



# WIDER HORIZONS

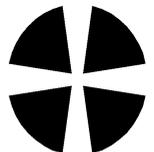
**February 2010**



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



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February 2010

**MINISTER'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

At the heart of the Christian faith is a story, with many dimensions and levels, and a power to transform. It begins with the birth of a baby, and continues through accounts of tax collectors made generous, tormented souls set free, sick people made whole, and fisherman become leaders. It reaches a climax with Jesus accepting death, and continues with him still being there - the miracle of 'God with us' not even thwarted by death. It's firmly rooted in history and reality, and is a story that continues today.

But it's becoming unknown. Over a decade ago I heard a prison chaplain telling the story of her first Easter in prison: the prisoners engaged with Jesus' final week of life and because they knew about guilt and justice they became very angry for him as he was abused and wrongly condemned. The chaplain told of how they left on Good Friday asking why they should come to church on Sunday - there was no point. They really did not know the story! She said the celebration of Easter in that prison was a real joy and a transforming experience for everyone involved.

The time is coming, indeed it is here when we have to realise as Christians that we hold a treasure of a story that we are obliged not only to encounter ourselves, but share with others. So, throughout lent, beginning on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, at [Online@9](#) and 10.30 we will take each Sunday to remember the story. As we do so, we'll build up in the sanctuary a space to encounter the story, reflect and pray. By Holy week itself, 29<sup>th</sup> March, the sanctuary will have the complete story ready to be walked through - and we'll open to visitors.

Watch out for the call for volunteer stewards etc for the week we're open, think about inviting people in, and please pray for the preparation and those who will come and be affected by it.

I believe so strongly in the story, I think we can put all our efforts into getting it right, and getting people there, and trusting God to do the rest. And so to Lent 2010 - may it truly be a time of preparation to meet God in the greatest story ever told.

Your friend and minister,

*Rob Hilton*

## Junior Mission for All A BIG THANK YOU



I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to members of Christchurch, their family and friends who have supported the young people in collecting for Junior Mission for All over the years.

Thanks too to all the children who have volunteered to collect money during their time at Christchurch. Over £8,000 has been raised since Online@9 started alone—a magnificent achievement!

*Rachel Prentice*

## THANK YOU

**From: Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire**

The shoe boxes of gifts sent to Romania were much appreciated. The excitement the parcels generate is very touching.

Food prices in Romania are exorbitant now. Most food costs more than it does here so your generosity is timely! Our lorry driver said he didn't know how people manage. Inflation is making life very difficult: many poor folk only get £5–10 pension per month; many, nothing at all. We sent a 40 foot lorry full of essential supplies and food parcels for our Romanian colleagues to distribute. Most of these go to very poor families and elderly people.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

*Kathy Tedd*



### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

What lies within us is incomparably more precious than what we see outside ourselves. *Teresa of Avila*

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

# Kids' Slot

## Puppet show performance

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December Emma Jones (age 9), Daniel Jones (age 11), Esther Hilton (age 8), Joanna Henney (age 9) and Abigail Prentice (age 9), presented the Christmas story as a puppet show.

It had a lot of work put into it, all the puppets made by hand, and lots of practice. It took almost three whole weeks to get everything ready. We also had to get the background ready. The adults of the children also helped so the children weren't on their own.

My favourite part was making the puppets. My favourite scene was the three kings travelling to Bethlehem. We made £200 from the puppet show for the Matugga challenge. Over 100 people came to watch our puppet show in the Lower Hall in Christchurch.

A few weeks after, we went to a care home called Glen Rosa. We performed the whole play there to the ladies and we think they enjoyed it.

Written by Emma Jones (age 9)

### LENT SERIES

During Lent the Online@9 teams will be doing lots of exciting activities with the children and young people to explore the stories of Easter Week. Some of the activities will involve baking or eating food so if your child has an allergy to any food, please let your leaders know.

### CHRISTMAS OFFERTORIES

Amounts collected were:

Carol Service 20 December (*Matugga*)      £267.35

Christingle Service 24 December (*The Children's Society*)      £256.52

Christmas Day 25 December (*Action for Children*)      £500.00

**Events to mark Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February to 7 March:**

**FAIRTRADE STALL** in the church foyer :  
Saturdays 27 February and 6 March (10 am to 12 noon)

Usual monthly **FAIRTRADE STALL** on Sunday 7 March

**FAIRTRADE TEA PARTY** and Fairtrade Stall in the Coffee Centre

Saturday 6 March 2 to 4 pm

Free tea, coffee, homemade Fairtrade biscuits will be served and there will be a sale of cakes made with Fairtrade ingredients. (Offers of baking and other help gratefully received. Please contact Alan Lowe).

*It is hoped to have a banana producer from the Winward Islands and a member of the Fairtrade Foundation present at this event to take part in a Q & A session. More information next month as arrangements develop.*

The current **Make It Fair** tea campaign is encouraging Tetley, PG Tips, Typhoo, Twinings, and Yorkshire Tea to make a real difference and go Fairtrade. Over 20 million people in developing countries depend on the tea industry for their livelihoods. Yet many live hard lives doing physically demanding work, for low pay. People like Ruth .....

Ruth is a small-scale tea farmer in Kenya. The money she earns from tea doesn't cover the cost of farming. "*I'm trying, but it's not enough,*" she explains. "*There's absolutely nothing left over after you've paid for Fertiliser and things like that... I don't have any other means of getting money.*"

It's time people like Ruth got a fair deal. That's why the UK's five biggest tea brands are being challenged to Make it Fair and go Fairtrade. Fairtrade is a powerful solution that can bring real and lasting change to small-scale tea farmers, workers and their families and communities. It is the only scheme which guarantees tea producers a minimum price for their tea and gives an extra premium payment for investment in their community.

Cards are available from us for you to complete and submit to add pressure to this campaign.

*Judith and John Bray*

**The Rev Steve Dye, Chaplain at St George's Crypt,  
is coming to preach at Christchurch  
at 10.30am on 7th February:  
the Sunday at the end of Homelessness Week.**

When the young people went to visit the Crypt back in May, Steve showed us round, an experience that affected all of us who saw first hand the immense amount of good work going on there.

Following the service on 7th February, there will be a 'Hunger Lunch', a simple meal of soup, cheese and a roll, for which you are invited to donate the equivalent cost of your Sunday lunch to the work of St George's Crypt. Following the lunch, Steve will give a brief presentation.

Please do come along and learn more about this valuable work.

If you intend to come, please collect a ticket from the Church Office, Ruth Hilton, Avril Benson or Peter Stockdale to give us an idea of numbers.

## **MEDITATION**

Samaritans are well trained to listen. A Samaritan friend told me how once, whilst taking a phone call she noticed a delivery man about to leave a huge parcel at the front door. She raised a finger and pointed next door where she knew it was expected. Her caller said "You're not listening" and rang off.

It is not easy to give our whole attention to God for more than five seconds. Other thoughts crowd into our minds. At meditation we are aiming to give our whole attention to God for 20 minutes. It is not easy but devoting the time and practicing in a group is helpful. It makes us "God aware" for the rest of the day. It helps us also to know ourselves better.

The group will restart in February ( snow and ice permitting) on Mondays at 9.00 am in the Dales Room. Feel free to give it a go - or come even occasionally.

*Lynda East*



## CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

7 February HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY

The staff and helpers in the Coffee Centre and those who appreciate the welcome there; the work of St George's Crypt in Leeds, providing support for homeless, rootless and disadvantaged people.

14 February

Those who visit Christchurch and find peace in the sanctuary; The Blenheim Project in Bradford—offering support and temporary accommodation to homeless women and their children.

21 February 1st Sunday in Lent FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

“Journey to the Cross” - our visual journey at Christchurch; fair trade between countries and our regular Fairtrade stall.

28 February 2nd Sunday in Lent

The Wednesday Wizards who maintain the fabric of the Church; the United Reformed (Yorkshire Province) Synod meeting on 6th March at Waverley URC, Huddersfield.

### Our Christmas Day Lunch

This year saw the passing of ten years since our first Christmas Day Lunch for members of our church family and friends. Originally started as a result of concern for those who would be on their own on this special day this remains our prime motivation. Fortunately, however, this has not excluded couples and other friends who would simply like to share a happy occasion with us.

We are especially appreciative of the contributions from some very talented people, whether in preparing the food, decorating the tables or tinkling the ivories in a seasonal manner. This year we had an unexpected visit from Rudolf (he of the Red Nose) complete with gifts for all and were particularly pleased to have with us also a talented centenarian (+2) and a Dales poet. A relaxed much enjoyed occasion for which we are very grateful and which we hope will be repeated for the next ten years - at least !

*Alan East*



## CONGRATULATIONS

An honour for long-standing service to Scouting, the Silver Wolf, has been awarded to Andrew Walbank by Chief Scout Peter Duncan.



Andrew joined the 1st Ben Rhydding Scout Group in 1955, going on to become an assistant Scout Leader before forming 1st Ilkley Sea Scouts with whom he organised water activities such as sailing and canoeing for 25 years. In 1995 he was appointed District Commissioner for Wharfedale and has taken his Scouts all over the world, including expeditions to Canada, Peru and Nepal.

### **Dates for your 2010 diary**

#### Church Meetings:

Tuesday 2nd February  
Wednesday 19th May  
Thursday 9th September  
and Mon 8th November

#### Church Council:

Tuesday 2nd March  
Wednesday 9th June,  
Thursday 30th September  
Monday 6th December

**Christchurch seeks to appoint a  
part time administrator**  
to run the church office and support  
the Minister and Lay Employee.

We invite applicants who are  
computer literate to apply for the  
post which is for 25hrs per week,  
timing negotiable over 5 mornings.  
The proposed start date is the end  
of March 2010.

For application forms and further  
details please contact Judith Smith.

### **The deadline for the March 2010 edition of Wider Horizons is 1st February.**

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

## Website Data

Our website was recording a very high page hit rate, and the Web Team wondered if this was caused by ‘searchbots’ (automatic programmes from Google, Yahoo and others, picking up information for their search engines), so we added in some analysis software to get better information.



Well it has been fun to see the results of the first month. Here are some highlights for December 2009:

We’ve had 465 visits from 217 different visitors including three on Christmas Day; 213 came to the site directly, 140 via a search engine, and 112 from referring websites; 1910 pages have been viewed (averaging over 4 pages a visit).

- The Calendar is the most popular page.
- Average time on the site is 2 minutes and 49 seconds.
- Of the five visitors from the USA, the person in Olathe, Kansas looked at 15 pages.
- Someone from Brisbane, Australia, spent nearly 4 minutes on the site.

<b>WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH</b>				
<b>February 2010</b>				
	<b>7th</b>	<b>14th</b> <b>Stewardship</b> <b>Sunday</b>	<b>21st</b> <b>Lent 1</b>	<b>28th</b> <b>Lent 2</b>
<b>9:00am</b>	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9
<b>10:30am</b>	Revs Rob Hilton & Stephen Dye HC	Margaret Cook	Michael Noble	Roland Henney
<b>6:30pm</b>	Rev Rob Hilton	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday @ Ilkley Baptist Church	Rev Rob Hilton
<b>SHOPPERS’ SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am</b>				
5th—Rev Dick Watson; 12th Margaret Cook; 19th—Msgr Kieran Heskin; 26th—Rev Rob Hilton				

## AN APPEAL

**Christchurch is blessed with many gifted and talented people who contribute to our life together. Amongst them are musicians – organists, pianists, instrumentalists and singers who lead us in worship. We cannot and must not take each other for granted, and we must listen to and value those who serve the rest of us.**

**That time has come.**

**It's becoming harder to fill the musicians' rota, especially of organists and pianists for the 10.30 and 6.30 services.**

**Are you sitting on a skill?  
Are you hiding a talent?  
Are you denying your gift?  
Do you know someone who is?**

**Maybe God is calling you to respond and share your gift – please speak to Rob Hilton or Sheila Carruthers if you'd be willing to play your tune. One or two more offers per quarter would make a real difference.**

### **Matugga – we met the challenge!**

Together at Christchurch we have exceeded the target of £8,000 and raised £10,291 for the building of a new boys' dormitory at the Revival Christian Centre in Matugga, Uganda. A further amount of around £1200 will be added in gift aid.

A big thank you to everyone for an amazing fund-raising effort through generous personal donations, a puppet show, a railway lecture, a donation from the White Rosettes' concert, Christchurch Guild's fund raising afternoon, choir teas, sale of Wharfedale DVD's, delicious desserts, the collection at the Carol Service and many other events.

*Rita Armitage – on behalf of The World Mission and Society Committee*



## GREEN SPOT

It is with a heavy heart that I reflect on the Copenhagen Summit. Perhaps it was too much to hope that there would be agreement from all nations of the world about anything.

In the West, our prosperity has increased as our economy has grown and naturally other nations want to do the same. However, we have only one planet, Earth, and we all need to live more modestly so that the increasing human population can share its resources more fairly.

*Elisabeth Halsall*

## SECOND SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

January saw the launch of our team-led evening service - 'Second Sunday'. The emphasis is on prayer and bible reflection interspersed with a mixture of modern and traditional hymns. Our aim is to provide a service that is distinctive and engaging which includes times for quiet personal reflection and participatory prayer.

At present the Second Sunday team members are Judy Dixon, Mike Dixon, Georgie Head, Chris Mannall, Michael Noble, Brian Scott and Jo Wales-Smith. The team will be planning and leading the services, at least until the new format is established.

The theme for the next three services is 'Love';

February 14th - What is love?

March 14th - Love in Action

April 11th - Love revealed

**Please come and join us.**

## HOUSEGROUP WEEK Planning Calendar

When fixing the weeks for Housegroups, we avoid school holidays (as families tend to be away) so we check out the school half term holiday weeks on ([www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/education\\_and\\_skills/schools/school\\_term\\_and\\_holiday\\_dates.htm](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/education_and_skills/schools/school_term_and_holiday_dates.htm)) and work back from there. This gives us the Housegroup weeks beginning on Sundays:

<u>Spring 2010</u>	<u>Summer 2010</u>	<u>Autumn 2010</u>
10 January	25 April	19 September
24 January	09 May	03 October
07 February	23 May	17 October
21 February	06 June	31 October
07 March	20 June	14 November
21 March	04 July	28 November
		12 December

All these, and the first two terms of 2011, can be found on *our* website at [www.christchurchilkley.org.uk/what-we-do/housegroups/housegroup-weeks](http://www.christchurchilkley.org.uk/what-we-do/housegroups/housegroup-weeks).

So if you are fixing up other meetings, you can slot them into the non Housegroup weeks to ensure fewer clashes.

*steve amos*

### **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.

#### February 2010

3<sup>rd</sup> Travelling Ted Going Round the World (*Peter & Pat Stockdale*)

10<sup>th</sup> Four Generations (*Craven Towler*)

17<sup>th</sup> Airport Security (*Michael Knight*)

24<sup>th</sup> Martin House Hospice for Children (*Pam Ravenscroft*)

## Stewardship Sunday - 14 February 2010

This is the time of year when we think about the resources Christchurch needs for the year ahead.

For the financial year that ends in March we are facing a projected deficit - this means that there will not be enough income from what members of Christchurch have pledged, to cover what is planned for the expenditure for this year. Next year we have exciting future plans and will also need to support our current work - importantly the Vision Group has identified 8 - mission priorities:

*Offer Christ more effectively*  
*Provide a warm and informative welcome to all*  
*Offer opportunities for prayer, reflection and the deepening of spirituality*  
*Provide space for conversation and listening*  
*Provide worship at differing times and in a variety of contexts*  
*Develop new opportunities for service and witness*  
*Meet emerging community needs, with a focus on families, children and young people*  
*Enhance the witness through the Coffee Centre*

To make this reality we need to put our support behind these activities, both in terms of jobs to do - there are always vacancies, and through support by financial giving.

**How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?**  
*(Psalm 16 v12 )*

**Prayer: Lord, Help us to follow you, in reckless generosity, holding nothing back, sure in the knowledge that your grace will never run out. Amen**

PTO

## **What to do next:**

There will be a short presentation about Stewardship at all services on Sunday 14 February

Following this, please consider your response to this year's Stewardship Review, both in terms of the time you give to the Church community and your financial response. Every response will be different depending on your current circumstances and abilities.

It is important Christchurch knows what the regular income is going to be, so as to be able to budget effectively and to make good use of its resources, both within the church in Ilkley and through giving to other needs in the area and in the wider world. There are regular updates in Wider Horizons on where money for mission goes during the year.

**Please complete the confidential Stewardship form** part of this magazine and return it via the box in the foyer or post it to the Stewardship Secretary.

**Gift Aid:** If you pay Income Tax the Church can gain substantial benefits at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid allows Christchurch, as a charity, to reclaim tax from the Inland Revenue where individuals have already paid Income Tax. Each £1 under Gift Aid is increased by 28p. Last year Christchurch was able to reclaim £27,271. However we can only claim this if we can record your giving during the year - so please consider joining the planned giving scheme if you are new to the Church or have not joined before and ask for a Gift Aid form.

If you need any further information please speak in confidence to:

**Stewardship Secretary— Helen Singleton,**

**Gift Aid Secretary - Gerald Woollin,**

## Response Form - Strictly Confidential

Please complete this response form and return to the box  
in the Foyer marked 'Stewardship'

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Post Code: ..... Telephone .....

### Time and Talents:

Please tick ✓ here if you would like to discuss opportunities available in the  
Christchurch community

If possible give details of areas in which you have an interest:

## Financial Response:

Giving thanks to God for His many blessings to me and recognising my responsibility  
to Him for the work of His Church in Ilkley and the world around us, I commit to  
giving regularly:

Amount:                    £    per week/month/year\*

(to replace any existing commitments, even if there is no change)

If New Giver - please tick here                    .....

### Method of payment:

Standing Order/Envelopes/offertory plate\*

### Gift Aid:

I would like the Church to recover Income Tax through Gift Aid\*

Already signed Gift Aid Form/Need Gift Aid Form\*

\* Please delete as necessary