



Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
November 2011

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Ann Varker

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Phone: 01363 777308

Services this month:

Nov 6th	10.30	Rev A Varker	Sacrament
	6.30	Rev D Easton	
Nov 13th	10.30	Prof S Lea	Remembrance
	6.30	Rev P Collings	
Nov 20th	10.30	Mr D Smith	All Age Worship
	6.00	Talkback	(Methodist)
		Mr D Brassington	
Nov 27th	10.30	Rev A Varker	
	6.30	Rev Acquah	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 Christine Marshall 772012)

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

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

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

Bright Hour: Fridays at 2.30 p.m. (Contact Jenny Hext 0136385031)

Every Saturday: Coffee Morning from 10.30.

Church is open for prayer 9a.m. – 10 a.m.

The Ark: Saturdays monthly 4 – 6 p.m. (contact the minister)

Sunday Services at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m (most Sundays)

Every Sunday: 10.30 a.m. Sunday Club; Fish (10+ age group)

**Material for the December newsletter to Ken Saunders
by November 20th**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Dear friends,

Over the past few months the Leadership Team has been working to discern our vision for the church in the coming years. The statement printed in the last edition of the magazine has now been approved by the Church Council, and ideas relating to how this can be achieved are included later in the newsletter for your consideration.

The leadership team is clear that God is calling us to begin to implement the vision now; it is a great joy that three discipleship groups will be starting this month. I am greatly encouraged by this development, as I believe that all those involved will deepen their discipleship as a result.

In addition to small groups, the leadership team also identified the need to hold another worship consultation to continue the helpful conversation that began back in March. On that occasion we looked at a quote from Robert Schnase: *'God shapes souls and changes minds through worship, creating a desire to grow closer to Christ.'*

We recognised the need to provide services that enable all to feel a sense of worship, so that each person is aware of the presence of God and experiences the life-changing breath of the Spirit. We realised that what might be appropriate for a life-long member of the church may be different from someone who comes new to faith. Teenagers, children, men and women, working or retired might be helped or hindered in worship by slightly different approaches.

One of the challenges we face as a church with people of all ages is how to enable each generation to worship. We can try to provide for all people within the same act of worship, or we can offer different styles of service at different times and occasions. There is much for us to consider, but at the heart of all our conversation must be the realisation that worship is our offering to God, demonstrating our commitment and love.

If you are able please come along on Monday 14th November at 7.30pm, to the consultation on worship in Pippins.

With every blessing, Ann Varker

Change for the better?

There's a lot of talk about change nowadays and whole books have been written about some of the advantages and disadvantages; how it's been introduced; what are the real reasons for doing so; why it has or hasn't worked; who decides what needs changing; why some people find change difficult and so on.

As people, we change with age, of course, and over the years church life has definitely changed. Our new and larger Circuit is one example of this.

There might be all sorts of things we'd like to change (other than our looks, the weather, our bank account etc).

Within church life, perhaps we'd like fewer and/or shorter meetings; more church members; extra people to help; even a warmer building, perhaps.

The other side of the coin is that there are lots of really good things that we don't want to change, but want to celebrate and give thanks for, as we just have at harvest time.

What about more radical change in the wider world?

I can't speak for all of Methodism, but occasionally I think that it's lost some of its radical edge of yesteryear or perhaps I'm being nostalgic, just for a change! However, I was encouraged earlier this year to read that leaders from The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and the United Reformed Church called the Government's backing of a new £3 billion nuclear weapons system "unaffordable, immoral and strategically unwise".

The Archbishop of Canterbury has also spoken out against capitalism and greed and the need for changes to this situation.

I guess the question is how do we bring about effective change? Do we think we can't make a difference and give up too easily?

PRISONS SUNDAY

It was on 19th November 2000 that in the company of about 10 other members of the Exeter Circuit and Rev David Laidler, I visited Exeter Prison to share in a Communion Service with the prisoners. We needed to arrive at the Prison quite early in the morning, and when we were finally admitted to the Prison, my initial reaction was one of leaving the warm sunlight and entering another very cold and strange world. I remember to this day the barred doors clanging behind us, and the clinking of bunches of keys hanging around the waists of the prison warders. I remember because I recorded all this in my diary for the day, so on re-reading it I re-lived the memories.



For the service in the Prison Chapel, it was suggested that we did not sit together as a group, but that we left spaces in between so that the prisoners could sit between and around us. Then at a given time a door was unlocked and the young men, because that is what they were, filed in, flanked with prison officers and took their places beside and around us. I had a young man sitting either side of me, and to be honest I don't remember much of the service, although one of them knew all the hymns and sang with gusto! My attention was taken up by my very sad thoughts for these pale faced young men, in the prime of their lives, being shut away from the world for the duration of their justified sentences.

I am not naïve and I do realise that for every one of these pale faced young men, there is a suffering family whose lives they have needlessly torn apart, with unknown and possibly lasting repercussions. Also these young

men are part of a family who hopefully loves them and feels the pain of their incarceration.

The service ended with the young men led away, and we then left through the seemingly endless barred and bolted doors into the sunshine and our freedom. I was left with an overwhelming sense of sadness for the rest of the day.

Prison Sunday is remembered annually in the Methodist calendar on the third Sunday in November. The ecumenical Prisons Week Committee was formed in 1975 to focus thoughts and prayers on the prisoners and their families, victims and offenders, prison staff and all those working for prisoners and their families.

The role of the Prison Chaplain is to address concerns of prisoners for their home and families as they come into prison, and their fears of whether they will be able to survive prison. Chaplains generally visit all new arrivals within 24 hours of their admittance, and during their time in custody, the chaplain will offer pastoral care. The staff at times may also need pastoral care, and this too is given. It is agreed that generally offenders are poor, not simply economically, but morally, spiritually, culturally, educationally and socially. Terry Waite, when speaking of his time in solitary confinement, said that the one thing that sustained him during his long ordeal was the spiritual and cultural capital that he had acquired over the years.

Worship is at the heart of the Chaplain's ministry. Chapel services are often well attended, sometimes by those who have never previously attended church. In some ways the chapel stands apart from all other places within the prison as a place of hope in the midst of despair, of forgiveness in a place of punishment and the restoration of life in a place which, for so many, feels like a dead end. Worship provides an opportunity for men and women to be lifted above their circumstances into the liberating world of faith and love.

So this November let us remember prisoners, their families and those innocent people who have suffered because of their actions. May they all find some peace and meaning in their broken and shattered lives.

June Redfern

Harvest Festival at the Residential Homes

This autumn, we went to Summerhayes, Kenwyn and St Lawrence to celebrate harvest with them.

We used the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13: 3 – 9) and sang their favourite harvest hymns.



Barbara and Mike always have such a beautiful array of flowers, fruit and vegetables to bring along to make the display and I add my contribution as well. As usual, there was an enormous marrow that graced the worship centre, as well as our Harvest Loaf and the sheaf of wheat garnered from a field at Cheriton Fitzpaine.

The number of residents coming to the services naturally varies, taking into account how well and able they are. But in recent months we have been almost full to overflowing at Kenwyn and St Lawrence. And to see eyes light up at the beauty of the harvest bounty, and to hear their voices singing the well-known hymns and joining in with the Lord's Prayer is so heart-warming and rewarding. Thanks be to God for his great blessings.

Pam Murphy

Saturday 12th November 12noon-2pm

Lunches and Stalls at Tedburn St Mary Methodist Church

**No Ticket required, donations for The Fransisco Rojas
School, Peru.**

**Please come along and enjoy good food and good
company!**



CHATter Autumn 2011

At this time of year we give thanks to God for our harvest, the land He gave us is rich and provides food enough for everyone. We need to ask ourselves then that why is it that there are some people who will go hungry this winter? Times are hard for everyone, but it is those people who have to make the choice between paying bills or eating for the next week that are really suffering hardship. At CHAT we maintain a food store of grocery items to help those on meagre incomes, we also have a hardship fund which is used to make essential payments to those suffering hardship.

“Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter- when you see the naked to clothe him and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood.” Isaiah 58

To find out more or to discuss how you could help us contact CHAT:

Tiverton 28 Gold Street Monday from 10.30 & Tuesday to Friday from 9.30 Advice by phone 01884 255606 or email theoffice@chatmid.co.uk
Credon Council Offices, Market Street Tuesdays 2 - 4.30pm
Cullompton, Community House, Fore Street Mondays 2 - 4.30pm

Talkback 2011~2012

This year's Talkback, "It's my Story", will look at Christians working in the secular world.

We are asking people from different walks of life to tell us how their faith makes a difference to their attitudes and actions within their work place and how their work influences their faith.

We have a varied and interesting line up of speakers.

Nov 20th: Credon Methodist Church 6 p.m.
Mr David Brassington Social Worker

Crediton Methodist Church

At the recent Church Council Meeting the following Vision Statement for our church was presented to the members. It was unanimously accepted.

Our vision is of a dynamic worshipping Christian family seeking to play our part in the worldwide mission of God by constantly nurturing, encouraging and supporting one another; disciples of Jesus Christ committed to praying and learning together; a congregation radiating God's love by reaching out to the community, serving the poor and vulnerable, intent on changing the world in partnership with others; an inclusive group of believers, welcoming all, with a desire to become a living vibrant church, to the glory of God.

In order to implement this vision statement the Leadership Team have produced the following 'We Envisage' bullet points. These were also presented to the Church Council which agreed that they should be circulated to the church membership for consideration and comments. Please pass any comments to Ann or members of the Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team felt that some actions should be taken immediately. These were outlined to the Church Council who agreed that they should go ahead. They include: the formation of 'Deepening Discipleship' groups (which will start meeting in November); a worship consultation meeting and setting up a working party to explore the possibility of employing a Youth worker.

We envisage

- exploring ways to encourage local ownership of our worship, including greater congregational participation

- offering a variety of styles of worship to enable all who come to encounter God
- aiming for excellence in all we offer to God in worship
- encouraging all members to participate in small groups for bible study, prayer and mutual support
- providing appropriate environments for children, young people and adults to grow in the knowledge and love of God
- offering appropriate pastoral care to each individual within the church family
- learning of, and being inspired by, the work that God is doing through the church in other regions of the world.
- identifying needs in the town and surrounding area and finding ways to respond as a church community, and in partnership with others
- encouraging members to give time and money to meet the needs of others
- providing support for individuals involved in serving the community
- developing close links with a particular overseas project and finding appropriate ways to offer support
- raising awareness and taking action on justice and ethical issues
- encouraging each member to share good news with others
- building links between the church and the wider community
- developing groups out in the community with links back into the church
- expecting to see church growth and planning accordingly
- a flexible floor space in the sanctuary for exploring different possibilities for worship
- open church doors daily, providing a haven and offering a welcome and refreshment
- a church building that appears non- threatening and is easily accessible to all
- a multipurpose building for community use throughout the week.

27th November - 1st Sunday in Advent and Shoebox Sunday



How quickly Advent Sunday comes around as does the time when some of you like to put together shoeboxes and hunt for things to go inside as part of your personal preparations for Christmas.

During this past year

International Aid, as well as

serving in the countries in Eastern Europe, Southern Russia, Sri Lanka, India and Mexico, the Trust has been instrumental in the building of a new school in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a notoriously difficult place in which to operate, but somehow International Aid has done just that. In a small village where 98% of the population is of the Muslim faith there is now a school with a Christian Pastor and his wife. New Hope School serves one hot meal a day to the children who may not have a meal every day. In addition to the school, a well has been constructed in the village which now saves the children having to break off from their lessons and walk some distance for water.

Earlier this year International Aid sent out a lockable container to Sierra Leone with shoeboxes as well as other vital building and school equipment for the project. This year it is possible that your shoebox could be going to this school in Sierra Leone. But wherever the shoeboxes go, the recipient will know that someone cares.

For helpful suggestions of what to put in a shoebox, you will find a leaflet in the foyer giving details, as well as more information about the project in Sierra Leone.

As always - thank you so much,

June Redfern

M H A What we do

MHA provides a range of services for older people nationwide to suit your individual and differing needs. We offer:

- 70 Care Homes providing a mix of residential, nursing and specialist dementia care
- 50 Housing Schemes with varying levels of support including 24-hour care, available for rent, part-ownership and full purchase
- 50 Community Services projects, including our Live at Home Schemes which provide befriending, activities and social support for people living in their own homes, and a number of Day Care Resource centres for people with dementia

We place a special emphasis on the spiritual, as well as physical well-being of each person for whom we provide care and all our homes and housing have a chaplain to provide pastoral support. MHA is at the forefront of quality dementia services, building new services and delivering care and support specially designed for individuals with dementia.

Visitors are always welcome at Moreton, MHA's Care Home in Exmouth, but none more so than donkeys from the Donkey Sanctuary at nearby Sidmouth. One donkey regularly visits residents in the lounge and

their rooms alike, along with its handler and a donkey poop scoop!

The first time a donkey was brought into the house, *"it was awe-inspiring,"* says Moreton's Activities Co-ordinator, Dawn Laver, who made the arrangement with the sanctuary.



WORLD CHURCH

Deadly clashes in Egypt after Christian protest

by Anugrah Kumar, Christian PostPosted: Monday, October 10, 2011, 13:58 (BST)

Curfew was in force in Cairo Monday morning after deadly clashes left at least 23 dead and over 200 injured following protests by Coptic Christians against growing persecution.

The casualties were reported Sunday night after Egypt's military and police sought to quell peaceful protests by members of the country's largest Christian denomination, Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, against last week's attack on a church in Aswan province.

It remained unclear if the victims were mostly Christian but there were reports of suspected Islamist groups throwing stones at and beating protesting Copts who were demanding a halt to the growing attacks on churches. The death toll was expected to rise, as local media were still struggling to gather information amid the ongoing unrest.

Violence carried on at least until early Monday. At 12:18am local time witnesses told Egyptian newspaper Al-Masry Al-Youm that groups of "thugs" were attacking businesses owned by Christians near Abdel Moneim Riyadh Square, which was the epicenter of violence.

The daily said a group of men chanting, "Islamic, Islamic!" – "a common slogan of Islamist groups" – were spotted at Cairo's Qasr al-Ainy Street less than an hour before the post-midnight attack. Another group, chanting "Allahu Akbar", was seen standing next to a group of Central Security Forces officers elsewhere, it added.

The protests called for resolving the crisis over the Marinab church in Aswan, which was attacked on September 30 allegedly by Muslim

citizens who claimed the church did not have the license for the construction of a dome.

Gunfire by troops began as the thousands of protesters reached the state television building, known as Maspairo, marching from the Christian-majority district of Shubra, Sunday evening.

Protesters showed Al-Masry Al-Youm bullets from the shooting and remains of victims.

Troops also stormed into the office of a private television channel, Channel 25. Some of the soldiers asked for ID cards of journalists to identify Christians, the daily said. They also assaulted journalists, including a pregnant woman. The channel had to stop the live broadcasting of the violence.

Some other private television stations were raided by men wearing plainclothes who also warned against the live telecast.

The crackdown on protesters began minutes after Prime Minister Essam Sharaf asked military and security officials to “contain the situation.” But Sharaf blamed the violence on the “enemies of the January 25 Revolution.”

Information Minister Osama Heikal held “external forces” responsible for the clashes.

However, the newly formed left-liberal Egyptian Social Democratic Party charged that the military council was seeking to abort the country’s democratic transition by “engineering” violence.

Christians make up about 10 percent of the country’s population of 80 million. They are anxious about their future, as extremist Muslim groups, which remained underground or inactive during the rule of the now ousted president Hosni Mubarak, got socially and politically active after the fall of his regime following the January 25 revolution. Christians complain that the interim military administration is doing little to protect the community.

Biblefresh Festival at the Mint



On October 8th the District held a Biblefresh Festival Day at the Mint.-, and what a day it was! Nearly 200 people came for times of worship and celebration and workshops on music, bible translation today, understanding the bible, using drama in worship, puppets etc.



Paul Smith , an inspiring speaker, spoke on seven bible texts on which to base your life.



Worship was led by Rev Mark Gilborson and a lively music group.



Some excellent drama sketches produced by Rev Andrew Brazier



Activities for young people included puppets & juggling



A team of experts answered questions about the bible.



The final celebration had a party atmosphere. Thank you to the organisers for a very worthwhile day.

Pastoral Life



The first and greatest commandment is this: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as you love yourself.

Matthew 22: 37 - 39

Church Life

We pray for the three Deepening Discipleship groups that begin to meet this month, for a growing together in faith and trust and following in the path of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Pray, too, for the work of the refurbishment committee in progressing plans that will enable us to fulfil our part in God's work from this church.

Good News

We give thanks that Kim Clemens is home from hospital following a hip operation and send Kim and Alan our good wishes.

Our Community and the World

We pray for the work of those who run the Crediton foodbank, for those who donate gifts, and especially for those who receive from it.

We pray for the work of CHAT and people who need homes.

We pray for families in debt in our community and for agencies who can give them sound advice, help and guidance.

We pray for Libya as it moves forward to shape its future.

We pray for Christians everywhere who are persecuted for their faith. May they be strengthened by God's love and by all who hold them in prayer.

People who need our prayerful support

God of love, you watch with all who weep, worry or who are weary. You offer hope to those in despair, and your calming presence to the troubled. Give us peace in our hearts.

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

We ask your prayers for: Jane Avery; Ray Burnett; Estelle Chapple; 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; Edith Pullen; Shirley Sharpe; Anne Spry; Arthur Tancock.

Residential Homes Services

Summerhayes

Thursday 3 November 3:15pm

Kenwyn

Wednesday 16 November 3:15pm

St Lawrence

Thursday 17 November 11:45am

Contacts: Pam Murphy: Pastoral Secretary;

and to give notice of pastoral news.

773414

June Redfern: Prayer requests:

84058

3rd December - Action for Children Abseil, Princesshay, Exeter.

Application forms and further details from Jamie Lee, Regional Fundraiser on 07812205395 or Jamie.Lee@actionforchildren.org.uk
Entrants (from 12 years upwards) £10 entry fee and undertake to raise at least £75 sponsorship for the charity.

November Dates for your Diary

- Tues 1st Ladies Supper Club at Devonshire Dumpling, 7.00 for 7.30pm
- Sat 5th Action for Children Coffee Morning at Topsham MC, 10.00am-noon
- Mon 7th Deepening Discipleship Groups, 7.30pm
- Thurs 10th Deepening Discipleship Group, 7.30pm
- Sat 12th The Ark, 4.00-6.00pm. Theme is 'The Paralysed Man'
- Sat 19th Quiz Night
- Tues 22nd Ladies Open House at 4 Okefield Ridge, 7.30pm. Theme is 'Christmas Ideas'
- Mon 21st Leadership Team at 4 Gordon Terrace, 9.00am
- Sat 26th Wesleyan Spirituality Day at Plymouth Central Hall, 10.00am. Book ahead!
- 25-27th Action for Children: Christmas Tree Festival. Exminster MC Fri: 3-7p.m. Sat: 10-7p.m. Sun 3-5 p.m.
- Sun 27th Shoe Box Service, 10.30am
-

Bright Hour

Meetings in November:

4th: Rev D Gregory Bring & Buy stall **11th**: Mrs C Dixon

18th: Mr M & Mrs C Bridger **25th**: Rev A Varker