



WIDER HORIZONS

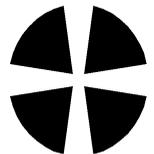
April 2010



The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church



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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

You may just get this edition of *Wider Horizons* before April, in which case may I encourage you to visit the *Walk Thru Easter* prayer walk that's been built up during Lent? As I write this, I've heard people have begun to respond in all sorts of ways to the balloons and palm trees in the foyer, and the upturned tables at the top of the stairs. As this edition is edited, printed, and distributed, the sanctuary will fill with even more scenes from the last week of Jesus' life, the seating capacity will be reduced and we'll all notice a bit more happening on Sundays. I encourage you to come during Holy Week (at the end of March and the very beginning of April), pick up a programme, and pray. Pray like you never have prayed before. Pray yourself into the story, the experience of Jesus, and literally, prayerfully, *Walk Thru Easter*.

Then, fetch a friend who doesn't go to church, and bring them to walk it too. Then go and talk to them about it. Find out how they felt; what they thought. How do they respond to this Easter experience?

The resurrection of Jesus was the beginning of the transformation of life for those who followed Jesus, as the spirit of God which had worked through Him began to work through them in an amazing experience of life, and then a power to do God's work. That experience is also ours who live 'In Christ'. I hope your experience of God's life is growing, deepening, and transforming you through Easter worship, reflection, and prayer.

This month also I have to say some thank-yous and goodbyes. Firstly to Margo and Margaret in the office. Both have given their time and talent with a smile and a courtesy which contributes so much to our life together as a church. The job in the office is changing into Church Administrator as Mike Fawcett joins us, bringing his own gifts and abilities. Also, a month early, I want to say thank you and goodbye to Stan Brown and Sheila Carruthers, who stand down at the end of their period of office as Church Stewards next month. They've served and led the church well, and helped me a lot at times when I've either forgotten something or still very much felt like 'the new boy'. In May Elisabeth Halsall and Liz Stanley take over. I trust they'll be well supported as they begin while I am on sabbatical. At the time of writing, new stewards are still sought to join the team, so ideas to myself or any of the stewards will be welcome..

So I wish you a Happy Easter,

Your friend and minister,

Rob Hilton

SECOND SUNDAY

Team-led, contemporary worship

April 11th at 6.30pm

"Here is Jesus - Love revealed"



Who is William Haines, and why is he climbing Mount Kilimanjaro?

Pat Stockdale is the UK representative of a charity in Rwanda, called Africa Mission Alliance. William is her son-in-law's younger brother. William's partner is training to be a doctor and is going to Kenya in April to do voluntary work experience. They are both incorporating into this trip the mammoth challenge to climb Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet above sea level), hoping to reach the summit in 6 days, about the same time as the nine TV celebrities who did it last year for Comic Relief. They are both covering all their own expenses.

There are now 1,000 children benefiting from an education because of this small charity (which started in 2002), over 500 of whom have personal sponsors, giving them access not only to education but also to Health Care for them and up to seven members of their family. (In Rwanda a child can die because their family cannot afford 25p for medicine to combat malaria).

William Ngabo, President of AMA, wants the money raised to be used to build the first phase of a technical institute. He says, "We will build it in phases, the first phase being one building with two classrooms. We will do it slowly until the project is complete. The technical institute will help young people and women to learn skills, tailoring being the first. This project is good because it is one way to help people live without depending on others all the time."

Your prayers for William Haines' mammoth effort would be appreciated. He is actually quite scared! If you wish to sponsor William's effort you can do so through Pat Stockdale.

CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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



4 April EASTER DAY

That people may have a deeper understanding of the Easter message; the other churches of the Ilkley Methodist / URC Circuit (Addingham, Beamsley and Ben Rhydding).

11 April

The pastoral team and church visitors; Africa Mission Alliance supporting mothers and children in Rwanda.

18 April

The caretakers and cleaners of Christchurch; Amnesty International supporting prisoners of conscience throughout the world.

25 April

Beauty4Ashes a Christian project in China offering friendship to women caught up in prostitution; West Yorkshire Methodist District Synod meeting at St Andrew's, Skipton, on 8th May.

The Northern Men's Convention

at the Armitage Centre in Manchester on Saturday 8th May.

The strap line of the event is 'Encouraging men to live for Christ' and promises to be a great day of teaching and challenge.

These events provide a wonderful opportunity for men of all ages to come together in Christian fellowship and simply enjoy the day which will include two main speakers, periods of band-led worship, discounted book stalls :all of this and more at a venue ideally suited for the purpose.

A number of men from Christchurch have attended this event in past years. If you would like to join us this year or you simply want to find out more, please get in touch with either Chris Mannall or myself.

Trevor Buckroyd

UNWANTED POSTCARDS—KEEP SAVING !

We have received a letter from the SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION saying "A very big thank you for the part you have played in achieving the marvellous amount of £13,000."

This is the profit obtained by the end of their financial year June 2009. I have a more detailed report. If anyone wishes to read it please contact me.

Avril Benson

CHRISTCHURCH COMINGS AND GOINGS

New addresses :

Jo, Col and Samuel Wales-Smith have moved

Welcome to :

Barbara and Bob Brunswick

Naomi, Jim and Lottie Curry

Jean Parkin

Felicity, Paul, Daniel and Reuben Tomblin

We are sad to record the deaths of :

Rev. Lionel Clare, Mr. Ron Johnson and Mrs. Barbara Staveley.

We remember their families in our prayers.

Please continue to keep your directory up to date
by noting down the comings and goings.

Thank you.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

The Churches Together in Ilkley Holiday Club is being held at Christchurch this year, Monday 16th August to Friday 20th August, from 10 to 12 with a special service at 12 for the carers of the children on the Friday. It is aimed at primary school age children and will be called MONSTERS STINK! We will be helping children to understand that God cares for us even when we're faced with monsters such as disobedience, bullying and loneliness.

We will need people to help out in various roles – refreshments, leading groups, musicians, actors, craft people etc. If you can offer help on one or all the days or know someone who'd like to, please let me or Juliet Amos know.

Planning meetings, which are optional, are set for 8pm on:
Wednesday 21st April, Thursday 27th May, Thursday 24th June
—plus one in July to look round Christchurch.

It would be great to support this as the host church.

Ruth Jones

A WAY FORWARD FOR MISSION

As many of you will be aware, the URC has gone through a process of forming its Churches into 'Clusters' whereby Ministers and Lay Preachers can be shared and churches cooperate and help each other. Now the Methodist Church is going through a similar process.

We have been asked to think about our Ilkley Methodist Circuit and discuss where we see our strengths and weaknesses. The Circuit Meeting and local Church councils have completed this exercise and we are now embarking on the next step – looking at Circuit Boundaries.

A document has been circulated called 'Creating New Circuits – Why this is happening'. Written by Mike Noble in his capacity as District Development Enabler, it sets out the reasoning behind these ideas. You can see a copy of this document on a Church Noticeboard and if you would like a copy to take home, please ask one of the Church Stewards.

Elisabeth Halsall

JONATHAN'S JOTTINGS

My “honeymoon period” is pretty much over and now plans and ideas are being put into place. Opportunities and God-ordained meetings have been springing up all over the place. Through these, God is constantly confirming to me that I am planted in the right church at the right time.

I am realising more and more that God’s heartbeat is for the lost and his mercy and love is for all. My passion is for children, young people and their families to receive that love and to have a real experience of who God really is. Almost daily, I am meeting people in the community and sharing God’s love with them. I am encouraged by their response and desire to know more about a God who truly loves them for who they are. I see signs of breakthrough and growth in the youth and children’s ministry of Christchurch, and I am encouraged by God’s faithfulness, his love and his never ending mercy.

Contacts with the community and schools are growing. I am now visiting three primary Schools in Ilkley and have an opening into the life of the Grammar School. My plan is to build strong working relationships with the schools, earning the right to have a voice in the life of the community and the lives of the children and families connected to those schools. Please pray for the development of schools’ work, that God will open more doors.

Scope (the young people’s group) is now running every Sunday night as a place to encourage young people to grow in God and have a solid relationship with him. Scope is also a place where the young people can make friends and feel they can have a voice and be heard. Aimed at 11-18’s, the programme is focused on building a strong discipleship group with fun and relevance to young people so they get hold of what God has to say to them and apply it to their lives.

I am looking at getting the young people more involved in the life of church and encouraging them to serve in various areas. Please pray for the young people of our church; for God to be firmly rooted in the centre of their lives. I also want to thank you for your prayers and concerns about my accommodation and moving closer to work. I am happy to say we have found a great house on the edge of Yeadon and Guiseley which is everything we need and everything we asked God for.

The great thing about the house is that I can get another dog (as my last one died). I am already looking at puppies and I am excited about long walks in the countryside with my dog, having fantastic conversation with God along the way.

Jonathan Logan
Youth & Children’s worker

ROB'S SABBATICAL

Ministers and Deacons in the Methodist Church are expected to take a Sabbatical every seven years for “the purpose of pursuing an approved programme of study, research, work or experience.” Well, seven years have elapsed since Rob last had a Sabbatical so he will be taking one from 26 April to 2 August 2010. The aim of his Sabbatical is to increase his awareness of the social and cultural context in Britain today with particular regard to the relationship between contemporary society and the Christian church. In other words, it will be an exploration of what people’s current attitudes are to the role of the church, and how we might better communicate to 21st century men and women.

Rob envisages spending most of his time in local communities speaking to people about their perceptions of the Christian faith and the place of Church in today’s society. If any of you who work in a relevant field would like to offer Rob help with his research, please contact him. Likewise you may be able to suggest people who Rob could interview. Again, have a word with him to discuss the possibility. There will also be short visits to London and (possibly) other major cities where he will meet, among others, people in the media to assess further the social and cultural climate of Britain.

Given that Rob will be on home-ground for much of the time, it is essential for us all to bear in mind that he is on Sabbatical and unavailable for other duties. In particular, any attendances he makes at Christchurch services will be for him to worship with his family. He will be there as a family man, not as our Minister! Please do not involve him in any pastoral or administrative concerns during this period. These should be addressed as usual to the Pastoral Team or the Stewards. Finally, as a special plea, do remove him from e-mail distribution lists as, ideally, he would like to open up his computer and only see e-mails relating to his Sabbatical activities. Thank you.

Mike Dixon



A STATEMENT

Following press coverage of the address of the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Church to the General Synod of the Church of England recently, church members have been asked to read the text for themselves.

A copy of the address can be found on the foyer notice board .



From the home collecting boxes of Christchurch members, the sum of £222.10 was sent to Action for Children.

If you would like to support this valuable work by popping coins in a box at home, please speak to Brian or Joan Mould.



BLENHEIM COLLECTORS

Pat Scott will be in the foyer at Christchurch on Friday 23rd April between 10am and 12 noon to receive your boxes.

Many thanks for your continuing support for the Blenheim Project in Bradford, which gives support to women and children who are the victims of domestic violence.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Failure isn't Final.
Find forgiveness from the Father
through Jesus the Friend of Failures.
(Anon.)

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



GREEN SPOT

If you want to send flowers as a gift, think about the environmental cost. Flowers are usually flown around the world and this has a high carbon footprint. However, if you do send flowers, why not send fair-trade roses from Kenya. At least these growers will see more of the profit.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to those of you who bothered to send postcards to the Tea Companies to encourage them to go 'Fairtrade'. Campaigns like this do make a difference.

Elisabeth Halsall

Christchurch

Seeks to appoint a part time Assistant Caretaker to work four days a week, 17 -20 hours, Saturdays included.

For further details please contact Judith Smith via the Office.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Walk Through the Bible Seminar— Old Testament
Saturday 16th October at Christchurch 10am—4pm
A fun day for all ages (including activities for younger children) . More details soon.

WALK THRU EASTER

You will have seen the “Walk thru Easter” developing as we have worshipped during Lent. The story will be complete and ready to share with visitors during Holy Week.

Monday March 29th–Thursday 1st April (10am–9pm)
Good Friday 2nd April (noon– 4pm)
Saturday 3rd April (10am–4pm)
Easter Sunday (noon–2pm)

To help us welcome visitors, we require two people to steward each two-hour slot and would be grateful for offers from as many people as possible. Please sign the list in the foyer.

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.

April 2010

14th : The joy of poetry (*Josie Whitehead*)
21st: Rev Rob Hilton
28th: Guiding–100 years (*Ann Peacock*)

MEDITATION

The group is shortly to change its venue and time of weekly meetings. It will meet at 10.30am on Tuesday in the Sanctuary.

We intend to have a “starter session” on Tuesday 20th April to listen on disc to Laurence Freeman OSB, current Director of the “World Community for Christian Meditation”. It will explain what meditation is about, how to meditate and the effects which can result.

If you are interested but unable to come during the morning on Tuesdays, an alternative arrangement can be made.

Lynda East

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
April 2010**

	4th Easter	11th	18th	25th
9:00am	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	
10:30am	Rev Rob Hilton HC	Rev R Armitage	Rev Rob Hilton	World Mission Day 10am—3pm
6:30pm	Rev Arnold Clay	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday All Saints	

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

2nd—Rev Rob Hilton; 9th—Rev Rob Hilton; 16th—Rev Peter Willox
23rd—Rev Rob Hilton; 30th—Margaret Cook



**SAFARI SUPPER
FRIDAY 14th MAY**

In support of The Beamsley Project

Cost: £15 per person

Contact Rita Armitage
for details and tickets



**The deadline for the May 2010 edition
of Wider Horizons is 1st April.**

Items (maximum 300 words please) preferably by email,
please, as a Word attachment to both

George McArthur (mcarthur59@blueyonder.co.uk)
and Christchurch Office (Office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)