



# Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter  
May 2011

# Crediton Methodist Church

**Minister: Rev Ann Varker**

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Phone: 01363 777308

## Services this month:

May 1st	10.30	Miss M Hext	
	6.30	Rev D Easton	Sacrament
May 8th	10.30	Mrs C Dixon	Church Anniversary
	6.30	Prof. S Lea	
May 15th	8.45	Rev A Varker	Sacrament
	10.30	Rev A Varker	All Age Worship
	6.30	United Service	Christian Aid
May 22nd	10.30	Mr D Smith	
	6.00	Talkback	
May 29th	10.30	Mrs P Murphy	
	6.30	Rev A Varker (Sacrament)	

## Church Groups:

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

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

Ladies Supper group: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month (contact Margaret Kenshole 775144)

Mid-week service: Wednesdays 12.30 Bring a sandwich lunch/drinks provided.

Knit & Natter: Wednesdays 2.00 to 3.30 ( Wendy Homeshaw 01363 772786))

Bright Hour: Fridays at 2.30 p.m. (Contact: 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)

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**Material for the June newsletter to Ken Saunders  
by May 22nd**

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

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

## Church Anniversary

On May 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the opening of the building which is now Crediton Methodist Church. It was opened on April 28<sup>th</sup> 1892 and was described in the trustee's minute book as a 'red letter day' in the history of Crediton Methodism. We asked Cyril and Kath what they could remember of previous anniversaries:

'We were asked if we could recall any of the past celebrations of the Church

anniversary; the date of the opening of the church was given as 28<sup>th</sup> April 1892. For some reason we have a souvenir of the



Diamond Jubilee which took place in June 1952. The Sunday service was held on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> with a mid-week rally on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup>.: service at 4 p.m.; tea at 5.30 p.m. and Rally at 9 p.m.. There was a chairman for the evening- Hon Michael Lambert and the main speaker was Dr Maldwyn Edwards M.A. The superintendent minister at that time was Rev T Beswarick and the Crediton minister was Rev L Farmer whose main church was Mt Pleasant, Exeter. The High St church closed in the time of Rev Farmer and Rev R Williamson came as our first minister in Crediton.

For some of the church anniversaries in Rev Farmer's time older members from the High St Chapel took an active part. A Mr Hedger was chairman at one and Mrs R Banberry took an active part in arranging teas and refreshments.

It had been the practice to have envelopes in which to put a gift and this was put in the collection at the mid-week service. But we remember that Rev R Edmonds did things differently. He sat in the vestibule for the best part of the day to receive personally gifts for the church from members and friends. '

*Cyril & Kath*

Dear friends,

## **Biblefresh – it could change your world**

2011 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible; the first authorised version of the Bible in English. Christians Together in Crediton have decided to mark this anniversary in a number of ways during the coming month, with a view to recognising not only the historical anniversary but also the significance of the Bible in the lives of Christians today.

Here at the Methodist Church we will be joining in the planned preaching initiative organised by the Exeter Circuit, although running a week later than other churches owing to our Church Anniversary here on the 8<sup>th</sup> May (Not quite 400 years, but still a day to celebrate!) The four week series should prove to be a good opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbours or work colleagues to come along to a service. Invitations will be available nearer the time with details of the four themes, which can be given along with a copy of the Biblefresh gospel.

On the Thursday evening after each service there will be a Bible Study linked to the same theme, providing time for us to reflect on how that particular Bible Story can be applied in our own lives. These evening study groups will be held in the chancel at 7.30pm. Look out for full details in the weekly notices.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> Christians Together will be at the Farmers Market with a display about the Bible, and gospels to give to anyone who is interested. We have been asked to find at least two volunteers to watch the stall for part of the morning. If you are interested in helping on the day then please speak to me.

I am grateful for the opportunity to lead assemblies in Primary schools in the area; I go into both our local schools about once a month. During the first part of the summer term I will be working with the other clergy on a series of assemblies linked to the anniversary of the King James Bible. Families will have the opportunity to receive a free copy of Luke's gospel so they can discover more about the Bible for themselves.

It was a great joy to welcome eleven new members into the life of the church in April, and to affirm again our commitment as a church to enabling all our members to grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God. I am delighted that we will have the opportunity during May to encourage that growth as we focus on the Bible together, and invite others to join us.

With every blessing,

Ann

At the church AGM on April 10<sup>th</sup> the following were elected to serve on the leadership team:

Tina Turner  
Glenn Turner  
June Redfern  
Karen Theedom  
Marjorie Ashley  
Pam Murphy  
Christine Marshall  
Ken Saunders

# BIBLEFRESH – IT COULD CHANGE YOUR WORLD!

*This contribution from the Exeter Circuit tells more about our churches' contribution to this year's Biblefresh celebration.*

As reported last month by the Revd Mark Gilborson, as part of this year's Biblefresh initiative the Exeter Circuit is promoting at most of our churches in May a four-Sunday series of sermons drawing on passage from Luke's Gospel. The themes have been designed to attract both regular church-goers and those who may not attend church on a regular basis but would like a fresh look at the Gospel message.

Each Sunday carries a theme which preachers are being encouraged to integrate in their services:

<b>15 May</b>	<b><i>Help! I am scared of dying</i></b>
Theme:	Life flows from Jesus
Aim:	Don't fear death and sickness, but trust Jesus
Key text:	"Don't be afraid, just believe" ( <i>Luke 8:50</i> )
<b>22 May</b>	<b><i>Help! Life's too busy</i></b>
Theme:	Rearrange our priorities around Jesus
Aim:	Do so, drawing from Jesus' resources
Key text:	"few things are needed or indeed only one" ( <i>Luke 10:42</i> )
<b>29 May</b>	<b><i>Help! I've got it all</i></b>
Theme:	We will never be truly fulfilled loving anything other than Jesus
Aim:	Follow Jesus, putting him first
Key text:	"come, follow me" ( <i>Luke 18:22</i> )
<b>5 June</b>	<b><i>Help! My dreams are shattered</i></b>
Theme:	Living hope is found in Jesus' resurrection
Aim:	Put all our hopes in Jesus
Key text:	"but we had hoped" ( <i>Luke 24:21</i> )

Here is a wonderful opportunity for collective acts of worship across the

Circuit as we celebrate together the good news of the Bible. Some churches will be following up the service themes through fellowship groups, with notes of guidance available from your Minister – see your own church newsletter for details.

Look out for two further Biblefresh activities in May. First, Radio Devon will feature broadcasts throughout the month by Christian leaders from the area focusing on the Luke Gospel themes. Second, on Saturday 7 May between 11 am and 12.30 pm, the Waterstones bookshop at 252 High Street will be hosting a 'Writing the Bible' day – watch for posters about this event. And then on Pentecost, rounding off our month of planned preaching will be an evening of celebration including an act of personal re-commitment at a Circuit Service at Wonford on Sunday 12 June at 6.30 pm.

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### **Network (Methodist Women in Britain) News**

Quiet Days with Val Facey and Mary Bailey: 24<sup>th</sup> May at Black Dog and 24<sup>th</sup> June at Sydenham Damerall. The theme is Paul's Helpers. Sidholme this year is 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November, led by Revd Mark Wakelin. The theme is 'Whole life, Long Life, World Changing – fully alive'. Booking forms are available.

Autumn Regional Day is Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at Peverell Park, Plymouth. Speaker Revd Edgar Daniels.

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### **Exeter Circuit World Church Festival**

Please note your diaries for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 at Silverton Methodist Church. A speaker from the charity 'Second Sight' will be invited, to which the collection will be given. 'Second Sight' is working to eradicate cataract blindness in India's most neglected areas by 2020. World Church purses will be received from our circuit churches.

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## Welcome

On Sunday April 10, at the morning service, we welcomed eleven new members to our church.

Some were transferring from other churches; some had been part of the church family for some time but only recently considered becoming members.

We trust they will all find friendship and fellowship and opportunities to use their gifts in God's work.

Photos: Julie Farrell  
(We are sorry to have missed Iris Mackie in the photos)



## May Talkback

The speaker at the May Talkback will be Rev Kathy Roberts. She will continue the theme of Saints Alive – talking about someone who has inspired her. Her subject is Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest, who founded the Centre for Action and Contemplation. He is a well-known writer and speaker. Extracts from his writings are posted daily on his website. One extract is given below:



### TRUE TRANSFORMATION

The suffering of Jesus shows us that God is not distanced from humanity's trials.

Our Creator does not heal our suffering from afar but participates with us in it. In fact, the great revelation signified in Jesus is not only that God participates in our suffering, but also that our suffering has life-giving elements for the evolution of humanity, or what I call "Christ consciousness" (Ephesians 4:23-24).

The primary story line of history has been one of "redemptive violence" the killing of others would supposedly save and protect us. Jesus introduced and lived a new story line of "redemptive suffering"; our suffering for others and for the world makes a difference in the greater scheme. No love is lost in the universe, but it is building up and helping to create the eternal Christ consciousness. As Paul so courageously and trustfully puts it, "I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church" (Colossians 1:24).

## **Lifts to church**

In very many cases, we arrange lifts to church between ourselves. However, from time to time we hear of people who would like to come on Sundays but have no transport.

If you would be willing to offer a lift when the need arises, or perhaps be part of a team on a rota, please give your name to Ann Varker or to Pam Murphy.

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## **Methodist Prayer Handbook 2011 – 12**

The time has come to place our order for the new Prayer Handbooks from September. If you are already a subscriber, I will reorder for you unless you tell me otherwise.

If you are not currently a subscriber, you may wish to see this year's handbook and there is a copy called 'God's Open Word' in the vestry and the pulpit that you can have a look at. It contains the daily lectionary readings and psalms for the year and a daily page to help focus your prayer. The current issue costs £3-00, we will know later how much will be charged for next year's issue.

*Pam Murphy*

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## **Silverton Methodist Church Cream Tea**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 3 – 5pm

Cream tea and stalls in aid of World Church Mission

## **Work Aid tools**

A reminder that you can give any unwanted tools to Silverton Methodist Church to pass on to Work Aid.

## **Spring Chatter from CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team)**

We ask you to consider - **Who counts in society? Who does the counting? Who decides who is included and who is excluded? Who has a voice? Whom do we value and why? Who counts in God's eyes?**

There has been a census of the population in 2011, as there is every 10 years. The census will try to list all of the people who live in the country – but chances are there are many it won't include - such as the 'hidden homeless' and destitute asylum seekers.

God's own son was born into poverty in a stable, in the year of a great census. Will this census recognise the exclusion many experience, or will it reflect just the world's material values – values of success, looks and celebrity?

Scripture tells us that in God's kingdom, "the least shall be the first". Does the way we live bear witness to this truth? Are we living in true solidarity with people who are poor, homeless and excluded?

At CHAT we try hard to make sure everyone counts – we know that even with training, resources and experience it can be difficult to do, but for us as individuals it is such a huge challenge to follow Jesus example and extend a hand of friendship to those on the margins of our society.



Perhaps by working together we can better show those in need or despair that they are valuable people. To discuss possibilities or join our Givers of Hope campaign – contact Bob Wright 01363 773566 or CHAT at 28 Gold Street, Tiverton: - Monday from 10.30 to 4.00pm & Tuesday to Friday from 9.30 to 4.00 pm phone 01884 255606 or email [theoffice@chatmid.co.uk](mailto:theoffice@chatmid.co.uk)

# Christian Aid Week 15–21 May 2011

Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

**‘I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines’**



**Eladio stands on the site on where his community hopes to build a school**

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Five years ago, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community.

Even though the coffee farmers of La Paz del Tuma have only been working with Soppexcca for a short time, their lives are already changing for the better. The credit which Soppexcca gave to Eladio and the other farmers has been vital in getting them started. The cooperative has a community fund that will be used to achieve the dreams which Eladio and his fellow farmers once thought were out of their reach.

- **£14** could buy enough coffee seeds to plant a 0.7 hectare plot of coffee and start one farmer on the path out of poverty.
- **£2,170** could pay for a processing plant, allowing farmers to process the coffee they have grown and then sell it for a better price.

‘I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines,’ says Eladio.

Eladio knows that transformation is possible. He is driven by the example of a nearby community, where Gustavo Adolfo Talavera and the members of the Los Alpes cooperative have been supported by Soppexcca for 12 years. In that time, they have successfully worked to establish a school and a health centre for their community.

The hopes of the people of La Paz del Tuma are hopes held for the whole community. Eladio works every day towards his dream of a purpose-built school, clean water and latrines for all the farming families of La Paz del Tuma.

Soppexcca’s support for coffee cooperatives like La Paz del Tuma and Los Alpes allows communities to see a bigger picture, full of possibilities for the future.

## **You can be part of the story of transformation which is unfolding right now in Nicaragua.**

By getting involved in Christian Aid Week in your own community, you can help to turn the hopes of communities all around the world into realities. You can be part of a movement which is transforming lives.

To find out how, visit **www.caweek.org** or talk to your local Christian Aid Week coordinator Priscilla 773566.

To give to Christian Aid Week, visit **www.caweek.org** or call **08080 006 006**.

## **Help people in poverty out of poverty**

## Pastoral Life

*I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.  
Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.*

*Psalm 116: 1 - 2*



## Church Life

Please pray for the Christ-centred growth and renewal of this church, for our Minister Ann and for the newly appointed leadership team. Pray for our life, work and vision with all the new hopes, possibilities and opportunities that may come as we strive to be God's people.

## Our Community and the World

We give thanks to God that in Great Britain we have free and fair elections, as this month we have the opportunity to vote in both the Local Elections and the referendum on voting reform.

Please pray for the people of Japan, facing with courage the enormous task of rebuilding their country.

Pray for a peaceful resolution to the continuing difficulties in Libya, and other middle-Eastern countries.

## Those who need our prayerful support

Your prayers are asked for all who are unwell, anxious or vulnerable. Of those, we name here:

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



## May Diary

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Great West Run (Please support either the Gilborsons or our Connect Team if you are able)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ladies Supper Club at the London Inn, Morchard Bishop, 7.00 for 7.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> Writing Bible at Waterstones, Exeter during opening hours
- 9<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Disciple Course (contact Dave Martin for details 01752 604096)
- 15<sup>th</sup> The Ark, 4.00-6.00pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Christian Aid Week
- 16<sup>th</sup> Children's Spirituality Day with Rebecca Nye at Exeter Cathedral Chapter House  
Day Session 9.30-2.45, Evening Session 8.00-9.30
- 17<sup>th</sup> Open House at Oake House, 7.30pm. Topic: Mementos of School Days
- 18<sup>th</sup> Leadership Team Meeting, 7.30pm (Venue tba)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Car Boot Sale in Town Square in aid of Christian Aid  
Service for welcoming David House as a Fully Accredited Local Preacher, 3pm at St Thomas MC
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Easter Offering Dedication Service, 6.30pm at St Thomas MC
- 24<sup>th</sup> Ark Planning Meeting, 7.30pm (venue tba)
- 1<sup>st</sup> June Leadership Team Meeting (venue tba)



# World Mission Conference 2011

**The Hayes Conference Centre,  
Swanwick, Derbyshire  
3 - 5 June 2011**

## Caribbean Encounter

We shall explore how the religions of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean cause Christians to look anew at creation and eco-justice; how Haitian Vodun and Jamaican Rastafari have helped us to re-examine our worship and spirituality and challenged us about liberation and justice.

Speaker: Rev Dr George Mulrain,  
President of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas

Sunday Preacher : Dr Anthony Reddie  
Consultant in Black Theology

Cost: £110 per person (£140 ensuite)  
(Reduced rates for young people)

Further details: Diana Bosman

Tel: 0121 3082251

[bookingsmwm@googlemail.com](mailto:bookingsmwm@googlemail.com)

[www.mwm.org.uk](http://www.mwm.org.uk)

**Arranged by Methodists for World Mission in partnership with  
USPG, Christians Aware, Grassroots, SOCMS, The Methodist  
Church and Christian Aid**