

WIDER HORIZONS



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March **2011**

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

A wise person once said that the church is always within one generation of extinction. Now, while I don't think we have a cause to panic at Christchurch, the followers of Jesus always need to be on their toes and aware of the urgency of the Kingdom of God in the midst of the here and now.

One of the things I think that means, is a constant willingness to re-invent ways of celebrating and declaring our faith.

Hey Presto, Mardi Gras! On 6th March.

Christchurch is this year re-inventing the Mardi Gras festival for Ikley in 2011. As always with a re-invention, there are changes. We're moving it from Shrove Tuesday to the Sunday before Lent, only a two day move! And we're all joining together at 10am (no Online or 10.30 service that day) for worship and Carnival activities including lunch together.

Mardi Gras is about celebrating and feasting before the fast of Lent begins, so marking the beginning of the spiritual disciplines of denial, self examination, inner cleansing, and reliance on God.

The notice board in the Church Foyer has, for some weeks been advertising this event and explaining a bit more about the carnival colours we're inviting you to wear – green, gold, and purple. Don't worry, we're not forgetting pancakes, and we're carrying on the colours and carnival, and pancake theme to the first Ikley Pancake Race on the Grove on Shrove Tuesday. Christchurch will be represented!

Such excitement is good for us, then it's time to 'deny ourselves', and in the words of an old hymn find 'a road to God'.

Looking forward then to Pancakes, Carnival, and self examination,

Yours, in Him,

God bless,

Rob

PS Lent starts the latest it ever can this year, Shrove Tuesday being 8th March. Easter follows on from the Jewish Passover, (which is the first Sabbath after the first full moon, after the Spring Equinox) and is the latest it can ever be 24th April. Unlike Christmas, we are pretty certain when Jesus died, so when you look out for the moon in Holy Week and see it full, it's a poignant thought that that's exactly what Jesus looked at in the sky as he prayed in Gethsemane.



CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

March 2011

6th

The ecumenical leadership and congregation of the Shoppers' Service; Keighley Voluntary Services, supporting activities in the Ilkley area.

13th Lent 1

Those who provide transport to church for others; Mysmallhelp a project we currently support – working to relieve poverty amongst children in Nepal and Peru.

20th Lent 2

The Wednesday Wizards who maintain the fabric of Christchurch; Ilkley's firemen, ambulance drivers and police.

27th Lent 3

Those who arrange and fund floral displays and other displays in the church; Maternity Worldwide, a project we currently support – working to save lives in childbirth in developing countries.

Christchurch Comings and Goings

We record the deaths of Mrs. Doris Lindley and Mrs. Doreen Walter. We give thanks for their lives.

We wish Georgina Head all the best for her future as she moves away from Ilkley.

We think of May Pickles. Visitors very welcome.

We welcome Esther Hawley.

We welcome Harriet and William Smith and trust they enjoy being with us.

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

Thank you.

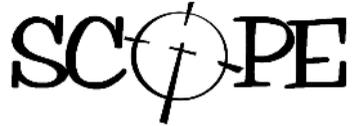
Judy Dixon



JonaThan's jOttings

Please join with me in praying for new leaders and helpers to help move Scope to the next level.

I am excited about the new programme format as it will help grow our young people in many areas, not just spiritually but helping each young person develop emotionally, physically, mentally and creatively.



One area that I am most excited about is the mission's night and helping the young people to make a difference in their community, through random acts of kindness and just spreading a little bit of light.

At scope we are going to try out a new project called "adopt a street".

The principle is to take on one street in an area such as Ben Rhydding and to make an impact, getting to know all or most of the families that live on that street.

This can be done in various ways picking up litter, painting fences, random acts of kindness for various families, leaflet drops and personal invite to various events at church.

The whole task is one of building relationships and about being a consistent witness, to those families that live in that area, showing them the love of God.

We also hope to join in with other church youth groups in the area, and I am talking the idea through with their leaders.

I think this will be a great project for our young people as we are giving them the encouragement and teaching and pastoral care they need and we will be helping them to get out there and put their faith into action.

If you would like any information on this or would consider helping out on an evening like this, then please get in contact with me.

Jonathan Logan

The Lord's Fishermen

Over the last few years Jesus' teaching of spreading the "Good News" through his trusted Disciples has troubled me greatly, due to my feelings of inadequacy in this area of my Christian life. Again through an excellent sermon from Rev'd Arnold Clay on Sunday 30th January I was left thinking about my shortcomings in this area and can only console myself by doing practical, hands-on Christian work.

On the way home after the service, Pat and I were discussing this problem of "spreading the Good News", when Pat made the startling comment that we had never been taught how to perform this task. According to the Rev'd Clay Jesus spent three years teaching his disciples how to perform this task. I feel that if I am to fulfil my duties as a Christian I need someone to teach me how to perform this work, and perhaps there are others within Christchurch who feel that they need help like myself in this essential task.

Peter Stockdale



Jubilant January—a New Year Christchurch gathering

We were so delighted that the weather on Saturday 15 January behaved! Ticket sales came very late, and then so thick and fast that we had to close sales as catering was stretched to the limit.

However, the bangers and mash went down well and the puddings consumed with relish. The excellent Band played for us while the Quiz was puzzled over and following supper a great deal of enthusiastic dancing was enjoyed by many.

Very many thanks to the many helping hands, the pudding makers and to the Band, some of whom came over from Cumbria especially to play for us. A good time was had by all and we have been able to donate £165 to St George's Crypt.



Jennifer Rundle

Christchurch Finances – Everyone’s Responsibility

In November, a personal letter signed by Rob Hilton, was sent to members of the Christchurch family reporting on the financial situation which needed action to ensure an unsustainable deficit did not materialise. This letter brought forward the usual yearly Stewardship renewal in February, effectively asking for an immediate increase in contributions by those able. Rob also spoke at the 9 and 10.30 services and this was repeated by another appeal during worship services in December by John Stanley, Chair of the Resources group.

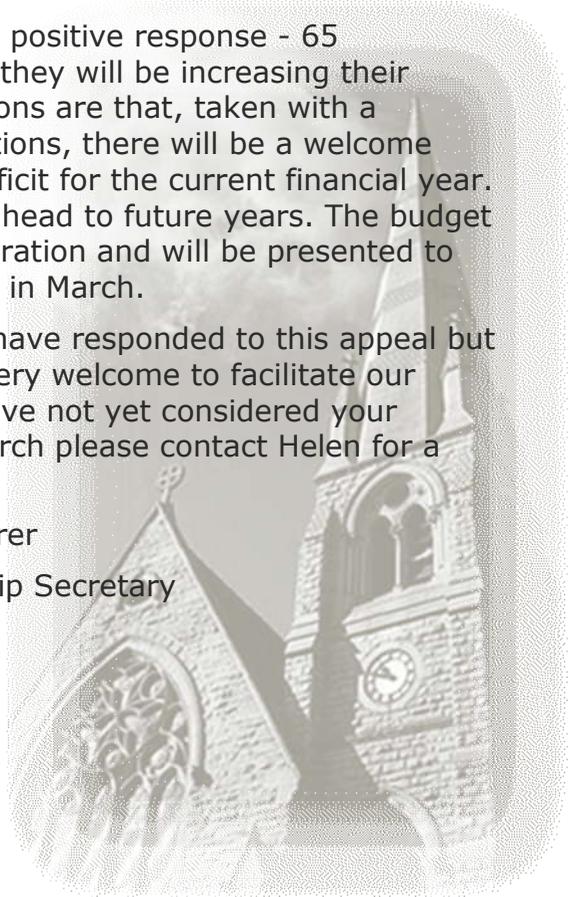
Approximately 250 letters were sent out to households and there have been approximately 100 responses. We did say that there would be a report back on the result of this appeal and give an update on the position.

In general there has been a positive response - 65 respondents have said that they will be increasing their regular giving. The indications are that, taken with a significant increase in donations, there will be a welcome reduction in the forecast deficit for the current financial year. Of course we need to look ahead to future years. The budget for 2011/12 is now in preparation and will be presented to Church Council for approval in March.

Gratitude is due to all who have responded to this appeal but more responses would be very welcome to facilitate our financial planning. If you have not yet considered your financial giving to Christchurch please contact Helen for a response form or a chat.

Tom Collins, Church Treasurer

Helen Singleton, Stewardship Secretary



Give What You Can

Over Christmas the Guardian newspaper re-visited some of the articles it had featured during the year. One such review reminded readers of Tony Ord, a moral philosopher at Oxford University, who set up a society called 'Giving What We Can', inviting people to join with him and his wife in giving 10% of their income to charity for the duration of their working life.

62 people signed up. That may not seem many (how many people, like me, did not see the article when it first appeared?) but he was not discouraged because 10% over a lifetime of relatively young people adds up to millions of pounds. Ord himself has actually given away far more than 10%; he and his wife decided to live on £18,000 a year, and say they don't miss anything.

Also, he says, it is not all altruism. Giving makes him feel happier. He would feel guilty when he had the opportunity to give but didn't. He was quoted as saying, 'Now I feel a lot more at peace with myself,'

Now, what was it that Rob said in his Stewardship sermon last autumn?

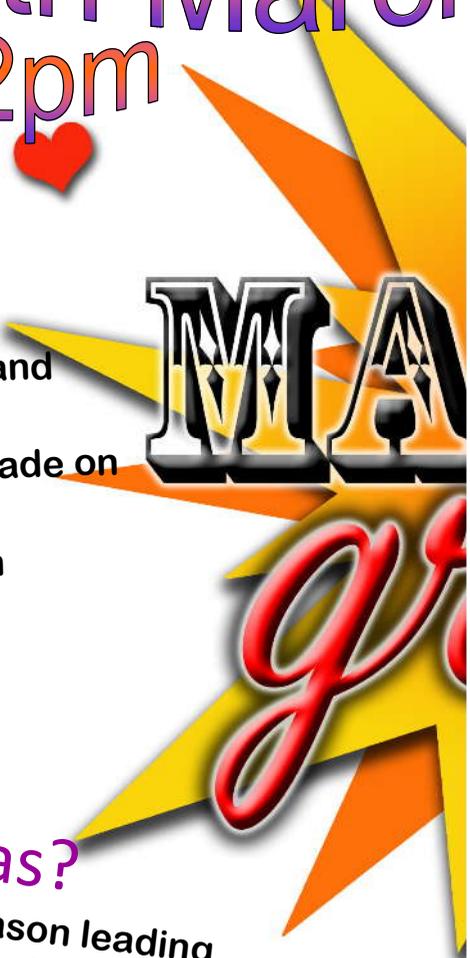
Liz Huddleston

financial funnies



Sunday 6th March

10am until 2pm



Order of the day

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 10:00am | Service |
| 10.30am | Refreshments and groups |
| 12:00 noon | Mardi Gras Parade on The Grove |
| Or | Hymn-a-thon in Riddings Hall |
| 12:30pm | Lunch |

MAR

GRAS

What is Mardi Gras?

Mardi Gras is the Carnival season leading up to Shrove (or Pancake) Tuesday. It is a time of celebration and feasting before the serious time of Lent which leads up to Easter. It is celebrated around the world by all traditions.

Mardi Gras themes are Justice, Power and Faith. At Christchurch we will celebrate God's justice and power and our faith.

Act

To

Discussion Group

Justice Faith Power



Mardi Gras Colours
wear them to church

PURPLE
for justice

green
for faith

Gold
for power

ity Group

s and

What will you give
up for Lent?

Bring it to church or a symbol
of what you are going to give
up and we will throw it away

Dorothea Jeffrey, Wycliffe

A Discourse Studies Workshop was held at the Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green from 10th to 14th January. We had representatives from the Kab, Zam, Lig and Lab teams, as well as 3 new people have not yet been assigned to a language.

As well as facilitating and attending the Discourse Workshop I've been continuing

with the checking of Zam, Luke and Kab Genesis. The next checking session is planned for some time in February, probably again at Horsleys Green.



Thanks for praying for the Referendum in Sudan early this month. It took place on time and, apart from a few isolated local incidents, it all went very peacefully. It seems to be generally expected that the vote will be for Southern Sudanese independence. Please continue to pray for the entire practical out-workings of this.

I now have the go-ahead to book my flights for the Jesus Film Workshop in Juba. I hope to be working with some Mündü translators on adapting their translation of Luke for the script of the film. The workshop runs from 26th March to 16th April, but the staff has been asked to arrive a few days early. I talked to Seme on his mobile phone over Christmas, and he expressed an interest in taking part in this. Dominic has also said he'd like to be involved. Pray it all works out. And pray for me as I start to think about flights, travel insurance, injections and malaria medicine.

What's in a Name?

Sometimes old habits die hard. Often we refer to things in the way we always have done despite things changing. For instance, many of us call radios "transistors" or, going back even further, a "wireless." Perhaps we buy a "record" when it is, in fact a CD, or "video" a TV programme on your Sky+ box.

So perhaps it's understandable when announcing the reading in the service, when we often refer to "the Pew Bibles." We have not had pews in the sanctuary since the 1980's, but the term is yet to disappear! I wonder how long it will be before it does?

George McArthur

MySmallHelp

MySmallHelp was founded in Nepal and the UK by a group of friends in January 2007.

MySmallHelp believe that education is the key to a brighter future for all children.

They are now working in Peru in partnership with local organizations and currently are involved with several projects:

- After the flood in Jan 2010 they helped with emergency aid but are now setting up a long term project building a training centre for guinea pig rearing and helping families set up their own guinea pig rearing business.
- They have helped to find a teacher in the Huayroncoyocpampa community and have set up a knitting cooperative for homeless women.
- They have arranged for education, books and uniforms for children in the Ollantaytaambo region who had previously not been able to attend school.

During the run up to Christmas they raised funds for the Christmas chocolatadas delivering hot chocolate, sweet bread and Christmas gifts to over 30000 people in a mini bus decorated with clowns!

Leander Hollings who helped set up MySmallHelp is from Ilkley and Christchurch are currently supporting this project. Lots more information at:

www.mysmallhelp.org

World and Society group



Thank You!

At our housegroup recently, we were slightly sidetracked (as we are very occasionally!) and discussed the importance of affirming and encouraging those within the church family. So on behalf of the Monday housegroup, thank you to those of you who worked so hard to brighten January with two wonderful social events—The Three Musketeers panto and the Family Christmas party. Great opportunities for all ages to meet and have fun together - thank you!

Ruth Hilton

The Green Spot—

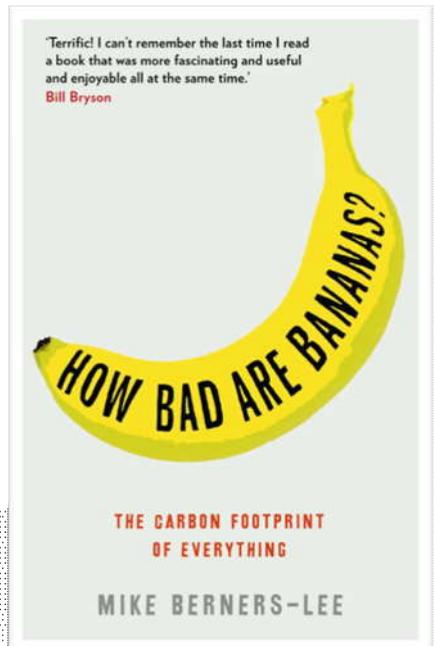


I am reading a book called HOW BAD ARE BANANAS? By Mike Berners-Lee (the Carbon Footprint of everything). I have found it interesting and entertaining, a book to dip into or to read straight through. It is also sobering. Carbon Dioxide equivalents are complex to calculate because the author includes many factors in his analysis. However, they give an easy way to compare the effects of our consumption on the planet. The book shows how our decisions about the food we buy, the holidays we take, how we dispose of our rubbish etc., will affect our Carbon Footprint.

Mike Berners-Lee lives in the North and his company has done research for Booths Supermarket on the carbon equivalents for foods thus giving a local slant on food choices.

Sometimes you can be amazed at his conclusions. Did you buy or receive red roses on Valentine's Day? The carbon Dioxide equivalent of a red rose grown in Kenya and flown here is 350 g, that of a red rose grown in a heated greenhouse in the Netherlands is 2.1 kg. Out of season cut flowers have the largest Carbon Footprint per Kilo. of anything going through the till at the supermarket. Added to this the land taken up by growing them could be used to grow food. Makes you think.....

Elisabeth Halsall



Act of God?

In a small town a businessman put in a planning application to build a nightclub complete with dancing girls. The local church started a vigorous campaign to block it from opening. The church launched a petition and held prayers in public. Work progressed, however, right up until the week before opening. Then one night a bolt of lightning struck the nightclub and it burned to the ground.

The church members were rather smug after that, until the nightclub owner sued them all on the grounds that they were responsible for the fire. Loudly protesting their total non-involvement and innocence, the church members were all taken to court.

As the case began, the judge looked over the paperwork and observed: "I don't know how I'm going to decide this. It appears that we have a nightclub owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn't!"



Two to Peru

On Saturday 5th March at 7.30pm in the Riddings Hall the Friends of the Beamsley Project present "Two to Peru", by David & Margaret Pratt, and Addingham Methodist Singers. Tickets £6, including refreshments from **Avril Benson** or **Christchurch Café**.



Most Valuable Player?

Today's professional sportsmen and women are often looked on as over-paid, pampered, self obsessed divas. They are people who are lucky enough to earn a fortune for merely kicking a ball into a net, or hitting a ball with a bat or club. Grasping greed seems to be prevalent, winning is everything and an arrogant self belief in their own personal ability is compulsory.

At the summit of the sporting hierarchy stands the Superbowl. The "Greatest Show on Earth" is the final of the National Football League, those enormous gladiators in huge shoulder pads and helmets who crash violently into each other in what appears to be a chaotic pile of blood, sweat and biceps.

This year's game was a titanic struggle between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers. The momentum of the game switched from one side to the other and back again. The Packer's defensive captain sustained an injury that sidelined him for the rest of the game, followed shortly afterwards by another key player. Yet despite these setbacks the Packers hung on to win.

As the end-of-game fireworks exploded around the stadium and the tickertape fluttered down on to the triumphant team, reporters jostled to get a quote from Greg Jennings, a wide receiver who had scored twice in the game. Jennings seemed lost for words to explain his emotions on his achievement. He gazed upward, and spread his arms wide, before saying humbly, "To God be the glory."

Perhaps not all professional sportsmen are the same?

Mike Fawcett



HOLIDAY AT HOME



REMEMBER THOSE HOLIDAYS BY THE SEA?

SANDCASTLES AND SUNSHINE, END-OF-THE-PIER ENTERTAINMENT
CREAM TEAS, FISH AND CHIPS WITH FRIENDS

Christchurch would like to offer you three days "holiday" to re-create your memories and maybe give you some new ones!

No need for a charabanc or a suitcase, simply come to
Christchurch 5th, 6th & 7th July 10:30am to 4:00pm
Modest cost, more details and booking form to follow shortly



	6th	13th	20th	27th
09:00am	10:00am Rev Rob Hilton HC	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am		Rev Rita Armitage	Michael Noble	Roland Henney
06:30pm	Rev Arnold Clay	Rev Rob Hilton	3rd Sunday @ IBC	Taizé

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

A 20 minute time of reflection
4th Rev Rob Hilton , 11th Rev Arnold Clay,
18th Mgr Kieran Heskin , 25th Rev Peter Willox

Evening Services during March

- 6th Traditional evening service with Rev Arnold Clay
13th Light Worship and Extended talk in honour of the
King James Bible by Rev Rob Hilton
20th Joint Service at Ilkley Baptist Church
27th Taizé Style Worship

The deadline for the April 2011 edition of Wider Horizons is 1st March.

Items (maximum 300 words please) preferably by email, please, as a Word attachment to both:
George McArthur (mcArthur59@blueyonder.co.uk)
and Christchurch Office christchurchilkley.org.uk)



Christchurch Guild

- March 2nd** Lynda Duttine — "St David's Day"
March 4th Women's World Day of Prayer @ Ilkley Baptist Church
March 9th Hazel Costello — "Otley Courthouse"
March 16th Stan Loach — "Joys & Tribulations of a Local Preacher"
March 23rd Rev Rob Hilton
March 30th John Sayers — "Taking Aid to Zambia"

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