

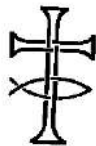


# WIDER HORIZONS

May 2010



The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church



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May 2010

**MINISTER'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

By the time the date on the front of this magazine arrives, I will be into my sabbatical. As I write it now 'Walk Thru Easter' is open and seems to be having its impact on many people.

Several hundred people will, I think have been moved by walking through the experience of Jesus to the cross, out of the tomb, and on into 'Emmaus' - the mystery of life lived with Jesus who is alive. As I write, I'm also looking forward to other events like weddings and a Mission day that will have taken place, and we're all anticipating a General Election as the political tension in the air heightens.

So much looking forward, which is what my sabbatical is all about. I'm getting out of church to visit Britain, and see what's happening in our country, the Church's Mission field. I'm looking forward to ways of meeting people in the world so that we can find appropriate ways of mission. How do people think, what concerns them? Where and how do we touch base from our point of view of faith? Dangerously, I'm beginning to think what I might find, as I do live in Britain already! I hope to test out my ideas and be ready to change them as and when I need to.

All of which is look to the future, and to do so with our faith. For me that always means hope - hope that God is there in front of us and before us, and hope that the church can re-form and discover again its humble place in God's Mission. This hoping is done with some convictions too, that He has equipped and prepared us for His task, that there is a point to it all, and that others will discover an authentic experience of God for themselves if we listen enough, remain faithful, and continue to be open to the work of God's Spirit.

I know the sabbatical committee has made arrangements for a minister to be available throughout my sabbatical, and Arnold Clay is the first port of call, with Mike Dixon knowing the arrangements that have been made otherwise.

With every blessing, I shall be back in action (perhaps slowly!) on Monday 02 August 2010.



Rob Hilton

## **Eight years in an office with a stained glass window**

3 ministers (+ 3 circuit "Supers"); 20+ Church Stewards; 4  
Community workers; 96 monthly newsletters; 500+orders of service;  
. . and much, much more!

- all sustained by 1,536 cheese scones (with butter) and weak  
coffees ("in a mug with hot milk, please")

Sincere thanks for your gifts, cards and flowers to mark my  
retirement but especially for the less tangible: the love, fun, faith,  
cares and concerns shared over the past eight years. I feel truly  
blessed and am confident Mike Fawcett will receive and appreciate  
that same consideration from you all.

Margo

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## **Thank you Margo**

As you know Margo retired as Office Secretary on 1<sup>st</sup> April after 8 years in  
the job. In addition to all the work coming into the office she has been  
Editor of Wider Horizons during that period, and for some time before  
that. On behalf of the Publicity Committee and the rest of the church we  
just wish to say a big THANK YOU.

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## **Note from the "New Boy"**

My first week at Christchurch passed in a hazy blur of welcoming, friendly  
faces, lots of introductions and handshaking.

Following the Easter break, I found that all the names and faces had  
evaporated from my brain! This will explain my pained and bewildered  
expression as I struggle inwardly to remember who you are next time you  
drop into the office! Please accept my apologies in advance!

I would like to express my gratitude for such a warm welcome to  
Christchurch and I would especially like to thank Margo for her patient  
guidance and wealth of knowledge about how Christchurch works. I do hope  
you have a very happy retirement Margo!

I look forward to getting to know you better and (given time) may even be  
able to start putting names to faces!

Mike Fawcett - Administrator

## Book Review: God's Undertaker Has Science Buried God?

John C Lennox

Lion Hudson :: 978 0 7459 5371 7

2009 :: £8.99 :: 210 pages

This is headlined as a “demolition of Dawkins”, and seeks to argue that Darwin’s theories of evolution do not preclude a creator God.

John Lennox is Professor in Mathematics at the University of Oxford, and he brings a significant gravitas to his book, along with wide ranging scientific ideas.

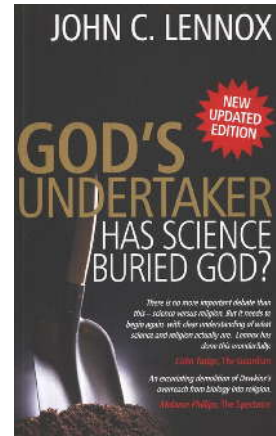
It is very detailed, with over 200 pages of fairly dense print, tackling the topics of naturalism, reductionism, evolution, intelligent design, genetic codes, probability and information theory, and I was excited to read it - after all, it is not often you get the chance to read some good mathematics within a book about God.

However, it is so detailed that I found it ponderous, and skipped paragraphs because the point had been made and I wanted to move on!

So does he achieve his goal? Yes, mostly. I think he convincingly argues Dawkins into a corner, bringing scientific thought and reason to bear on fundamental questions about the origin of the universe and its physical laws as well as the origin of complex biological design. He compellingly demonstrates that Darwin does not mean Atheism; he shows that Atheism is in fact a matter of faith!

Where I think he fails is regarding the purpose of humankind, as I felt he spoilt it all by making an irrational leap - having lucidly argued towards the existence of an intelligent creator (from biology and mathematics) he suddenly jumps to a *personal* God, and the personal God of Christianity in particular, quoting the Bible as his source. In a book based on logic and reason, this is really not good enough, as there is no rational basis to make such a foundational assumption. This is faith not reason.

Overall, it would have made a really good book at half the length. The book can be borrowed from Christine Henney.



Steve Amos

## Amnesty International

The letter writing group continues to meet on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00am until 11:00am. We would welcome newcomers to join us.

The time is not suitable for everyone but there are alternatives. You could look at the Amnesty website and respond to cases as you felt able. Or if you would like to write a letter or send an e-mail occasionally, say once a month, contact me and I can let you have a case sheet. Another way is to become a member of Amnesty and receive the magazine bi-monthly.

At present one of the concerns of Amnesty is the situation in Haiti. The main prison in Port au Prince was destroyed in the quake. Violent prisoners are trying to regain control of the most deprived and vulnerable communities—women and children. Families have been separated and schools destroyed. Thousands of children need protection from trafficking and there is increased risk of sexual violence.

Amnesty is calling for the protection of human rights to be at the core of relief and reconstruction work.

Lynda East



### Sponsored Walk

During **Refugee Week - 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010** - there will be a sponsored walk, organized by BEACON, on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. The route begins in Centenary Square in Bradford and ends at the Waterside Reporting Centre in Leeds, a destination familiar to many asylum seekers from Bradford who are required to report there on a regular basis. Denied adequate benefit, they have no spare cash for transport and must make the journey

on foot.

Brian Armitage will be amongst those making this journey. If you would like to join him, or are willing to sponsor him please contact Rita and Brian on 01943 603886. Further information and sponsorship forms will be available nearer the time.

Rita and Brian Armitage

## Parent and Toddlers at Christchurch

The Parent and Toddler group continues to host about 90 adults and children every term-time Monday morning. It is lovely to see new friendships develop between grown ups and watch the children grow up over the years. As a team we care for the families and pray for them, as well as offer a space for play and creativity. We are benefiting from the dedication and efficiency of Hetley Burnham who has expanded his welcome role from Music Movers and is now our Welcomer, registering new families and freeing the rest of us to chat to people. We have also been energised by working alongside Jonathan Logan who has brought a fresh perspective about how we can use our contacts to start reaching out with the gospel to the community.

Life is changing for some of our leaders. Helen Singleton has always balanced paid work and church service for many years, and now Christine Henney and I have jobs and might need to stop leading the group in the near future. We would love to hand over to some energetic and caring people who could keep the group going and work alongside Jonathan. Please pray about this and talk to us about it.

Also, there have been several retirements from the refreshment rota, many of whom have served drinks and snacks for nearly 15 years! Ideally, the duty is once every 6 weeks, to arrive at 10:00am, prepare the snack, serve from 10:30am until 11:00am and pack away by 11:30am. We need lots of people to make this a less regular task, so please pray about if you could volunteer.

Thank you for all your warm words, prayers, encouragement and support for this group.

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### Explorer's Camp 2010 Saturday 31st July - Saturday 7th August

The camp is for anyone aged between 11 and 18. See Ruth or Rob Hilton for more details, or speak to Sam Hilton, Robin Cade, Naomi, Rachel or Anna Burns, Candice, Jessica or Emily Hatting for insider info..... or visit [www.explorerscamp.org.uk](http://www.explorerscamp.org.uk)



## Jonathan's Jottings

Exciting times are ahead in the youth and children's department and there will be a lot of new initiatives springing up over the next few months so please keep praying as plans are being put into action and I will probably be approaching some of you to ask for help and support.

The contact with schools is still going well and I am very pleased with the relationship and the trust that is building up between us. I was even more pleased that Ashlands Primary brought around ninety children from the school to the Walk Thru Easter. It was very interesting to hear both comments from the children and the teaching staff that came with them, about what they thought about the display and their perceptions of who Jesus really is and what Easter really means to them. I also had chance to give input and answer questions that the children had, the children and staff were very impressed with the display and the amount of work that went into putting it all together, so well done all that were involved. I am hoping that this is just a start of our link to the community as we start to see more young people and their families and friends come through our doors. As mentioned before this is something that I am already working on and I am excited about the future that is ahead of us as a church that wants to reach out to the lost and share the love of Christ with the community that is out there.

You may or may not know that I now have a new addition to my family and I know that some of you have already met him. His name is Prince and he is German Shepherd and at the time of writing this he is only 9 weeks old. Also by the time you get this addition of Wider Horizons I will have moved into my new home in Yeadon and will be enjoying being closer to Christchurch.



Again I just want to say thanks for your support and prayers and please, please keep praying especially for the young people & children in the community that the seeds of the gospel will grow and the harvest will be plentiful. Much love and respect

Jonathan Logan

## FAIRTRADE NEWS



Thanks to all those who supported events during **Fairtrade Fortnight**. Both Saturday morning sessions were busy and the Fairtrade Tea Party was a great success.

As hoped, we did indeed have a visit from a Winward Islands banana producer. Before the Tea Party, Nioka Abbott, secretary of the St Vincent Fairtrade Association, addressed a fascinated audience in the sanctuary. She explained how Fairtrade ensures a stable and fair income for producers. The price Fairtrade farmers receive for their produce includes a “social premium”, an extra dollar on every box of bananas sold. This premium is set aside to improve the lives of communities. How it is spent is decided democratically by a National Farmers’ Committee but it can be used for such things as better health and education. On St Vincent it has bought equipment for a nursery for working mothers and for a technical training centre. As most roads on the island are dust roads, many children suffer from asthma so nebulisers have been bought to alleviate this condition.

Thanks also to those who returned **Make It Fair** postcards supporting the tea campaign to encourage Tetley, PG Tips, Typhoo, Twinings, and Yorkshire Tea to make a real difference and go Fairtrade. We will let you know when we get feedback on the progress of this campaign.

At the end of our trading year it seems we have made a profit of about £500. We are applying to Church Council for permission to send this amount to Caring for Life in Leeds. This Christian charity helps homeless, formerly homeless and vulnerable young people by providing accommodation, support, resettlement, training and work experience. CFL has recently lost a major funding stream and so its need for additional donations has never been greater.

So you see **BUYING FAIRTRADE AT CHRISTCHURCH MAKES A DOUBLE DIFFERENCE TO LIVES** - enhancing the lives of producers and their families and supporting other charities with a similar ethos.



Please continue to support our stall in the Coffee Centre on the first Sunday of each month. We are always set up by 9:45am and would be pleased to see you either between the morning services or after the 10:30 service. We have introduced several new products recently and are happy to respond to requests for specific items.

Judith and John Bray

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## **Caring for Life**

Crag House Farm, Otley Old Road, LS16 7NH



Some dates for your diary in 2010

Plant Sales Day            Saturday 08 May

Open Day                    Saturday 19 June

Do visit this very special place - the Granary café and shop are open every day (except Sunday) 10:00am to 4:00pm.

There is a map on the World Mission board in the Lower Hall.

Pat Stockdale

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## **Items for Wider Horizons**

If you wish to submit something to this magazine, just email *both* Mike Fawcett at the church office ([office@christchurchilkley.org.uk](mailto:office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)) and George McArthur ([mcarthur59@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mcarthur59@blueyonder.co.uk)).

An attachment in Word format is most convenient, but a brief e-mail content is OK as well.

The deadline is always the first of the month.

Mike Fawcett

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## **St George's Crypt, Leeds**

Those who supported the 'Hunger Lunch', which raised £470, will be pleased to know that the funds will be used to purchase compost and seeds for a new horticultural project.

Avril Benson



## THE GREEN SPOT

You may have experienced discussions about our stewardship of the planet in your Housegroup or at the CTI Lent Seminars. If you are looking for something you can do to reduce your carbon footprint and save some money on your electricity bill, why not consider buying some things to help you. Did you know that you can now buy plugs which will turn off your computer, printer, hi-fi, etc. left on standby at the touch of a remote control? This could save you up to £31 per year in wasted electricity.

Also available now is an Electricity 'Wizard' which will save you about 10% on your electricity bill just by being plugged into your ring main. As electricity will only become more expensive, we should all be on the look out for ways of reducing our electricity consumption.

Elisabeth Halsall

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### CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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



2 May – Our minister, the Rev Rob Hilton, and his family during his sabbatical; for peace in the Middle East, particularly in the Palestinian territories.

9 May – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – Christian Aid and its partners throughout the world; those who work in Ilkley's charity shops.

16 May – Those who maintain and provide the electronic audio-visual facilities for worship; The Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts using our premises this week.

23 May – PENTECOST – The gift of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives; Alastair and Catherine Rundle working among the Latino poor in the MacArthur area of Los Angeles.

30 May – The ecumenical leadership and congregation of the Shoppers' Services; the local Council for Voluntary Services, supporting activities in the Ilkley area.

## **Gaza Crisis: One Year On**

(Report from the “Commitment for Life” desk)

It is one year since (the last) emergency in Gaza and our support through Commitment for Life to our Christian Aid partners has reached thousands of the poorest and most vulnerable.

### *Food, farms and rehabilitation*

The Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC) bought produce from 98 poor farmers’ and 60 women’s cooperatives. Food baskets were distributed to 1162 poor families - reaching some 9000 people. This approach provides food for the poorest while supporting some of the most vulnerable farmers in Gaza’s shattered agricultural sector. In addition, the generosity of C for L churches (like Christchurch) meant that PARC could provide cash for work for 227 poor farmers to rehabilitate damaged farms.

### *Medical support*

The Palestinian Medical Relief Committee (PMRS) provided emergency health care to 10 721 patients in the midst of the crisis and over the following months, PMRS has been there for them and our help has additionally supported the recruitment of 13 extra staff to cope with the increased need, including the provision of physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

### *Counselling and care for children*

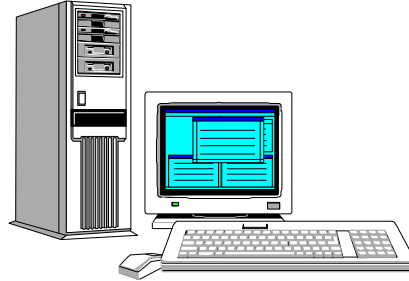
The Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA) is based in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the south of the strip, one of the poorest areas in Gaza. Last year, CFTA distributed food, blankets and winter clothes to 400 displaced families with no other access to this kind of support, reaching about 3400 individuals. This winter, CFTA provided 1000 children in Gaza with warm clothing to protect them against cold weather and associated illnesses. CFTA runs two centres for children and teenagers. They have become safe spaces where children can receive counselling, and do drawing and drama therapy to help them express their feelings. The CFTA centres are ones of the very few places where children can find non-violent channels to process their pain and anger. This is crucial for children who have lost their parents, brothers and sisters or who were injured in the attack. Helping them cope with their feelings of fear and anger is important not only for their emotional development but also for the hope of future peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

*Although Fairtrade Fortnight 2010 is over you are encouraged to sign the petition found on:*

*[www.ipetitions.com/petition/fairtradefarmersfrompalestine](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/fairtradefarmersfrompalestine)*

## Website Update

The revamped Christchurch website is celebrating its first year of publication. Many thanks to all the contributors and especially those of you who visit it regularly.



In the first three months of this year we have had over 1800 visitors, over 900 of them being unique, the other 900 being repeat visitors. And they come from all over the world. We know that several folk on holiday have clicked in and kept up to date through the calendar and by reading this magazine on-line.

Recent innovations are the opportunity to hear (again) the address from the 10:30 service. At the moment it's taking a couple of weeks to upload them, but we hope to get slicker so they can be there within a day or two. You can listen to them on your computer, or download them to listen on your MP3 player at any time.

The superb Lent 2010 'Walk Thru Easter' experience has attracted lots of interest, and this can be re-visited by looking at the Photo Album pages. We have had over 40 visitors to those pages in the first few days of it being available.

Please let us know if you spot any errors, and remember that the calendar (the most visited page) is only as accurate as the information you send in: if you organise an event, including regular events, please let me know when they are happening so that they can be included.

And if you think of any ideas for new pages, again, please let us know: we will be happy to see what we can do.

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## Reading Word 2007 Documents in earlier versions

Go to [microsoft.com](http://microsoft.com) and look for the download 'Office compatibility'. Once installed you will be able to open the .docx files that folks with Office 2007 are sending you!

Remember to save your new file in *your* version format of Word.

Steve Amos



It's that time of year again!

Christian Aid week is from 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May.

All the churches in Ilkley work together to organise the house-to-house collection throughout the town. Christian Aid week is the major source of income for this charity and so our support is vital for the important work to continue. Over the last 12 months, Christian Aid has had to face some hard choices and has made redundancies in the UK rather than cut aid to projects and partner organisations overseas. Visit their website at [www.ChristianAid.org.uk](http://www.ChristianAid.org.uk) to see the amazing breadth of work that they do.

Last year, Christchurch members really dug deep and for the first time in many years, managed to collect from all its allocated streets and doubled the amount we raised. Thank you and well done!

Please let's do it again! Its uncomfortable to ask for money and can be humiliating to be turned down, but I write this on Good Friday as I reflect on what Jesus did for me and for all of us. This is a very practical thing we can do on behalf of the poor and powerless. If you can spare an hour or two, please sign the list in the foyer.

### Quiz Aid

Also - Which country has a plain green flag?

If you think you can answer this, you will thoroughly enjoy the Quiz Aid evening being organised by the CTI Christian Aid group at 8:00pm on Friday 23 April at the Oasis café. It's great fun - and there's a bit of friendly rivalry between the church teams! For the bargain price of £5 per team, are there 4 people who would like to represent Christchurch? Tea and cake are provided at the end of the quiz, but teams are welcome to take their own drinks if they wish. Space is limited, so please contact Ruth Hilton (607870) as soon as possible if you are interested in taking part.

Many thanks.

Ruth Hilton

## Saltmine Theatre Company Who Moved The Egg - A Review

When I watched 'Who moved the Egg' I thought it was brilliant. It was interactive with children. They were also very good at keeping you interested so you didn't trail off to sleep! They were very good at funny voices especially the man.

Esther Hilton

First, I want to say that this production was all about the story of Easter. I was glad I watched this because I really wanted to know the proper story of Easter as I wasn't completely sure how it all fitted together. Not just that but it used a bit of comedy, amazing actors and a good explanation of Easter. Mainly though, they were a great theatre company and they might be up for yet another visit, so for those of you who missed it, you may have the chance to see them in action again soon!

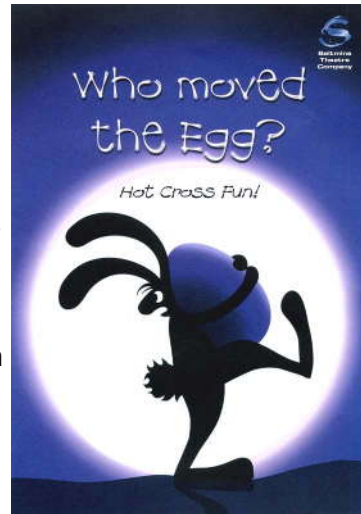
Ned Hilton

'Who moved the Egg' was a brilliant play with very good and funny actors. There was a lot of audience interaction, using eggs to tell the story of Easter. There were only 3 actors who did a very good job of playing many parts all by themselves, using spare costumes as actors. And rumour has it, they're coming back for Christmas! I'll be there - and so should you!!!

Sam Hilton

'Who moved the Egg' has been one of many things that has happened at Christchurch through Lent and Holy Week that has combined to make this one of the most profound Easters I've ever experienced. The production was fast paced and fun, accessible to all yet with layers and subtleties that helped me gain yet more insights into the very familiar story of Easter. There were some great thespian moments from some members of Christchurch that will live with me for a long time - come back soon Saltmine!

Ruth Hilton



'Who moved the Egg?' was a great play by Saltmine Theatre Company performed in the Riddings Hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. We all laughed a lot because the actors were so good and lots of people got to go on the stage and even got a chocolate egg! The story was told by Mary, mother of Jesus, about her son's final days on earth. Some bits were sad and some were funny. There were only 3 actors who got into their characters very quickly. We all really liked it and hope they will come to Christchurch again. My favourite character was the chief priest, who was the baddy, because he was very funny and spoke kind of weird.

Emma Jones (10) and Daniel Jones (11)

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### **The Guild**

05 May - Ian Watt - Caring as a Profession  
Chair: Merle Collins

12 May - Steph Cooper Christian Aid Week  
Chair: Rita Armitage

19 May - **No Meeting** - Wharefdale Music Festival

26 May - Margaret Cook - Cambodia (part 2)  
Chair: Sadie Smith

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## ***THE FAIRFAX SINGERS IN CONCERT***

***FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
commencing at 7:30pm***

*Tickets, price £7, including a light supper,  
will be available shortly*

***Proceeds for the Beamsley Project***

Rita Armitage

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH  
May 2010**

	<b>2nd</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>23rd Pentecost</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>9:00am</b>	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9
<b>10:30am</b>	Rev Arnold Clay HC	Lynda Duttine	Rev Arnold Clay	Rev Rita Armitage	Stan Loach
<b>6:30pm</b>	Roland Hen- ney	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday Ilkley Baptist Church	Rev Arnold Clay HC	Taize

**SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am**

7th—Rev Stuart Jenkins; 14th —Rev Arnold Clay ; 21st —Mgr Kieran Heskin  
28th—Dr John Morgan-Wynne ; 4th—Rev Dick Watson



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

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)