



Crediton Methodist Church



Newsletter
September 2011

Crediton Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Ann Varker

Email: minister@creditonmethodist.org.uk

Phone: 01363 777308

Services this month:

Sept 4th	10.30	Rev K Hext	
	6.30	At Tower St. Exmouth	
Sept 11th	10.30	Mr D House	
	6.30	Miss N Husk	
Sept 18th	8.45	Rev A Varker	(Sacrament)
	10.30	Rev A Varker	(All Age Worship)
	6.30	Dr K Kite	
Sept 25th	10.30	Mr C Mann	
	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 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 Kath Wollacott 01363775445)

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 October newsletter to Ken Saunders
by September 18th**

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

Church website: www.creditonmethodist.org.uk

Dear friends,

As September looms my thoughts are turning to the new church year and our priorities for activities for the Autumn months. As the old year closes we are invited to join in a Day of Prayer and Fasting called by the Exeter Coast and Country Circuit from the 30th to the 31st August. Along with this continuing commitment to prayer the leadership has recognised a need to develop small groups.

Back in April it was a great joy to welcome new members into the life of the church. At the reception service the congregation promised, *'to maintain the Church's life of worship and service that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord'*.

This is not a promise that simply applies to new members. As Christians we are engaged in life-long learning, as we seek to grow into 'the full measure of the stature of Christ', to quote the writer to the Ephesians.

I have found that being part of a small group has been particularly helpful in enabling me to understand more about my faith, and to come to love God more. Being in a group where supportive relationships can grow, and where I have felt able to share the various challenges I have faced in daily living, has enabled me to realise more of what it means to be a follower of Jesus in practical terms.

The leadership team will be continuing to work over the next couple of weeks, deciding how best to offer small groups in the coming months. I urge you all to consider being part of such a group, and whether you would be able to meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Look out for more information in the weekly notices throughout September.

Oh, and may I take this opportunity to wish you a happy New Year!

With every blessing,
Ann Varker

Gift Aid Scheme for donations to the Church

Good News –

The donations against Gift Aid produced a repayment from HMRC of **£5731.34** in the last tax year to March 2011. Many thanks for all those who have joined the Gift Aid scheme – every penny helps and an extra 25p for every pound donated makes a big difference at the end of the year. Congratulations and thanks to all those who contribute and those who make the effort to collect in orange envelopes each time we fund raise.

Bad News –

Due to the transitional period ending, the amount being paid by the taxman in the future will go down by 11% from April 2011. This means that fewer funds can be generated for the Church in this way in the future.

Interesting News -

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. All details of donators and giving is treated in strictest confidence. Please see me for a leaflet or call me on 772012 (Evenings or weekends) *Christine Marshall*



**Gerald & Elizabeth are planning another Car Boot Sale in the Town Square on Sept 17th. 9.30 – 12.30 Offers of help would be appreciated as would offers of bric-a-brac
Tel: 772936**



Harvest Meal
October 2nd.
See weekly notices for details.

M.R.D.F. & Harvest?

‘Small Miracles’ is the name of the Methodist Relief & Development Fund’ monthly Newsletter. ‘Abundant Harvest’ is the name of their Harvest Festival material. The connection between them is thrillingly direct. Let me explain.



Suppose you belonged to a group of people only allowed to beg or clean out other people’s dirty toilets. How would you feel? Far fetched? No way!

The caste system in India is now illegal but its legacy lives on. The Dalit people were the lowest of the low and are still beaten, spat on and refused any employment other than their traditional role.

It’s just here MRDF and its Small Miracles come in. Take Aluramma, a widow with four children. Tired of begging and being spat on; she heard an MRDF Partner was helping people like her to help themselves out of poverty. She walked - yes, walked - 600 miles to the Project. Encouraged, she took a loan of £320 to start a sari washing and repair business. The sale of the refurbished saris gives her a regular income, a new brick home and school for the children. As she says, ‘We will not beg again’. Just one of MRDF’s ‘Small Miracles’.

Another, we might well call the ‘Mustard Seed’ project. Here MRDF’s funding has enabled the setting up of ‘Seed Banks’. People of remote Indian villages can borrow a few seeds to be repaid at their next harvest. Here the poorest of the poor can ‘sow’ themselves out of poverty. I think this would have appealed to our Lord’s heart (*St Mark 4/30-32*).

Our chance to sow a ‘small seed’ will come on October 2nd. Half the evening collection will go to MRDF, in addition to the pew envelopes.

WDR

Harvest Festival Celebrations

Our Harvest Festival Celebration this year is on Sunday October 2nd. The preacher at the morning service is Brian Warren from Coppleshill. Brian is a leading member of Farm Crisis Network – a charitable organisation set up to help farmers in



difficult times. The present chairman of FCN writes: “All sectors of the economy and society are going to face tough times for the foreseeable future and farmers and farm families are no exception. While there is no particular crisis within the farming industry at this time there are some chronic issues which continue to undermine many farm businesses and cause enormous stress to farm families up and down the country,”

“A recent report from the Commission from Rural Communities has identified that one in four within the farming community is living in poverty. Animal diseases, and most notably bovine TB, continue to threaten the livelihood of many livestock farmers particularly in Wales, the South West and Western counties. Problems with the Rural Payments Agency which cause delays to vitally needed cash beset numerous farm businesses. Add to these the uncertainty of commodity markets, volatility in input prices, poor returns to milk producers and the increasing burden of regulation on farmers who are trying to juggle being practical farmers with running their businesses as labour becomes more scarce on farms, it is easy to see why stress levels can be high”,.

“Of course there are also many exceptions where producers are experiencing good returns, confidence is high and strong growth is planned for the future. There is also a growing interest from young people looking to agriculture for their future careers”,.

“It is vitally important that we recognise both ends of the spectrum. Those making good returns and are investing in the future need to be supported and given the right environment to grow their businesses. However, those who are facing difficulties often fall through the available support networks that exist due to lack of funding or because of the hidden nature of the problems often associated with an industry characterised by solitary and lone working. This is where organisations like FCN, RABI and ARC-Addington come into their own”

“However, the work of organisations like FCN can only continue through the generosity of those willing to donate both time and money. FCN has many dedicated and loyal volunteers who are in regular contact with some of the most needy in our industry. However, finding sufficient finance for FCN to continue its work is becoming increasingly difficult. Funding from statutory sources or from charitable Trusts is particularly difficult. In 2011 we will have to rely increasingly upon the generosity of churches and individuals to support our work and we would encourage anyone who believes in the importance of what we are doing to help us with either a one off or a regular gift to ensure the sustainability of the assistance we provide to some of the most vulnerable people in agriculture”.

George Dunn, Chairman Farm Crisis Network

Knit & Natter

It is always a pleasure to welcome the Knit and Natter Group to our home in the Summer. The group came laden with dried food etc. for the two families they sponsor in the Ukraine, four boxes were filled. They also brought clothes and knitting for the International Aid Trust for use in Eastern Europe, Sri Lanka and latterly Sierra Leone.



Some felt that this bi-annual get together was the best yet, although everyone always seem to enjoy just chatting and being together and of course partaking in a very splendid bring and share lunch. The next get together here will be in December, let's hope snow doesn't stop it happening as it did last December.

Thank you Knit and Natter for all you do and for your continued financial support for the Kojokar and Kotuz families.

June Redfern

Bible Cake

Here are the ingredients for a delicious cake:

½ lb Judges Ch5v25
½ lb Jeremiah Ch6v20
1 Tablespoon 1 Samuel
Ch14v25
½ lb1 Samuel Ch30v12
1/2lb Nahum Ch3v12
2 ozs Numbers Ch17v8
1 lb 1Kings Ch4v22
Season to taste with 2 Chronicles
Ch9v9
1 pinch Leviticus Ch2v13
1 Teaspoon Amos Ch4v5
3 Tablespoons Judges Ch4v19
If you try it please let Bronwyn
know what you thought of the
result – she has had this recipe
for over 30 years – before
metrication!

Bright Hour

Meetings in September:
2nd Rev K Hext or Mr A Savage
9th Rev D Gregory
16th Mr A Savage or Rev K Hext
23rd Harvest Festival: Col Anne
Harding. Sale of Harvest Produce
and Bring & Buy Stall.
30th Mrs D Sheppard/Mrs J Hext
Meetings are held at 2.30 p.m. on
Fridays in the Wesley Room.

Would you like to learn how to use our Hymn Machine?



**If you would like to learn
how to use our Hymn
Machine then come to a
meeting on Thurs Sept 1st in
the Epworth Room. The
only requirement is a good
sense of rhythm.**

**B.B.Q
Sunday 18th September
After Morning Worship
In Church Garden
(or Hall if wet)**

Soul Survivor 2011

In the 3rd Week of August, Miriam, James, Lauren, Emily, Rachel, Ann, Julian, Becci, Jon (Curtis) and I went to 'Soul Survivor' at the Bath and West Showground.

Soul Survivor is a Christian festival for young people from all over the UK. In fact, there are so many people who go, there are 3 weeks with between 8,000 and 12,000 people attending each week.

We camped in tents for the 5 days we were there. We ate breakfast as a group every day, and then attended the morning meeting. The meeting included worship, teaching and prayers. There was a live



band, and a selection of musicians leading the worship, the youngest of whom was 17 – encouraging that someone only a few years older than us can lead worship for 8,000 people. During our time there, we learnt a lot of new songs, in a different style to what

we're used to. This was a good thing though, and the music group may play some in church in the future!

There was a range of lessons, covering many different subjects led by a variety of speakers. We also looked at the story of Joseph in depth.

Whilst the delivery of the messages took us somewhat by surprise, it left us with lots to think about.

Praying was a huge part of the week. There were hundreds of people who were prayed for and who prayed for them. The manner in which this happened was quite exclusive to those not directly involved, however, it did provide us with the opportunity to experience how other people worship Jesus, and the extent of their faith.

The meetings lasted at least two hours and happened in the evenings too.

After having lunch together, we had the afternoons to explore many different 'real life' subjects in seminars. Two examples of seminars:

'How to be a Christian in a non-Christian world' explored the problems we may face as young people with people who don't share our faith and how to deal with them and 'Jesus loves Science' was about being a Christian, yet still logical and involved with the science world.

'The Toolshed' was full of Christian-related information stalls; Mission charities running gap years, theology courses at universities, charities. Emily was very taken with some inflatable 'whacky sticks' that made an odd noise when bashed together, that she got from one stand. Needless to say, everyone else was less impressed.

Continued on next page

After dinner and the evening meeting, we watched films that were being shown, and discussed these at great length. As a result of this, we are going to start a film club in October, where we will watch a film and discuss the issues raised in it afterwards. Other evenings were spent in 'Café Uno' drinking many 'Hot Chocolate Mountains'.

Something I learnt during my time there was that people worship in different ways, and although it made me feel uncomfortable, it isn't a bad thing and should be embraced and respected.

Something I enjoyed particularly was spending the week with other young Christians. They weren't dissimilar to my non-Christian classmates. This made me feel better about not being really obvious about my faith. It also dispelled any truth in common stereotypes that Christians can't have fun – everyone was really happy, danced a lot and had lots of fun! Everyone was very friendly!

Something I have taken away from Soul Survivor is the confidence to be more outward about my faith and more positive about different ways of worship. I also want to be more active in the church and give a bit more of my life to God.

Another Highlight of my week was 'Johannes Von Lycra the Third'. For those who were at church on the 21st, you would have seen a demonstration by Ann Varker, Miriam and Me. For those of you who weren't, Johannes did morning exercises to wake everyone up. They were very energetic and a little eccentric!

Thank-you to the Church for the financial contribution to enable us to go.

Hannah Smith

DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST DAY

and

ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

By local Artists

at

ST. LAWRENCE CHAPEL THRESHERS, CREDITON

The Chapel is open on:

Friday, September 9th, 1-6pm

Saturday, September 10th, 9am-6pm

This is the D.H.C. Day, 9am-5pm.

Sunday, September 11th, 11am-4pm

Closing the weekend – a special
Service of Evensong, Sunday 6pm.

Sponsorship monies and donations are divided equally
between the D.H.C. T. and St Lawrence Chapel.

We look forward to welcoming you!
Don't miss this opportunity to visit this charming
13th century chapel.

Deaf Awareness Days

When I was 10, I was diagnosed with mild hearing loss. I really struggled getting to grips with the actual problem and then the judging that comes with being Deaf. I have since then wanted to raise awareness about the Deaf culture to help friends and strangers understand.

Last year at youth club I got involved with a youth opportunities fund. This is an application for a grant to start a youth project that will benefit the local community. I decided to fill in an application form. All I needed to do was write a report on

- What the project I wanted to do was,
- How much money I would need,
- What it specifically would be spent on,
- And why I thought the money would be beneficial.

When the form was complete I sent it away to the youth bank where a group of teenagers read it and voted on if I deserved the money I needed for my project. A few weeks after I sent away the application, I got a letter saying I had been awarded £1500 to spend on 3 Deaf awareness days, to help people understand Deaf culture and stop stereotyping.

A family friend, Melody Mussel, who is at level 3 BSL (British Sign Language), agreed to help me organise the days. Through her, I made contact with Niki, who works at the Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education. Niki has been entirely Deaf since she was born. She helped Melody and I organise a weekend event (9th and 10th of July) at Crediton youth centre, including coming to lead both days.

Although Niki is Deaf, has always spoken in BSL and is only slightly verbal, it was very easy to communicate with her especially with the help of her 2 interpreters.

On the days we have done the activities ran from 10 am – 2 pm and we had between 10 and 15 people there! We did loads of activities including

- Looking into different kinds of Deafness,
- Exploring about famous Deaf people,
- Watching a DVD about Deaf culture,

- Learning the finger spelling alphabet,
- Practising basic BSL

So far we have only done 2 out of the 3 days, but are hoping to do the 3rd day soon, to continue giving opportunities for Deaf and hearing people to meet.

My grant of £1500 paid for everything, leaving the 2 days completely FREE for the young people who attended!!

I think having the opportunity to do something like this was great, I'm so happy I had the chance to help people understand and realise BSL is an incredible, interesting, practical language. Deaf people have battled for years for BSL to be viewed as a proper language, which would not have been necessary if people understood the depth of the signs and culture.

If you'd like to know more about this project, please ask me.

Miriam Smith



A Biblefresh festival of Celebration



Saturday 8th October 2011

9.30-5.30

The Mint Methodist Church Exeter

Please use Park and Ride or Mary Arches Car Park

www.themint.org.uk/map.htm

Tickets £5 (FTE Free)

Tea, Coffee and Soup included

If you wish to go to this event please sign the sheet in the foyer and let Ken Saunders have your fee (£5) before September 11th.

biblefresh

It could change your world

Choose your experience!

Brian Hoare	Music and the Bible
Paul Smith	Getting inside the Bible
Andrew Carter	Popcorn studies: Bible and Film
Jenny Ellis	Creating a Biblical labyrinth
Esther Reed	Ethics and the Bible
Valerie Price	The Jewishness of Jesus: a biblical perspective
Andrew Brazier	Drama and the Bible
Father Abbot David	Spiritual life and the Bible
Joanne Cox	The Bible and Outreach
One Way Up	Getting the Bible across (puppetry)
Peter Cole	Perseverance in the Bible (Juggling/Storytelling)
Wycliffe Bible Translation	Attempting the impossible in Bible Translation by 2025

For more information contact
Mark Gilborson 01392 256716
Email: oblg@blueyonder.co.uk



Pause for Thought

The Leadership Team has been Pausing for Thought about the vision for our church, using Robert Schnase's book 'Five practices of Fruitful Congregations'. I would like to share some of my thoughts with you.

Practice 1: Radical Hospitality

At the end of the chapter we were invited to walk through our church as if for the first time. When we did this we were all aware that our church needed a bit of a radical spring clean – hence the August work morning.

When people just 'turn up' at my home, of course they have to take things as they find them. That doesn't prevent me welcoming them, but when I know quests are coming, I do the big clean to make things as hospitable as possible, out of care and respect for them. At Christmas, I clean to welcome a new baby; at Easter, the risen Lord.

In what ways in church could we be more 'Radically Hospitable' to visitors and new-comers, after the welcome at the door?

Practice 2: Passionate Worship

A sentence from the chapter that touched my heart is this: "We don't attend worship to squeeze God into our lives; we seek to meld our lives into God's".

It was a life-changing moment for me when I realised that I didn't have to keep my distance from God: God took me and held me, spiritually, close to him. How can I but give him heart-given thanks and praise, and give myself willingly into his care and service?

What are your experiences of 'Passionate Worship'?

Practice 3: Intentional Faith Development

This chapter includes: ‘As Wesley and the early Methodists realised, growth in faith does not come easily or automatically, but requires placing ourselves in community to learn the faith with others’.

I've always enjoyed meeting for Bible Study, and House Group meetings, and ecumenical Lent Group meetings. The learning's important; the fellowship enhances it.

What learning opportunities would you like to attend if they were offered?

Practice 4: Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Here's a thought: ‘People want to belong to churches that make a real difference in the lives of people’.

This has a real ‘Wow!’ factor for me. It seems to fit perfectly with the way younger people think about the world – around them and further afield. Students often spend a gap year doing some form of voluntary work. We have young Connect workers in our Crediton schools.

I recall how illogical maths seemed to be when I was working from dry and dusty text books. It wasn't until I used maths in real practical situations that it became a useful, beneficial tool. Maybe the Church could be viewed as illogical when it isn't obviously put to use.

In what ways would you like to see our church making a difference?

Practice5: Extravagant generosity

Thinking about the widow's mite ‘Matt & Keri ... wrote about how they and their fellow church members had been giving out of abundance rather than poverty.’

Like most of you, I notice it when household and travel costs rise substantially. There have been times when I've wondered just how to make things stretch, and I've been tempted to cut back on my free-will giving at church and to charities – fleetingly. And discovered the reward of finding other things to cut back on instead.

What's the most rewarding experience you've had giving money?

Pam Murphy

Update on Refurbishment

The refurbishment group met in July to consider options for the downstairs, and in particular how a room might be provided for use by the young people.

During the meeting the group looked at the garden area and were reminded that the Church had purchased this land when it was offered as it provided the only possible area for future expansion of the premises. Although the garden had been created by levelling the area there is no restriction on its use for expanding the buildings. After ruling out other options elsewhere in the building, the group concluded that it would be practical to build a new room at the back of the Hall roughly half the width of the terrace and extending out into the garden over the existing bank so as to create a space at least as large as the Wesley Room. The roof would slope down from underneath the windows of the Hall. Access would be from the corner of the Hall, on the east side of the building, and also by an outside door or doors to the remaining terrace, on the west side, with steps down to the garden. Extensive windows would give a view to the garden on the north side.

If this idea is to be taken further it will be necessary to appoint an architect to work with us on developing plans. A special meeting of the Church Council has been called for the 8th September, at which the idea can be discussed and decisions made about whether to continue to explore this further.

The Church Council will also be asked to approve the commissioning of an energy feasibility survey by DARE (Devon Association for Renewable Energy).



Are you aged 11 – 18?

Do you enjoy watching films?

Come along to 1 Chapel Downs Road from 6pm til 9pm

on Saturday 1st October 2011

Popcorn, drinks and snacks provided.

Sustainable Crediton

Plastic Waste Collection

Recycling Point at Morrison Car Park

On Saturday Sept 3rd & 17th

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Clean containers

**Not acceptable: Clingfilm, polystyrene, bubble wrap,
Crisp packets**

Pastoral Life

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in you:*



H&P

776

Church Life

Our new Exeter Coast & Country circuit begins its work this September. We pray for God's help to bond us together for effective mission and outreach.

We pray for our Church Council as situations affecting this church are discussed and decisions made.

Good News

Many congratulations to Rob and Marjorie Ings and George and Eileen Tarr who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversaries this month.

We have good news about knee replacements, as Mary Tyson and Kath Metherell have both recently had their second operations. We wish them good progress and increased mobility.

The summer has seen our young families take advantage of a church camp near Cullompton, and our young people go to a Soul Survivors week near Shepton Mallett. Let us pray that from these opportunities they will grow in faith and develop a vision for their futures.

Condolences

We said goodbye to our friend Joan Edwards in July. Joan died shortly after a fall and we hold her family and friends in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Diary Dates for September

- Thursday 1st Hymn Machine Training in the Epworth Room, 7.30pm
- Monday 5th Inaugural Circuit Meeting for Exeter Coast & Country at Sidwell St., 7.30pm
- Tuesday 6th Ladies Supper Group, 7.00 for 7.30pm Black Dog Inn
- Thursday 8th Church Council, 7.30pm
- Saturday 10th The Ark, 4.00-6.00pm
Theme: There's enough for everyone
- Monday 12th Network Meeting at Alphington MC, 10am
- Friday 16th Rehearsal for Circuit Choir at Sidwell Street MC, 7.30pm
(for Circuit Service 23/9)
- Saturday 17th Car Boot Sale, Town Square
- Sunday 18th BBQ following Morning Worship
- Sunday 18th Russian Choral Music by the Blagovest Ensemble at Sidwell Street MC, 8.00pm
- Tuesday 20th Open House at 5 Fairfield Rd, 7.30pm
Topic: Current Affairs
- Friday 23rd Circuit Celebration Service with the President of Conference at Sidwell Street MC, 7.30pm
- Tuesday 27th Pastoral Meeting, 7.30pm

October

- Saturday 1st Music Day for All, in & around Exeter Cathedral, 10.00am-5.00pm
- Sunday 2nd Harvest Festival plus Harvest Meal.

Our Community and the World

- As things return to 'normal' after the school holidays we pray for parents with young families: for their homes to be filled with love, joy and contentment. Please pray, too, for all who serve the community through voluntary work of all kinds.
- Pray for our nation, especially the areas affected by the summer riots, where healing will take far longer than it took to cause such havoc. Pray for strong, respectful and supportive communities.
- In a troubled world, please pray for those living in the famine stricken areas of the horn of Africa where the situation is still desperate.

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 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; Edith Pullen; Alesia Saunders; Shirley Sharpe; Anne Spry; Arthur Tancock.

Residential Homes Services

Summerhayes

Thursday 1 September; 3:15pm

Kenwyn

Wednesday 21 September; 3:15pm

St Lawrence

Thursday 22 September; 11:15am

*Contacts: Pam Murphy: Pastoral Secretary; and
to give pastoral news. 773414*

June Redfern: Prayer requests: 84058