

Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
Dec 2011/Jan 2012

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Ann Varker

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Phone: 01363 777308

Services this month:

Dec 4th	10.30	Rev P Jarvis	Sacrament
	6.30	Rev A Varker	
Dec 11th	10.30	Rev A Varker	
	6.30	Rev E McDowell	
Dec 18th	10.30	Mr C Mann	All Age Worship
	6.30	Rev A Varker	
Dec 24th	4.00	Rev D Gregory	
Dec 25th	10.00	Rev A Varker	Christmas Day
	6.30	No service	

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 Jenny Hext 0136385031)

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; Fish (10+ age group)

**Material for the February newsletter to Ken Saunders
by 22nd January**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Are you ready for Christmas?

Every year I tell myself the same thing – next year I am going to start earlier. And yet again December is looming on the horizon and I have done very little. I have bought some Christmas Cards (thanks to a stall selling Charity Cards at a church I visited recently) but haven't thought about writing any; I haven't ordered a turkey; and my ideas for gifts are few and far between. Although I know this will mean a busy time battling with the crowds on my day off, it doesn't really matter. By the time Christmas Day arrives there will be some parcels to open, and food on the table.

Christmas shopping can be squeezed into a few hours, if necessary, but another sort of preparation requires a different approach. The season of Advent, the few weeks leading up to Christmas, is a time when each one of us is encouraged to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. If we are to welcome Christ afresh into our lives again this Christmas, then in the first place we will need to be aware he wants to meet with us. We hear so often that 'God so loved the world that he sent his only Son' that perhaps we forget this means God loves me, God loves you.

Secondly, we need to have hearts that are open to receive him. This will mean taking the time to be still and to allow God to speak to us. Not easy to achieve when time is pressing, but unless we are really ready to listen we risk missing out on the greatest gift that is offered to each one of us.

*Loving God, make us ready to celebrate the birth of your Son.
May we open our hearts to receive him again this Christmas time,
and live each day in the light of your love.
Through Jesus Christ, Amen.*

May God bless you this Christmas time,
Ann Varker

Remembrance Sunday Parade

Several of our young people took an active part in the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Sunday November 13th.



Photographs by Julie.



Crediton Foodbank – *Christmas Hampers*

Since it was launched just over a year ago, Crediton Foodbank has received over 90 referrals for people living in and around Crediton. Thank you so much to everybody who has helped to make it possible for us to meet this need.



We are hoping to provide small Christmas hampers for some of those families and individuals who have needed this help so far. We recognize that Christmas can be a difficult time for many people who are already struggling financially. We would like them to know that the churches in Crediton care about them and would like to bless them in this small way.

If you would like to contribute towards the Christmas hampers this year, here are a few ideas of the type of things it would be wonderful to bless people with, in addition to the basic food supplies we provide:-

Mince pies, Yule logs, small Christmas cakes, Christmas puddings, Chocolates, Special biscuits, Selection packs, small toys or gifts (eg toiletries etc).....

Please place any donations for the hampers in the Foodbank box in your church. Thank you so much for your generosity. We trust and pray that this will be another practical demonstration of the amazing love that God has for the people we've already been able to serve through the Foodbank in Crediton.

Wendy Brown & Sue Goode (07740202721)

February Follies

February Follies on Saturday February 4th – a new look evening for a jolly social event for us all to enjoy. Gerald Greenslade will be approaching members of the Church to contribute to the delights of an evening where everyone will be entertaining everyone else! We are looking for people to volunteer to do a 'turn', for the first part of the proceedings. A hotpot supper will be laid on with cakes, buns and goodies for puddings. Entry will be £5 a head, or families @£10. Brian will be creating a singalong session to finish off the evening. We are ringing the changes from our original January Jollies to this new format and really do hope that you will all feel that you can get involved in this new event. Everyone is welcome. For more details, either talk to Gerald, or contact either Christine Marshall or Christine Gregory.

Tedburn St Mary Housegroup

We meet on the first Thursday of the month for informal discussion, fellowship and fun. In the summer we try to have an evening trip out for a scenic walk and/or refreshments. We recently discovered Providence chapel near Throwleigh, courtesy of 'Janet's tours'...

If anyone from Crediton or surrounding villages would like to join us occasionally or regularly, you'd be very welcome

On Thursday December 1st there will be a Quiz and Christmas Social at 2, Oldridge View at 7.45pm. Nothing too taxing, but good fun, we hope. All are welcome. Please bring a small item of Christmas food or drink to share. Or a large one, if you like! You might like to share a lift and perhaps you'd just let me know if there are several of you coming.

Further info from Chris Martin on 01647 61311. Many thanks.

Regular Bookings of Church Premises

Day	Time	User	Location
Monday	19.30-21.30 13.30-15.30 16.30-21.00	Creedy Choral Toddlers Dancing Classes	Church Hall Hall+Wesley
Tuesday	09.00-09.30 10.00-12.30 19.00-21.00	Prayers ? Dancing Classes	Church Wesley Hall+Wesley
Wednesday	12.30-15.30 18.15-20.30	Mid-Week Service Knit & Natter Dancing Classes	Wesley Hall+Wesley
Thursday	17.00-19.30	Dancing Classes	Hall+Wesley
Friday	14.30-15.30	Bright Hour	Wesley
Saturday	9.00 – 10.00 10.00-11.30	Prayers Coffee Morning	Church Wesley

Other regular users on a Monthly basis:

1st Tuesday in month: 14.00-16.00 Town Women's Guild Wesley

2nd Saturday in month: 16.00-18.00 The Ark Wesley+Hall+Pippins

3rd Saturday in month: 14.00-16.00 National Trust Hall

If you wish to use a room outside of these times it is essential that you book it with Clifford as the above does not include other one-off bookings which may have been made.

“I'm collecting stamps from England and foreign countries so I can gain my Collector's Badge at Cubs.



Has anyone got any stamps they don't want anymore ? If you have please give them to John Turner.

Thank you very much for helping me get my badge.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

FOR THE JOURNEY

When asked to do this month's Pause for Thought, my initial reaction was 'OH NO' what can I write about. However, I agreed, thinking God will show me the way. I was right and consistently over the last few weeks one word - JOURNEY - has been repeatedly brought to my attention. I looked up the word in the dictionary which gave me three definitions.

1. An act of travelling from one place to another.
2. To travel somewhere.

My recent experience of this type of journey was to Scotland only two weeks ago. The journey did not just happen though, time had to be arranged off from work, accommodation confirmed, car checked and filled with fuel. On the day of the journey the suitcases were packed, food prepared together with ensuring that we had our map, sat nav (Margaret as we know it) and mobile phones should we get lost and need help. I am sure this has been a familiar scenario to most of you, even though most of our daily journeys entail only walking, cycling, driving or using public transport. Every journey, however long or short needs preparation.

3. A long and often difficult process of personal change and development.

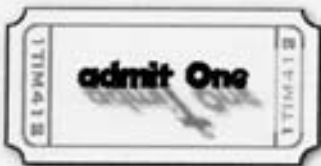
As some of you may be aware, my nephew James opted to take part in the annual Ten Tors challenge. Once committed to taking part, the preparation was hard and not just in the physical sense. The group all had to learn to work together as a team, supporting each other, urging each other on and being able to listen and make comments constructively. This was very much in evidence when one of the group suffered an injury but he carried on, totally supported by the rest of the group. This was a real learning curve and personal journey for each one of them.

So, how does this relate to us? The Bible is littered with stories about people who have made journeys -Jesus, Noah, Moses, Jonah, Paul amongst

many. We too as Christians have been called on a journey but are we prepared for it, ready to respond perhaps we feel a little lost and need help finding the right direction. Wherever we are on our journey at the moment, if we acknowledge God to be at the heart of everything and allow the Holy Spirit to work within our lives, then we know we will not journey alone and amazing things will happen. The journey will not be an easy one but as we read in 1 Corinthians 12. 12-26, we are all part of the one body and as such are there to support, nurture and love one another in times of suffering and joy.

As we move towards Advent and Christmas, may we remember the journeys made by Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men and what they mean to us today. In January, the Covenant Service gives us all the opportunity to re-commit ourselves, so let us take up that challenge and be prepared to make/continue the journey which has been set before each one of us.

Karen Theedom



Are you aged 11 – 18?

Do you enjoy watching films?

Come along to 1 Chapel Downs Road from 6pm til 9pm

on Saturday 3rd Dec 2011

Popcorn, drinks and snacks provided.

SAILING WITH THE ARK!

How much do you know about Crediton Methodist Church's Saturday Family Activity Afternoon?

Have a go at answering the following questions-

1. What is our monthly Family Activity Afternoon called?
2. How long has The Ark been going?
3. How many children on average attend with their parents?
4. What refreshments do we provide?
5. What actually happens at the Ark?
6. How tired are the helpers at the end of the afternoon?

Amazingly The Ark celebrated its 4th Birthday in November! We try and follow a similar plan each month so the families know what to expect-A Bible story followed by singing then activities. Tea happens at about 5.15ish and then home at 6pm. We normally have about 20 children and their parents. Since September we have welcomed a number of new families who are enjoying being at The Ark alongside families that have been coming since we started! Adding all the helpers into the total Christine Marshall normally provides a cooked tea for about 50. When the helpers finally get home at about 7pm we are usually pretty exhausted.

The Ark is noisy and manic at times but NEVER Dull or Boring. We try to be welcoming and to provide a mixture of activities related to the Bible Story we have heard at the start of the session. So far we have watched DVDs, enjoyed puppet shows and acted out the story. - Last month we focussed on the Story of the paralysed man and Naomi proved to be a very brave actor having been carried on a stretcher made from coats and old broom handles to a model house (Toddler Group Climbing Frame Castle!), lifted onto the roof

whilst tiles (Made of cardboard) were removed by her friends and then she was lowered on her stretcher through the hole to Jesus who was sitting below!

The Challenges we face each month are:

- Presenting the Gospel to non church families who are often hearing about God's love and Bible Stories for the first time in a practical fun way!
- Persuading enough church members to come and help.
- Thinking of activities that are fun but worthwhile for the boys who aren't so keen on traditional craft activities. - Recently we have built large card board houses and had competitions to build Irrigation systems across the garden using lots of drain pipes!

How can you help us?

- Any help would be great! Making cakes or biscuits for the start of The Ark, coming to make drinks or helping to set up the Hall.
- Coming and joining the FUN occasionally- You will have a good time - but be warned you may go home covered in paint and glue!
- Is there anyone out there who could come and share some simple wood working skills with the children please?

The next Ark is on December 10th between 4 and 6pm- See you there?

Sarah Turner.



The Ark



Prayer: At-risk children in Thailand

Posted by bms_prayer at 12:47 on 19th November 2011



Pray for BMS World Mission couple Bob and Charmaine Trendell ([link](#)) and the work they are doing with BMS partner Compasio in Mae Sot, Thailand.

Compasio is a faith-based, relationship-oriented organisation dedicated to transforming the lives of vulnerable people on the Thai-Burma border. Compasio primarily targets women and children who are at the highest risk of abuse and are in danger of being trafficked. The Trendells work with and support a young team of Compasio volunteers that help

street children and families in crises. The vast majority of these people live on the streets or in rubbish dumps, forced to eat rubbish and beg for food from passing strangers.

One child whom Compasio has encountered is Maung Ko. He is a young boy who carries his baby brother on his back for miles every day trying to gain sympathy from passers-by just so he can have something to eat. These are the children who are at the greatest risk of becoming involved in drugs and other illicit behaviour, as well as being targeted for victims of sexual and physical abuse and other injustices.

Bob & Charmaine lived at North Tawton until their recent move to Thailand. Bob was the Tearfund Area representative.

I'm dreaming of a green Christmas !

The Christmas season comes with an increasingly high environmental price tag. It is estimated that, as well as the extra food waste generated as we all stock up for our Christmas meals, more than a billion Christmas cards and 83 sq kms of wrapping paper will be dumped or burnt after Christmas in Britain alone, along with more than 100,000 tons of plastic packaging.

So what can we do ?

Gifts

- use fabric, recycled paper or colourful magazine pages as alternative wrappings and make pretty individual trimmings from scraps of ribbon
- look for gifts made from recycled materials
- a perfect gift might be a “shared experience” - maybe an invitation to supper - rather than a new “thing”
- unwanted gifts can be given to charity shops or other good causes - have you looked in such shops for good presents ?
- look for gifts with minimum packaging
- buy rechargeable batteries for “action” gifts
- for those people that have “everything”, how about giving a Christian Aid or Oxfam gift that will benefit others
- use ribbon or wool instead of sticky tape as it doesn't spoil the paper as much
- if wrapping paper is not good enough to be reused, put it in your brown bin

Cards

- buy cards made of recycled materials
- re-use old cards as gifts labels and parcel trimmings
- recycle cards to a good cause
- save envelopes for re-use throughout the year or put them out for recycling (white envelopes in the black recycling box and brown ones in the brown bin, with or without windows)

- save stamps and donate them to a good cause

Trees and decorations

- buy a Christmas tree with roots and save it for next year or plant it in the garden
- decorate your house and tree with natural and recycled materials and products
- swap decorations with a friend if you are fed up with yours
- if you need new fairy lights, buy LED ones
- dispose of your tree responsibly by putting it out with your brown bin so that it can be composted or shredded to make chippings

Food

- buy local produce where possible to reduce food-miles and support local producers
- choose foods that are light on packaging or loose
- share “BOGOFs” with friends to avoid wastage (and save money)
- find creative recipes for leftovers
- plan your shopping and resist the temptation of impulse buying

(Try to stagger when you put out your Christmas recycling - too much wrapping paper, cardboard and Christmas trees all at once may make the brown bin collection unsuitable for composting and it could end up in landfill, thereby defeating the whole exercise !!!!)

Remember the 3 Rs :Reduce ! Re-use ! Recycle !

and “while nobody can do everything, everybody can do something”.

Pastoral Life

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.*

(Charles Wesley)



Church Life

We give thanks that three Deepening Discipleship groups are now meeting fortnightly. Please pray for their growing in faith. Also for the work of the refurbishment committee that will help to enable us to fulfil our part in God's work from this church.

Within the church family, we pray for a growth in the bond of love and respect for each other which will allow people to develop, change, and respond to God's leading in their lives.

Our Community and the World

Please pray for the families preparing for Christmas, perhaps juggling the expectations of their loved ones with the economic reality of life today.

Also for comfort for those on their own who are lonely and isolated.

We pray for the difficult economic situation across the world, and for a fair and equitable sharing of our God-given riches. And for those nations in political upheaval that peace and justice will reign for all their citizens.

As we remember Christ coming into the world for all people, we pray that at this time more will come to know him in our community, our nation and throughout his world. May we fulfil our mission as followers of Jesus Christ so that people, looking at our lives, will see the light of Jesus revealed in all our ways and so find or renew their way to God.

People who need our prayerful support

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 in our hearts.

Your prayers are asked for all who are unwell, anxious, waiting for news or who are vulnerable.

Our thoughts are with Frank Howarth who has recently returned home after some time in hospital. Also with Estelle Chapple who has been admitted to hospital after a fall at home. May they both continue to make good progress. We also think of Jane Avery; Ray Burnett; Kim and Alan Clemens; Jude Coram; Ivor Coram; Beatrice Curle; Mary Greasley; Harold Hollingsworth; Len Jenkinson; Gillian Maunder; Lynda and Norman Medcraft; Bronwyn and Colin Nott, and Rachel; Edith Pullen; Anne Spry; Arthur Tancock.

Residential Homes Services

Summerhayes	Thursday 1 December 3:15pm
Hillbrow	Wednesday 21 December 3:15pm
Summerhayes	Thursday 5 January 3.15pm
Kenwyn	Wednesday 18 January 3.15pm
St Lawrence	Thursday 19 January 11.15am

*Contacts: Pam Murphy: Pastoral Secretary;
and to give notice of pastoral news. 773414
June Redfern: Prayer requests: 84058*

Bright Hour: Dec 2nd: Mr J Gooding /Bring & Buy
Dec 9th: Mrs J Hext/Pippins/Carol Service/Mince Pies
Jan 13th: A.G.M. Mrs J Hext/ Bring & Buy
Jan 20th: Mr & Mrs D Nunn 'St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem'
Jan 27th: Mrs P Murphy

Diary Dates for December & January

- Dec 1st Ark Planning Meeting followed by Children & Young People Meeting, 7.00pm at Church
- Dec 3rd Service of Recognition as a Local Preacher for Anna Williams at Wonford MC, 2.30pm
- Dec 1-4th Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Cross Church
- Dec 7th Carols Down the Line. Depart from Church at 5.45pm (Remember torch, hat, soup etc)
- Dec 10th Christmas Fayre in the Square, 2.00-5.00pm
- Dec 11th Possible extra Church Council after Morning Worship
- Dec 13th Carol Singing at Redvers House, 7.00pm
- Dec 14th Leadership Meeting, 7.30pm at the manse
- Dec 18th Nativity Drama, Exeter City Centre to Cathedral, 3.30-4.30pm
- Jan 22nd Pray4Exeter United Service in Cathedral. 6.30pm
- Jan 25-26th Christian Resources Exhibition at Westpoint nr Exeter

Carols at the Mint



Mon 12th Dec 2011
7.30pm

The Mint, Exeter
CAROLS FOR ALL
In aid of MHA
With Okehampton
Choral Society
Directed by John
Holland

Tickets £6,00

NORTH CREEDY CHORAL SOCIETY
invites you to their Christmas Concert in CREDITON
Methodist Church
on Friday 2nd December, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.
Admission £5

SCHUBERT'S MASS IN G
and music by Mozart, Wesley and Goodall
Carols for the audience to sing

Conductor **Tim Matthews**
Soloists *Soprano* **Hannah-Bomford** *Tenor* **Jason Bomford**
Accompanist **Susan Gales**

Christmas

at Crediton Methodist Church



**18th December: All Age Worship 10.30
with Chris Mann.**

Carol Service (Candlelit) 6.30

**24th December: Service 4 p.m.
with Rev David Gregory**

**25th December: Christmas Day Service
10 a.m.
with Rev Ann Varker**

New Year's Day: Morning Service only