



CHRISTCHURCH

**WIDER**

**HORIZONS**

**September 2010**



Back to Church Sunday - 26<sup>th</sup> September

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



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## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

“Welcome back” has been the cry, and it’s been humbling to hear, reminding me of Christchurch’s care for me, and my family. A Sabbatical can be a special time for a minister, and mine was - 3 months out of church. As someone who grew up in church, always went to Sunday school (I never even rebelled as a teenager, though my Sunday school teachers may differ on that one!), came to faith of my own at 17 and have spent my entire studying and working life in the church, these 3 months out of church have been very eye opening.

I’ve visited loads of workplaces that I’d never otherwise see inside including a call centre, an NHS manager, and an engineer; I’ve been to museums, shopping malls, the city of London, inside people’s homes and many miles on trains; I’ve volunteered at St George’s crypt, and spent a lot of time reflecting outside church. By reading and interviewing I’ve tried to understand the economy (impossible) and the media (much easier); I’ve been ‘moved on’ three times by security men who didn’t like my behaviour or my photographs, I was witnessed to by a Christian on a campsite, and I’ve argued with two very polite and convinced creationists. I’ve sat in the studio and observed my beloved PM programme broadcast in Radio 4, but I think my two highlights have to be a night at the dogs (lost £4.60 - cheaper than the cinema and much more fun!), and a day in a magistrates court - half the people needed a good slap (figuratively speaking!) the other half just needed cuddle. And I have spent a lot of time at home - visiting my family, I’ve got to know my wife and children a bit better than I would had I been working the ‘usual’ ministerial life.

And what have I found? Well, I have much to feedback, many zany new ideas, and some important things I want to share and discuss. This will happen through advertised events throughout the autumn, church meetings, words in worship, many more I’m sure.

I have found this to be God's world, He is reflected in it in many different ways. I have observed many and varied differences and varieties in Britain - we are a very mixed society, and, I believe, a better and more Christian one for that. But these gaps that exist between people and communities are, I think, the very places we need to be. They are the places where we need to listen most carefully, where the message of Jesus can be most creative, and where human beings bear the greatest responsibilities to each other.

But here's the crunch - these places are outside the church and throughout our society we need to get out of church more, we need to expend less energy in running the church, we need to downsize the church admin machine in order to free ourselves up to be there, this means letting go of some our 'sacred cows and holy relics' in order to discover a new, a radical, a reformed and reinvented Christian faith that is much, much more attractive, believable, and credible to people than the one we peddle at the moment.

"Welcome back" many of you have said kindly, as I say thank you, you'll notice I also come back with a health warning!

I must also say thank you to Arnold, the Church and Circuit Stewards, and the Sabbatical Support Group for the extra work they've taken on to allow me to take what for me has been, a fruitful sabbatical.

God bless,

Rob



## **CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR**

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

**5 September** – RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Those who listen to recordings of worship and receive communion at home; Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and those who lead them.

**12 September**

The Prayer Fellowship and those who support people in crisis through the Prayer Chain; for the vibrancy, warmth and deep faith of Christians in the Caribbean.

**19 September** – HOUSEGROUP LAUNCH

The leaders, hosts and members of Christchurch housegroups; those training as local preachers and for the ordained ministry.

**26 September** – BACK-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY & HARVEST  
THANKSGIVING

Our focus on the development of worship at Christchurch; those supporting sustainable farming in Third World countries and those working on land and sea, that they may have good harvests

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### **Christchurch Comings and Goings.**

Welcome to :

Betty Crosley who has come from Brighthouse to live at Glen Rosa.

Joan and Norman Evans from Stamford. For Address & Tele. No. please contact the Office

Elizabeth Huddleston from Preston. For Address & Tele. No. please contact the Office

Mary Eames has moved from Rosegarth to Troutbeck.

Doris Lindley has moved from Abbeydale to Steeton Court, Steeton.

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

## Steward's Spot

We are the Senior Church Stewards this year. We work to ensure the smooth running of Sunday Church Services and also the Friday Shoppers' Service. We produce the Rotas for the stewarding of all Services.



**Liz Stanley**



**Elisabeth Halsall**

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## Back to Church Sunday

Once again, Christchurch is joining in with the national 'Back to Church' initiative. On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September (which also happens to be our Harvest Celebration) we have the opportunity to welcome back people we know who formerly came to our church, another church, or no church! There are invitations and gift cards available.

Please think and pray about this, then pick up a card and give, or send, it to someone known to you who might respond. God will do the rest!

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Sincere thanks to my friends at Christchurch for their prayers, cards, visits and warm wishes, during my recent stay in hospital and the recovery period at home.

The help and support given to my wife Shirley during this time has also been truly amazing.

Grateful thanks is sent to everyone

God bless you all.

Geoff Swann

# JonaThan's jOttings

In July we had another visit from Ashland's school to Christchurch, ninety children and around twenty staff came for a walk around the church to find out what happens in Christchurch.

It was a great opportunity to share the love of Christ and to help the children understand what really happens inside the church walls.

This month will be the launch of the Christianity explored course (CY Nano) with the young people on a Sunday night.

The course covers topics like, CY Jesus matters, CY Jesus came, CY Jesus died, CY Jesus lives, CY God accepts us, and CY we should believe.

The course will be a great opportunity for the young people to grasp hold of the basics of the Christian faith, and to get a deeper understanding of why Jesus died for them.

Please pray for the young people as they go through this course that their faith and love for Christ grows.

Also this month there will be two uprising (churches together youth) events hosted by Christchurch, these will be 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September.

I am looking for people to help on these two evenings with things like baking cakes, helping in the kitchen and cafe area, registration and other areas. If you are able to help then please come and see me.

I am also looking for people to help out with the launch of the big Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am till 12 noon.

Big Saturday is a monthly children's outreach for 5-11 year olds, and will run very similar to the messy church idea.

There is many ways that you could help on the day so please come and see me if you are interested.

The next two big Saturdays will be Nov 6<sup>th</sup> & Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.

Again please pray for all these up and coming events and pray for the work within the schools , and that from the schools we will see children and their families come to the Big Saturday events.

Jonathan Logan

## **ALL AT SEA**

(Whitby trip on 11th September)

Unfortunately CANCELLED due to an insufficient response that made it financially unviable. For those who had expressed an interest, we are sorry to disappoint you.

"Harvest of the Sea" will still be our theme on 26th September. So if you have any photographs, experiences, or stories from your days at the seaside we would appreciate your contribution to worship. Contact Rob on or straight after 1st September.

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## **URC Prayer Handbook 2011**

The Prayer Handbook has a collection of unique prayers and meditations for each week of the year and will appeal to individual Christians wishing to follow a contemporary weekly prayer life and those involved in leading prayers, in Housegroups, as part of formal services of worship or elsewhere. The price is £6.50 and those wanting copies should speak to Chris Mannall or drop him a note via the Office.

Chris Mannall

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### **Christchurch Guild**

**September 8th—Maurice Beren**  
Stories Behind High Street Names  
Chair: Adele McArthur

**September 15th—Rev Rob Hilton**

**September 22nd— Annette Goldsmith**  
Breton Sights and Saints  
Chair: Joyce Lowe

**September 29th— Jonathan Logan**  
Community Youth Worker at Christchurch

## HOUSE GROUPS ARE STARTING SOON!

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August is our House Group Launch Day for the new season. There will be 10 House Groups meeting fortnightly from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, avoiding school holidays. Most are in the evening but there is a Tuesday afternoon group which would welcome more members who prefer not to go out in the evenings.

If you would still like to join any of the groups, please contact me via the church pigeon holes and I will be pleased to speak to you about it.



‘A rich community is one that can live with many different views and learn from them’. Roots Magazine.

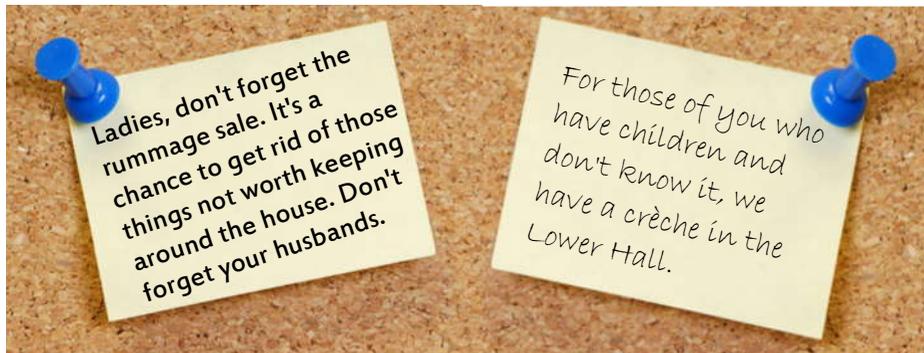
Juliet Amos

## Children’s and Young People’s News - Moving on UP!

September is a time for change and adventure for many of our young people.

Alice Williams and Anna Burns will be leaving us to study at University and we wish them all the best with their new life and new challenges. Ned Hilton and Sophie Pitcairn are moving from Primary School to Secondary and we pray for them as they take this huge leap of independence.

Jo Jo Meredith, Zach Robinson, Emily Jowett and Callum Whitton will all be starting Primary School this year. We pray for them to be brave and for their parents as they help them with the transition.



# Studio Services

A light touch to learning about the bible

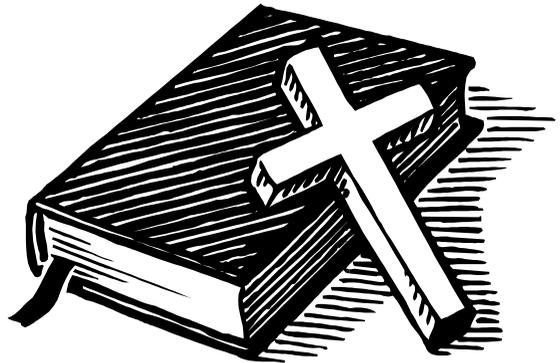
A series of four evenings on:

- What the Bible is
- What it isn't
- How it came to be
- How to read it

Join us in the informal setting of the Coffee Centre at 6:30pm for light worship, a talk from Rob and time for discussion and conversation.

Dates are:

19th September, 3rd October, 31st  
October & 7th November



## PEAK OIL

We have talked about Climate Change and the need to reduce our carbon footprints but have you heard about PEAK OIL? This is the other serious fact that we have to face. In 2003 the world's premiere expert on the subject, petroleum geologist Collin Cambell warned that the Age of Cheap Oil is near at hand and that for a society utterly dependent on it, this means enormous change; but that the future with less oil could be preferable if we plan sufficiently in advance with imagination and creativity. Here are some of the things made with oil. Aspirins, glue, carpets, nylon, polyester, CDs - in fact most things. The point has been reached when further expansion of new flows of oil is fully offset by oil flow decline.



## TRANSITION TOWNS

Transition towns are places where resilience to oil dependence is being planned. The first town was Totnes in Devon, which began planning ahead six years ago. This initiative is now spreading rapidly and there are hundreds of towns and villages joining in, in 18 different countries. Bradford, Keighley, Hebden Bridge and Clitheroe are some becoming involved. There are also Transition Churches.

A community's resilience to the effects of peaking oil production can be measured by carbon foot printing. Also by the percentage of food consumed locally, that was produced within a given radius. Other examples - the ratio of car parking space to productive land use: the degree of engagement in practical transition work undertaken by the local community: the amount of traffic on local roads: the number of businesses owned by local people: the proportion of the community employed locally: the percentage of local building materials used in new housing developments.

Currently a small group of local people are meeting to seek a way forward for Ilkley to consider becoming a Transition Town. It is hoped to have a public meeting in September with a speaker - in the meantime we can start thinking and try to visualise "life without cheap oil" -

Lynda and Alan East

## CLIMATE CHANGE 4

The previous three articles set the scene. So what should be our Christian response? Accepting that we have a duty to 'guard' the natural world and to 'love' our neighbours, including those worldwide and as yet unborn, we should surely be taking action to try and mitigate the effects of global warming caused by climate change. To achieve this we need to do our bit to reduce the amount of CO2 being produced, that is reduce our carbon footprint. What can we do, individually and as members of Christchurch?

This year, 2010, there is the 10/10 Initiative. The idea is to convince Britons (and others worldwide) to cut our carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. It was a hugely ambitious plan, but so far 10 governments, 3000 businesses and nearly 500,000 individuals have signed up. These have pledged reductions amounting to some 500,000 tons CO2. Could you respond, or Christchurch or even Ilkley. First you need to calculate your carbon footprint. Go to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

Another way forward is through the Transition Towns initiative. Full details can be found at [www.transitionnetwork.org](http://www.transitionnetwork.org) Briefly a group of people in a town, village or hamlet come together to explore ways of involving the local population in reducing the CO2 footprint of the area. Why not in Ilkley? Initially local churches (through CTI?), other organizations and the Parish Council set up a broad based steering group. The first task would be to raise awareness and forge links with key allies and networks.. This would be followed by highly visible publicity through to the setting up of small project groups to carry through the local ideas. . There are about 180 Transition initiatives already in existence.

What we are convinced of is this:

- if we wait for the government, it'll be too little, too late
- if we act as individuals, it'll be too little
- but if we act as a community, it might just be enough, just in time

What are we to do? Our house group support these ideas, but should there not be a church-wide debate led by the stewards and Church Council?

Brian Blowers

## The Green Spot

The warm, dry summer has been lovely, but my water butt was nearly empty when the rains came. Wendy Mann told me of a device by Hozelock which allows you to siphon your used bath water through a hose into your garden.



I was very cheered to be told that the Wednesday Wizards are considering installing a water butt in the Atrium to collect rain water from the roof to water the plants there. How GREEN is that?

Elisabeth Halsall

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## Christian Aid

I am delighted to announce that £7,882.32 had been raised throughout Ilkley in the house-to-house collection in 2010 (£8,120 in 2009). I would like to thank all of those who gave time and money to this worthy cause.

Date for your diary:

Saturday 25th September - 1 - 3.30pm Afternoon Teas in aid of Christian Aid in the Coffee Centre.

Tickets: £1.00, available from me or the church office from early September.

Stalls include Books, Plants, Unwanted gifts and Cakes. Any donations of items to sell, please contact me or leave them with Mike in the church office.

Ruth Hilton

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## Appreciation

Thanks for the willing and generous sponsorship I received from members on the 'Walk for Justice' during Refugee Week. The 12 mile walk from Bradford to the Waterside Reporting Centre in Leeds is a journey asylum seekers must take on a weekly or monthly basis unless they can find a friend to take them. Coincidentally, as we arrived an Iranian emerged from the Centre to begin the 12 mile walk back to Bradford.

My sponsors gave £600 towards various projects undertaken by BEACON for which I am most grateful.

Brian Armitage

## CD Review: Casting Crowns - Casting Crowns

2003 :: 44 minutes.

My daughter Jude dropped this onto my iPod a few years ago, saying 'you'll like this dad'. Well she was wrong, I didn't like it - I loved it: it was fantastic, brilliant, magic! Ten tracks of guitar led southern rock, with Mark Hall's gritty vocals adding a superb roughness to the polished sound.



Nine of the tracks are bible based:

**What If His People Prayed (Chron 7:14)** - a real challenge to us today.

**If We Are The Body (James 2:1-9 & 1 John 5:19-21)** - about being able to reach out to everyone, no matter what they look like.

**Voice Of Truth (2 Cor 12:7-10 & 1 Cor 1:20-2:4)** - faith is sometimes weak, but we must listen for the voice of truth amongst all the others.

**Who Am I? (Psalms 139 & 52, & Eph 2)** - my small part in the universe, yet cared for by God.

**American Dream ( Mark 8:34-37 & Eph 5:25-33)** - all work and no God, your family and your soul slip away from you.

**Here I Go Again (2 Cor 5:16-21 & Rom 10:14)** - talking about the weather when we should be talking about Jesus.

**Praise You With The Dance (Psalms 30:11-12, 149:3)** - a song of praise.

**Glory (Rev 5:11-14)** - a song of worship

**Life Of Praise (Eph 5:1-2 & Col 3:15-17)** - a song of praise to the Lord 'my rock and my protector'.

Many of these songs are anthemic (in the modern sense of large crowds just can't help but sing along) but not really a congregational worship album.

Quite a few of the songs have been used at On-Line as the lyrics are direct and often relevant to themes. It's upbeat; crank it up to 11 and away you go. I've been collecting all their albums since I was introduced to Casting Crowns.

# You May Also Like...

A collection of Christian music album covers

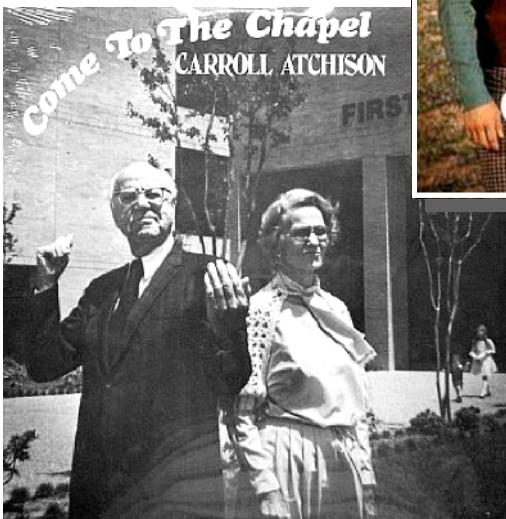
Jesus Use Me— The Faith Tones

Big hair, tight harmonies.



Country Church—

Feel the love....



Come to the Chapel—  
Carroll Atchison

An inspiring album cover.  
With a preacher and his  
wife looking so enthused  
and inviting!....

## **Christchurch Stories**

We would love to hear from you about your close encounters with God. You might like to tell about how you met Jesus and how he changed your life. Or maybe you want to share something fantastic that God is doing right now in your life. You might remember a time when God really strengthened your faith in him by doing something special.

These stories will inspire the rest of us to know that our God is really alive and working amongst us.

If you have a story but feel you can't fit it into 300 words, please contact Ruth Jones via the Office. She would be honoured to listen to your story and put it into words. Beware! She has a hit list of people who might have a story to tell. Relatively new to the church, she has a sense there are some exciting stories we haven't heard yet about God's work in our community.

### **Malcolm Atkinson's story:**

I was President of MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) for a year. My employers at the Post Office gave me a year's grace so that I could travel around Britain to help young people with activities, especially in drama and music for worship. It was a wonderful time and I thank God for the opportunities then and in subsequent years.

One time I received a phone call asking me to go to Belfast in a fortnight's time to lead worship for the MAYC national quiz finals weekend. I agreed, despite the short notice and busy schedule, but found myself on the way to the airport with no idea how I was going to lead this celebration for hundreds of young people. I panicked and prayed! Then at the airport I spotted a group of young people from Leeds who, a few months before, helped me lead worship at their church. They readily agreed to help me again and God really worked in what we did.

I am overwhelmed every time I think how God stepped in and provided a solution - His solution - to my problem. I had been a Christian for a long time but this was the first time I really saw God acting in my life and it brought my faith alive in me.

## Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,  
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,  
If you can you can eat the same food each day and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,  
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,  
If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
If you can relax without liquor,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
..... then you are probably the family dog.

*From a Parish magazine in Halifax.*

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### **The deadline for the October 2010 edition of Wider Horizons is 1st September.**

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))

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# BIG SATURDAY

Big Saturdays with the theme “One Way” will be happening on November 6<sup>th</sup> & December 18<sup>th</sup>.

5-11 year olds will enjoy activities like crafts, face painting, story telling, wild games, puppets, baking, playing on inflatables, songs and so much more!



Put the date in your diaries today!

**ONE WAY**

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH**  
**September 2010**

	<b>5th</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>26th</b>
<b>09:00am</b>	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
<b>10:30am</b>	Rev Rob Hilton Holy Communion	Rev Rita Armitage	Brian Scott Housegroup Launch	10:00am Rev Rob Hilton HF
<b>06:30pm</b>	Rev Arnold Clay	2nd Sunday	Rev Rob Hilton 3rd Sunday	Taizé

**SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am**  
A 20 minute time of reflection

3rd -Rev Rob Hilton, 10th - Rev Arnold Clay, 17th - Mgr Kieran Heskin, 24th - Rev Stuart Jenkins

### Friday Free and Easy

Starting up 17<sup>th</sup> September & each Friday. 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

All welcome. Enquiries Margo Atkinson , Stan Loach or via the Office.

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### Beamsley Open Day

As you know Ilkley Circuit and the Otley and Aireborough Circuit are engaged in 'conversations' with a view to pursue A Way Forward for Mission. Good progress is being made, and in the spirit of 'getting to know' each other we have invited members of the O&A Circuit to join us at an open-day at Beamsley.

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September we will have a social gathering to which everyone is welcome. We will assemble at 12 noon for a tour of the Project and a look at the Chapel, followed by a 'bring your own picnic' with hot drinks provided. Afterwards you can enjoy a guided walk - either a short stroll or a longer walk.

We re-assemble around 3.15 for a cup of tea before our departure. Should the weather be inclement, we will take refuge in the Project where Mike Dixon will present "Ilkley to Bolton Abbey - by rail".

The Circuit Stewards

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### Walk Thru the Old Testament—Date For Your Diary

Day Seminar at Christchurch Saturday 16th October 10:00am to 04:00pm

Further Details from Rob Hilton or Mike Dixon