guys who had survived prostate cancer.

The weather really couldn't have been better. A lovely sunset and it was fascinating watching the stars move across the sky during the course of the night - there was also no sign of the moon (I guess it was so new there was not much to show)! The sunrise and the birdsong was just beautiful!

Another highlight of the event was the candlelight ceremony. Candle bags were decorated and then sand and a candle were placed inside them. Some of the bags were quite moving to read. They were then placed to spell the word "HOPE". I especially thought of Bob (who played drums in a local band called "Scared Stiff") who recently died of throat cancer.

I've met and made some new friends during this fundraising campaign so that is an added bonus.

I attach some photos of the event to give you a flavour of what happened.

Thanks for your interest.

Bye for now!

Julie Jules

<http://www.justgiving.com/relayforlifecrediton>

P.S. I do still have some limited edition keyrings left if anyone would like to buy one. You can either contact me or look on my shop link: -  
<http://www.folksy.com/items/738337-Cancer-Research-UK-special-limited-edition-keyrings-?shop=yes>



# Relay For Life



## The September 'Ark'

The obvious choice for our theme this month was Harvest. Ann drew comparisons with our cropping of the fields today with the hard manual labour of harvest time in biblical times. Consequently the children acted out the story of Ruth gleaning in the fields belonging to Boaz. (Ruth, chapters 1&2)



With the back end of the holidays still upon us we were delighted to welcome other members of the congregation to organise and share activities with us. The children learned that it was enormously hard work to take the grain, separate and grind it to make even a miniscule amount of flour. The making of tiny harvest mice puppets proved very popular with even the youngest and making a collage of a scarecrow and combine harvester on a big picture board met with enthusiasm. For the older folk there was an opportunity to try their hand at corn dollies. First they tried using wool as it was easier to work with but the enthusiasm moved on to raffia and corn stalks. One craftsman was even spotted cuddling their corn dolly!



The conclusion, after a delicious pizza meal, was an epilogue in the chancel of the church. It was enhanced by the input from our musicians who had spent the early part of the afternoon mastering the music. It was a lovely time of praise and thanks to God for all His bounty.



## Crediton Foodbank Update

After visiting the Foodbank in Tiverton which CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) has been operating for 14 years, the churches in Crediton are working together to set up a Foodbank in the town.

CHAT is strongly supporting the setting up of the Foodbank and would like to use it for their clients in the area. The Food bank will also be used by other agencies in Crediton e.g. Health visitors, Social Services and the Children's Centre.

### How will it work?

- The Foodbank will give three days of emergency food to individuals and families in crisis. Local care professionals in the Crediton area will refer people to the Foodbank using a food voucher.
- The Foodbank will be based at Crediton Congregational Church where clients will exchange their voucher for food supplies. Here they will also receive a cup of coffee, homemade cake and a listening ear. Where appropriate they will be signposted to other professionals who can help them out of their crisis. (In rural areas emergency food parcels will be delivered).
- Each church in Crediton will have its own collection box for people to place their food donations in. Ours is in the foyer. Food will be stored in the Congregational Church Manse.
- The food collection point will be the Fishtank coffee bar at the Congregational Church which is open every Tuesday and Thursday morning 10 a.m. to 12 noon, with an emergency telephone number for other times.
- **The Foodbank will be launched on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

## How can I help?

- Sorting food (can be done during the day, evening or weekend)
- Receiving food vouchers and giving out food parcels to people on a Tuesday or Thursday morning at the Congregational Church.
- Delivering food parcels to those in outlying villages in the Crediton area who would find it difficult to access the Foodbank.

All of these could be on an occasional rather than a regular basis. It is hoped to form a large team consisting of volunteers from all the churches in Crediton so your involvement needn't be a major time commitment.

If you think you may be interested in helping in any of the above areas please contact Rev Ann Varker 01363777308 for more information. Thank you.

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## Harvest Festival

At our Harvest Festival we made our first contribution to the Foodbank. Thank you to everyone who contributed items.



*Photo: Hazel*

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**THANKS:** George and Eileen Tarr wish to thank the church for the gift of flowers and fruit from the Harvest Festival.

## SUGGESTED GROCERY LIST

### *For Crediton Food Bank*

All items are gratefully received but this is a general guide to the type of products which are required.

BAKED BEANS  
TINNED TOMATOES  
SPAGHETTI  
TINNED VEGETABLES  
TINNED & PACKET SOUP  
JARS OF PASTA SAUCE  
TINNED FISH  
TINNED MEAT  
POT & INSTANT NOODLES/RICE  
PASTA  
RICE  
TINNED RICE PUDDING  
TINNED FRUIT/CUSTARD  
SMALL BAGS OF SUGAR  
TEA BAGS IN SMALL QUANTITIES  
SMALL JARS OF COFFEE  
SQUASH/ LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE  
LONG LIFE MILK  
BISCUITS/CRACKERS (SWEET OR SAVOURY  
PACKETS OF CHOC. BISCUITS  
SMALL PACKETS OF CEREAL/ PORRIDGE

### CLEANING PRODUCTS

WASHING UP LIQUID, SOAP, TOOTHPASTE ETC.

## Pastoral News



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

Your prayers are asked for our minister Revd Ann Varker, and for the vision of our church to respond to God as he calls us to mission. 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.

*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; Ray Burnett; Alan & Kim Clemens; Ivor Coram; 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; Rene Sankey; Margaret Scott; Ann Spry; Arthur Tancock; Eileen & George Tarr; Mary Tyson. Margaret Bagwell.

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

### Residential Homes services:

Summerhayes:	Thursday	7 October	3:15 pm
Kenwyn:	Wednesday	20 October	3:15 pm
St Lawrence:	Thursday	21 October	11:15 am

## Diary Dates for October

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>            Away Day for 'Freedom in Christ' Course at  
Morchard Bishop MC
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup>            The Ark Planning Meeting, 7.00pm at Oake House  
  
                                Children & Young People, 8.00pm at Oake House
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>            Final Rehearsal for 'Sing for the Starving', 7.00pm at  
Sidwell Street MC
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>        'Sing for the Starving Concert, 7.30pm at Sidwell  
Street MC  
  
                                Church Council, 7.30pm
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>         Christian Aid Street Collection  
  
                                The Ark, 4.00pm-6.00pm- Theme, David the King
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>            Circuit World Mission Service at St Thomas MC,  
6.30pm- Speaker June Redfern  
  
                                Tea at 5.00pm
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>         Open House at 11 Thurlow Close, 7.30pm- Topic, An  
Unusual Picture or Photo
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>      Pastoral Meeting, 7.30pm
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>         Training Day at Mint MC, 10.00am- Rev John Bell from  
Iona Community
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>         'Just Listen', 7.30pm at Sidwell Street- Listening Course  
led by Rev Andrew Brazier
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>         Last Night of the Proms at Sidwell Street MC, 7.30pm