

Crediton Methodist Church



Weekly Notices

Working out God's love in Crediton

Sunday 17th November

10.30am Morning Service in Church
led by Chris Mann

(Church for All)

Hymns: StF568 Alleluia ! Sing to Jesus

Stf571 All your family, Lord see us here

StF615 Let love be real, in giving

StF718 We lay our broken world

Reading1 Samuel 1.4-20

or join the service from 10:00am on your computer
or mobile app with Worship on the Web

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

or call in (audio only) - 020 4526 8593

Phone Conference ID: 419 576 441

See www.creditonmethodist.org.uk or phone 01363 777308 for details

Dear Friends

I see Banksy has been active lately with some rather enjoyable animal paintings. I expect you all know about Banksy but just in case it's a new name to someone, Banksy is a famous graffiti artist whose identity remains a mystery. He lives in Bristol I believe, but his work appears all over the country. Because his graffiti is mostly on walls it's quite difficult to steal, but it happens. In

September two men were imprisoned for stealing a Banksy painting from a London gallery. He is a political activist, but I quite like some of his writings, for example "*You are never fully dressed without a smile*".

Painting on walls is nothing new. Thousands of years ago Stone Age people decorated the walls of their caves with paintings of animals and people hunting. During the Roman persecution of the early church, the Christians used a secret symbol etched onto walls to identify their tombs and meeting places. It was ICHTHUS - the sign of the fish. It means 'Jesus Christ', 'God's Son', 'Saviour'. Their secret sign was used in the catacombs and elsewhere and also to identify themselves as Christians. Today the Sign of the Fish is no longer a hidden symbol, but the proud sign of a witnessing Christian.

In Medieval times all churches had wall paintings. They were teaching aids in a day when few people could read, so the paintings taught people Bible stories and about miracles and heaven and hell. Eventually they were obliterated or painted over. Today we know better and where they remain are carefully preserved.

Of course some people have left their mark by carving. If you visit the Old Grammar School at Hawkshead in the Lake District you can see many old desks with initials carved by the boys who once sat there, including William Wordsworth and his brother John. Then almost unbelievably Christopher Wren carved his initials in one of the standing stones of Stonehenge.

Jesus has left us no graffiti on walls or carvings on trees, but we have a record of some writing which has a fascination for me. That poor woman who was accused of adultery and dragged before Jesus must have been terrified. She was surrounded by men with lumps of rocks in their hands ready to stone her to death. Jesus is sensitive and does not stare at this woman caught in the very act. He bends down and writes in the sand. We shall never know what Jesus chose to write that day. Was it "*Where is the man?*" I should love to know.

Anyway her accusers slunk away, unable to face our Lord's unforgettable challenge, "If you're without sin you can throw the first stone." Maybe that is what he wrote. Maybe that was a kind of graffiti left for us.

Answers on a postcard please if you have any other ideas of what Jesus may have written. Love from *Cynthia*

FOR OUR PRAYERS AT HOME:

Our Heavenly Father, as Methodists we are called to care for our own households, the Church community, as well as this, to go beyond to show God's care for all the world.

So we offer a small token in the form of shoeboxes sent with our love to the people of the Ukraine and Moldova at this difficult time in their history.

We ask that you send your love and blessings on the recipients and to keep safe all those involved in the preparation, transport and delivery of the boxes.

We continue to pray for a time when your love, purpose and justice will triumph over all the evils of this world. AMEN

In the words of John Wesley

"Since God is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve God in our neighbour, which God receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us".

St THOMAS METHODIST CHURCH are holding a Pre-Christmas Coffee morning on Friday 22nd November from 9.00am to 12 noon. There will be a home baking stall, Fair Trade Shop, craft items and Christmas gifts. - see notice at back of church

St NICHOLAS FAIR on 23rd November from 10.00am to 2.00pm at the Boniface Centre. There will be gifts, cake stall, books, silent auction, and lots more. Refreshments will be served. Please come along and support Elizabeth's stall raising money for our church funds.

TABLE TOP SALE Thank you to everyone who helped with the Table Top sale and the few people from the church who attended. We made £134 for Church Funds.

Thank you *Bronwyn*

Week beginning Saturday 16th November		
Sat 16th Nov	10:00-11:30 am	Together for Coffee donations for Methodist Ministry in Britain
Sun 17th Nov	10:30 am	Worship in church or on the Web led by Chris Mann
Mon 18th Nov	8:00am	Start the week in prayer in Church or wherever you are
	10:30—11:30am	Held Together Service, Boniface Centre. Followed by Tea and Coffee
	3:30pm-5:00pm	Big Top
	7:30pm	Discipleship contact Cathy
Wed 20th Nov	10:30am	3Ls Discipleship in Church
Fri 22nd Nov	10:00—12:00pm	Coffee and Chat
Sat 23rd Nov	10:00 -11:30 am	Together for Coffee donations for Church Funds
Sun 24th Nov	10:30 am	Worship in the Church or on the web led by Rev Ben Haslem <i>Communion</i>

WELCOME IN CHURCH

As many of you will know, Julie Rowe has not been able to attend morning worship recently. This has meant that we have not had door stewards to welcome those coming to church every week. I am preparing the new rota for the next quarter starting in December and I am looking for volunteers to fill the gap left by Julie and Colin.

If you can help or would like to know more about the task, please speak to me or one of the stewards. *John Ashley*

Contact Details
Minister Rev Ben Haslem tele 01392 256716 email: revbenh@protonmail.com

Notices to Gill by noon on Thursday please.
Tel: 01363 773641 or email: notices@creditonmethodist.org.uk