



Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
June 2011

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Ann Varker

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Phone: 01363 777308

Services this month:

June 5th	10.30	Rev A Varker	Sacrament
	6.30	Local arrangement	
June 12th	10.30	Rev W Robinson	
	6.30	At Wonford	
June 19th	8.45	Rev A Varker	Sacrament
	10.30	Rev A Varker	All Age Worship
	6.30	Rev P Collings	
June 26th	10.30	Mrs S Jones	
	6.00	At Barn 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 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 July newsletter to Ken Saunders
by June 19th**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Dear friends,

In Luke chapter eleven the disciples came to Jesus and asked: 'Lord, teach us to pray'. Have you ever thought what a strange request this was? These were men brought up according to Jewish traditions. During their childhood they would have been trained by the rabbis, in preparation for their Bar mitzvah, in the Jewish Scriptures and in prayer. Every boy was expected to have a grasp of the fundamentals of faith before attaining to manhood. They surely would have learned a great deal about prayer, so why did they feel the need to speak to Jesus in this way? I think the answer to this lies with Jesus himself. Luke tells us that it was when Jesus had finished praying that the disciples came to him with their request. It was as though they were saying: 'Lord, teach us to pray like you do'. They had recognised vitality in the way Jesus prayed, and knew that their experience was not in the same league.

I have discovered that often within churches people feel the same sense of inadequacy when it comes to prayer. We may have been taught about prayer as children or in preparation for church membership, but somehow do not find praying comes naturally to us. Or we may have more fundamental questions about the nature of prayer, and its purpose within our Christian life.

I will be attempting to address some of these questions at the All-age service on 19th June, and at the evening services on the 3rd and 24th July. Prayer will also be the theme of the Ark for this month.

A small group meets to pray for the life and witness of the church, for the wider community and the world at various times throughout the month. In June there will be 'Time to pray' in the chancel at 9am on Tuesday 14th June, at 9am on Saturday 18th June, and at 9am on Tuesday 28th June. Please come along if you are able. In addition, you are all invited to join with others in prayer, by praying wherever you are, at 6.30pm on Sunday 5th June. Those who gather at the evening service will be reminded that others from the church family will be joining them in prayer at this time.

With every blessing,
Ann Varker

Good Friday Procession of Witness

A record number of people, over a hundred, processed through Crediton on Good Friday to witness to the death of Christ. At each church on route the procession stopped for prayer and the singing of a hymn.



At the town square the Rev Nigel Guthrie gave a short talk on why he thought the procession was so important. First – it united our churches



together; second- as we walked past the shops which serve our community we were reminded that the churches in the town are also here to serve the community; third- at the centre of the procession is the cross, reminding us of Christ's death and God's forgiveness.

World Church festival

The Circuit World Church Festival will be held at Silverton on Monday, 27 June, at 7.30pm. This is the occasion when your 'purses' are brought forward. Our speaker will be Francisca van Holthoon, who will give an illustrated talk on the work of Second Sight. This charity is run by Lucy Mathen, a London ophthalmologist, and aims both to raise awareness of the huge problem of cataract blindness in 'forgotten' India (Bihar, Orissa & Jarkhand), and also to raise funds to help eradicate reversible blindness. There will be a collection for Second Sight, and refreshments will be served afterwards. Do please join us - all are welcome.

Biblefresh at Farmers' Market



As part of our Biblefresh activities a display and stall were set up at the Farmer's Market in May. Free copies of St Luke's gospel were given to anyone who showed an interest.



It was good to make contact with some visitors from Uganda and Kenya, most of whom were Christians. They were in this country to attend a short agricultural course at Bicton College.

The Ploughboy's Champion

Every Good Friday a group of us teenagers would cycle to North Nibley, near Dursley in Gloucester, to a tower built on a wonderful viewpoint over the Severn Valley: the monument to William Tyndale. We didn't know much about Tyndale, except that he translated the bible into English and for that was burnt at the stake. For a moment we would feel a shudder of horror at his fate and a flicker of pride that our roots were in the same soil; then we would carry on with our picnic and games.



Today I know a little more about him and I realise he is the true hero and martyr of the English Bible. He was born in 1494 and was a brilliant scholar; after ordination he became tutor to a family in the Cotswolds. Tyndale was dismayed by the ignorance of the clergy he met there and by their lack of knowledge of the scriptures. The bible in use then was the Latin Vulgate. So Tyndale began his life's work of translation so that even 'a boy that driveth the plough' would have a better understanding of the bible than they.

Tyndale knew there was hunger for the bible in English, because more than 100 years earlier another Oxford scholar, John Wycliffe, had caused a hand-written version to be circulated secretly. So there were those who from the 14thC rebelled against the decree that the bible must be in Latin.

So Tyndale set off for London, hoping for the support of the Bishop of London for his task. How wrong he was! From that moment there began a campaign to prevent the work. He was accused of heresy and found he was not safe in England. So in 1524 he set sail for Germany and never returned.

He settled in Cologne and began his first translation of the New testament from the original Greek. A year later it was finished and 6000 copies were printed. They were about to be shipped to London when a spy notified the authorities in Cologne and London. Many of the copies of the New Testament were seized and publicly burned. Tyndale fled Cologne and began life on the run.

Although a gentle scholar, (Foxe describes him as being 'full of mercy and compassion'), Tyndale could not be silenced and his work continued. In

1530 he published the first five books of the Old Testament. He worked day and night on his project to give English speaking people the bible in their mother tongue.

At last he thought he had found safe refuge in Antwerp and from there in 1534 he published his complete revision of the New Testament. But again he was betrayed and imprisoned in Vilvoorde Castle for 17 months.

He suffered terribly from the cold and damp and asked that a warmer coat and cap be brought from his lodgings along with ‘a piece of cloth with which to patch my leggings.’ ‘But most of all will you kindly permit me to have my Hebrew bible, grammar and dictionary, that I may continue with my work.’

Apparently at least the books were brought to his prison cell because he continued to work on the Old Testament. However, he was found guilty of heresy and in October 1536 he was taken to the place of execution, tied to the stake and ‘then strangled first by the hangman and then with fire consumed.’ His dying words were ‘Lord, open the King of England’s eyes’.

His prayer was answered because 75 years later the version authorised by King James was published. The beauty and power of its language remain one of the glories of our nation.

Tyndale’s scholarly genius and dedication were the basis of the 1611 bible and many of its finest passages were taken unchanged from Tyndale’s work and are still enshrined in our everyday speech.

It is right in this year of the bible that we remember with pride and gratitude this great Englishman who endured poverty and persecution because he believed that the ploughboy had as much right as the priest to read the glorious gospel for himself.

Cynthia Dixon

Further reading ‘The Book of Books – the Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611 – 2011 by Melvyn Bragg; pub Hodder & Stoughton £20.

Puppets



Some of our young people attended a training day on Puppets. The workshop certainly gave us lots of things to think about. There were different sorts of puppets from the very simple "popeyes" to the more complicated puppets with arm rods. We learnt different ways we can use the puppets from doing a musical number to pre-recording our sketches prior to performing them. We also had opportunity to get into two groups and work out our own routines to the music. *Julie*

Crediton Food Bank

Many thanks for your continued support Crediton Foodbank has now had over 50 referrals since it opened in October. We have 10 different agencies referring to us, 5 churches on board and 26 volunteers. The Foodbank has recently started to receive referrals for those affected by redundancies as well as those with benefit problems and debt.

Please keep the Foodbank in your prayers and please pass on a BIG thank you to all those who have kindly donated food so far.

Wendy & Sue

The Food Bank is also grateful to receive donations of money, as this is used to purchase nappies and other bulky items, and additional food, as and when required. Donations can be placed in the small box on the wall in the foyer and these will be passed on to the organisers.



"Over the Easter week I served as a volunteer on the Host Team @ Spring Harvest, a Christian Conference based in Minehead Butlins. This was my first time working on the Host Team and over 20 years since I was last at Spring Harvest (that time I was working on the Children's Team)!

My role was to help and support the other volunteers (about 450 of them) by keeping the Team Lounge comfortable and clean and serving Sandwich Teas (plus pizza on party night). The hours were pretty long and tiring but I did get some time off to go to some of the activities. I had the opportunity to try different styles of worship, which was interesting and found that the All Age Worship was my favourite!

I hope I'm invited back next year - it was good fun!"

Julie

A Blessing

(used in recent services)

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you for ever.
Give you peace, perfect peace; strength for every endeavour.
Lift your eyes and see His face; feel His grace surround you.
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you for ever.

Francisco Rojas School – letter from Maria

I have now received details of the pupil who is to be sponsored by Crediton Junior Church. His name is Moise Palomino and is 8 years old. Moise has two older brothers. His sister Liz is also enrolled at the school and is in year 6. They are a Christian family. Unfortunately the father died when Moise was very young.



His father and mother had a tricycle which they used to go all over the city collecting bits of metal and selling them afterwards. The father also worked at night as a security guard in an outdoor market. When the father died suddenly, the mother continued for a while doing these jobs but found it very hard especially at night as she had the children with her. She now earns money by selling bread and hot tea in the street and sometimes jelly and hot food. The family live in a shanty town where there is no water, however, they have made a well to store water bought from a tanker and then sell, by the bucket, to people in the neighbourhood.

I enclose a photo of Moise and a picture drawn by him of his brothers and sisters in the park.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the junior Church for offering to sponsor another child at

Francisco Rojas school. Your help is much appreciated. Our thanksgiving service this year is on Sunday October 9th at Cheriton Fitzpaine – 2.15 p.m. Hope you can join us.

Maria



The Alpha Phenomenon Returns to Crediton!

Over 7,000 churches are currently running the Alpha course across the UK in rural and urban settings, including every major UK city. This autumn it returns to Crediton.

Who is it for? Well, anyone! Some people will come with particular questions that they would like to discuss; others want to understand other peoples' beliefs. Many have never been to church, others have but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith.

What happens? We will meet for ten Tuesday evenings (with a break for half-term) to share refreshments and watch a set of talks from a DVD. Topics include 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why and how do I Pray?' and 'Does God Heal Today?'. Afterwards, we expect there will be a free, frank, fair exchange of views! There is also the option of an away day focussing on the Holy Spirit. We will use a course booklet designed to help guide and record our thoughts.

'It will take you on a journey and I suspect you will not regret it.'

Andy Duncan, Former Channel Four CEO

(<http://uk.alpha.org/what-people-say>)

It all starts at 7:30pm. on Tuesday the 13th September, 2011 in the Boniface Centre (that's next to the Parish Church). There is no charge. It will be open to anyone and run by Holy Cross Church with the support of Christians Together in Crediton. If you are interested call Dominic Doble on 777924.

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

This is always a good opportunity to once again say thank you to everyone for their support in terms of prayers, financial help supporting families and humanitarian aid. A few days ago a lorry came to us from Lancashire and we filled it with 153 shoeboxes, 102 banana boxes filled with clothes, numerous plastic sacks of clothes, collapsible beds, wheelchairs, walking aids etc . Thank you all!

Charity on tap

1 April, 2011

Two East Lancashire plumbing firms have joined forces to help orphans in the Ukraine.

Eddie Padgett, a director at plumbing and heating engineers Arthur Padgett Ltd, in Nelson, is to lead an eight-man expedition to the former Soviet state in June, armed with over £6,000 worth of supplies from Burnley-based plumbers merchants James Hargreaves.

The generous donation will be used to fit heating systems and bathrooms in two new orphanages in the town of Mykai near the Black Sea. The group of volunteers, who are undertaking the task on behalf of the International Aid Trust, a Lancashire charity have often helped in the past.

In fact, they first visited the cash-stricken country in 2001 and have previously built a disabled unit and holiday home there.

Team leader Eddie said: “We have been conducting work in Ukraine for 10 years now and James Hargreaves has supported us every step of the way. Everything we have asked for they have supplied – we really could not do it without their help.”



HIV/Aids: people with HIV/AIDs are treated something like lepers in the Ukraine. Some have acquired it through no fault of their own; like children born to mothers with AIDS, but many have acquired it through unprotected sex or the sharing needles between drug users. But whatever the cause these people need help and to be given some hope and respect.

IAT help in running two AIDS hospitals, one for adults with an associated church, one for children and a ‘half-way house’ where abandoned children are assessed before moving to hospital or a children’s home.

There are many others, who IAT care for in their homes and the whole of this ministry comes under the control of IAT sponsored Pastor Oleg Annenko and his assistant Victor; their commitment to this work is appreciated both by the victims and by IAT.

Over the Orthodox Christmas period (January 6-7th) Bernard and Elaine spent a 10 hour day visiting aids victims in their homes; as Bernard commented they truly felt they had been in church in each of these homes. The photographs show some of those visited:

Anna and Irina (mother and daughter).

Both Anna and Irina are blind. 47 year old Irina caught AIDS from her boyfriend. The gift of a CD player will allow them to listen to recorded scripture and ministry.





Elena Kamanova

33 year old Elena lives with Kiril, her 4½ year old son. She contracted AIDS through her drug habit which she is now free of. Her body is constantly numb through the effects of skin ulceration caused by drug abuse, and without the

walking exercise machine provided by IAT she would probably be totally disabled by now. She was touched by Jesus in the AIDS hospital through a lady called Katya (now sadly dead) and since then has been prayed for by Pastor Oleg. Thankfully Kiril does not have AIDS.

Prison Ministry

Our prison ministry really took off in 2001 after some wonderful results in a young offenders institution. Most of these young people could neither read nor write and so the first need was for volunteer teachers to visit and provide lessons. The results have brought so many blessings and now we have teams of volunteers visiting several adult prisons almost every day, and they are made very welcome indeed. Several self help projects have been pioneered and now hundreds of ex offenders are self sufficient and also very well respected and valuable members of society.



The ministry is headed up by Pastor Ruslan who leads a team of forty plus dedicated men and women with real compassion for those incarcerated. Yes of course we know that crimes must be punished but we serve a God of second chances and we have been granted so much favour and we pray that this work will

expand as more prisoners are given a second chance and despair is replaced with real hope for the future. Many ex offenders are being released early and one of the first things they want to do is to go back into the prisons and tell others about the gospel of love, compassion and forgiveness that Christ brings.

To end on a happy note! A lady in Crediton gives us enormous toys and you can see from these two pictures just how big they are. The animals were given to two children's orphanages near the Black Sea.



Please pray for the two containers sent recently to Sierra Leone and India.

June and Adrian Redfern

Pastoral Life

*Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould, fill me.*

Words: Daniel Iverson, HP 295



Church Life

Please pray for the Christ-centred, Spirit-filled growth and renewal of this church, and for our Minister Ann. May we all long to be the joyful, faithful, obedient people of God. May we have a clear vision for God's will for us, and work together towards the goals God reveals to us.

Thanksgiving

We have good news that Horace Crispin is making good progress. It has also been good to see that Kath Metherell has been able to come back to church after her operation. We send them our love and give thanks for God's blessing on Horace and Doris, and on Kath and John.

Our Community and the World

Please pray for:

- The newly-elected Mid-Devon District Council, and for their work to serve our community to the best of their ability.
- Sunday 5 June is the UN World Environment Day, hosted this year by India. The theme is 'Forests: Nature at your service'.
- In a troubled world, please pray for peace and understanding between nations and cultures; between politicians; between faith communities; between people.

Those 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 or vulnerable.

We pray especially for Wendy Homeshaw and her family at this time of sadness.

We also ask prayers for:

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; Alesia, granddaughter of Ken and Margaret; Shirley Sharpe; Anne Spry; Arthur Tancock; Eileen & George Tarr; Mary Tyson.

Residential Homes Services

Summerhayes	Thursday	2 June	3:15 pm
Kenwyn		Wednesday 15 June	3:15 pm
St Lawrence	Thursday	16 June	11:15 pm

Contacts: Pam Murphy:	Pastoral Secretary:	773414
June Redfern:	Prayer requests:	84058

Ladies Bright Hour

June 3rd: Mrs Pam Murphy. Bring & Buy stall

June 10th: Rev Kenneth Hext

June 17th: Mr John Gooding

June 24th: Rev Ann Varker

Recycling

You are now able to recycle the following materials at Tesco:

Mixed paper and cardboard

Glass bottles & jars

Mixed plastic bottles (water, toilet cleaner, drinks, disinfectant etc.)

Tins and cans

Textiles

I don't want you to think that I am suggesting that you should shop at Tesco but their recycling centre offers an opportunity to recycle more items than are currently collected with your kerbside collection, especially cardboard which if put out with your garden waste is reused as compost and not recycled in the true sense of the word recycling.

Clean plastic food containers can be taken to the Punchbowl recycling centre.

Bob Wright

Hello Friends,

Would you be willing to spread the news around about a Gospel/Jazz weekend in the cathedral which I'm organising for June 24-26th?

It's partly aimed as an outreach but contains some excellent events :

Basically:

Jazz Vespers 9pm Friday 24th

Gospel Singing workshop 11-4.30 Saturday 25th

Jazz Communion 10am Sunday 26th

The events are led by excellent jazz musician Scott Stroman and Black Gospel group Black Voices from Birmingham .

I do hope some folk would be interested in joining the singing workshop or bringing friends to the concert in the evening.

Many thanks

Andrew Maries

Details on cathedral website: www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/events

Diary dates for June

Wed.1st Leadership Team Meeting, 7.30pm at 4 Gordon Terrace

Sun.5th Time to Pray at 6.30pm. Pray, wherever you are, for the life & witness of the church, the wider community & the world

Tues.7th Ladies Supper Group, 7 for 7.30pm, at The Mount Pleasant Inn, Nomansland

Sun.12th Circuit Service for Pentecost incorporating Biblefresh Celebration at Wonford MC, 6.30pm

Mon.13th Circuit Meeting at Tedburn MC, 7.30pm

Tues.14th Time to Pray. Half an hour of prayer for the life & witness of the church, the wider community & the world. 9.00am

Tues.14th Cream Teas for Missions at Silverton MC, 3-5.00pm

Tues.14th Church Council, 7.30pm

Sat.18th Cream teas at Exminster MC

Tues.21st Ladies Open House. Skittles & chips at Waie Inn at 7.30pm. (to be confirmed)

Sat.25th Time to Pray. Half an hour of prayer for the life & witness of the church, the wider community & the world. 9.00am

Sat.25th Charities Fair at St Thomas MC at 10am

Tues.28th Time to Pray. Half an hour of prayer for the life & witness of the church, the wider community & the world. 9.00am

Tues.28th Ark Planning Meeting, 7.30pm

Crediton Parish Church

AN EXHIBITION WITH FLOWERS

‘Let There Be Light....’

*Sat 4th – Thurs 9th June 2011
10.30am – 8.30pm most days
Sunday 11.00am – 6.00pm
(Festival Evensong 6.00pm)
Thurs 10.30am – 5.00pm*

FREE ADMISSION

*Refreshments available – Free Parking
Disabled visitors welcome
Parties welcome*

*For bookings please ring Sue Sparling at 01363 776681
For further information visit
www.creditonparishchurch.org.uk*