



CHRISTCHURCH

WIDER HORIZONS

October 2010



What's the **BIG** idea?

Saturday 16th October

The whole Old Testament as you've never seen it before

The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church



THE GROVE, ILKLEY
Telephone: 01943 603209
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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

'Mind the Gap' comes the cry from the station announcement on the London underground as well as many other railway stations. I began my sabbatical in May with a family visit on the train to the great capital and to visit some friends who live there. It's always fascinating to take children somewhere, they see things and comment on their experience in ways we either don't see, or take for granted. Whenever we entered another station they'd cry in readiness 'Mind the Gap'.



And then when I travelled, even into Leeds on the train from Ilkley, I'd be reminded, and smile, 'Mind the Gap'. Till I realised it was becoming a mantra of reflection for my sabbatical travels. I began to see gaps all around in our varied, stratified, and diverse nation. I read the phrase 'there's no black in the Union Jack' and realised our red white and blue national flag not only has no black colour in its fabric, but neither does it represent in any way the history of centuries of black people living and working in the UK. The gap is emphasised by the right wing hi-jacking of the flag so that it becomes very hard to use it with integrity of those many British people who are black, and yet are as at home here as you or I. When I visited workplaces I became very conscious of the gap between rich and poor - I think I can confidently say that I went to work with such a variety of rich and poor that the highest salary I became aware of was over ten times bigger than the smallest. With a new government that's cracking down on "benefits fraud" I want to know when the tax arrangements of some of the wealthy are going to be scrutinised as much. But it's the effects of those salaries on the communities of the people who earn them that is worth reflection - the aspirations, professionalism, and quality of life that I noticed.

I watched the British film 'Naked' in which the lead character who's a sometimes lovable rogue, and fancies himself as an armchair philosopher asks the question of a character very different from himself "What's it like being you?" Wow, what a profound question, if we all took time to ask that question and listen to, or try and work out the answer, the world would go a lot slower and with more meaning. Watching the top 25 British films by the way reveals an enormous gap between British cinema and Hollywood. Our home grown films have so much more realism than the escapism cinema of Hollywood, they are deeply emotionally engaging, and many of them take themes that make so much more sense to us than the simply entertaining themes of Hollywood.

Gaps. Gaps and difference - the two questions I found myself asking most as I went to work with people were 'what do we do for lunch, shall I bring sandwiches?' and 'What's the dress code?' I observed the differences in lunch arrangements (for those that actually stop for lunch) and the very subtle gaps in the office between those who wear a tie and those who don't.

The more I noticed and reflected, the more I liked the phrase 'Mind the Gap'. It struck me as a very gracious and gentle phrase. To mind something is to be aware of it, to care for it, not necessarily to sort it out, but to be careful - this is what is meant when the station announces says it, don't fall down it and hurt yourself. You can bridge a gap, you can stop a gap, you can fill a gap. But what of Christian Mission? What are the implications for us as we observe these gaps in society? We must be mindful of them.

To the south of Edinburgh is a glacial valley, there's no water running through it, but to approach the city from the south you have to cross this big gap. A bridge was built, South Bridge it's called, and the level roadway is about 5 storeys above the valley bottom. Over the centuries people built vaults underneath this bridge in which they worked leather, stored goods for trading, or hid smuggled treasure. Along the sides of the bridge shops were built on top of these vaults, and the shops now rise to 4 or 5 storeys above road level. If you walk

or ride over the bridge, you are not conscious that you're on a bridge at all, the valley has disappeared in your experience of a level road, but all around you is a community - a history of people living and working around the gap.

Is this a model for the mission of the church - mind the gap and develop there a community, a relevant real and living community of people all living in the gap, a community which grows as it meets the needs and opportunities of the gap? My time volunteering at St George's crypt in Leeds would suggest that yes, if we mind the gap and just stay there minding the gap, a community can develop with meaning, purpose, and the chance to make a difference to the world in which we live.

By the way, the only railway station where there was no gap to mind, the only station where the carriage doorway made a perfect fit to the platform edge in height and distance was the Docklands Light Railway station serving Canary Wharfe where the bankers work, the salaries are high, and the power is held. A lot of workers there wear ties. Makes you think doesn't it.

More sabbatical reflections as the months go by!

Your Minister and Friend,

Rob

St George's Crypt, Leeds

Please bring clothing and household linens to the Lower Hall on Saturday 9th October between 9.30 and 11 am. Items must be clean and repaired if necessary. Alternatively leave parcels clearly marked "St George's Crypt" in the Lower Hall Lobby the previous week.

Avril Benson

Mary Mawer wishes to thank her friends at Christchurch who delivered a lovely plant to her following her hip operation. She wishes to let everyone know that she is making a good recovery.

Congratulations to Leslie & Sadie Smith who celebrated their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary on the 30th September.

CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

3 October

Outreach through Music Movers to toddlers and their families; the United Reformed (Yorkshire Province) Synod meeting on 9th October

12 October

Children and young people learning about and supporting mission projects; those who lead worship at residential and nursing homes in Ilkley.

17 October ONE WORLD WEEK

All retired ministers and deaconesses living in Ilkley; New Life children's home in Patna, India, a project supported by Christchurch.

24 October

The members and leaders of Christchurch Guild; those working to maintain peace in Northern Ireland.

31 October

Pre-school children and their parents or carers who attend the weekly Parent & Toddler Group; UNICEF striving to build a world in which all children live in dignity and security.

Margaret Kohlmann wishes to thank her kind friends at Christchurch for all the prayers and help during her illness – Please continue to pray for Margaret as she is in hospital again. Please contact the pastoral team if you want to send greetings or visit

Action for Children

The Broom Hill Family Centre will be closing down at the end of September. If you would like to support Action for Children, please consider having a home collecting box for your loose change .

Contact Lynne and Stefan Bochonek (0113 2503602)



JonaThan's jOttings

It has almost been a one year since I started work at Christchurch and I'm not sure where all the time has gone.

This year I have had fun developing a schools ministry and have spoken to over 400 children in the schools, I pray that this ministry grows and that the children and families start to come to the Big Saturday events. Scope youth group has also grown and developed and meets every Sunday night, with some great teaching and social events, that are helping to develop the young people's faith and relationship with Jesus. I would like to thank the scope leaders (the Henney's and the Hilton's) for all their hard work and passion to see the young people of Christchurch grasp hold of biblical truths.

It has been great for me making new friends and working alongside a variety of people in different areas of church life. As I have mentioned before I am overwhelmed by the love and support of the people within Christchurch and I would like to thank everyone that has made me and my family so welcome.

I would also like to thank all the people on my management team for your love and support over the last year, thanks for all your wisdom and listening to all my crazy ideas.

I also want to say a big thanks to Ruth Jones, for all her hard work and commitment to the children's ministry within the church. Please continue to pray for the Big Saturday events that we will see more children and their families come through the doors of Christchurch, and that they feel the warmth and love that Christ can bring to their lives.

This Christmas I am planning to put on a short play called the grumpy innkeeper. The play will be aimed at children and their families and it will be a great opportunity for you to bring friends and family, look out for tickets that will be available soon.

Again a big thank you for all your prayers and love.

Jonathan

Christchurch Comings and Goings.

We are sad to record the deaths of :

Mrs. Elizabeth Bevan : Mrs. Barbara Russell : Mrs. Phyllis Thompson. Our love and prayers are with their families at this time.

Our best wishes for the future go to those who are moving away.

Donald Staveley to Worcester.

David, Jenny and Victoria Anderson to Cornwall.

New addresses: Mrs. Renee Clegg to Red Gables.

Chris and Colin Brunold and family to Otley

Lynda and Philip Smith to Eastburn

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

Thank you.

Amnesty International - Christchurch letter writers.

A couple of months ago we suggested that people who couldn't get to the Thursday morning letter writing, could use the AI website for the necessary information. That way is possible but the group writers find that it is easier to get on with it when together for an hour, rather than fitting it in between other duties. In this way we actually achieve something!

Any new writers welcome - even for twenty minutes.

Meetings 3rd Thursday in the month, 10.00 am to 11.00 am.



amnesty.org.uk

Lynda East

Churches Together in Ilkley – Children's Holiday Club The King's Club - Monsters Stink - at Christchurch

There was a hectic start with over 60 children arriving and due to unforeseen circumstances we had to change entrances. The children quickly settled down to get know each other in their four mixed age groups. They shared songs and began to explore this year's theme of how we deal with monsters in our lives.

The five days went quickly. We shared ideas such as

- Disobedience (in the Garden of Eden) with plenty of snakes around,
- Dealing with a Bully - when David confronted Goliath with God's help
- Being Lost : God is like a good shepherd he will always find us and bring us safely home
- Alone - how God was there to help Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

On Friday we shared a closing drama with the inevitable umbrella as we tried to improve our relationship with God. Then there was a family picnic where the children ate the monster biscuits they had made.

Many families returned to Christchurch on Saturday to share pizza and watch the film *Monsters Inc.*

Children and adults made new friends during the week. Thanks to all who came along to the Holiday Club to make it such a success.

Alex Cockshott



THE COFFEE CENTRE

Recently the Coffee Centre Committee held it's annual "helpers evening" where all the people who work in the Coffee Centre in whatever capacity were thanked for all their dedication and hard work. But afterwards it struck me that a big thank you is also due to those people 25 years ago who helped start the C/C and have helped through the years make it the success it is today. Its success is not just how busy it has become and the income it generates to help the Church's finances, it is much more than that. The Coffee Centre is the Church's single biggest outreach, to both visitor and very importantly to our own Church family, and sometimes I think we loose sight of that. Christchurch is blessed with a wonderful Church family and most of us are aware of our Christian responsibility, particularly in "outreach and spreading the Good News" but because of our English reserved nature we find it difficult to go out and do this in our communities. This is where the Coffee Centre helps us, as we can help fulfill this responsibility in our own "home".

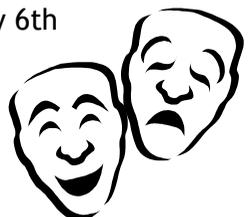


The Coffee Centre is always in need of more helpers. We have helpers from age 10 to helpers well into their 80's, but we need more people. Your commitment can be what you want it to be. Please think about it, and as the saying goes, "every little bit helps".

Thank you for taking time to read this and if you wish to know more please contact either Pauline Greenfield or Hilary Williams or call in at the Coffee Centre.

A NIGHT AT THE PANTOMIME

The Saltmine Theatre Company are returning on January 6th with their hilarious production of "The Three Musketeers". Like "Who moved the egg" at Easter, it is a fun show suitable for all ages, Tickets (£6 adults, £3 children) will be available soon - watch out for details.



Malcolm Atkinson

The Green Spot



From: The Beast That Ate The Earth—The Environment Cartoons of Chris Madden

WORKING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

A reminder of the facts.

1. That life with dramatically lower energy consumption is **INEVITABLE** and that it is better to plan for it than to be taken by surprise.
2. That our communities presently lack the resilience to enable them to weather the severe energy shocks that will accompany **PEAK OIL**.
3. That we will have to act collectively, and we will have to act **NOW**.
4. That by unleashing the collective genius of those around us to creatively and pro actively design our energy descent we can build ways of living that are more connected, more enriching and recognize the biological limits of the planet.

The rapid emergence of the Transitional Towns movements presents an opportunity for churches to get involved , If churches can engage with their local initiative then there will be genuine benefits for the churches, the wider community and the planet. Central to the concept of Transitional Towns is the reality of local people working together.

From: Christian Ecology Link (Christchurch a member)

www.christian-ecology.org.uk

The Transition Towns Handbook by Rob Hoskins

www.transitiontowns.org

Alan and Lynda East.

Shoebboxes at the Ready!

It's that time again and the need for our support for the folk in Romania through J.O.Y (Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire) is as urgent as ever.



Romania is sliding into financial chaos with the result that the government is cutting back on salaries by 25% and funding for institutions by 30%.

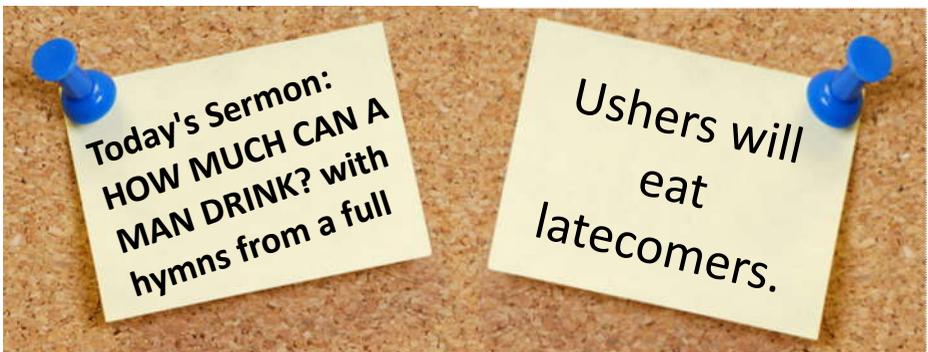
Dr. Denes of the Brincovensti Foundation for the Handicapped writes: "We are forced to make drastic cuts on medicines, clothes, fuel and even 10% on food".

Many elderly folk often have no pension or, maybe one of only £20 per month. Food in Romania often costs more than in the UK.

Children's projects supported by J.O.Y. are also finding it hard to make ends meet. Father Paul, overseeing homes for children, has been reluctant to ask for help and has resorted to taking out loans "to rescue the children from big difficulty".

Please pray—And get your shoebox ready to fill with many good things.

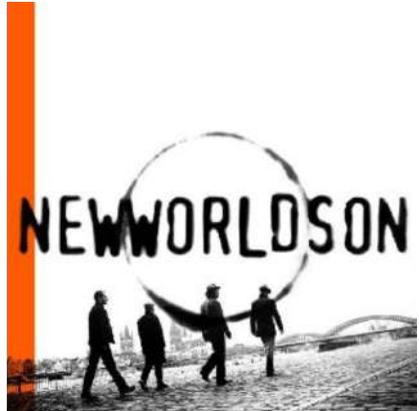
Thank you



CD Review: NEWWORLDSON - NEWWORLDSON (NWS) 2010 :: 46 minutes.

I read a rave 5 star review of this CD in Christianity magazine, so I took a risk on this unknown (to me) band from Ontario Canada.

They clearly have their roots in 90's two-tone, with elements of soul and a funky jazz feel - not really my preferred style, but these guys are very competent musicians with a driving bass line and keyboard led sound.



This is their third album, Roots Revolution and Salvation Station being their previous two, the latter being voted in at No.3 in Best Christian Albums in 2008 by Christianity Today.

This album is not a worship album, as I couldn't see a congregation singing along, but instead covers a range of topics including personal faith, thankfulness, praise, testimony and love. If pop/soul is your type of music, then this could just be what you've been waiting for.

steve amos

You May Also Like...

A collection of Christian music album covers

Amen! - Beverly Massegee & Erik

“Hey Erik. Can you ask Beverly if she'd like a big bottle of brown beer and a bag of beefy crips?”

..... “Er...no.”



The Amason Twins— The Lord's Coming Again

Thank heaven they're only twins, that bridge would never take triplets!



The Joyful Sounds — Guide Me Lord

The Girls competitive instinct even stretched to the size of their hair-do.

The Crawford Family — Aboard Heaven's Choo Choo

Words fail me...



MAKE IT HAPPEN
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE



FAIRTRADE NEWS

Following the summer break, we are back in the routine of offering the Traidcraft Stall on the first Sunday of each month. We really enjoy being part of the hustle and bustle in the Coffee Centre which gives us more opportunity to meet people and encourage new customers.

Please come and have a look. We offer a really extensive range of fairly-traded items - tea, coffee, lots of sweets, chocolate and biscuits, rice, pasta, sugar and raisins for your Christmas cakes, pickles and even rubber gloves and kitchen rolls - so something for absolutely everyone.

Yes, Christmas is coming and Traidcraft Christmas catalogues are now available with some really lovely cards and gift ideas. We would encourage you to pick one up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as some popular items can sell out nearer the big day. Orders must be placed and paid for by Sunday 21 November. Catalogues will be available from the stall or if you miss us then, just contact Judith and I will be happy to provide you with one.

Looking forward to your continued support because

BUYING FAIRTRADE REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO LIVES

Judith and John Bray

Dear Friends,

There is to be a special Church Council meeting on Thursday 14th October to consider Architects' suggestions of ways to meet our current vision. This is our vision gathered over the last two years of where we think God is leading us.

Suggested changes to our current suite of premises are just one way forward we are considering, but they may well have a financial cost. Unfortunately, a recent Church Meeting was very poorly attended, but we were made aware that people have concerns over further financial outlay.

I simply write to ask you to prayerfully consider the vision we believe we have from God and how to move forward in implementing it. After your prayers, I appeal for you to speak to a Church Council member before the 14th October, so that the Council can be wise and informed in its decision making. And remember to choose your words carefully, because we are a Church, the body of Christ is always 'we', never 'them' and 'us'!

God bless,

Rob



The deadline for the November 2010 edition of Wider Horizons is 1st October.

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)

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
October 2010**

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
09:00am	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am	Barbara Glasson HC	Michael Noble	Brian Armitage	Rev Arnold Clay	Rev Rita Armitage
06:30pm	Rev Rob Hilton	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday @ AS	Rev Arnold Clay HC	Rev Rob Hilton

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

A 20 minute time of reflection

8th Rev Rob Hilton, 15th Mgr Kieran Heskin, 22nd Rev Rob Hilton, 29th Margaret Cook,



**WALK
THRU
THE
BIBLE®**

Walk Thru the Old Testament
Putting together the Big Picture of the bible

At Christchurch Saturday 16th October, 2010
9:30am for 9:45am – 5:00pm

Contact Rob Hilton (01943 607870)
office@christchurchilkley.org.uk



Christchurch Guild

- October 6th** – Irene Burns “Pets In Our Lives”
- October 13th** – Brian Scott “America Part 2”
- October 20th** – Visit to Ilkley Baptist Ladies’ Guild
Kings Road 2:30pm
- October 27th** – President’s Charity Afternoon