

WIDER HORIZONS



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January **2011**

Minister's Letter

Happy New Year!

I hope you have enjoyed the Christmas celebrations, found the worship and fellowship over Christmas to be meaningful, and have been blessed with time with family, friends, and a rest over the holiday period.

A new year is a time for resolutions, new plans and promises, and, for those with a very Methodist background, a time for renewing our covenant promise with God. This has two aspects – a reminder to ourselves of God's promises to us, and a fresh challenge therefore to respond again to His love. There are many times in the Biblical literature when the people record God's commitment to them, either as a tribal group through Abraham, a mythical family through Noah, a political nation through the Prophet Jeremiah, and ultimately indeed through Jesus Christ to all people on earth.

Those words from our Covenant service "*I am no longer my own but yours Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you*" seem to resonate in so many of life's circumstances. I think particularly at the moment of the great team of people who met and planned Second Sunday worship in the autumn evenings – great acts of worship but for whatever reasons very poorly attended and so, for now, discontinued; I think of the students who will go off to university or college away from home this year; I think of the people who say "What about the over '60's in the life of the Church"; I think of the many elderly who would love to be as active in life as they have been but age, health, or other circumstances prevent them; I think of those who attend many church meetings and are frustrated at so much talk and apparent lack of action; I think of those whose careers, parenthood, or personal circumstances have not or are not working out as planned or hoped.

These and many other life circumstances are the places God keeps his covenant with us – in my own experience, in times of blessing and of frustration, God has always been present. Though sometimes I've had to hunt him out. He knows those times, and He knows I need the challenge of the search!

The good news is that He is always there keeping His covenant with us, the challenge is to live up to that challenge, rise to be the people He knows we can be, and so be found, by the power of the Holy Spirit to be growing into the stature of Christ that God knows we can live up to. *"...I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal".*



Happy New Year, and may you be conscious of God's blessings in 2011.

Your Minister and Friend,
Rob

Christchurch Comings and Goings

We record the deaths of :

Dawn Smith and Anne Woodsworth.

We remember them with love and prayers and think of their families at this sad time.

We are happy to welcome various new people to Christchurch and trust that they feel 'at home' among us. If you would like your details in print next month please speak to Jeannie or Trevor Buckroyd or Judy Dixon.

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

Thank you.



A Thank You From Jean And Family

Sincere thanks to all friends for the kindness shown to us in so many ways following the sad loss of Ian. Your loving support has been a great comfort to us.

The Wider Horizons team would like to apologise for not including the above item in last month's magazine due to an oversight.

Jonathan's jOttings

By the time this comes out in print I will have been in my post for just over a year.

Last year has been full on with lots of time getting to know people and finding out how Christchurch works (well, trying to work out).

I have seen strong relationships grow between myself and some of the local schools, doing regular assemblies and outreach in primary schools, and helping to run a regular Christian Union in the Grammar school.

Some schools have sent classes over the year to various events that we have run, such as the walk through Easter and our Christmas activities.

Big Saturday was launched and has already seen over sixty children and their families come through our doors, some for the first time.

Scope has met on a regular basis every week on a Sunday night and has seen up to thirteen young people in regular attendance.

In November eight young people attended our first Scope weekend away, where the children and the leaders grew in relationship with Christ and each other.

Now I am looking onwards to the future and all that God has planned for us, as a Church family.

Please join me in praying for growth for all our projects involving children and young people and their families.

And last but not least I would like to say a massive thank you to all the people that have helped in various projects over the year, without you and your support a lot of the above would not have been possible.



Jonathan Logan

CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

JANUARY

2 Covenant Sunday

Those who worship at Christchurch as we re-dedicate ourselves for the year ahead; the Touchstone project, looking to move premises and develop its work in inner city Bradford and for the greater understanding of other faiths.

9

Our minister, Rev Rob Hilton, his wife Ruth and their children Sam, Ned and Esther; Pastor Ivan and staff at the Revival Christian Life Centre in Matugga and all those in Ilkley who support their work.

16

(Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January)

The members and those in ordained ministry within Churches Together in Ilkley; the World Development Movement, especially in its work to change the structures of economic power to favour poor countries.

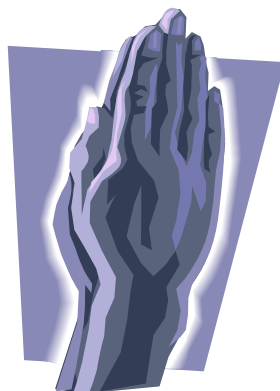
23

The church Stewards who lead the church and seek to support the minister and serve the church family; Phakamisa, a project we currently support - serving and uplifting impoverished communities in the Durban area of South Africa.

30 Homelessness Sunday

The staff and helpers in the Coffee Centre and those who appreciate the welcome there; the work of St George's Crypt in Leeds, a project we currently support - providing opportunities for change to homeless, rootless and disadvantaged people.

The Prayer Calendar of our weekly concerns in 2011 has now been prepared and will be used in Wider Horizons and weekly notices throughout the year. However you are welcome to have a copy of your own - please ask at the church office.



NEW CONSTITUTION

A Draft copy of the New Constitution is on our website;

Christchurchilkley.org.uk If you do not have access to the website there is a copy in the **church office** and another in the **corner room (library)** for you to read.

As a result of the Charities Act 2006, there are significant legal changes with regard to the constitutions of all single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships (L.E.P.) and especially those with an annual turnover of £100,000 or more.

Following negotiations with Churches Together in England & Wales (c.t.e.), the Charity Commission requires the adoption of a standard constitution to ensure that each church is acting according to charity law.

The churches that agreed the Model Document along with the Charity Commission were, The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The United Reformed Church, The Baptist Church and The Moravian Church. A group comprising Rev Rob Hilton, Tom Collins, Brian Armitage, George McArthur and Chris Mannall have worked with Rev Dr Clive Barrett (County Ecumenical Development Officer and Executive Secretary of West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council (WYEC)) and Valerie Jenkins (Ecumenical Officer for the URC in Yorkshire) to develop draft documents which will need to be formally approved by WYEC and both of our parent denominations as well as the Charity Commission.

Information needed for approval:

Model Constitution for Single Congregational LEPs
Ecumenical Vision Statement

Some noticeable changes in the New Constitution.

- The Church Meeting becomes the Congregational Meeting. The Congregational Meeting has a quorum and only Church Members can be counted in the quorum. The suggested quorum is 30 or 10% of the membership.
- The Church Council will be replaced by Trustees.
- The Congregational Meeting will elect the Elected Trustees; suggested number 21. The Trustees elect Co-opted Trustees; suggested number 3.
- Under the new Constitution the Congregational Meeting will have a greater say in decision making so it is very important that the

meetings are well attended. No major decisions can be taken unless there is a quorum. At some of the recent Church Meetings we have not had 30 Members present.

George McArthur

Highlights from Synod in Rotherham on Saturday 6 November

The Moderator, Rev Kevin Watson, led the opening devotions on Isaiah 1 where the Israelites are likened to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. We were challenged as a Church as to whether we are also guilty. Ezekiel 16 sets out the sins of Sodom – ‘arrogant, overfed and unconcerned, they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before God.’ Are we listening to God?

A group has looked at Synod meetings and generally agreed to maintain the status quo of two meetings on Saturdays per year which will include business and worship elements. We were reminded of the role of Synod and of Mission and Care Groups as set down in the URC constitution. A review of Mission and Care Groups is to be undertaken as their effectiveness varies widely. A Synod Hotline bulletin will be produced to provide feedback after each Synod. A bi-Annual Synod Day will be held.

A single Synod-wide ‘District’ has been set up solely for performing those legal tasks that can only be undertaken by Districts (which were disbanded some months ago). More work now falls on Synod Council to look after 107 churches since the demise of Districts.

The Synod has historically lived off investment income but due to the financial crisis achieved a loss of £122k in 2009, is heading for a £43k loss in 2010 and a budget showing a £36k loss was accepted for 2011 (despite the proposed levy of £10 per member per year). Synod approved two £62k extraordinary payments in 2011 and 2012 into the pension fund for Ministers was also approved

This is the Year of the Child – Are we listening to voice of children in our activities?

Chris Mannall - Church Secretary



Christchurch stories

Growing up I went to Sunday School and when I was 12 joined the choir. Thinking of the day I gave my life to Jesus, 57 years ago, I had a wee daughter Elizabeth nearly 3 years old. I had divorced my husband 2 years before, consequently my daughter and I doted on each other.

A month before Christmas that year, 1953, she and I were shopping in Ilkley on the Saturday morning and were passing a big Toy Shop, Dickinsons, in Brook Street. It is so vivid after all these years. She asked if she could have a tricycle for Christmas. I explained that we lived on a hill with Gran & Grandad so it would not be safe until she was older. She put her arms & hands out wide and said, "I grow no bigger Mummy, I go to sleep on Sunday." I replied, "You go to Sunday School and would not be having your afternoon nap." She was adamant but I took no notice of her comments until later.

On the following Sunday afternoon, 3 days before her 3rd birthday, she had an accident at home and died the following day, my mother's birthday. I know I was inconsolable but eventually when I was coming round I was washing the front steps and said, "Good morning" to a lady who was passing. She came back to me and said, "How can you smile after all that's happened?" I replied, "Elizabeth & God would not like me to be miserable all the time" and that got me thinking. I could feel the warmth in my heart and I knew that God was with me and helping me constantly. I have felt the same ever since that day, that I have Jesus & God in my heart helping me live my life in Their Service; helping me during the years of Bill's depression and his last 3 years of being bedridden.

Lydia Pettitt

Way back at Easter 1947, I and about a dozen other young people were being prepared for church membership. In those days we went to weekly classes for three months. At the end, the Minister asked each of us in turn whether we really believed and whether we felt ready to take this serious step. Everyone said "Yes" and, not wanting to be the odd one out, I said "Yes" too, even though I knew it was a lie, the biggest lie I have ever told. However, it did set me thinking. Was it true, or did the Minister just say so because it was his job? I started to read the New Testament I had been given to mark the occasion, thinking (naively) that the Book of Revelation might indeed reveal all.

There followed a notoriously long, hot summer. I went with a school friend and her family to their caravan in Bridlington. One afternoon we had been for a swim and were walking back along the beach when we heard music. Curious, we followed the sound and came upon a group of Cliff College students holding a seaside campaign on the terraces (promenade anywhere else!). Most of these young men who had served in the armed forces and had seen war at its worst, yet on "demob" had used their gratuities to go to Cliff and train for evangelistic ministry. I could see from their faces, demeanour and their testimonies that Christ lived and I knew I believed. So when the appeal was given, I hopped over the wall and took the decision card from the evangelist's hand. Joy of joys, my friend followed me!

Then I had to go home and tell my parents. My father, an atheist, thought I would grow out of it. My Mother, a non-churchgoer, said I was a hypocrite. But my Minister was supportive. He even organised a Cliff College mission for our church the following spring, which re-vitalised the whole church. I know my life has never been the same since!

Liz Huddleston

Are you a Member of Christchurch?

However short (or long) a time you have been attending Christchurch, we hope that you have a sense of 'belonging'. You no doubt feel a member of our congregation, and we certainly look on you as one of our number, welcoming you into our pastoral care. Unfortunately, although we - and God - may consider you a member of His Church this does not make you a Member of Christchurch in the eyes of the Charity Commission, or our parent denominations.

At present we are undertaking a complete revision of our Constitution to comply with the requirements of charity legislation and the rules of our governing bodies – the URC and Methodist Churches. The effect of the new constitution will be to strengthen the role of the Congregational (formerly Church) Meeting and place strict limits on the size of the quorum of Members that can legitimately conduct the business of the meeting. It therefore becomes paramount that we know whether or not those attending are Members in this legal sense. Indeed we would like as many people as possible to become Members so that they have voting rights and can fully participate in the decision-making of the church.

Membership has both a spiritual and practical dimension. In taking on membership you are making an affirmation of your faith in Jesus Christ. It is in other words your official **confirmation** as a Christian. But you are also saying; "Yes, I want to put more into Christchurch. I'll do my bit for the church in its day-to-day workings, in its mutual support and in its outreach to others." Membership is therefore a sign of **commitment**. You may already be a member of another church, or denomination, in which case we would like you to transfer your membership to Christchurch (in these ecumenical days this transfer can be across the boundaries of any Christian denomination). If this applies to you, or you would like to take up membership it does not mean months of classes, or a test of character, or signing up to a long list of beliefs, simply an affirmation that you are serious about your journey of faith. If you are interested, please have a word with our Pastoral Team – Jeannie or Trevor Buckroyd, Judy Dixon, or our Minister Rob.

P.S. If you're not sure about the status of your membership at Christchurch, please ask Rob!

Northern Men's Convention

For the past few years a small group of men from Christchurch have attended the above event and enjoyed a good day out listening to interesting and challenging speakers, taking part in seminars and wonderful worship accompanied by accomplished music groups.

Next year's Convention will take place at the usual venue, The Armitage Centre, Manchester, on **Saturday, 7th May** under the heading 'Sex, Marriage and Singleness.' The keynote speaker will be Rupert Bentley-Taylor, Minister of Widdecombe Baptist Church in Bath who will present Bible expositions on these topics that form much of today's social trends and media coverage.

Although May seems some distance away at the present time, we are offered an early bird ticket offer of £15 for bookings made before 31st.January. After that, tickets will cost £18 or £20 on the day!

This has always proved to be a worthwhile occasion. If you are interested or want to know more please contact either myself or Chris Mannall.

Trevor Buckroyd

Scope Weekend

On the Scope weekend I had loads of fun because we had games like darts and playing cards. Most importantly we worshipped God by singing worship songs, saying Grace before meals, devotions and small services. Apart from worshipping and playing games lots of people told jokes like when Ned Hilton was supposed to do Grace he said "heavenly pa tamen". (heavenly pa= father, ta= thank you, amen)

I really enjoyed the scope weekend and I hope we can do it next year.

Daniel Jones



SCOPE

The Green Spot—2010 sets new (high) temperature records



Although The UK is on course to see the coldest year since 1996, due to the state of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) - a weather phenomenon that affects the distribution of heat within the northern hemisphere, temperatures have reached record levels in several regions during 2010. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) confirmed that the year is likely to be among the warmest three on record. Parts of Russia, Greenland, Canada, China, North Africa and South Asia all saw the mercury soar to record levels. The three main temperature records show 2010 as the warmest, or joint warmest, year in the instrumental record.

Richard Black Environment correspondent, BBC News

CTI is looking for a Deputy Lay Moderator to work alongside Revd Peter Willox, the current Moderator, and take over from him at the AGM in May 2011. The post of Moderator is for one year only and alternates between ministers and lay people. He or she will chair a total of 8 meetings per annum - 4 larger Forum meetings, including the AGM, and 4 smaller Executive ones.

At this time we shall also be looking for a new secretary to take over from Mavis Currie. This role briefly comprises:

- Preparing agenda for and producing minutes of 8 meetings per annum (as above)
- Liaising with the Moderator.
- Forwarding relevant e-mails to all CTI Forum members and Church Offices.
- Keeping address list up to date.
- Dealing with correspondence.
- Booking venues annually for meetings.
- Acting as point of contact.

If you are interested in either of these two roles and would like more information, or if you can suggest someone whom we might approach, please contact either Margaret Cook or Rita Armitage

"All for one, and one for all!"

Tickets are now available for The Saltmine Theatre Company's hilarious production of "The Three Musketeers" in the Riddings Hall, Christchurch, on January 6th at 7:00pm.

It is a fun show suitable for all ages.

Tickets (£6 adults, £3 children) are now available from the Christchurch Coffee Centre or the church office (01943 603209) or call 01943 608479

Demand for tickets will be high, so book early!

Can You Help?

Bed and breakfast hospitality (plus a supper "snack") is needed for the Saltmine actors (single beds for 3 males and 1 female) on the night of Thursday 6th January. Offers

Dear Lord,

So far this year I've done well with my New Year's resolutions.

I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.!

Amen



ROOM BOOKINGS

A reminder from the Minister and Church Council (To whom this also applies!)

Please will ALL church members book the rooms you need with Val Worrall. Turning up and using a room that appears free at any time of day or night *can cause embarrassment* to those who have booked the room unknown to you, as well as to you. It's a bad witness to the community who pay for their rooms and causes great stress to those who try and run a well managed system! Rooms are available and you can have them for church things quite easily - **but book them please with Val!**

Rob Hilton

Church Away Day

On Saturday 13th November, 23 members went to Guiseley Methodist Church for half a day to draw breath and reflect on Christchurch and the way forward. It seemed a good time to pause, two years into Rob's term at Christchurch, and still under the influence of his Sabbatical insights.

We were asked what we'd like at Christchurch in the future to share with our friends. We wanted to put on events, either in church or homes, so that our friends could discuss the big secular and ethical questions which bother us all, Christian or not. We wanted a place for families to come to. We wanted to run a Holiday at Home, a week of events for those who can't get away on holiday to enjoy fun, fellowship and a holiday feeling in Christchurch.

We had a chance to air frustrations, particularly about communication. We felt that more personal communication in services would encourage more involvement, rather than just relying on the written word. We also struggled with leadership of the church – who can drive through decisions and make things happen? Hopefully the new constitution will help by reducing the number of meetings and giving the people more say in church meetings.

We also heard Margaret Whitton's vision about people queuing up to get into Christchurch for spiritual feeding. The practical outworking of this is an idea to install a soft play area in the Riddings Hall which can be used by all ages and will provide practical support for parents and children alike. This idea needs to simmer and cook, but please ask Rob, Jonathan or Margaret about it for a fuller flavour.

Although we talked a lot, the mood was – a little less conversation, a little more action!

Ruth Jones

From Dorothea Jeffrey

Good news! My dissertation has been accepted – so I am officially an MA.

Subject: Theology. Title: "How Necessary is Literacy for Christian Maturity?"

Another piece of good news is that I have just been elected a deacon in my home church.

Checking of Zam* Luke in November went well. I've also done some checking of Irish Sign Language Genesis, which I need to report on. The next checking session is at Horsleys Green in December when we hope to check about 6 chapters of Kab* Genesis. Plans for the Introduction to Discourse Studies workshop in January are going ahead well. We expect about 7 participants from 4 different languages.

From Sudan I hear that Dominic and two other Mundus have really started working on the Mundu Old Testament with help from Pioneer Bible Translators. Bakata Levi (nephew of Seme) was planning a Youth Seminar in Yei at the end of December studying from Philippians 3:12 in the Mundu New Testament with the theme "Pressing Toward the Goal". They also plan to have sessions on reading Mundu, learning new Mundu songs from the hymnbook, and drug abuse.

Enoka held a refresher course for 12 Mundu teachers in Yei in August and Dominic a refresher course for 6 Mundu teachers in Maridi in October. Enoka is planning to run a literacy course for Congolese refugees, currently camped on the Sudan side of the border because of LRA activity in the Congo.

Please continue to pray for the referendum due to be held on 9th January to decide if Southern Sudan will secede from the North and become completely independent. At the moment southerners are registering for this and many are travelling to the South. For more details see:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-11763487>.

* Foreign languages.

The deadline for the February 2010 edition of Wider Horizons is 1st January.

Items (maximum 300 words please) preferably by email, please, as a Word attachment to [both](mailto:mcArthur59@blueyonder.co.uk):

George McArthur (mcArthur59@blueyonder.co.uk)

and Christchurch Office (Office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)



**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
January 2011**



	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
09:00am	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am	Rev Rob Hilton COV	Rev Rita Armitage	Rev Rob Hilton	Rev Rob Hilton	Rev Arnold Clay
06:30pm	Rev Arnold Clay	Rev Rob Hilton	3rd Sunday @ Christchurch	CTI @ AS	Taizé

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

A 20 minute time of reflection
7th Mgr Kieran Heskin, 14th Rev Dick Watson,
21st Rev Peter Willox, 28th Rev Stuart Jenkins,

JUBILANT JANUARY!

Let us bring some cheer to your New Year!

CHRISTCHURCH FAMILY PARTY

Saturday 15 January 2011 at 6pm in the Riddings Hall

Barn Dance, Fun and Games

Including supper: Bangers and Mash & Delicious Desserts

Make a special note in your 2011 diary — Tickets now available from the Coffee Centre or the Office (£3:50 single £10:00 family)

Dates for your diary

Church Meeting: Tues 08 February, Wed 19 May, Thurs 08 September, Mon 07 November

Church Council: Tues 08 March, Wed 15 June, Thurs 29 September, Mon 05 December

Christchurch Guild

January 5th Rita Armitage— "Epiphany"

January 12th Betty Skinner— "My Life in the Land Army"

January 19th Yeadon Handbell Ringers

January 26th Sister Pat— "A Nun in the 21st Century"

For information about meetings during periods of extreme weather, please call Adele McArthur or Maureen Adams

Friday Free & Easy

Starting new season on Friday 7th January at 7.30 pm with Social Evening & bring & share supper.

All welcome. Enquiries – Joan & Stan Loach