

Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
March 2011

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Ann Varker

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Phone: 01363 777308

Services this month:

Mar 6th	10.30	Rev M Davies	Sacrament
	6.30	Rev A Varker	
Mar 13th	8.45	Rev A Varker	Sacrament
	10.30	Mrs P Murphy	
	6.30	Rev P Collings	Sacrament
Mar 20th	10.30	Rev Ann Varker	All Age Worship
	6.30	At Sidwell St.	
Mar 27th	10.30	Rev A Varker	
	6.00	Talkback	

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))

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 April newsletter to Ken Saunders
by March 20th**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT Feb 28 – MARCH 13

Abdoulaye Diakite from Mali will be visiting Crediton during Fairtrade Fortnight. Abdoulaye is senior training advisor of the Mali Organic Movement and his work is focused on supporting farmers engaged in organic or Fairtrade production of cotton and rotation crops.

While in Crediton Abdoulaye will be doing the assemblies at the three schools and on Sunday 27th February he will “switch on” Fairtrade Crediton’s new website at the Trinity Club. This website is being sponsored by our church.

You can meet Abdoulaye at Crediton Arts Centre on Saturday 5th March from 6.30 to 9.00 p.m. when he will be giving a presentation. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge but donations would be welcome. The refreshments will be bring and share fair trade food and drink.

At our coffee morning on Saturday 5th March as well as selling Traidcraft products there will be a Bring and Buy stall to raise funds for Traidcraft Exchange which supports the work of Traidcraft producers.

Extra Help for Trinity Club

As many of you know, Trinity Club is a Christian Youth Group that exists in the town; it comprises about 15 youngsters mostly from our church and the Parish Church. All our Fish Group is involved and it is anticipated that there is a sizeable group from St Boniface RC who will be ready to join soon. The group meets on alternate Sunday evenings and our minister, Ann, tries to attend most meetings but there is a need for additional leadership from the Methodists. The evenings are planned so that there is a time for the sharing of news etc, a structured activity and a devotional time. Anyone who feels moved to make further enquiries is invited to speak to our minister, Rev Ann Varker.

Dear friends,

The week before last, Julian and I went to see ‘The King’s Speech’; a film that has received great acclaim from critics, and the general public alike. It’s a remarkable film telling the story of Bertie, the second son of George V, and his attempts to overcome the stammer that had blighted his life since childhood. The film ends with Bertie, who by then had become King George VI, giving a speech to the nation following the outbreak of the Second World War. If you haven’t seen it yet, I would encourage you to go; it will get you thinking about courage and determination, and perhaps about what we value in our leaders.

I am not old enough to remember King George VI but I have been told, by those who lived through the war, that he and Queen Elizabeth were held in deep affection and respect; in particular for their refusal to move out of London when the night skies were filled with German planes. They were appreciated for their visits to bombed out streets and the way in which they were seen to stand alongside the people.

You will see from Ken’s article later in the magazine that leadership has also been at the forefront of conversation about our vision as a church, and that this resulted in a proposal being brought to Church Council which was approved. As a result at the Annual General Meeting of the church, to be held after the morning service on the 10th April, we hope to appoint people to a new leadership team. It is intended that this group will work with me in the coming weeks to refine our vision as a church.

It is important that we identify the people who have the right qualities to take us forward in the coming months; people who have a deep personal faith and understand the importance of prayer; people who will be able to catch a glimpse of the church that God longs us to be, and be able to put that vision into words; people who can share that sense of vision with others, and encourage them to be a part of what is proposed. It goes without saying that leaders in the church will need to be people of integrity, who are respected by others in the congregation. They will also need to be willing to commit themselves to work as a team, and to relate well to the whole body of the church.

I would be grateful if each of you would give prayerful consideration to the people you feel could provide leadership in the future. A form and envelope

has been included with the newsletter for your suggestions; please complete and return to me in the sealed envelope by March 20th. (The stewards are happy to collect your replies and pass on to me, if this is easier for you). I will keep all replies confidential.

To start with, I will approach those whose name appears most to determine if they are willing to be nominated; if so, their names will be brought to the AGM, where members of the church will be invited to vote on the appointments.

We will also be looking for others to join our Stewards team to ensure that our Sunday worship runs smoothly. If you would like to make a nomination for a Steward then please ensure that I receive this in writing by the 3rd April.

Those who came to the meetings held to 'Explore the Vision' have expressed the desire that younger people might be more involved in the leadership of the church. It is hoped that having a dedicated leadership team and a separate Stewards team will enable those with family responsibilities to be included. Please bear this in mind as you consider who to suggest or nominate.

May God guide us all as we seek to make these important appointments in the coming weeks.

With every blessing, Ann

Exploring the Vision – Worship

The discussion at the Exploring the Vision meetings before Christmas revealed a desire to develop the worship life of the church. There will be an opportunity to explore this further at a Consultation on Worship to be held on Saturday the 19th March at 10am in the church. This meeting will be of particular interest to those who are involved in leading worship; preachers, musicians, readers and stewards and is open to all.

Report from the 'Vision Group'. - Leadership

1. Ann has led us on an exploration to discover what is our vision to continue the ministry of Jesus in Crediton and in the wider world. Two meetings formed the first phase and everyone was invited to attend. At the conclusion of this phase people were asked to nominate members to form a smaller group to move this exploration forward.
2. Those nominated were: Elaine, David (Smith), Sarah, Julian, Christine (Marshall). Ken (Saunders) attended to represent the Stewards. This group has met on three occasions. You will not be surprised to hear that they have not arrived at a clear Vision for the Church.
3. However, one matter has emerged which seems to be of crucial importance. Material written about developing churches also rate this as top priority. It is the question of Leadership. So, the group made a proposal about Church Leadership to the Church Council for discussion and possibly a decision.
4. On the question of leadership in our church:
 - (a) Our present Stewards are our leaders. Standing Orders 633 states that the Methodist Church expects stewards to be corporately responsible with the minister for giving leadership over the whole range of church life They have two roles (1) ensuring that worship services are well organised and run smoothly (ii) the leadership of the church under the minister's guidance.
 - (b) The role of stewards concerned with ensuring that worship is a good experience for all who attend is a very important role in the life of the church. However, the gifts required for this may not be the

same as those required for leadership. On the appointment of the present stewards the emphasis was, and still is, on the responsibility for worship.

- (c) There is a strong desire within our church for younger members (30 – 50's), to be more involved with leadership. But younger people with family commitments on a Sunday morning are unlikely to be able to fulfil both leadership roles. So ,at present, they are virtually excluded from the leadership.
- (d) And so the proposal is that the two roles i) responsibility for the practical arrangements for worship and (ii) leadership to perceive and implement our Church's vision, should be separated.
- (e) If the proposal is accepted then Ann will provide material for **all** members of the Church, on the qualities desirable for Christian leadership. She outlined a procedure to the group for electing leaders and everyone present was happy with it.
- (f) There would need to be further discussion on how the leadership group relates to other groups in the church.
- (g) Ann, who, in the words of St Paul 'is on special assignment to us, carrying out God's plan' is key to our leadership and she would meet regularly with the leadership group to move our church forward in finding its vision and its implementation.

The proposal was put to the Church Council meeting and there was unanimous agreement.

<p style="text-align: center;">Women's World Day of Prayer Celebration Service At Crediton Methodist Church 2 p.m. Friday March 4th</p>
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Pause for Thought Landings



Most mornings I take two springer spaniels for a walk. I often go to Shobrooke Park where there is plenty of space for the dogs to run and plenty of smells to sniff. As they are chasing around I sometimes take the opportunity to think and pray. The other morning I was thinking about the meetings we had had to explore the vision for our church.

I walked up past the first lake until I came to the second smaller lake. I was very surprised to find it almost completely frozen over. There was a small patch in one corner which was not frozen and there the resident bird life seemed happily content. Just then about fifty Canada geese came flying over, obviously intending to land on the lake. They circled, saw the unfavourable surface, and flew on to another part of the park, landing in a field.

I wondered what this picture had to say about exploring our church vision. As a church we are well thawed-out, we are happily content with the friendliness and our friendships within the church, which we quite rightly value highly. But what about the geese?

What sort of surface do we present to those outside who are looking for somewhere to land? And if we present an unfavourable surface; if it is difficult for those outside the church to find God through us, then how can we change? As I looked at the ice I knew it was only the warmth of the sun that would do it. It is only the love of God that will melt us.

Last Saturday I went to a course organised by the Exeter Diocese mission team. The speaker was Rev Bob Jackson and his talk was entitled 'Change or decay in all around I see'. He was speaking about the large number of people who are searching for spiritual truth; who look at the church in the hope of finding something to satisfy. Bob Jackson had all sorts of facts and figures to hand and was familiar with all the latest research. He said it was estimated that of all the people who look at the church to find spiritual truth only about 10% find it. The churches where they find it are those which are growing.

He also told us that much research had been done on the reasons for church growth. From all the research it is possible to make a list, in order of priority, of changes that are needed for growth:

Here are the top eight:

1. Church planting – not necessarily a new congregation in a new building but perhaps a new project designed for new people in an existing building.
2. Make worship less formal and more relaxed.(Include joy and laughter.)
3. Make good provision for young people (and don't stop at 11 years!)
- 4 Improve the welcome and the integration for new people (people are looking for friendship –not just friendliness)
- 5 High quality and variety in contemporary and traditional music.
6. Lay involvement in leadership with lay people taking responsibility for leadership in areas of church life.
7. People should be in small groups, where they can explore their faith, form relationships, and receive pastoral care.
8. Improvement to buildings with good heating, lighting, seating and toilets.

- another morning; a favourable surface and the geese have found a landing place.

Ken Saunders



REFURBISHMENT NEWS

Although it is several months since the last update on the refurbishment, our architect has been very busy revising the plans for the external ramp and in discussions with the local planners and conservation officers.

The architect has prepared a new design for the ramp and the entrance to the Church (see the plan). Instead of a new door in the side of the porch, the ramp will be extended to the existing top step which will be widened and raised slightly to give level access to the Church. The existing steps will be remodelled – they will no longer need to be wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair – and the width will be reduced to avoid the need for a central handrail – a new requirement for steps of the existing width.

Taking the ramp around the side of the porch allows the extra length necessary to ensure that the slope is less than the maximum permitted of 1 in 12 - the actual maximum will be 1 in 14¹/₂.

Internal changes have not varied significantly from the update I gave you in November. However, in the toilet and kitchen, new rooms will be created by dividing the spaces vertically so that an audio visual room is created above the toilet and a storage area above the kitchen.

We have looked again at the worship area. The pulpit takes up a lot of space and it has been suggested that the time has come to remove this piece of furniture. Regardless of whether we retain the pulpit, we already have plans for a more substantial lectern which would be appropriate as a preaching station. The downstairs rooms are also being considered. If we want to develop a complete refurbishment scheme to put to the Circuit and the District it makes sense to review the facilities in the downstairs area.

The General Church Meeting is being held on Sunday 10 April after the morning service. This will be an opportunity for everyone to hear, in more detail, about the progress of the refurbishment, to make comments and ask any questions.

John Ashley

Gift Aid Scheme for donations to the Church

Gift Aid provides the potential for significant increases in income to the Church. The number of persons already on the scheme has already produced a good sum of money each year towards our funds and many thanks to you all for being in the scheme.

For every £1 donated we will receive an additional 25p from April 2011, from the taxman.

If you are a tax payer and would like to be part of the Gift Aid scheme for Crediton Methodist Church , I have leaflets on the subject and would be willing to discuss any queries you may have on the subject with you.

Everything is treated in strictest confidence. Please see me for a leaflet or call me on 772012 (Evenings or weekends) *Christine Marshall*

Bright Hour

Mar 4th: Women's World Day of Prayer.

Mar 11th: Mrs Cynthia Dixon

Mar 18th: Mrs Pam Murphy

Mar 25th: Rev Kenneth Hext

Meetings are on Friday at 2.30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

The Environmental Crisis

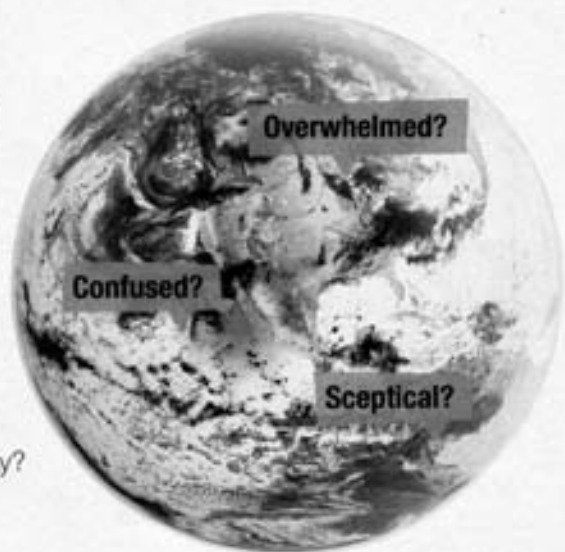
A Christian Response?

Friday Evenings in March
7:30 – 9 pm

Mint Methodist Church
Exeter

What are the facts?
What does the Christian faith say?
How should we respond?

Hear leading experts speak,
ask your questions and be inspired



Climate Change

*A Lot of Hot Air or
Creation in Crisis?*

Sir John Houghton –
Leading Scientific Advisor to
International Governments

4th
March

Where Have All the Tigers Gone?

*The Significance of
Biodiversity Loss*

Dr John Sale –
Former UN Advisor on Conservation

11th
March

Fighting for Survival

*How Environmental Problems
Impact the World's Poorest*

Richard Weaver –
Senior Policy Advisor for Tearfund

18th
March

Living it Out

*Christian Living that
Doesn't Cost the Earth*

Ruth Valerio –
Manager of A Rocha's
'Living Lightly' Project

25th
March

The International Aid Trust

There are so many good things that are happening in so many countries of the world. Quite amazing that this is all because of one man's trust in God that through Him all things are possible! The most recent news is that another huge container has been delivered to a children's charity in Mexico for badly handicapped children. The looks on the children's faces just show what a difference a specially adapted tricycle/special wheelchairs/play things can make to the life of a handicapped child. All these 'aids' are amazingly donated to International Aid! Another project for the future, it is hoped to build a school in Sierra Leone to serve the children who have been part of an International Aid feeding programme in that area. Wonderful news for those who have never been to school.

But just as important we are pleased to have this opportunity to be able to thank our own Church members and their families who are so supportive of the



mission of International Aid. These individual Church



members, their families and the Knit and Natter Group have been supporting nine needy families on a monthly basis for quite a few years. Quite a thought and something to celebrate! I would like to show you the photos of some of these families receiving boxes of extra food that our Church members have sent. These sponsored families have many and varied

needs, handicapped members of the family, one lady taking in street children (a safe house), widows in bad health with no income,

grandparents looking after orphaned family members, a Mum with a badly handicapped child who needs constant medication and with no other family support. These needs are typical of people living in a country whose Government does not care for it's people.



Needy families are identified by Church members in Odessa and Kiev in the Ukraine and in Minsk, Vitbsk and Grodno in Belarus. We always have a list of families awaiting sponsorship but there is one particular family on our hearts at the moment. When we last visited the Zarovniy family they were living in dire



circumstances in a filthy hostel with two 'brown' toilets to serve 22 families. Despite the dreadful circumstances they were living in, they were a very happy family and we had great pleasure in handing

out shoeboxes for the five little boys. Their Father was not well at the time, and he died about 15 months ago. Reason for his death? He died directly as a result of being forced to fight the fires at Chernobyl with only rubber gloves and a broom! His death affected the eldest son so much he is now suffering from a very rare ulcer. He needed specialist hospital treatment for one month at the rate of \$40 a day! We do not know whether he received the medical treatment. I hope to write about the accident at Chernobyl 25 years on and how it has affected our personal friends the Shevchenkos and their extended family.

June Redfern

Prayer Chain Update

History

The Prayer Chain commenced in December 2009 and since that time as a Group we have specifically prayed for 35 different situations, for our own Church family, relatives and friends of these people, world situations and just for guidance at times of distress. As most of you will know, in the foyer on a table there are Prayer Request cards and a small wooden box into which these requests can be placed. The original intention was that these requests should be brought to the Minister during the Service for prayers to be said. This has lapsed, and what now happens is that the requests are removed from the box by either Ken S or myself and the prayer chain members are notified of the special request.

The future

We all met recently to review current arrangements. The consensus expressed was that it was important that the whole church should also have a chance to pray for the person/situation. To achieve this, in due course you will see **TWO** sets of cards on the 'prayer' table, one coloured and one in white. The reason for this is that we felt that not everyone when asking for prayer would like their situation to be common knowledge and this is what would happen if the request was read out during the service. To get around this, it is proposed to use the white cards for those who would like their situation to be known and prayed openly about, and the coloured cards will be for confidentiality.

To clarify

- White cards are for requests that can be prayed about openly during the service.
- Coloured cards are for requests to be offered up for prayer but privately with the others – i.e. no names will be mentioned.

Following this at the end of the Service Ken or myself will collect the cards from the box and contact the Prayer Chain members in the usual way.

If there is anything you are not sure about or I have not made clear; or you would like to be part of the prayer chain, do please contact me or Ken.

June 01363 84058 – Ken 01363 776674

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING – 10 APRIL 2010

On Sunday 10 April we shall hold our General Church Meeting to which everyone is invited. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss the life of our Church.

During the meeting we shall appoint our Church Stewards for the next twelve months and elect up to 15 representatives to the Church Council who are willing to serve for the next twelve months. There are vacancies for members of the Church Council. If you would like to know more about the work involved please speak to me or our minister.

If you wish to nominate a member for the Church Council please obtain their approval (including those prepared to be re-elected) by completing a nomination form which I can supply.

For your information the current elected members of the Church Council are:

Meg Ellis	Mary Tyson
Christine Gregory	Kath Wollacott
Wendy Homeshaw	Priscilla Wright
Christine Marshall	Alan Clemens
Margaret Saunders	

Other members of the Church Council are the stewards, the secretary (John Ashley), the treasurer (Glenn Turner), the pastoral secretary (Karen Theedom) and the section Circuit steward (Tina Turner).

John Ashley

Pastoral Life

All things are possible with God

Mark 10:27



Church Life:

Let us pray we will all listen to God, and allow him to equip and guide each one of us in his service as together we discern his will and purpose for this church, for this time. We pray for our minister, Ann and all officers and leaders of the church as decisions are made.

Thanksgiving:

We give thanks for Christians Together in Crediton and the opportunity to join together in the Lent studies.

Our Church Family:

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.

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

Community and the world:

Your prayers are asked for-

those who are seeking employment in Crediton and surrounding areas;

those who make decisions about provision of services for the town;

for our schools and the teachers whose lives and attitudes influence our children;

north Africa and the Middle East as the people demand and desire change.

Residential Homes services:

Summerhayes:	Thursday	3 March	3:15 pm
Hillbrow:	Wednesday	16 March	3:15 pm

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

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

March Diary

1st Ladies Supper Group, 7.00 for 7.30pm, at Devonshire Dumpling (Morchard Rd)

4th Women's World Day of Prayer, Praying for Chile, 2.00pm at Crediton MC

4th/11th The Environmental Crisis – A Christian Response? 7.30-9.00pm at Mint MC

8th Tuesday Pancakes, 10.30am-1.30pm in Wesley Room, proceeds to MRDF

14th/21st/28th Rich Inheritance- Jesus' Legacy of Love, 2.30pm at Dowrich House

15th/22nd/29th Rich Inheritance-Jesus' Legacy of Love, 10.30am at Spindlewood Shobrooke

15th Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm at Wonford MC

16th/23rd/30th Rich Inheritance- Jesus' Legacy of Love, 7.30pm at Newcombes & 7.30pm at Chapel Downs

19th Worship Consultation, 10.00am, Open Meeting at church

29th Stewards Meeting, 7.30pm at Sid's

Our Methodist Heritage

We have obtained handbooks with information about 100 historic Methodist places in Britain. The informative handbook is filled with pictures and listings, area by area, around the country. If you are holidaying in this country or taking a short break, why not include visits to some of these historical Methodist sites? The facilities available and special admission details are included in the booklet. Copies are available in the foyer.

NORTH CREEDY CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

**Saturday 9th April at 7.30 p.m.
in Crediton Methodist Church**

Requiem by Gabriel Faure
St. Peter - A Cantata by Bob Carter &
Tony Cotrell

The Cantata is a lively piece written for the
125th Anniversary of the founding of St.
Peter's School,
Lympstone and a great contrast to Faure's
Lyrical Requiem.

DO COME AND SUPPORT OUR CONCERT!

Suggestions for Leadership Team

Please place in envelope provided and return to Stewards or Ann.

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