



CHRISTCHURCH

WIDER

HORIZONS

July 2010



The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church



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Minister's Letter – July 2010

Dear Friends,

One of the best ways to understand the Christian life is to see it as an adventure of faith - like walking a steep trail up a mountain, led by Jesus. When the Lord called his first disciples he didn't interview them in advance, and he didn't ask them for any commitment up front.

Neither did he tell them where he'd be leading them. He just said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people."

Much later, Jesus made clear to them that continuing to follow him was going to require willingness to put their personal ambitions aside, take up crosses like the one he was about to bear, and to keep on walking in his footsteps. Christianity doesn't have anything unique to offer the world except Jesus Christ. There's a tendency in some churches to be uncomfortable with the Christ of the Gospels. But when we get uncomfortable with Jesus it's generally because he's challenging our complacency and our easy, relaxed, 'anything goes' attitude.

If we are to be the church the Lord wants, there has to be a deep, personal conversion to Christ in the heart of each one of us. We all know very well that it's much easier to be good 'church members' than to be good followers of Jesus - but I want us to move from just being 'church members' to being good followers of Jesus, learning from him, which is what Christian discipleship is all about.

First, we have to decide to be serious about worship. Worshipping the Lord on Sunday is not just an 'option' for Jesus' followers. It's an expectation. Worship re-sets our spiritual compass, re-orientes our minds, and re-focuses our attention on God's will for our lives.

Secondly, we have to decide to be committed to one another. Being a follower of Jesus means living with Jesus day by day, and living with Jesus really means living with each other day by day, because we are the Body of Christ.

Authentic commitment to one another demands that we know one another - not superficially, like people who only see each other at parties, but deeply, as people who pray together, work together, and share their lives with one another, in good times and bad times, joys and sorrows alike. And that takes us right to the heart of Christian living.

Every blessing,

ARNOLD CLAY

CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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



4 July

The work of the World Mission and Service Committee; sensitive missionary work throughout the world, especially Methodist and United Reformed projects; the United Reformed Church General Assembly meeting in Loughborough.

11 July ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Action for Children (formerly NCH) working to support families and children in difficult and stressful situations, specifically Broomhill Family Centre, Leeds.

18 July

The ministers and local preachers who lead our worship week by week; all those involved in sports and recreation in Ilkley.

25 July

The team which plans and leads worship in the style of Taize at Christchurch; Mission Aviation Fellowship, providing spiritual and physical assistance in remote areas.

Christchurch Comings and Goings.

New phone : Jo, Col and Samuel Wales-Smith

New Addresses : Michael Booth
 Mark Kinsey

Mrs. Mary Brunning is settling into South Woodham Ferrers, in Essex near her family. Contact her via Christchurch Office, she would welcome friends phoning for a chat. Please do and send her love from us all at Christchurch.

We are sad to record the death of : Mr. David Cawood, husband of Jennifer. We continue to remember his family in our prayers.

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

Thank you.

What's Going On?...

Rob's sabbatical entitled 'what's going on in Britain today' could not have got off to a more auspicious start. What an exciting time!

He has asked me to advise that all is going well, and to pass on his sincere thanks to the church for the gift which sent him on his way. So far, it has enabled Ruth and the children to accompany him on occasions enabling all to participate in his project and enjoy a time of refreshment and recreation.

Many thanks again.

Sheila Carruthers

CONGRATULATIONS!

...to Connie Dewdney who celebrates her 90th birthday in July!

Green Spot

As available natural resources decrease, recycling becomes more important. I have had a request that Christchurch should support Christian Aid's Recycling Appeal. If you have old ink cartridges and mobile phones, please take them to the Church Office where Mike Fawcett has a box to collect them in. Every printer cartridge and mobile phone recycled raises money for Christian Aid.



Elisabeth Hallsall

User error.....

The item from last month's Wider Horizons regarding the Rev Colin Williams should have read Rev. Colin **Evans!** Those responsible have been locked in the stationary cupboard until they promised to be more careful in future!

JonaThan's jOttings

Summer is my most favourite time of year I love the sun (hoping that we get some that is) and I love the whole vibe, people tend to be more sociable, having outdoor parties, BBQ'S, and picnics in the park etc. I think over the last few weeks I have had more opportunity to talk to people that I don't know than ever before, especially when I am taking the dog for a walk.

The best bit is when people ask me what I do for a living, and me being me I never miss an opportunity to tell them about my work at church and my life as a Christian.

What surprises me the most is the openness of some people and the fact that they want to know more about Christ and about the church, they are intrigued and also I am finding out that most people are looking for something, but they just don't know what that something is.

People are desperate for some sort of peace in their life or some sort of wholeness, that they will even try all sorts of things and places to try get that peace.

The great thing is we have the answer, and the gap that is in their life and that something they are searching for is Jesus.

Having a short conversation with that person that you meet on the field whilst walking your dog. Or whilst sat in your favourite cafe while enjoying your coffee, or even while you are waiting for your child to come out from school, could be a life changing experience for them and for you.

We have talked about the Holy Spirit a lot over the last few weeks and how he operates in our lives. Also there has been a lot of talk about sharing our faith and being a witness to our community.

The challenge for us all is to act on that voice and that prompting that the Holy Spirit gives, and to take the timeout in our busy lives, to talk to someone who may just be looking for something that you have, and who knows in the next edition of this magazine you could be sharing your experience of what happened.

With lots of love

Jonathan Logan

Spring Harvest - 2010

The theme was Different Eyes - living distinctively in a time of uncertainty - how to live life beautifully for God. However - we were not given the answers to all life's ethical questions - no specifics, not 'how we should act', but 'what sort of people we should be' in our everyday live, at work, in our families, in our churches.

We discussed the need to learn about the character of God, so that we can make the right choices - we aim to live in a God like way, so we can live beautifully. We looked at the story of Esther in the Old Testament, to learn of God's character and how we might model that in our own lives.

Jesus reveals more fully who God is. Jesus did not set us rules for life, but showed us how the principles work, we need to be committed to the principles not the rules - like Jesus did. When Jesus was asked about a situation He told stories and invited his listeners and us to partner with Him in the answer. We have been created to be a part of God's story, here and now. We may need to improvise! I also learnt that God is at work all around us, in people and situations who may not be 'Christian', we do not see the whole picture, but that in the end Love will win! We are privileged to be included in God's story - and need to think how to act in our everyday lives, it may not be easy as we have been given the freedom to choose how to be.

We see the world through Different Eyes - We aim to live life differently

We see the world through Different Eyes - We aim to live life beautifully

By knowing God - the great I Am

By following the Son of man

Belonging to the church, we can

Change the world for Jesus

Helen Singleton



LIVING DISTINCTIVELY IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY



Africa Mission Alliance Newsletter

There is a letter of thanks to Christchurch from AMA Rwanda for their support, on the lower hall 'Missions' display board. Christchurch supports small charities for a period of three years and AMA Rwanda has benefited from this support by a total of £2,500 over the last three years for which they are extremely grateful. This small charity was set up in 2002 to help children to attend school whose parent/guardians were too poor to pay the school fees. When Christchurch became involved 100 children were being sponsored and now three years later 600 children are being sponsored, 20 of them by people in Yorkshire.

In April 2010 William Haines climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for AMA to build a small Skills Institute. He had aimed to raise £600. All the sponsorship money is now in and William's climb raised the huge sum of **£3,460**. William found his own sponsors and his friends and family helped, together with members of Christchurch. He wishes to say a big **THANK YOU** to all those people who were able to help him raise enough to build the Skills Institute. The land has been purchased, the architect is drawing up the plans and the building work commences in June. We look forward to being able to show you the completed building in the future.



Pat Stockdale

Climate Change 2

Few of us today would not claim to be ecologically aware. We save energy, switch off lights and recycle. But we often speak of 'conquering' nature as if we are duty bound to tame it. We may quote Genesis 1 v 28 in our support. However in the second creation story in Genesis 2 v 15 tells us we are to 'guard' God's natural creation. This leads we Christians to a deeper response, to see ourselves as part of the total natural environment. Meister Eckhart, the medieval mystic, explains "Every creature is a word of God and a book about God". All living creatures and plants have the same intrinsic value - a Divine value. All have a part to play in God's scheme of things.

Climate change will, already is, damaging this natural world as we see -

- increased frequency of heat waves with consequent droughts
- increased frequency and intensity of heavy rainfalls with floods and landslides
- melting of Polar ice affecting arctic habitats
- a slow rise in sea levels causing flooding and salt damage to low lying deltas and islands

All these changes will have significant impacts upon all human populations and all species of animals and plants in the natural world. It is generally agreed that within the next 100 years world temperatures will rise by at least 1.5°C (though many scientist predict a higher rise). At this level it is estimated that 30% of all species face extinction.

What should our response be? As followers of Christ we need to hope and not despair. Hope in God's future is a reason for bold action in the world in accordance with God's will for creation, not an excuse for inaction. Over the next two Wider Horizons the Tuesday afternoon house group will explore how we respond to God's word in the present climatic circumstances.



Brian Blowers

Shameless World Cup Bandwagon Jumping!

The World Cup in South Africa will undoubtedly throw up a whole new raft of commentator clichés, player's faux pas and managerial mistakes, but here's a few classics to be going on with!

Player Quotes-- "The Brazilians were South

Manager Quotes—"We must have had 99% of the game. It was the other three per cent that cost us the match." - Ruud Gullit

Commentator Quotes—The World Cup is a truly International event.

John Motson



Meditation Group

The Meditation Group meet on Tuesdays at 10:30am to 11:00am in the Sanctuary.

In his book "God Has a Dream" Desmond Tutu writes: "Each one of us needs to give ourselves space to be quiet. We hear God's voice most clearly when we are quiet, uncluttered and undistracted. Too often we see ourselves as doers - doing endless work, rather than learning to be receptive, letting God be God and us becoming more like God."



Tutu has said that if he does not spend a reasonable amount of time in the early morning in meditation - he feels a physical comfort-lost.

For more information about the "World Community of Christian Meditation", to which our group is affiliated, visit www.wccm.org

Lynda East

A WAY FORWARD FOR MISSION

As many of you are aware, the Ilkley Circuit has been holding conversations with neighbouring circuits as part of the Methodist Church's strategic plan - 'A Way Forward for Mission'. The Circuit Meeting has agreed that a link with the Otley and Aireborough Circuit should be pursued. We would like to share with you some of the information that was presented at that meeting.

Notes of the Conversation between the Ilkley Circuit and the Otley & Aireborough Circuit, meeting at Christchurch, Ilkley on 1 October 2009

A group from the Ilkley Circuit leadership team met with Revs Julian Pursehouse (Otley), Fiona Spandler (Menston), Tim Perkins (Burley-in-Wharfedale) and Nick Baker (Guiseley), and Stewards - Roger Bareham, Jean Richardson, Howard Chaplin, Diana Coleman and Richard Lowe. The Otley & Aireborough Circuit is in the Leeds District and although their District is not as advanced in their discussions as is the West Yorkshire District, the team presented us with a paper drawn from their Circuit audit review.

Strengths and Encouragement:

1. Community involvement
2. Outreach, outward focus
3. Premises extremely well used
4. Well served with staff and local preachers [they have 5 presbyters, one half-time lay-worker and 3 active Supernumeraries at present]
5. Churches are generally optimistic about the future and growth
6. Church buildings and manses are in good order
7. Different styles of worship being developed
8. Majority of churches willing to try something new

Concerns

1. Ageing congregations
 2. Shortage of people between university age and 45
 3. Increasing concern about finance and ability to meet assessments
- Certain unwillingness to attend circuit services and events

They described the make-up of their circuit. There are 11 churches; Otley (158 members), Pool (19), Menston (142), Guiseley (194), Hawskworth (11), Burley-in-Wharfedale (118), Norwood (8), Timble (6), Bramhope (107), Yeadon (118) and Rawdon - Baptist/Methodist/URC LEP (44 Methodists).

We were given a copy of their latest Circuit Newsletter, a long-running publication full of 'busy-ness' and new initiatives. They were thankful for the development of spirituality through small groups and courses; hospitality shown to new families and the Community Development of the foyer at Otley; the appointment of new family workers at Guiseley; the development of a puppet ministry at Yeadon; the Cornerstone Café at Menston and its outreach to the surrounding community; and the growing sense of unity among the staff and an appreciation of each other's gifts and graces. Their commitment to innovation was clear in that 'Messy Church' had been tried at Guiseley, Café Church at Rawdon, and Bramhope and Menston had monthly 'Alive@9'/'Worship@9' services. Norwood Chapel offered a Circuit resource centre for retreats, Quiet Days and the like. We noted that their area was largely co-terminus with the URC Mission and Care Group in mid-Wharfedale and with the Otley Deanery. We noted that, in general, the size of their congregations lay between those of Christchurch and Addingham.

From our own observations we concluded that Julian Pursehouse and the other ministers demonstrated a sincere mission-orientated approach to Circuit expansion. There was constant emphasis on serving their communities in meaningful and relevant ways. These favourable impressions formed the basis for our recommendation to the Circuit Meeting that our conversations should continue, and we have now set up a joint Mission and Vision Group and a monthly Prayer meeting to underpin our discussions. We will keep you informed of future developments.

*Angela Pearson and Mike Dixon for
the Circuit Leadership Team*



NEWS FROM CHURCH MEETING

Church Meeting held on Wednesday 19 May heard updates on a number of items that will be important to Christchurch and to our parent denominations, the Methodist and United Reformed churches. A full set of minutes are available in the Foyer but a few highlights were:

New Circuit Discussions Mike Dixon reported two groups from the Ilkley Circuit and the Otley and Aireborough Circuit have begun to meet concerning the two Circuits coming together. The groups are a Prayer and Support Group and a Mission and Vision Group (which discussed the nature of mission). There was agreement that ‘mission’ was a locally based individual responsibility that combined discipleship and evangelism and that our churches should be equipping and enthusing its members to carry out this responsibility. Mission should be placed in the context of the local community. There are a total of 14 Churches in the combined circuits and these could be grouped by mission area focus based on the communities they serve, rather than geographically (e.g. rural or large town centre). There is hope that a new Circuit would come into being in September 2011.

New Constitution - To comply with Charity Law, a small group comprising Rob Hilton, Tom Collins, Brian Armitage, George McArthur and Chris Mannall have been hard at work with officers from West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council on drafting and agreeing an Ecumenical Vision Statement, Constitution and Schedule for Christchurch. These will be brought to future Church Meeting and Church Council meetings for approval.

Vision Group - The group that has been thinking about our Vision and the resources we need to equip us for Mission in the years ahead propose to invite six firms of architects to make a presentation about undertaking a feasibility study for improvements to the premises based on Christchurch’s eight mission priorities. One organisation will then be selected to undertake a feasibility study on how to improve the premises. No costs will be incurred at this stage and no final decisions have yet been taken.

Youth and Children's Work - Jonathan reported that contact with schools is going well with assemblies at Ben Rhydding and Ashlands schools. Ninety children from Ashlands came to visit the 'Walk through Easter' experience. There are plans for changes to the Moms and Toddlers group from September with story time, puppets and work with the parents. 'Atrium Nights' is to start in June and will provide some of the Mums with a relaxed, informal evening with coffee, (non-alcoholic) mocktails, cake, entertainment and talk. Jonathan has plans for a 'Big Saturday' event for young people in October / November.

Financial Update - Tom Collins, our Treasurer, reported on the provisional accounts for 2009/10 which show a £11,000 deficit, mainly due to an £8,000 reduction in the offerings. 2010/11 could have a deficit of £30,000. Following a discussion on giving that had been held at the previous Church Meeting, Helen Singleton, as Stewardship Secretary, reported that after an analysis of member's giving at the Sunday services, it was concluded that there was an equal financial contribution made by 9am and 10.30am attendees. More at Online@9 give by Standing Order.

Matugga Challenge - John Sayers provided an update. The total raised for the Boys Dormitory including Gift Aid was £12,300. We have heard from Matugga that one child is hoping to go to university. The community hope to establish Matugga as an exam centre, to reduce travel and provide income. The plans for the farm are developing, (there are already 2 cows, and houses have also been built). Pastor Ivan was due to visit Christchurch in June.

Thoughts from Spring Harvest - Steve Amos presented some feedback and thoughts from the sixteen people from Christchurch who went to Spring Harvest at Easter. Further information has been published in Wider Horizons and shared at the 10:30 service led by Margaret Cook (now available to hear again on our website).

Contd Overleaf

NEWS FROM CHURCH MEETING—Continued

Lunch Club Alan East commended the Thursday lunches prepared by former Oasis students held at the Baptist Church and open to all.

Diary Dates

6 July - Quiet Day - To be held at the Mirfield Centre

21 August - The film 'Monsters Inc' will be shown at Christchurch as part of the King's Club.

26 - 30 August - Complete Mission Praise - A 'singathon' of all 1150 hymns in 'Complete Mission Praise' is to be held at Saltaire URC.

4 September - The Methodist West Yorkshire District Synod is to meet at Christchurch. Help is required to steward and support the event.

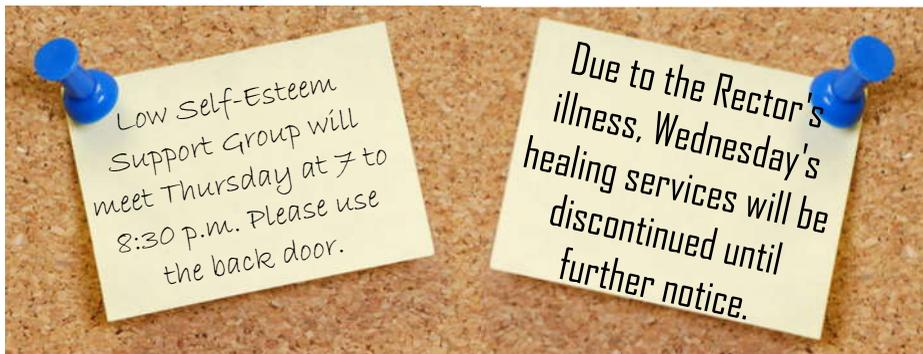
12 September - 'Lifeboats' Day Trip.

19 September - Housegroup launch Sunday.

26 September - Harvest Celebration and back to Church Sunday.

16 October Come and 'Walk through the Old Testament' at Christchurch 10am to 4pm.

Future Church Meetings Do put 9 September 2010 and 8 November 2010 in your diary and come along!



Further News From the Church Council

Michael Noble presented the Report of the Vision Premises Group, which described the process being followed, and the draft Architect's Brief for tenders to undertake a Feasibility Study for the potential redevelopment of the premises.

The Group aimed to:

1. solve issues with the premises where these impeded the realisation of the church's vision and priorities
2. keep as many spaces as possible flexible, with a prime purpose and other uses, providing the opportunity for growth and change
3. create spiritual space throughout the whole premises.

Church Council thanked the Vision Group for the professional way in which the Report and draft Brief had been prepared and presented.

There was a wide ranging discussion in which the importance of Revd Rob Hilton being involved in the selection process for the firm to undertake the feasibility study, and being available for consultation by the firm selected, was stressed.

It was agreed that the interviews with the Group of firms wishing to participate in the selection process should be held following Rob's return from his Sabbatical and that a Special Meeting of the Church Council be held in October to consider the recommendation of the Vision Premises Group as to which firm should be appointed to undertake the Feasibility Study.

No costs would be incurred by the Church in this process until a firm had been commissioned to undertake the feasibility study. The date of the October Meeting would be announced at the June Church Council Meeting.

The Vision Premises group was asked to keep the congregation informed of progress via the Church Meeting and Wider Horizons.

It was unanimously agreed that the Draft Brief be accepted as the Architect's Brief for a Feasibility Study for a potential redevelopment.

ALL AT SEA?

There's Something Fishy Going On! - 12th September 2010

Last year we looked at our local harvest in Wharfedale. This year, to prepare ourselves for our Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday on 26th September we are going to learn about the harvest of the sea and how we and a coastal community depend on the sea.

What better way than by going on a trip to Whitby!

Members of all ages can look forward to a day out for relaxation, friendship, learning and worship. A mix of activities will relate to boats, the beach (with buckets and spades), fish and chips for tea and worship (maybe outdoors if the weather is right!)

Please express your interest before 11th July by signing the list in the foyer or ring Margo Atkinson (608479) or Liz Stanley (830804) with an indication of name / number (adult or child). We hope the adult return fare will be under £10 (children - even less!). Firm bookings and deposits will be requested shortly after 11th July.

Please note: there will be worship at Christchurch for those who do not join the outing.

SO BOOK THE DATE:

12TH SEPTEMBER

Seeing Red

We probably all know someone who is colour-blind. This is what happened to such a person whose condition is red-green colour deficiency or deuteranopia.

Since the introduction of recycling, the simple task of putting out the bins has become a nightmare for anyone who is colour-blind. The normal household waste is collected fortnightly, and goes in a green wheelie bin. Recycling, which everyone calls “green waste”, goes in a brown wheelie bin, for collection on alternate weeks, together with two boxes, a red one for glass and a green one for plastics. Great, except that I can’t tell them apart.

Newspapers and magazines are the only things to go in a bag - whoopee for that. So, the “green waste” goes in a brown bin, which just looks dark to me, while the normal waste, which clearly isn’t “green”, goes in the green bin, which looks the same as the brown bin. OK?

At least both boxes go out on the same day, although the plastic and glass are all mixed up. Now then which week were we in? I looked at the chart the council sent us...It’s colour-coded. Aaaargh!

Taken from an article in the Daily Telegraph



The Currency of Jesus

The cost of shares never varies;
Jesus has already paid the price.
We don't need quantitative easing;
With God there is always more.
There is no index, no exchange rate;
The first shall be last and the last first.
There are no millionaires;
The Kingdom belongs to the poor.
There is no takeover bid;
We are all invited to come in.
There is no contract to be signed;
We are a covenant people.
There is no business lunch;
There is a heavenly banquet.
There is no gold price, no golden handshake;
Our 'futures' are the treasures of heaven.
Our summit talks are our prayers.
Our currency is unconditional love.



Diane Coleman

From the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT) website

Book Review: The Year Of Living Biblically

One man's humble quest to follow the Bible as literally as possible.

A J Jacobs :: Heinemann :: £12.99 :: 2007

978-0-4340-1711-9 :: 334 pages

Jacobs grew up as a secular Jew in New York, aware of the traditions but with little contact with the Bible. Although an agnostic, he decided to attempt to get to know the Bible and live by the laws within it (his previous book was the story of his reading the Encyclopaedia Britannica, all of it!).

It's part journal, part commentary, and although written quite seriously, contains a good amount of humour.

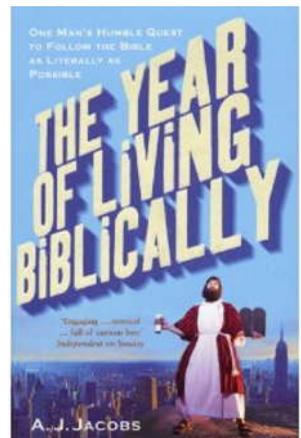
He doesn't shave, wears white, single fibre clothes (with tassels), prays three times a day, tithes, tries to be always thankful and tells the truth in every situation (much to his wife's chagrin). He seeks advice from various Rabbis, visits different fundamentalist groups including the Amish, Hasidic Jews, creationist and snake-charming Christians. He travels to Jerusalem to visit an uncle and see the Wailing Wall.

The first nine months are Old Testament based, with three months allocated to the New Testament, but you can tell he's running out of steam here, and it's not so well done.

In and amongst, he wrestles with the seemingly archaic (and down-right crazy) rules that baffle modern humanity.

It makes for interesting, light(ish) reading and is quite funny in places. There are some personal moments of spirituality and some occasional insights.

So did he find God? Did the experience change his life? It's worth a look, although with the same diary-type format throughout, it needs to be read in monthly chunks otherwise there is a risk of boredom. Three star.



steve amos

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
July 2010**

	4th	11th	18th	25th
09:00am	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am	Rev R Armitage HC	Roland Henney	Michael Noble	Brian Armitage
06:30pm	Ian Watt	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday At All Saints	Taizé
05:30pm	Abbyfield			

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

2ND Willox 9th– Rev Arnold Clay, 16th– Margaret Cook, 23rd– Mgr Kieran Heskin, 30th– Rev Arnold Clay

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.

July 21st

Chair: Rita Armitage

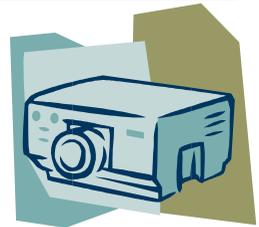
August 4th

Betty's of Harrogate
Chair: Maureen Adams

Guild re-opens September 8th

The Circuit Data Projector now lives at Christchurch and is available for use by church groups.

If you would like to use the projector, please book it out in the diary in the office, or, email Mike Fawcett at office@christchurchilkley.org.uk.



**The deadline for the August 2010 edition
of Wider Horizons is 1st July.**

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)