

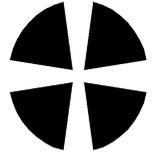


CHRISTCHURCH

**The Methodist Church / The United Reformed
Church**



THE GROVE, ILKLEY
Telephone: 01943 603209
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WIDER HORIZONS

October 2009

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The Church has often been compared to the Ark, like Noah's - you're either in it and saved, or your not and perishing. When I was a child I remember meeting Arthur in the street out shopping one day. He was a lovely old man, every time I went to church Arthur was there. When we met him I asked my Mum why he wasn't at Church - I just assumed he belonged there and was always there!

I wonder if perhaps our attitude is so often like my own childhood approach - thinking from inside the church, even when we're outside of it. Unfortunately my teenage years were spent singing hymns, going to church youth club, choir, and scouts. I joined Bible studies, Christian Fellowship at college, and even went to church twice on Sundays as a student! Don't get me wrong, I love Jesus, and his entry into my life at the age of 17 remains the most precious moment of my life. I'm still learning. But it's only now, in my forties that I'm listening to 'Non-stop oldies' on Steve Wright in the Afternoon on Radio 2 and learning what the music of the world was that others of my generation were listening to. I missed out on it.

The hymns of my youth have given me the soundtrack to my life, the theological commentary, and the Bible themes and quotes, enough for a lifetime and more. Like chewing gum on the bedpost overnight, they don't lose their flavour every time you chew them over! But where do I want to be now? Outside the church! Our family went and watched the sixth Harry Potter film 'The Half Blood Prince' earlier in the summer, and then have spent the rest of the summer reading the final Book 'Deathly Hallows' together. I am as utterly amazed at the Christian understanding that comes through the magical world J K Rowling has created as I am at the deep Christian sermons I found packed into the Star Wars films of my youth (now I am showing my age!).

You get my drift? Some Christians will pray against me because I read Harry Potter, They will judge against me for anything to do with 'magic' is evil and must not be encouraged, they will write me off as unchristian. I know I probably would have done so once myself. Some will despair at me saying I read enough Bible and sang enough hymns to last a lifetime.

But it's because of my faith, because I've spent so long inside the that I long to get out and find those connections, and make them explicit. One of the first people I met from Christchurch said "I'm afraid I'm rather a lapsed Methodist". I replied "Ah, the best sort to be".

My favourite place in church now is actually right on the edge - and if pushed, I'll opt for the world (knowing that love has found me, and it will not let me go).

God's chosen place to be is in the world, the word became flesh, and here in the world, outside the church, that's where we saw his Glory. John says most famously that God loved the world so much he came into it that we might believe in him and live. The world is there, not to go to church, nor to be condemned by it, but saved by God.

I can't help returning to that word mission: Outgoing, forward looking, deeply rooted in God, and not afraid to be utterly and gloriously in and of the world.

*Your Minister and friend,
Rob*

CHRISTCHURCH COMINGS AND GOINGS

We record with sadness the deaths of
Mr Bernard Slater and Miss Joyce Green

REFORM MAGAZINE

Provocative, Comment full, Inspirational, Topical, Ecumenical, Colourful

These are comments from existing readers of the URC monthly magazine, which the publishers (*Warners Midlands plc*) claim to be the currently fastest growing publication they are working with, gaining an average 70 new subscriptions per month. Now is the time to consider placing an order for 2010. Current subscription for 12 months is £18.70. Recent editions are available for loan in the Coffee Centre publications wrack. For further information contact Alan Lowe or Chris Mannall.

Sunday November 8th 6.30pm

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

for all those whose funeral or thanksgiving services Rob has taken. Their families and friends will be invited to this quiet service of reflection, and the roll of names will be read. If you would like a loved one's name to be included, or know someone else who would appreciate an invitation, please let Rob know.

Kids' Slot

New beginnings

In September, some of our Christchurch children will have made some very big moves in their lives:

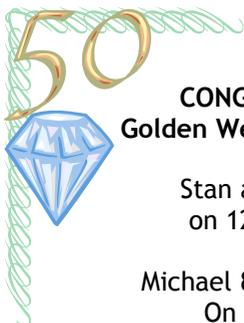
Erica East, William Atack, Isabel Jackson and Isabelle Freeman started primary school. Ruairidh Mon Williams, Daniel Jones, Jessica Hatting, Deborah Henney and Lauren Brown started secondary school.

Emma Noble passed her A levels and will be going to Sheffield to study Design and Technology. Emily Cade and Lucy Mannall passed their GCSE exams to go onto Sixth Form.

We wish them, and their families, all God's blessings in this exciting and perhaps daunting time of their lives. Jesus promises to be with us, even when we can't be with our family and friends during challenging times in our lives, and we pray that this promise would be a reality in your lives.

At Online@9, Erica, William, Isabel and Isabelle moved up from the Ladybirds group to Dolphins. Ruairidh, Daniel, Lauren, Deborah and Jessica moved up from Eagles to YICs (Youth in Christ). Rachel Burns moved up to TICs (Teens in Christ).

A special thank you to all the people who run and support our children's and young people's groups, both on Sunday morning and through the week. The children receive such great teaching and witness such wonderful Christian living week in week out, and we pray this will stay with them throughout their lives. Regularly we have about 40 under 18s with over 60 listed on our registers.



CONGRATULATIONS ! Golden Wedding Anniversaries

Stan and Joan Loach
on 12th September

Michael & Margaret McClay
On 11th October

"THANK YOU"

dear friends, for your kind thoughts arising from my recent hospitalisation.

Good to be back amongst you.

Alan Lowe

MATUGGA CHALLENGE

The World Mission and Society Committee has challenged Christchurch to raise at least £8000 by members organising fund raising events (large and small, by young and not so young) and by individual donations. If you would like to make a donation, please:

Put a cheque (made out to “The Partnership Trust”) or cash in an envelope clearly marked “Matugga Challenge” and place on the collection plate.

or

Cheques (made out to “The Partnership Trust”) in an envelope clearly marked “Matugga Challenge” may also be passed directly to John Sayers, Rita Armitage or the treasurer Tom Collins.

or

Cash from donations or fund raising events should be passed in an envelope clearly marked “Matugga Challenge” directly to the treasurer Tom Collins.

Gift Aid Declaration forms for The Partnership Trust will be available in Christchurch Foyer.

Fund Raising: Please inform John Sayers , Merle Collins or Rita Armitage of intended Fund raising events, a register will be kept, and events listed on the web site diary and in Wider Horizons etc.

Lay Worker Appointment.

By the time you read this, the advertisement for a new Children’s and Young People’s Lay Worker will have been published and we may even have received initial enquiries. Our excitement is building!

A lot of hard and prayerful work has taken place over the past 3 months which we trust God is using to lead the right person into this appointment, to support and strengthen His work at Christchurch with children, young people and their families.

The advertisement has appeared in both Christianity and Youth Work Magazines and on their related website, www.jobsearchmonitor.com. It is on our own church website too, along with the detailed job description so if you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, do direct them to www.christchurchilkley.org.uk.

Please pray for this ongoing process, for those making the decision to apply and for the Appointment Group as we work towards interviewing and appointing a successful person to this key role in the life of our church.

Juliet Amos (Working Group co-ordinator)

The Lay Worker Appointment Group is: Juliet Amos, Enid Eagle, Georgie Higgins, Rev Rob Hilton, Ruth Jones, Chris Mannall and Janice Noble.

“Obstacles to Peace”

The title of this article is the same as Jeff Halper’s thought-provoking book first published in 2005, which provides an authentic statement on Israeli’s “Matrix of Control” – a complex system of administration. Halper is an Israeli anthropologist and Coordinator of ICAHD (*The Israel Committee Against House Demolition* www.icahd.org). In its quest to promote a peaceful and just solution to the Palestinian question, ICAHD mobilize both Israelis and Palestinians to rebuild Palestinian homes as acts of resistance.

Today it is clear that Israel has, so far, made little response to international pressure to remove the “obstacles” in spite of the recent rhetoric.

On Sunday morning, 2nd August, the al-Ghawe and Hannoun families were evicted from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. Over 100 Israeli police stormed their homes at 6am and ordered them to leave. Twenty-one people were arrested. At approximately the same time the Israeli authorities also demolished the Um Kamel’s tent for the sixth time since their eviction in November last year. On 5th August an Israeli bulldozer blocked a road in the South Hebron hills and isolated the villagers in the Kallet Adbea area depriving them of access to their workplaces.

Over the last few months it has been reported that restrictions around the Jordan Valley (West Bank), Bethlehem and Hebron areas are suffering a fifth year of drought and scorching summer temperature exacerbates the situation for the Palestinian families whose water supply is controlled by the Israeli authorities. Some villages have received no tap water for months and forced to buy in water at exorbitant prices. (*The World Bank recently reported Israelis are receiving four times more water per capita than West Bank Palestinians*).

It is small wonder that hope is in short supply right across Israel and the occupied territories.

[In addition to the above website regular reports can be received through “Commitment for Life” (request copies of ‘Moving Stories’ through linda.mead@urc.org.uk)]



Following the summer break, we are now back in the swing of offering the Traidcraft Stall on the first Sunday of each month. It is great to be part of the hustle and bustle in the Coffee Centre and to have more opportunity to meet people and encourage new customers.

Traidcraft Christmas catalogues are now available with some really lovely Christmas cards and gifts. Orders must be placed and paid for by Sunday 15 November. Catalogues will be available from the stall or if you miss us then, just contact me and I will be happy to provide you with one.

We are currently trying out a new supplier for some of our range so you may see new items appearing. We would naturally welcome your feedback on these.

We already supply Fairtrade goods to the Coffee Centre and one or two workplaces. If you would like your place of work to use fairly traded products, again please contact me to discuss how this can be done.

Looking forward to your continued support because
**BUYING FAIRTRADE REALLY DOES
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO LIVES**

Judith and John Bray

Thank you from the bottom of my surgical socks (bottom of heart is not deep enough!) to thank all friends at Christchurch for their warm wishes, visits and cards which helped so much. I'm now making a good recovery and eager to be back in action again.

*With love and blessings
Lillian Smith*

Coffee Centre Needs You

Children back at school New to the area Just Finished work
Students gone to Uni. Courses completed Empty nest
Want more contact with people Make new friends Fellowship

Whatever your reason, have you a couple of hours to spare every week, fortnightly or even monthly? We generally work in 2 hour slots throughout the day but would accommodate all requests.

Did you know that

Every week we rely on 45 volunteers to help run the Coffee Centre.
A high percentage of our volunteers are over 70 years of age.
We provide substantial of revenue for Christchurch and its charities.
Our aim is outreach to the community – not just serving refreshments.
We offer an opportunity for less able members of our society to do a worthwhile job.
We welcome students of all abilities who wish to do work experience.
We often have students working with us who are participating in the “Duke of Edinburgh” Scheme.

Without the dedication of our volunteers the Coffee Centre would not be the warm friendly place it is today.

BUT we need more of you if it is to continue in the same way.

If you can help in any way and need some more information – pop into the Coffee Centre Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm or phone Pauline Greenfield on 01943 609002.

We are waiting to hear from you.





GREEN SPOT

Water - a global resource under threat. Changing climate and increasing demand are creating a shortage of water. Water is essential for life, not only for humans, but also plants and animals.

In Africa, flowers grown for European markets are taking water needed to grow food crops for Africans. In America, the mighty Colorado River has been dammed to provide water for cities like Las Vegas in the desert, leaving the River nearly dry by the time it reaches Mexico.

We are fortunate to live in the temperate zone where water is much more plentiful. Think of that next time it rains!

Moor Faith

The Rombald's Hotel, Wells Road at 7.30pm.

Exploring issues of faith and modern living.

Presentations and discussions over coffee/tea & biscuits.

£3 donation towards refreshments and use of room.

October 1st: "Love, actually"

November 5th: "The Word of God" – Literally?

December 3rd: "Please Wait Here" – Making the most of Advent

January 7th: "Natural Born Sinners?"

Come along or phone for more information: Father Philip Gray, St Margaret's Church, Tel: 01943 607210 or Rev. Stuart Jenkins, Baptist Church, Tel: 01943 603686

CHRISTCHURCH GUILD

Meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall.
There is always a warm welcome to both men and women.

Speakers in October are:

7th: "By Rail to Bolton Abbey" (Mike Dixon)

Monday 12th: Visit to The Briery as guests of Catholic Ladies Guild
("Candlelighters" - children's day hospital)

14th: Phil & Libby Chappell (Matugga)

21st: 2.30pm Visit to the Ladies Baptist Group

28th: "Hands of Christ" (Mrs Anne Cooper)

CHURCH'S ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Churches in the UK, in Europe and around the world are taking action on climate change.

The following is just a flavour of what is happening.

On December 5th, the weekend before the Copenhagen meeting, CEL (Christian Ecology Link) is helping other Christian environmental and development agencies to hold a service of worship at 11 am, in Westminster Central Hall, just before the "[Stop Climate Chaos march and rally](#)" in Westminster, London. Tens of thousands of people from all walks of life will flow through the streets of London to demonstrate their support for a safe climate future for all.



The Wave is organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition .

On December 13th the Archbishop of Canterbury will preach at Copenhagen at a major church service. The Danish churches are asking churches throughout the world to ring their bells 350 times on Sunday 13th December to symbolize the 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide we need to return to for a stable climate.

Day of Prayer

The imminent threat of catastrophic climate change means this is a key time to call all Christians to a united time of prayer for God's world in the run up to the key talks in Copenhagen in December.

Sunday 4th October from 12 noon to 6pm has been agreed as the **Day of Prayer** (though individual churches will be free to make their own arrangements, times and dates). This date is St Francis Day and the final Sunday of Creation Time (September 1st to October 4th).

Local Action

Churches Together Ilkley are holding a "Green Fair" on Saturday November 7th at Christchurch starting at 10am. Please make every effort to come along.

If you can't make London on 5th December why not join "The Wave" for climate Justice in York on Saturday 24 October???

**WEST YORKSHIRE SPIRITUALITY NETWORK
(Ecumenical)**

GOD EVERY DAY AND EVERY WAY

A day of spiritual reflection and resources

Thursday 22 October 2009 10.00am - 4.00pm at The Briery

Keynote speaker: Revd Canon Peter Whittaker (Chair of the West Yorkshire Methodist District and Vice Chair of the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council)

*Prayer focuses - Mini labyrinth - Meditative colouring - Silence
Prayer beads, ropes and plaits - Guided meditation - Quiet Gardens
Praying with icons - Ignatian and other methods of prayer - Creative writing
Walk of thanksgiving and praise*

Cost for the day is £22 per person including morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Please apply before 1st October 2009.
Enquiries to Katharine Cheney via Christchurch Office

Church Council

Pat Fisher has taken over as
Church Council Secretary
from George McArthur.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sunday 6 December 2009
Delicious Desserts**

Design your own ice cream
Relax with a cuppa

A fund raising event for the

Matugga Challenge

to be held at the homes of

Rob & Ruth Hilton / Richard & Jennifer Rundle

More details to follow





CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

You are invited to include the following suggestions of local and broader concern in your private prayer:

4th OCTOBER **Week of prayer for World Peace**

Those promoting reconciliation in troubled areas of the world; Ilkley Parish Council and Bradford Metropolitan District Council; URC District Synod meeting on 10th October.

11th OCTOBER **One World Week**

All former ministers, retired ministers and deaconesses in Ilkley; New Life children's home in Patna, India, a project supported by Christchurch.

18th OCTOBER **Junior Mission for All**

Those who collect for and support Junior Mission for All; those who lead services at residential and nursing homes in Ilkley.

25th OCTOBER

The members and leaders of Christchurch Guild; those working for reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

31st OCTOBER

Those who provide transport for others to Church; UNICEF, striving to build a world in which all children live in dignity and security.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Human beings are the only creatures that allow their children to come back home.

(Bill Cosby 1937–)

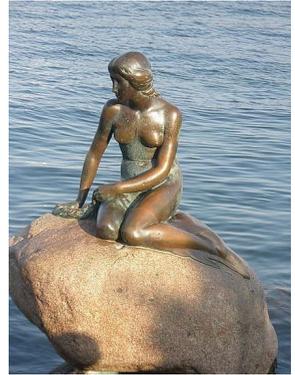
If you would like to suggest a quote (*topical, classical, theological, literary, amusing*) please submit it to the Editors for their consideration.
Please supply a source or acknowledgement for the quote.

Countdown to Copenhagen

December's UN climate summit in Copenhagen will shape the way the world combats climate change.

It's vital an effective deal is done for the sake of the planet and for the millions in the poorest countries suffering the effects of climate change now.

This United Nations Summit is the latest in a series of efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. It began with the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, where the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was agreed, and then with the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Now, governments are coming together to negotiate global action to cut emissions from 2012.



For 200 years the industrialized countries have pumped greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. Regretfully, most of these wealthy countries are still far from meeting their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

Developing nations like India and China now emit significant amounts of greenhouse gases, whilst still having large populations living in poverty.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt by people who have done the least to cause the problem. Particularly affected are those in the Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa who lack the resources to adapt to these changes in climate.

The global economic crisis is making the affects of global warming even worse on survival issues such as water and food security.

Delegates from 183 countries met in Bonn in June 2009 to discuss the text which will be the basis for an international climate change deal to be finalized at Copenhagen in December. Further meetings will take place in Bonn in August, in Bangkok in September and in Barcelona in November.

So far progress is slow. Still lacking is:

- national policies NOW that will mean each country plays its part in peaking global emissions in 2010 and will allow each country to negotiate in Copenhagen in good faith
- robust commitments from developed countries to cut emissions by 100% by 2050 (as part of a global 80% reduction)
- money from the industrialized world to help developing countries to switch to clean energy, keep tropical rainforests intact and adapt to unavoidable climate impacts.

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
October 2009**

	4th	11th	18th	25th
9:00am	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9
10:30am	Rev Arnold Clay HC	Rev Rita Armitage	Rev Vivienne Firth	Stan Loach
6:30pm	Rev Rob Hilton	Michael Noble P & P	3rd Sunday @ Ilkley Baptist Church	Ian Watt

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am
2nd Mgr Kieran Heskin; 9th Rev Peter Willox; 16th Rev Rob Hilton;
23rd Rev Dick Watson; 30th Rev Arnold Clay



Eleven times National Champion Gold Medallists of the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers, this fifty-strong renowned ladies' chorus from Leeds won the title of 2009 European Champions in March 2009.

**We are delighted they are visiting Christchurch
on Saturday 21st November at 7.30pm.**

There is already a great demand for tickets (£5 each), so make sure you buy yours in good time from the church office or coffee centre .

**The deadline for the November 2009 edition of Wider Horizons is
1st October**

Items (maximum 300 words please)
preferably by email as a Word attachment
to both George McArthur (mcarthur59@blueyonder.co.uk)
and Christchurch Office (Office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)

ILKLEY CHILDREN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST!

Over 40 children celebrated Christmas at St Margaret's Church, Ilkley, on Thursday 20th August. Christmas songs filled the church and the children performed and watched a nativity play in the shadow of a Christmas tree.

These unseasonal celebrations were followed the next day by Easter as part of this year's holiday club run by all the churches in Ilkley. Each day, from Monday 17th August until Friday 21st, the children heard about an amazing, show stopping bible story, starting with the creation story, then discovering the courageous faith of David against Goliath and Daniel in the lions' den. Finally they looked at the Christmas and Easter stories to find out why Jesus was born and how he died and rose from the dead, so that we can live in heaven with God.

The club, led by volunteers from all the churches in Ilkley, was called 'Showstoppers'. The children had a chance to perform songs and dramas as well as make crafts and play games in their groups. There was also a chance to reflect and chat about the issues facing them in their lives in the light of the stories they had heard.

Next year the holiday club will be held at Christchurch.

