

Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
July/August 2011

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Ann Varker

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Phone: 01363 777308

Services this month:

July 3rd	10.30	Mr D Bradford	
	6.30	Rev A Varker	Sacrament
July 10th	10.30	Mrs C Keep	
	6.30	Rev D Easton	
July 17th	10.30	Mr C Arscott	
	6.30	Rev M Dillistone	
July 24th	10.30	Prof A Wragg	
	6.30	Rev A Varker	
July 31st	10.30	Rev G Butler	
	6.30	Rev A Sails	

Church Groups:

Toddlers – meets on Mondays 1.30 to 3.15 during term time
(contact Sarah on 01363 774370)

Women's Open House – (contact Pam Murphy Tel: 773414)

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)

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; Fish (10+ age group)

**Material for the September newsletter to Ken Saunders
by August 21st.**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

HOSTS FOR CONNECT TRAINEES

Connect are looking for host families in the Crediton area for two new Connect trainees starting in September. Hosts are paid £45 per week to cover expenses. If you may be able to provide a room for one of the trainees, or would like to know more about what is involved then please speak to Ann Varker.

Green Tip of the Month

Recycling Envelopes -
Your envelopes can be recycled. Put your white envelopes in the black recycling bin and brown envelopes in the brown wheelie bin. If you don't have a brown bin put them in your corn starch bag with your kitchen waste. This also applies to window envelopes. There is no need to remove the window.

Open House

We meet for a **Patio Picnic** at 7.30 on 19th July. Tina is kindly hosting our evening at Kentina, Alexandra Road.

Please bring a finger-food contribution. All ladies are very welcome.

There is no meeting in August.



**Gerald & Elizabeth are
planning another**

Car Boot Sale

in the Town Square

on July 16th

9.30 – 12.30

**Offers of help would be
appreciated as would offers**

of bric-a-brac

Tel: 772936

Radical Hospitality

(from the Leadership Team)

‘Come and see’. This was the invitation of Jesus to his early followers.

Do we extend an invitation like that?

Are we so fired up about our worship that we feel able to extend to others what appears to be a simple invitation?

The Leadership Team are working towards ‘our vision’ as a church. So far we have considered radical hospitality and passionate worship.

Radical Hospitality; we may ask the question as to whether it is any different from what we do at the moment. The two words - radical and hospitality- are not normally connected, but it seems that if we truly want to be a vibrant, fruitful and growing congregation, then we need to consider what radical hospitality means. Like, in the reading from John’s gospel, it refers to an active desire to invite, welcome, receive and care for others so that they may find a spiritual home and discover what it really means to follow Jesus. According to Robert Schnase in his book ‘Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations’, radical means rooted in the life of Christ and radiating into the lives of others. The key thing being that more people get invited into the church life.

If we are being radical about our hospitality, we need to be able to place ourselves in the shoes of the stranger and ask ourselves, ‘How are they feeling?’ ‘What can I do to make them feel comfortable and truly welcome in this fellowship?’ There might be practical things that seem so obvious like accommodating lively children, pushchairs, aids for elderly or disabled, respecting a desire to be quiet and alone for a bit, or the need for a listening ear and just friendship.

Jesus said ‘I was a stranger and you welcomed me’ (Matthew 25:35) and ‘Just as you did it to one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me’. Our welcome should be God-centred; overstepping the boundaries to invite people in and seeing them as God sees them.

Our Methodist heritage, perhaps, needs to be re-visited. John Wesley’s hospitality was radical in his day; taking the Word of God out to coal miners, field labourers, factory workers, the underclass and simply, the poor. He welcomed them all into a Christian community where they were nourished and nurtured through a strong sense of belonging to organised societies and classes for mutual accountability, support and care.

Opportunities for speaking our faith journeys and invitations for sharing experiences, scripture and faith through relaxed times over a meal or a cuppa seem to be all important if we are going to be effective in growing a radically welcoming congregation. In the book by Robert Schnase, that the Leadership Team are studying, he suggests that the church becomes a school for learning so that the congregation learn from one another and how to love others by ‘the growing of oneself and a sustaining sense of purpose’.

Prayer underpins all that we do and seek to offer in service to others. We accept that if we are to be a vibrant, fruitful and growing congregation we may need to change the way we do things - the type of worship – modern worship mixed with traditional, involvement of more members of the congregation, modern means of communication through IT, music groups, drama etc.

So, are we willing to open our minds to different ways of worship alongside the familiar? Are we prepared to ‘go the extra mile’ in our welcome of newcomers? Are we simply prepared to say, ‘Come and see,’ with enthusiasm.

(ctd on next page)

Passionate Worship

The second topic that the Leadership Team has been considering is Passionate Worship. Psalm 84 says in verse 4, ‘How happy are those who can live in your Temple, singing your praises’.

There is nothing mediocre about Passionate Worship. Do we come to worship filled with eagerness and expectancy? Do we expect to meet Christ through singing, praying, scripture reading, preaching or Holy Communion? Do we respond by allowing God’s spirit to shape our lives?

In worship, do we give of our best to God; is the music, the drama, the reading all of our best offering? Robert Schnase, in his book, states, ‘Poor quality robs worship of its power and purpose’.

We may need to consider what steps we need to take in order to make our worship more special; we may need to open ourselves to creative change. ‘Passionate Worship is alive, engaging, appealing and life-changing; leaders take seriously the importance of spiritual and practical preparation,’ says Robert Schnase.

We might need to be flexible in the style of our worship, offering modern elements as well as traditional; perhaps some modern services, others traditional, if we expect to engage today’s culture and provide a worship experience that younger generations can identify with.

(A synopsis of discussion at recent leadership meetings based on the book:

‘Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations’ by Robert Schnase)

Trinity Club

Some members of Trinity Club described their favourite sessions over the last six months:

Lauren: My favourite session was on homelessness. We were split into two groups and told we had to make a shelter which all our team had to fit in. We were given loads of cardboard and we were told where we had to try and create this shelter. Trying to make the shelter big enough for all of us was the hardest part as every time we made the shelter bigger it seemed to collapse. Once we had finished we were given a cup of soup and a roll which some people drank in their shelters. This was a great team work activity even though it was freezing cold. Everyone now has an insight of just how homeless people have to live.

Tom: Trinity does lots of fun things mainly at the St Boniface Centre. I liked it when we went to the Dart Rock Climbing Centre. We were able to climb up the wall with an instructor helping us get up and along the wall. This activity was really hard as you had to trust the rest of your team to keep you safe. Afterwards we all tucked into some crisps and a drink.

Rowena: I enjoy Trinity because it's very engaging and fun for everyone. Sometimes we do creative things, and sometimes we do outdoor activities and games. I enjoy it most because I can go along with my friend and just have a nice Sunday evening. It's for 10 to 16 year olds; it teaches you about Jesus and God while having fun which everyone wants. If you don't already go I strongly recommend it as I, an individual, find it very fun. Trinity is a nice way of learning, and we also go out and do other things like camping, walks, climbing. Things maybe you can't do normally, and it's definitely a great experience. We also have firework night which is always a success as a lot of people turn up, and we all warm around the fire and watch the beautiful fireworks go off, and eat marshmallows. I don't know about you, but I think it's really nice to get together with your church friends, and other friends, and just spend time together. I think I'm going to carry on with Trinity because I really enjoy it, and I hope everyone else who goes feels the same.

Look at the birds of the air! (Matthew 6:26)

I was interested to read in the Methodist monthly newsletter Ken Saunders' Pause for Thought on "Landings" regarding the Canada geese in Shobrooke Park. They were unable to land on the lakes which were almost completely frozen over, so they had to seek somewhere else to land. I live in Shobrooke and often hear the geese fly-past over my cottage. Being bird phobic I am always very relieved that they are all up there and I am safely down here and I warily keep my distance when walking in the park!

Nevertheless, although I find them difficult to love, I was struck with admiration for their courteous behaviour when I read reflections on this in "The Word for Today" some time ago. The reflections were entitled "What's Good for the Goose" and explained about the behaviour of Canada geese gathering for their annual flight to the "sunny South."

I learned to my amazement :-

Geese fly united. They don't fly separately, in random style, because no goose alone can fly that distance. They are designed to fly in their characteristic "V" formation, as when a bird flaps its wings the air movement created provides an uplift, easing the workload of the bird behind it. Together their flight increases about 71%. Even the youngest, weakest and oldest geese can thereby make the trip. They accomplish together what they could never accomplish separately! Occasionally a goose strays off on its own but soon becomes exhausted, loses altitude and ultimately pulls wearily back into the formation.

"The Point Goose". Every formation must have a "point goose" - their pastor?! They lead, set the pace and give direction to those who follow. Just before the "point goose" becomes exhausted a space opens in the formation and he slips back into it while another bird replaces him, seamlessly becoming the next "point goose."

"Encouragement". In the world of geese, the aged, very young and infirm are kept protected in the rear of the formation. However, they are not isolated, discounted or considered useless. They fulfil a vital role. They become the honking section and cheer for the leaders! When bad weather threatens the mission, the going gets tough and the stronger

ones are struggling, from the rear a lone honk sounds, initiating a geese chorus honking encouragement to the “point goose!” Occasionally a strident, out of tune goose complains loudly and irritatingly. Within moments the honking section kicks in, drowning out the grumbler, restoring order and unity!

“Till death do us part”. When the ravages of time or circumstances make it impossible for a bird to continue the trip and it begins to lose altitude or fails to keep abreast of the formation, the gaggle provides it with comfort, nurture and protection. Two strong geese leave the formation, flying with the “patient” safely between them, find a sheltered location with food and water and make a home for the needy bird. They will stay with it until either it recovers or dies, before joining another formation. For them everything goes on hold to care for a frailer bird.

Lost and stray geese are always welcomed into the formation. It is not an exclusive club for the elite. Birds separated from other formations, isolated by weather, accident or infirmity, are given full family status. The formation will alter its plans, reschedule its arrival time and inconvenience itself to accommodate any strangers seeking its acceptance. Many newcomers arrive dirty, bedraggled and ill-fed. They are never turned away.

The analogies for us as Christians regarding how we should “consider these birds” **and** imitate their behaviour are obvious and very humbling!

Rosemary Barber

(“The Word for Today” is happy to be quoted within Christian organisations. Free issues of the daily devotional booklet are available within the UK and Republic of Ireland. Address: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on- Trent, ST6 4JF.)

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT - “For all the Saints.....”

Three years ago my cousin Ann researched and produced our ‘family tree’ and also one for Adrian. She was able to go back as far as the 1600s for both of us. It was all very interesting but the names were just names on a sheet of paper. The names only became real people when in 1801 with the advent of the 10 yearly census we were able to see the occupations of our relations and to see who was living with the family in the house at the time. My ‘tree’ showed agricultural workers on estates and latterly solicitors, musicians and teachers. Adrian’s ‘tree’ showed builders of pot banks in Staffordshire, painters of pottery, then more recently teachers and architects. All very interesting and helpful in understanding where our particular strengths come from!

One thing I do know is that my Father had a very strong and strict Methodist Mother and this must have influenced his very principled personality. My Mother too came from a very committed Anglican family background. So it was from both sides of my family I enjoyed and was privileged to have a strong Christian upbringing. This led me to think of the legacy we as individuals and as a congregation are leaving for the next generation. We are very diligent and caring bringing up our own children so that they in turn will become ‘good’ citizens - is this all we should do?

It was fascinating to hear Cynthia Dixon tell us about William Harper and his desire and commitment to build a Methodist Church in Crediton. Sadly he died in 1880 so that he did not live long enough to see the fulfilment of his prayers and labours, but we are able to enjoy the results of his faith as we worship in our Church, and we are thankful!

God has given all of us particular and unique gifts. Maybe we are too modest to recognise what we are good at? Perhaps we think we are not good at anything worthwhile! It is very frustrating to admire talented people and to wish we had their gifts. We were recently privileged to be at the Inaugural Lecture in London given by Adina (our cousin’s Romanian partner) on becoming a Professor of Neuro-Science. Her subject is as you will realise, research into brain and spinal trauma, including research into Alzheimers condition, autism, and schizophrenia. It was fascinating to hear her talk about all that research has uncovered about the brain and to see images of

cross sections on the screen of how the brain changes in given circumstances. Undoubtedly the brain is very powerful and amazing. This caused me to think of the gift of the Holy Spirit that has been given to each and every one of us. This is such a force within us, equally difficult to comprehend like the brain, intangible but never-the-less undoubtedly so important to us. We certainly did not see the Holy Spirit in Adina's cross sections of the brain!!

May we come to realise our own sometimes rather mundane gifts and recognise and make use of the opportunities we are given to use these attributes to serve God in today's world. We often think that our small and feeble contribution is hardly worth anything, but we should always remember the grain of salt and the teaspoon of salt and what a difference the teaspoon of salt makes.

So as we take this next step into the spiritual and material future for our Church here in Crediton, may we be mindful of all those who have gone before us in the faith. It must have been very daunting for William Harper, but his vision and commitment was very clear to him. May we too have this same certainty, steadfastness, fervour and commitment in expressing our faith using the very unique gifts God has given to each and every one of us.

Celtic prayers and writings are a favourite of mine and the following few lines are particularly meaningful.

“AS YOU DID IT TO THE LEAST OF THESE...

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.”

(From Celtic Fire)

***June Redfern
(Leadership Team)***

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on 14 June. Amongst the matters discussed were the following:

Stewards

Julie Farrell had agreed to become a Steward and will be taking up her duties in the coming weeks.

We are looking for additional Stewards to strengthen our team and be responsible for ensuring that our Sunday services, morning and evening, run smoothly. The involvement, when there is a full compliment of Stewards, is between four and six services a quarter. If you are interested in helping with this important work for the Church please contact Ann Varker.

I am also looking for additional door stewards to help with the welcome to our Church services, morning and evening, on two or three Sundays a quarter. Please contact me if you are interested in helping in this way.

Appointments

In addition to the appointment of Julie Farrell as a Steward, the Church Council approved the appointments of Pam Murphy as Pastoral Secretary and Barry Stimson as Treasurer.

We are grateful to Karen Theedom and Glenn Turner, who previously held these appointments, for their work in these posts over several years. Both continue as members of our Leadership Team.

Refurbishment

The plans for refurbishment of the Church are nearly complete. The Refurbishment Group is now looking at downstairs to see what can be done to improve that area whilst we wait for the Leadership Team to complete its work on the Vision for our Church, which will be a vital element of our application for approval of the refurbishment scheme and in seeking grants to assist in the cost of this work.

The Church Council has also agreed that we should hold a Flower Festival, once the work is complete, to celebrate and show off the improved Church building. The theme is likely to centre on the history of the Church linked to those named on the memorial plaques, who include a thatcher and a cobbler.

Environmental Group

Our Environmental Group has prepared a draft environmental policy, details of which are given elsewhere in this Newsletter. If you have any comments please pass them to Glenn Turner. The Church Council will be reviewing any comments and adopting the final policy statement at its next meeting in October.

First Aiders

We are looking for volunteers to become first-aiders to cover any emergencies that may arise during events at the Church. Volunteers will be sent on a training course. If you are interested in becoming a first-aider and would like to know more about what is involved, please contact me.

Property

Recently, doors have not been locked and lights, particularly in the toilets, have not been switched off when groups have left the premises, both upstairs and downstairs. Unlocked doors leave the premises open to unwanted intruders. I would remind all users of the premises that they are responsible for ensuring that all doors are locked before they leave the premises, especially if there are no others in the building, and also to check that all lights have been switched off.

Bronwyn Nott, our Property Secretary, is compiling a new list of key-holders. If you hold a key to the premises, please would you let Bronwyn know and the reason you are holding a key. She can be contacted on 01363 775450 or by e-mail at bronwyn@bnott.wanadoo.co.uk. (ctd next page)

Annual Report

We shall be producing our Annual Report for 2010/11 during the next three months. I will shortly be contacting the various groups in the Church for a report on their activities in the year. This year we are suggesting a maximum of 100 words per report although no minimum is being set. To all those concerned, you are asked to respond as soon as possible to the request for the report.

Fund Raising and Social Group

Additional volunteers are needed to join this group which plans our programme of fund raising and social events. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Christine Marshall on 01363 772012 or by email at christine206@btinternet.com.

Singing the Faith

The new Methodist Hymn Book, Singing the Faith, will be published in September. Before we decide to purchase copies of the new book, which contains a selection of new hymns, most of the hymns and songs in Sing Hallelujah, which we sing, as well as a good selection from Hymns & Psalms, the Church Council would welcome comments. There is a small book giving a sample of the hymn book in the foyer for anyone interested. The Church Council needs to make a decision at its next meeting so that we can take advantage of the early order price offer which is available until the end of this year. If you have comments please give them to me.

Circuit News

Most of you will be aware that the Exeter Circuit will be joining with the Exmouth & Budleigh Salterton Circuit and part of the Sidmouth Circuit to form the new Exeter Coast & Country Circuit from 1 September.

To celebrate the work of the Exeter Circuit, there will be a Circuit Service at Crediton at 6.30pm on Sunday 28 August.

To celebrate the new circuit, the President of Conference, Rev. Leo Osborn, will lead a Circuit Service at Sidwell Street at 7.30pm on Friday 23 September.

John Ashley Secretary – Church Council Telephone: 01363 773851
E-mail: john@aoakehouse.co.uk

You took my Parking Space

One day a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up; the driver got out and said 'I always park there! You took my place'.

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, 'That's my seat! You took my place'. The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome but said nothing.

After Sunday School the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, 'That's where I always sit! You took my place.' The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing. Later the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them; the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, 'What happened to you?' The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, 'I took your place!'

Submitted by Bronwyn; author unknown.

When Jesus came to our house

Have you purchased a copy? If not I recommend it most sincerely. Written by Will Robinson who has a gift with words and a superb imagination. He writes in such a way that you can feel yourself being in the house caught up in the drama and conversation.

Will's writing however goes beyond imagination; it also causes you to think seriously about life itself; how we react to situations; indeed how we ought to react.

At the end of each story Will gives the relevant Bible passage and some questions, helpful in stimulating our thinking and a useful resource for a Bible study group.

In this year of the bible it is especially relevant. The book is available at £2.50 of which 50p is donated to Church Funds.

David Gregory.

Environmental Group

The environmental group has rewritten our environmental policy for the church and the wider community who uses our premises. Church Council has asked us circulate this policy for consultation and get feedback before the next Church Council meeting in October.

If you have any comments please pass them to any member of the environmental group or to Glenn Turner on 01363 774370, email turner_1996@yahoo.co.uk.

Glenn Turner

Environmental Policy for Crediton Methodist Church

As a Christian community we believe it is our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to value and respect the world around us, and to be advocates of sound environmental practices.

"Be careful to pass the land on as an inheritance to your descendants forever" - 1 Chronicles 28

This policy seeks to identify objectives to assist Crediton Methodist Church community (including all office holders, members and other users of the church building) in fulfilling these responsibilities.

Our Environmental Policy Objectives are:

Energy

- to reduce energy use wherever possible
- to encourage the development and use of renewable energy

Water

- to use water efficiently and with care, and not take it for granted
- to avoid pollutants entering the drainage system
- to collect water where possible for appropriate use
- to support communities where water imbalances are a problem

Waste

- to reduce the production of material waste including unnecessary packaging
- to encourage the re-use, repair and recycling of materials including organic waste
- to dispose of waste and unwanted items in a safe and responsible way

Materials & Resources

- to take the environmental and ethical cost into account when sourcing all material
- to take into account the lifetime costs of materials when altering, repairing or rebuilding premises

Transport

- to discourage unnecessary travel
- to encourage where ever possible, more energy efficient means of travel

Buildings & Land

- to build in maximum energy and water efficiencies into all projects
- to protect and enhance habitats for wildlife and biodiversity
- to be sensitive to the local environment
- to ensure maximum use of facilities

Awareness and Commitment

- to promote awareness within the church community of these principles and objectives and of the values underlying them
- to encourage church members and office holders to implement this environmental commitment and its objectives

“Nobody can do everything BUT everybody can do something”

- Gil Scott-Heron

All who care for life are welcome here!

Pastoral Life

Jesus said: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Matthew 22: 37 - 39



Church Life

In these summer months, our land is overflowing with fruit and flower: God's creative provision. Please pray for God's creative, fruitful love to overflow through our church, and through us into the world around us.

Thanksgiving

As her first year with us is coming to an end, let us thank God for sending his servant, Ann, to minister to us in ways that help us to grow as disciples and servants of Christ. Pray for Ann to receive strength and insight for her task, and our love and support. Pray for her family in their bond of love for each other.

Our Community and the World

Please pray for:

- The young people and children of the Crediton area, as they complete the end of this school year and look forward to the next adventure of school, college, university, training or work. Also for families to thrive in the time they can spend together during the school holidays.
- For our nation as we work through the period of austerity: for fairness and understanding; for generosity of spirit and care for those in greatest need.
- In a troubled world, please pray for peace and understanding between nations and cultures; between politicians; between faith communities; between people.

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 vulnerable.

We ask prayers for:

Edith Pullen, a member of Exmouth Methodist Church and now in Hillbrow.

Also: Jane Avery; Ray Burnett; Estelle Chapple; Alan & Kim Clemens; Jude Coram; Ivor Coram; Beatrice Curle; Mary Greasley; Harold Hollingsworth; Frank Howarth; Len Jenkinson; Gillian Maunder; Lynda and Norman Medcraft; Bronwyn and Colin Nott, and Rachel; Alisha, granddaughter of Ken and Margaret; Shirley Sharpe; Anne Spry; Arthur Tancock; Eileen & George Tarr; Mary Tyson.

Residential Homes Services

During July, we will take services in: Summerhayes and Hillbrow

During August, we will go to all four: Summerhayes, Hillbrow, Kenwyn and St. Lawrence.

Please see the weekly notices for dates.

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

Ladies Bright Hour

July 1st: Mrs Maria Knowlton. Bring & Buy Stall

July 8th: Mrs Kathryn Cole

July 15th: Jenny Hext/Pippins/Cream Teas

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

Diary for July and August

- 1st-3rd July Circuit Summer Camp for young families
- Wed 6th July Children & Young People Meeting, 7.30pm
- Fri 8th July 3-5pm Cream Teas at Alphington MC
- Sat 9th July A Rainbow Garden Cream Tea at Sidwell St MC in aid of
World Church Funds, 3.30pm
- Sat 16th July Annual Supper Party in aid of Action for Children at St
Thomas MC, 6.30pm
- Mon 25th July Refurbishment Group, 7.30pm
- Tues 26th July Leadership Meeting at Middle Davidsland Barn, 7.30pm
- Sun 7th August Silvertown Market 4pm Guided Walk, 5pm Tea, 6.30pm
Evening Service
- Sun 28th August Circuit Service at Crediton MC to give thanks for the
witness of the Exeter Circuit, 6.30pm

Preachers for August

- Aug 7th: 10.30 Rev A Varker (S) 6.30: At Silvertown
- Aug 14th: 10.30 Rev D Gregory 6.30 Rev A Varker (S)
- Aug 21st: 8.45 Rev A varker (S) 10.30 Rev A Varker 6.30 Mr J Curtis
- Aug 28th: 10.30 Miss A Williams 6.30 Rev D Easton/Rev A Varker

(Circuit Service)

Singing the Faith

The New Methodist Hymnbook

MPH, the publishers of the new Methodist Hymn book coming out in September this year, say of it: ‘Like the many Methodist hymn collections that have gone before it, *Singing the Faith* has one aim – to lift hearts and voices to God in perfect harmony.’

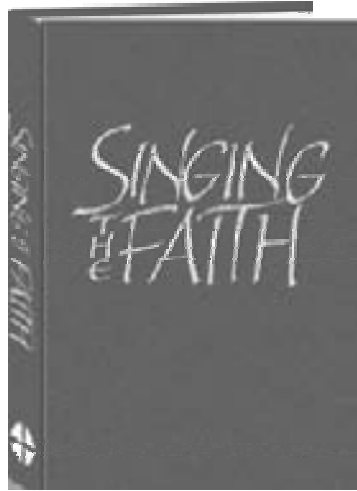
In September, the Church Council will be deciding whether to buy the hymn book to replace *Hymns and Psalms* that has been with us for nearly 30

years and the supplementary hymn collection in *Sing Halleluiah* which, having served us well, is now falling to pieces.

There are various versions of *Singing the Faith* available: a words edition for use by the congregation, including a large print edition; a music edition and an electronic words version which will be updated as new hymns and songs come on line.

Singing the Faith is an exciting opportunity, carrying forward the most popular hymns from *Hymns and Psalms* as well as the newer hymns we have grown to love like *Lord, for the years*, and *O Lord our God*, and most of the songs the music group has been using with us like *Our God is a great big God*. Something for everyone in the church family.

There are some copies of *Singing the Faith* sampler circulating, in which there is the full index of the hymns. Have a look and let a church council member have your views about it. There will be a discount on orders placed by the end of December this year.



Ladies Open House

When the Ladies Open House Group booked a skittle alley at the Waie Inn for their June meeting, they also booked the adjacent alley and then threw out hints to the men in the church to come along as well. With some confidence they challenged the men to a skittles match during the evening. Their confidence was largely founded on their star skittle player Margaret K.



A few men took up the challenge. During the first few games it looked as though they were going to be humiliated. Their very experienced bowls player Alan S was having difficulty deciding which side of the balls was biased.



Then Gordon D (an experienced skittles player) found his form and scored a magnificent 17 in one set of three balls. From then on the men raced ahead.

Although Margaret K scored consistently high throughout the evening and was the 'player of the match' the ladies proved no match for the men's superior skill.

