

The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church

CHRISTCHURCH, THE GROVE, ILKLEY
Telephone: 01943 603209

WIDER HORIZONS



office@christchurchilkley.org.uk
www.christchurchilkley.org.uk



Come Inside



December 2009

December 2009

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

What will it mean for you? When will it happen?

Some will have made their cakes and puddings, we will have begun our Christmas shopping and wondered if there'll be a post this Christmas. But when will something stir within, when will the light come on, when will we pray "Ah Lord, there you are!".

I remember one year early in my ministry. I was taking an all age service of worship one evening. The whole of a Dorset village was there and I'm sure I had some nice little talk, story, or address ready. But as the children dressed up and acted out the familiar story, and the parents and grandparents looked on joyfully, I saw a young family on the front row, who'd just had a baby. I cast aside my notes and picked up the baby (a daughter, I seem to remember!) and simply said "Ahh, it wasn't a doll, it was a real baby". And that was all that was needed. There Christmas began for me. God had given inspiration. I had a reflection to chew on like a mint humbug for days, and a shiver ran down my spine.

To say as we journey into Advent then, What will it mean for you? When will it happen? It is to encourage an openness to the reality of God to surprise us, in individual ways that ring true with the scriptures and the work of the Spirit within us. It is to seek and search, and honestly asking of God 'show me, surprise me, encourage and find me in the midst of all that's going on'.

Whether it's in a service, or a word you write or read in a card or letter, pondering a recipe or sitting with a cup of tea in a busy shop, I hope and pray 'it' will happen for you this advent, and you can come in to Christmas worship with a smile and a twinkle that glorifies God because He's given a meaning once again.

With every blessing for a meaningful journey towards Christmas.

Your minister and friend,

Rob

VESTRY HOUR

Rob is always happy to be phoned, e-mailed or spoken to (*make sure he writes it down!*) and always happy to make an appointment to meet at the manse, church, or come to your home, but it has been said he's had no publicised vestry hours for folks to call in to the vestry and see him. So he will be in the following venues at the following times if you, or someone you know, would like to pop in:



Wednesday 2nd December	7-8pm
Wednesday 9th December	11am -12 noon
Friday 18th December	9.15-10.15 am
Tuesday 5th January	2-3pm

There has been a heart-warmingly positive response to the challenge to Christchurch to raise at least £8000 to meet the cost of providing a new boys' dormitory at Matugga.

HERE ARE SOME MORE IMAGINATIVE FUND RAISING PLANS.

Please give them your support.

THE PUDDING CLUB

Sunday 6 December

Tickets are now available from the Coffee Centre or the Church Office.

Tickets are £5 for adults, £2.50 for children.

Book early—numbers are limited.

ILKLEY TO BOLTON ABBEY—BY RAIL

An illustrated talk by Professor Mike Dixon

Wednesday 9th December 7:30pm

Entrance £3: Including light refreshments

Christmas Nativity Puppet Show

Emma Jones and her friends invite you to watch their Christmas Puppet Show, on **Saturday 12th December, 10am until 11am** in the Lower Hall at Christchurch. Entrance £1. Refreshments will be served.

The children have made all the puppets themselves and look forward to putting on the play for all their friends, of all ages.

**M
o
r
e
f
o
r
M
a
t
u
g
g
a**

Christmas Worship at Christchurch

Come Inside



Advent Sunday – 29 November

- 09.00 Online@9
- 10.30 Worship led by Rev Rob Hilton
- 6.30 Ecumenical worship in the style of Taizé

Second Sunday in Advent – 6 December

- 09.00 Online@9
- 10.30 Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Rob Hilton
- 6.30 Churches Together in Ilkley at Sacred Heart Church

Third Sunday in Advent – 13 December

- 09.00 Online@9
- 10.30 Gift Service and JMA Sunday
led by Rev Rita Armitage
- 6.30 Advent Celebration led by Chris Eagle &
Jeannie Buckroyd: *a mixture of traditional & modern*

Fourth Sunday in Advent – 20 December

- 09.00 Online@9
- 10.30 Worship led by Rev Rob Hilton
- 6.30 Carol Service

Christmas Eve - 24 December

- 4.00 Christingle Service
- 11.30 Holy Communion led by Rev Rob Hilton

Christmas Day - 25 December

- 10.00 Worship for the whole family led by Rev Rob Hilton

Low Sunday – 27 December

- 09.00 Online@9
- 10.30 Worship led by Rev Rob Hilton



RIDDINGS RAMBLERS 2010 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Many thanks to those who have led walks in 2009. The number of participants has varied but all the walks have been most enjoyable. New walkers are always welcome and volunteers to lead walks in 2010 are **very very greatly appreciated.**

Please telephone Lynda Willis and let her know which walk you would be prepared to lead.

Ramblers usually meet in the foyer of Christchurch at 9.30am for walks of approx 6 - 8 miles.

Dates in 2010 are:

Saturday 16 January
Thursday 18 February
Saturday 20 March
Friday 16 April
Saturday 22 May
Thursday 17 June
Saturday 17 July
Friday 20 August
Saturday 18 September
Thursday 21 October
Saturday 20 November

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree."

Charlotte Carpenter

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The church's Health and Safety measures are urgently in need of review.

If you have experience in this field and are willing to help, please ring Brian Armitage . Back-up advisory support is available.

Riddings Hall – Acoustics

To everyone who contributed blankets, curtains, bed spreads, etc:

You will be pleased to know that, following tests, the curtains were taken to Oxfam with everything else going to St George's Crypt in Leeds. The tests suggested that acoustic material attached to the walls may improve the situation. This is still under consideration.

**GIFT SERVICE ON SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER
WILL INCLUDE JMA PRESENTATIONS.**



JMA collectors (both past and present) are invited to wear their ribbons and badges.

CHRISTCHURCH COMINGS AND GOINGS

Congratulations to Joan Murray and Kenneth Ince on their marriage on Saturday 24th October. We wish them much happiness in their life together.

Best wishes to Isobel Richardson in her new home:

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP YOUR DIRECTORY UP TO DATE BY
NOTING DOWN THE COMINGS AND GOINGS.**

“Year in the Life” DVD

Following the success of the Harvest of Wharfedale DVD, we are proposing a “Year in the Life of Christchurch” DVD be made by Philip Holmes as a follow-up!

This would aim to capture all the activities of Christchurch through a twelve month period, both as a memento for members, but also as a tool for mission.

The Web Team is currently planning for a stills photographer to spend two weeks in and around Christchurch to record our activities to boost the photographic impact of the website, and Philip would follow a similar pattern of visiting services and groups to shoot some “film”.

Although we are in the early stages of planning, this is advanced warning to let you know that cameras will be about. As usual, if anyone does not want themselves or their child to appear in either the photographs or DVD, please alert someone at the time and your wishes will be respected.

Exciting times - more details to follow when we have them!

Steve Amos

JOURNEY THROUGH WHARFEDALE DVD

The DVD made for our “Harvest of Wharfedale” celebration has now been extended to 30 minutes.

It is available for purchase (£5) – just in time to make a good Christmas gift !

All proceeds to our Matugga Challenge.
For Sales / Orders, contact Margo Atkinson.

We apologise unreservedly for crediting one of the pieces of creative writing from our Harvest celebration to Alan East. We understand this work was not written by Alan and would be happy to acknowledge whoever wrote the Psalm if they would contact Margo Atkinson, please.



Joan and Kenneth Ince would like to thank all friends at Christchurch for their cards, good wishes and prayers following their marriage on 24th October. We really did feel surrounded by your love and warmth which meant a great deal to us.

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.

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 PRAYER CALENDAR

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



6th DECEMBER Bible Sunday

The work of the Bible Society and Wycliffe Bible Society in translating the scriptures, and those who prepare Bible reading notes for daily use; those working in local shops and services.

13th DECEMBER

The work of Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire and those who receive our Christmas parcels in Romania; all family celebrations over the Christmas season.

20th DECEMBER

Those who will be providing and sharing Christmas Day lunch at Christchurch; those who find the Christmas season difficult.

27th DECEMBER

For those who worship at Christchurch in 2010; that the world may be a more peaceful and happy place.



I would like to thank my good friends for cards, visits and telephone calls and pretty flowers after my a short stay in hospital. God Bless.

Mary Robinson

Christmas Day Lunch

A warm invitation is extended to any member of the Christchurch family and friends who would like to share Christmas Day Lunch after the 10.00 am service. We shall gather in the Coffee Centre for a pre-lunch chance to chat with friends old and new. Anne Woodsworth has again generously offered to organise the traditional fare. A loyal team of volunteers will be on hand to see to your every need and early notification to Anne (via the Church Office or via the pigeon holes) will enable us to plan ahead.



Some suggested ways to pray

A phrase to help you remember a pattern for prayer:

A.A.A. Appreciate Apologise Ask

Start with **Appreciate** God: that is, remember God's goodness to you and focus your attention on God's love.

Next **Apologise**: admit where you have made mistakes and hurt others, knowing God forgives you and will help in the future.

Then **Ask** God for anything you, and those you pray for, need.

No need or concern is too big or too small to bring to God.



It is 140 years since Methodist minister, Thomas Bowman Stephenson, opened the doors of the first Children's Home to help London's most vulnerable children.

The National Children's Home (NCH) is now re-named "**Action for Children**" and its work is as crucial as ever. Much of it supports children, young people and families through local projects. This Christmas, Christchurch will again be supporting specifically the Broomhill Family Centre in Leeds.

However, the fund-raising goes on all year round through individuals who hold Home Collecting Boxes—literally every penny counts. If you have a collecting box, please return it to the Church Office to be emptied by the end of December. Anyone who would like to support Action for Children in this way can request a box from Joan or Brian Mould.

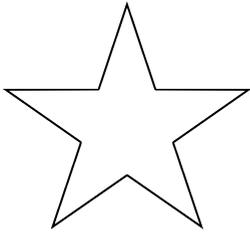
WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH December 2009

**Our Advent and Christmas services
are detailed on Page 4:**

Shoppers Services

A time for reflection 10.30am every Friday

4th December—Rev Peter Willox
11th—Margaret Cook
18th—Rev Rob Hilton



Ann & Barry Taylor would like to wish everyone at Christchurch a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Christmas Greetings and love to all at Christchurch: Betty Skinner

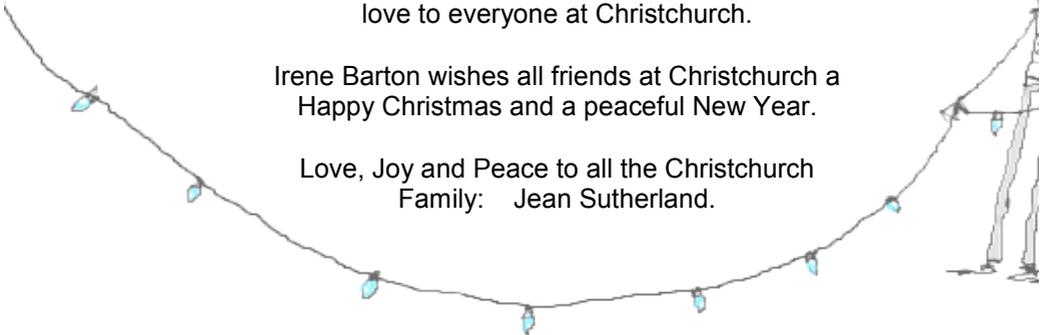


Remembering friends at Christchurch this Christmas. Love, Joy & Peace.
Steve & Anne Hamer (Addingham)

Judy and Mike send Christmas greetings and love to everyone at Christchurch.

Irene Barton wishes all friends at Christchurch a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Love, Joy and Peace to all the Christchurch Family: Jean Sutherland.



Many thanks for all the help given me this last year.
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.
Lydia xxx

Joan and Stan Loach wish all their friends at Christchurch Joy,
Peace and Love For Christmas and throughout the year.

Love, Peace and good wishes to all our friends at Christchurch:
Alan & Joyce
(Card cost donated to Matugga)



Advent Greetings: Wishing everyone a Peaceful and Joyful
Christmas: Lucy, Thomas, Helen and Chris

*Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas with peace,
happiness and good health for 2010. Shalom.*
John Sayers

*With every wish of goodness and joy this Christmas
and throughout the coming year*
Jennifer and Richard Rundle

*May the peace and love of Christmas
be yours throughout the coming year.*
Cedric Mattock

Christmas Greeting from Wales:
*Every Blessing to our Christchurch Family
and good wishes for a joy filled Christmas and New Year.*
With love from Angela and Eric

Wishing you a joyful Christmas.
Adèle, George & Dorothea

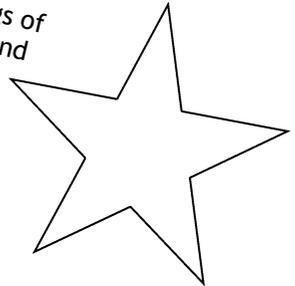
Christmas Greetings
from Rob and Ruth, Sam, Ned and Esther Hilton
to all our friends at Christchurch.

Love, Joy and Peace at Christmas to you all. *Merle and Tom Collins*

Wishing friends at Christchurch the many blessings of
Joy, Peace, Health and Happiness at Christmas and
through the coming year: *Lilian Smith.*

*Trevor & Jeannie Buckroyd send Blessings and
Christmas greetings to their many friends at
Christchurch.*

Have a wonderful Christmas,
Love from Paul, Ruth, Daniel and Emma Jones





The Pennine Way - CAP

So what will all our sponsorship (which now stands at over £1850) be used for?

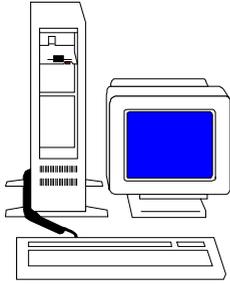
At Christians Against Poverty we have 122 centres across the UK providing debt relief for over 3000 clients. I manage the finances of around 200 clients, all of whom have contacted CAP for assistance due to the mounting pressure of their debts. However, we have a vision to open a CAP Centre in every town and city in the UK within the next five years (60 are opening this year)! This means 750 churches need to be inspired and equipped to reach out to the poor and needy in their communities. So the funds raised will be used not only to support our existing clients and centres but more importantly to put in place what's needed to help the hundreds more who contact us each week asking for assistance but who live in areas where we do not yet have a church-based centre.

Dee is one client whose life has been transformed by God through the work of CAP. She faithfully paid into her CAP Account each week enough to cover her priority payments (rent, council tax, utility bills) and make repayments to her creditors. When Dee started working with CAP she had a total of £1216.59 debt. It was crippling - she was unable to feed her children and often went for days without eating anything more than a piece of toast as her money was used to pay the creditors constantly knocking at her door. We calculated Dee's income and expenditure and provided her with guidelines on how to budget. Suddenly she had enough money to buy food each week as well as pay her household costs and save for her children's birthdays. Dee had so little disposable income that it took her over six years to pay off her debts but now she lives in freedom: not only from financial worries but she is one of the 300 clients who become Christians each year through our work.

So many thanks to all who sponsored us :)

Jude Amos





Improving Your Computer Skills

I receive many attached Word documents with e-mails, and I can't help but notice that many folk are still using the American defaults that come with the machine – that is American letter paper size (as opposed to A4), wide margins, tabs set in inches, US dictionary, Times Roman font and so on.

Now it may be that you are perfectly happy with this, but if documents are to be shared, it makes life a lot easier for everyone to at least have UK settings.

Don't know how to change them?

I'm more than happy to show folk how to make these fairly easy changes – either by some simple e-mailed instructions, or with a home visit.

It may also be that you wish to develop your skills, perhaps adding headers and footers, creating booklets, managing font styles and sizes, importing graphics and text boxes, customising your toolbars . . . and it could be that some skills sessions could be arranged.

Want to start to learn Excel? Or Photoshop? Or Power Point?

If you have an interest in any of this, or would be willing to tutor, please contact me and I will see if we can make use of the skills within Christchurch and try to share them around.

The same offer is extended to any users of the Apple Mac system.

PS I'm not an "expert" but I am pretty familiar with most bits of Office, and I expect there are folk out there who also have skills they are willing to share!

Steve Amos

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all my friends at Christchurch for their warm wishes, cards and visits during my recent stay in hospital. It is wonderful to know that so many people care. I am now back home and recovering well and hope to see you all again very soon.

God bless you all.

Maurice Cawood



Many thanks to all our friends at Christchurch for the beautiful cards, flowers and good wishes we received on the occasion of our Golden Wedding. Blessings to all.
Michael and Margaret McClay



Dear Friends at Christchurch,

A VERY sincere thankyou for your tremendously generous donation towards the work of Phakamisa. It will be allocated to providing transport for people who want to attend our workshops.

God seemed to confirm our decision to provide transport by prompting an anonymous donor to give us money to do with it as we pleased, then Christchurch promised to support us for three years. We are grateful to have funding assured.

I hope to be able to visit you when I am in your country next year as I want to deliver personally hugs of appreciation and tell you all a little more about the work you are so faithfully supporting. May our God's presence be very real to each one of you in surprising ways—just as it is to our people who enjoy a free ride to the workshops.

Glenda Howieson

PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED POSTAGE STAMPS

(British & Foreign) for Christian Aid
and complete postcards.

They can be left in the box beside the pigeonholes in the foyer or handed to Avril Benson.

WORSHIP CONSULTATION 2

A discussion about our evening services.

A good cross-section of people attended the Consultation to discuss the future shape of evening worship given the declining numbers attending.

The 3rd Sunday initiative of sharing worship with All Saints and Baptist Churches was a response to their similar situations. We realize our evening worship numbers would represent a good number at many morning services around the country.

Some ideas from the Worship Consultation are listed below. They will be taken forward for detailed consideration by the Worship Committee and Ministries Team:

Could use Sunday evenings to focus on currently un-met needs (eg evangelism, enabling teenagers to participate, basic Bible / doctrinal teaching with discussion) and people who teach in the morning.

- Consider following a series on issues of faith over several weeks, providing mission and outreach to answer questions non-Christians are asking, possibly using DVDs or films.
 - Services at Glen Rosa, Abbeyfield, Lister's Court happen regularly. Should we take worship out to where older people live?
 - Need to offer a good time of praise but acknowledging others like a quiet and reflective evening service.
 - We should experiment by moving evening worship into different locations (eg parts of the Sanctuary, Lower Hall and the Coffee Centre). Do we need a smaller worship space?
- 6.30pm is a difficult time for many but it is hard to identify an alternative time to answer all needs.

In recent months the numbers at Prayer & Praise have also fallen. The future of these services was discussed.

- When preaching was added, we lost some people. Teaching should be included (but not as a 20 minutes sermon)
- Do we need a P&P team (as for Online@9 and Taize)? Maybe some-worship leaders would be willing to become involved in teams to prepare and plan. Chris Mannall agreed to pull together a team of volunteers to work on such a project .

Numbers are strong at worship in the style of Taize. The present team would be reluctant to take on more frequent services each of which involves a great deal of planning by some 20 people. There are other Taize services in the area (eg Skipton, Guiseley, Menston).

Outreach, Explorers, Seekers: Sunday night is not the best time for Outreach, Explorers, Seekers. It was agreed that the Ministries Group be asked revisit the need for a better demographic understanding of Ilkley to better understand the needs of those we want to reach out to.

If you would be willing to join a team to plan Prayer & Praise services in 2010, please speak to Chris Mannall.



JUBILEE OUTREACH YORKSHIRE

Your help is needed again this Christmas for destitute families in Romania who struggle to buy food and other basics let alone "treats".

It is always a delight to see the pile of colourfully-wrapped shoeboxes arriving to be blessed at our annual Gift Services. Please make this year's even bigger and better as the need is greater than ever.

To see the JOY quarterly newsletter, ask Malcolm Atkinson or go online (www.joyworld.org.uk) the JOY quarterly newsletter

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.

The December programme is:

2nd—"Local links in Mali" (*Mary & John Wood*)

9th—Christmas Tea Party

16th - Carols and Christmas Readings

Re-opens January 6th 2010 (*Rev Rob Hilton*)

Kids' Slot

Christmas Word search

Can you find all the words below?

donkey angel mary stable shepherd manger joy

m x a z m v c s
m a y o a m r h
q a n u r s e e
b k n g y p g p
d o n k e y n h
l n t d o r a e
w e r j r q m r
h s t a b l e d

SCOPE Christchurch Youth Fellowship

All young people from 12 upwards are most welcome
(7.15—8.45pm)

Thursday 3rd December,
Wednesday 9th December;
Monday 21st December

**The deadline for the January 2010 edition
of Wider Horizons is 1st December.**

Items (maximum 300 words please) preferably by email, please,
as a Word attachment to both George McArthur and Christchurch
Office

JUBILEE OUTREACH YORKSHIRE
2009 SHOEBOX APPEAL FOR FAMILIES
 Your parcels will be received at our
 Gift Services on Sunday 13th December

Guided by the Tick list below, you are invited to fill a medium-sized, strong shoebox with items (in date to at least April 2010). Fasten the slip securely to the outside of the box.

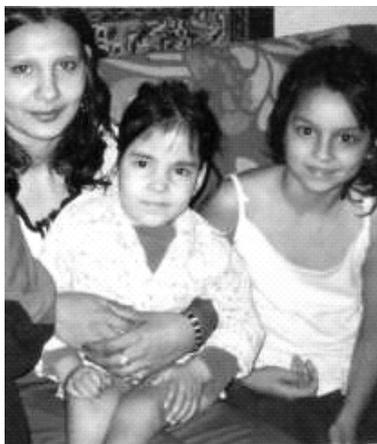
PLEASE DO NOT include items not on the list :

NO tinned foods other than meat or fish; NO second-hand clothes;

NO soft toys etc; NO food items not in manufacturer's packs.

Any of the above items could give customs reason to refuse a whole load.

Food Parcel Contents	
<i>Please tick contents</i>	Tick ✓
Dried fruit	
Dried peas/beans	
Sugar	
Packet spaghetti	
Vegetable soup mix	
Tin fish/meat	
Dried milk powder	
Soap – double wrapped	
Colouring book/pencils	
Toothbrush/paste	
New gloves/scarf	
New hat/socks	



Adult	M		F	
Teenage	M		F	
3 – 9 years	M		F	
0 – 3 years	M		F	
Family				

The cost of transporting a load
is £3,000.

We ask you to donate £2
towards this cost. Please place
it in an envelope attached to
the outside of the parcel. This
will be removed before the
parcels leave Christchurch.