

WIDER HORIZONS



Roy De Maistre - Noli me Tangere
'Do not touch me' Christ's words to Mary in the garden

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The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church
THE GROVE, ILKLEY

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April **2011**

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

What has homosexuality got to do with Easter? That's the question I found myself pondering on the day of the deadline for this edition of Wider Horizons.

I had been at a meeting of the steering group for our new circuit, coming into being from September. Fixing dates for another meeting had been difficult because the new circuit spans both Bradford and Leeds, and the two authorities are having their Easter school holidays at different times. Leeds schools are having a two week break well before Easter, the children going back to school at the beginning of Holy Week. Bradford schools break up for their holiday at the beginning of Holy Week. Many members of the group wanted to avoid school holidays for daytime meetings, and so over a whole month was unavailable. We settled on a date eventually, but we were left reflecting on the place of the Christian faith in these changing days. Some of us felt that perhaps the Church should insist on its right to influence society and fix Easter as a national holiday date, others felt the church would be blamed for moving the date of Easter! Yet others felt that perhaps it's time we acknowledged the small place in society the church has, accept it, and realise that, like members of other religions, we will have to ask employers etc for time off to celebrate our religious festivals.

So, I was thinking this through in the car on the way home listening to the Jeremy Vine show on Radio 2. The topic being discussed was the Christian couple who run a B&B guest house getting into hot water over refusing a gay couple a double room. This discussion broadened into questions over Christian couples fostering gay children and being struck off the register for saying they felt homosexuality was wrong. I may be simplifying the issues as I report them, but you can imagine that I wanted to ensure that the whole breadth of Christian reasoning and belief was represented on national radio! (OK I was shouting at the radio again!) - I hope you get the gist of my state of mind as I was thinking 'today's the deadline for Wider Horizons, I need an Easter message for the April edition'.



In the back of my mind was a vague point about the evidence for the resurrection being the relationship with Jesus we have before it's a story about an empty grave. So, I still make the same point – Jesus came to bring life, eternal life, and life in all its fullness.

So, the questions I invite you to reflect upon – what does life in all its fullness mean for working families at school holiday time when Christians also want to celebrate the Easter story? And what does life in all its fullness mean to someone who is gay and Christian? If we can answer those questions Jesus is still alive and we have a message to share; if we can't, perhaps the tomb wasn't empty after all!

Happy Easter.
Your minister and friend,
Rob

Christchurch Comings and Goings

We record the deaths of : Mrs. Mary Lewis, Mrs. Mary Eames and Mr. Geoff Foulger. We give thanks for their lives and remember their families at this time.

We are glad Dorothy Howe is back home from Steeton Court.

We welcome Betty Luscome who has come to live at Abbeyfield Lodge.

Harriet and William Smith's address has been corrected.

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

Thank you.



Jonathan's jottings

The Big Saturday event continues to be a great success and is building new relationships with families within our community.

April's Big Saturday will be slightly different and will have a strong Easter theme.

Bubba the Gorilla will be hosting his very first Easter treasure trail at Christchurch, which will include Easter crafts, Easter egg hunt, crazy songs and games with the Camels and the opportunity to hear about the story of Easter with a difference.

The whole morning is going to be great fun and will cost £2.50, which will cover entry and all activities.

It has been great to see children come and enjoy Big Saturday and for them to hear about God and what difference he can make in their lives.

It has also been fantastic to see an awesome bunch of volunteers (including both young and old) bringing their own individual gifts and talents, that have made each Big Saturday very special.

Please continue to pray for the Big Saturday events and work in the primary schools, as we continue to work with families in the Ilkley area.

If you are interested in helping out at any of the Big Saturday events or you would like to come see what we do then please feel very welcome.

*Jonathan Logan
Children's and Young
People's Lay Employee*



CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

April 2011

3 Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

Family life and any going through marriage difficulties; women trying to support family life in danger zones throughout the world.

10 Lent 5

The work of the church office and those who administer the work of our committees and concerns; the Beamsley Project, providing holiday opportunities locally for disabled people and their carers.

17 Palm Sunday

The witness of Christchurch, seeking to communicate a deeper understanding of the events of Holy Week; people suffering for their faith.

24 Easter Sunday

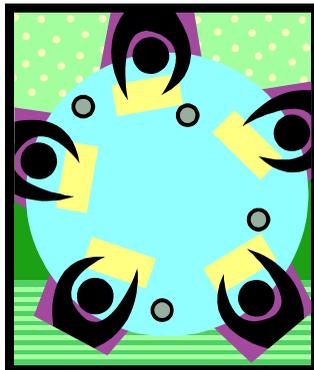
For a fresh experience of the power of the Risen Christ; the members and leaders at Addingham and Ben Rhydding Methodist Churches, and worship at the Beamsley Project.

Meeting Rooms

The Church Stewards would respectfully remind readers of Wider Horizons that having informal meetings concerning Church business in the Christchurch Cafe ties up space on tables which could otherwise be used for our outreach. Small rooms, booked through Val Worrall, are usually available. You can always get coffee from the Cafe and take it with you so long as you return the cups.

Many thanks,

Elisabeth.



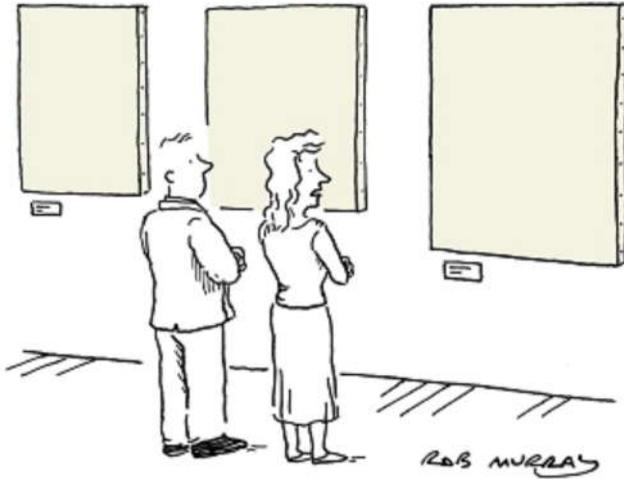
The Methodist Collection of Modern Art is a unique collection of Christian art which includes more than 40 works by Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink and many other renowned artists.

We have been fortunate during Lent to have been able to borrow 4 works from the collection and display them at Christchurch this month.

The 4 paintings we have are all on Holy Week and Easter themes, and each one will be referred to in the worship leading up to Easter. But do be encouraged to visit the sanctuary midweek and spend time prayerfully with these pieces of art - I'm sure you will find the time rewarding. The whole collection can be viewed online, but nothing beats seeing the pieces themselves.

Rob.





“His Magnolia Period doesn’t excite me.”

the gRAnDchIldren’s View

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."



The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd got to know you sooner!"



There were 10 men and one woman hanging from a rope suspended from a rescue helicopter. They decided that someone would have to go, because if they didn't, the rope would break and they all would perish. There were no volunteers. Finally the woman gave a touching speech saying how she would give up her life to save the others because generally women were used to giving things up for menand all the men started clapping ! ! !

Making Decisions

Following a recent Church Meeting (now six weeks ago), it became clear to me that concerns about decisions being made not only reflect a continuing lack of communication, but also show a lack of acceptance of the nature and responsibilities of committees.

This will all become much more acute when the new constitution is in place as the Church Meeting becomes the Congregational Meeting which will be receiving all the Committee Reports currently seen by the Church Council.

If a committee is given an area of Church Life to oversee, along with a budget, then it is only right and proper that the church family delegates responsibility for decisions within that area to that team of people. We trust them to get on with the job and to do it to the best of their joint ability.

Of course, there could well be a time when an individual doesn't like one of the decisions – but within the delegation of responsibility, we must all accept that this situation could occur and we have to cope with that difference of opinion.

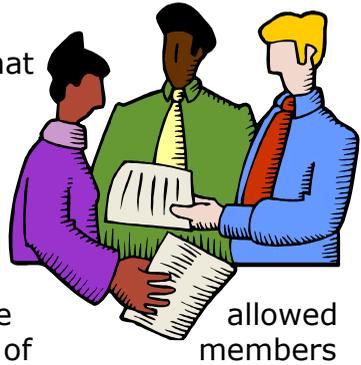
It's rather like the Wednesday Wizards repainting the Lower Hall: we are all very happy (and grateful) that they are doing all the hard work on our behalf, but really, we'd all like to choose the paint ourselves!! It can't be done, and if you don't like 'magnolia' then . . . tough.

I hope you get the point. If you really feel strongly about some aspect of Church Life, then volunteer for that committee – then you can have a more direct influence.

But this also throws some responsibility onto the committee to keep everyone



informed as to what they are doing, what they are talking about, and what major decisions are upcoming. Now each committee does put a written report to the Church Council (and these are published on the website beforehand) but that's not always available to everyone. Verbal reports to the meeting should not be as this disenfranchises the majority of from the information.



In the future, this will be the Congregational Meeting, so we need to consider how the reports are to be circulated so that everyone can be informed prior to the meeting, and can make contributions to the meeting that reflect that information. I suggest that a copy on the Notice Board is not sufficient (and probably not 'secure' enough) but I assume that this will be considered by the appropriate committee.

In the meantime, I would suggest that following each committee meeting, when the minutes are compiled, a brief summary version is also produced which is submitted to Wider Horizons for publication – then everyone can be as well informed about what is going on within our church family life as is possible, and can contact the committee chair directly if they require clarification or wish to express a concern or an opinion.

Steve Amos

The grAnDChildren's View

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"



Mardi Gras King Cake

The King Cake is a brioche-style cake traditionally made throughout the State of Louisiana during the weeks prior to Mardi Gras. Usually oval in shape, the King Cake is a bakery delicacy made from a rich Danish dough and covered with a poured sugar topping decorated in the traditional Mardi Gras-coloured sugars of purple, green and gold. This colourful topping is representative of a jewelled crown in honour of the Three Wise Men who visited the Christ Child on Epiphany which is when the Carnival Season officially begins.

The King Cake tradition is believed to have begun with French settlers around 1870, who were themselves continuing a custom which dated back to Twelfth Century France, when a similar cake was used to celebrate the coming of the Magi twelve days after Christmas bearing gifts for the Christ Child. This celebration was also once known as King's Day. As a symbol of this Holy Day, a tiny plastic baby (symbolic of the baby Jesus) is placed inside each King Cake but in times gone past, the hidden items were usually coins, beans, pecans or peas.

The origin of the modern King Cake can be traced back to the Middle Ages, when popular devotion during Christmas turned to the Three Wise Men. In 1871, the tradition of choosing the Queen of Mardi Gras was determined by who drew the prize within the cake. Today, such a find is still deemed to be a sign of good luck and it customary for the person who discovers the hidden plastic baby to host the next King Cake Party.

Recipe

Ingredients

PASTRY:

235 ml / ½ pint milk
60 g / 2oz butter
14 g / ½ oz active dry yeast
160 ml / 7 fl oz warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
100 g / 8oz white sugar
2 eggs
9 g salt
2 g freshly grated nutmeg
690 g / 1½ lb self-raising flour

FILLING:

220g / 8oz packed brown sugar
7g ground cinnamon
60g / 2oz self-raising flour
70g / 2+oz raisins
115g / 4oz melted butter

ICING:

120 g / 4oz icing sugar
15 ml / 1 tsp water

Directions

1. Scald milk, remove from heat and stir in 60g / 2oz of butter. Allow mixture to cool to room temperature. In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in the warm water with 1 tablespoon of the white sugar. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.
2. When yeast mixture is bubbling, add the cooled milk mixture. Whisk in the eggs. Stir in the remaining white sugar, salt and nutmeg. Beat the flour into the milk/egg mixture 240ml / ½ pint at a time. When the dough has pulled together, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 to 10 minutes.
3. Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil. Cover with a damp cloth or plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 2 hours.
4. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease a baking tray or line with parchment paper.
5. To Make Filling: Combine the brown sugar, ground cinnamon, flour and raisins. Pour melted butter over the cinnamon mixture and mix until crumbly.
6. Remove dough from bowl and place on a lightly floured surface. Using your fist, punch dough down forcefully and form into a large rectangle (approx. 12" by 16" / 30cm by 40cm). Sprinkle the filling over the dough, and roll up like a Swiss roll, rolling the long side of the rectangle. Twist the dough to form a curled cylinder and loop the cylinder onto a buttered baking sheet. Pinch ends together to complete the circle. Cover the dough with the towel and again set in a draught-free spot for 45 minutes or until the circle of dough doubles in volume. Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees F / 190 degrees C / Gas Mark 5. Brush top and sides of cake with egg wash and bake on middle shelf of oven for 25-35 minutes until golden brown. Place cake on wire rack to cool. If desired, you can hide the plastic baby in the cake at this time.

Coloured sugars

Green, purple and yellow paste (marzipan with food colouring), 12 tablespoons sugar

Squeeze a dot of green paste in palm of hand. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons sugar over the paste and rub together quickly. Place this mixture on wax paper and wash hands to remove colour. Repeat process for other two colours. Place aside.

Icing

300 g / 5 oz icing sugar, 60ml / 2 fl oz lemon juice, 3-6 tablespoons water
Combine sugar, lemon juice and three tablespoons water until smooth. If icing is too stiff, add more water until spreadable. Spread icing over top of cake. Immediately sprinkle the coloured sugars in individual rows consisting of about 2 rows of green, purple and yellow.

Christchurch Prayer Shawl Ministry

Since the article in the November edition of Wide Horizons there have been numerous requests from willing knitters !!! As a result several shawls were blessed by Rev Rob Hilton at the 10.30 service on the 27th February and are now being distributed by the Pastoral Team.

A Mardi Gras shawl was blessed at the service on 6th March and there are more waiting for blessing. Its so rewarding to see results and I am very grateful to all who have helped to make this possible.

We were given a £50 voucher by Timothy Boyes, of Boyes store, towards wool which has now been spent and the wool is at present being used.

To keep the momentum going we now need wool donations which can be placed in the box in the foyer of the Church . Approx 500 grams.

Alternatively monetary donations would be very welcome and these can be left in the Office, given to a member of the Pastoral team or to myself. Many of our knitters are financing the Ministry from their own pockets.

All say that they are receiving wonderful benefits from partaking in the shawl making.

We are thankful that God has blessed us and our Ministry and inspired so may ladies to share this opportunity to serve our Church and take its love to others.

Thank you
Val Appleton



The grandchildren's View

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor... She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."



Oh the Irony!



A Vision

"Even if I got in I wouldn't want to move from here now."
Gladys had been on the waiting list for low income housing for a long time. She recently took her name off the list saying the community of neighborly love growing in our apartment complex far outweighs her need for lower rent.



How encouraging!

A vision has emerged for our neighborhood. The majority of our neighbors are sick or economic exiles...or both. The former suffer, poorly cared for and alone, in convalescent hospitals; while small apartments are home to the second often multiple families sharing a one bedroom. Neither one knows the other. A vision has emerged for our neighborhood. Jeremiah 29:4-7 informs our team of how to root our neighbors and stabilize a seedling community of neighborly love. It instructs exiles to "...plant gardens and eat what they

produce..." Ezekiel 17:22-24 envisions a restorative environment where many kinds of people find comfort and rest. A vision has emerged for our neighborhood. Through prayer we've come to envision a local vacant plot of land transformed into a garden where our neighbors can grow food while their children play. Food and flowers to be shared with the sick and lonely, whom we're befriending at the nearest convalescent hospital. We envision cultivating local servant leaders as we cultivate the land together. It is a vision to which grows out of our current work of nurturing a community of neighborly love yet extends to our entire neighborhood. A vision in which we hope our neighbors, like Gladys, will say "I don't want to leave here now."

*Alastair Rundle
Team Leader at InnerChange,
Los Angeles.*



Birds, Binoculars and Bempton

Over the past two years, a small group of keen bird-watchers from Christchurch have shared a number of days out together, visiting RSPB and Wildlife Trust Reserves in and around our region. We've been to Leighton Moss, Blacktoft Sands, Old Moor, Potteric Carr... to name just a few.



In June we plan to revisit Bempton on the Yorkshire Coast, to see the thousands of seabirds at the height of their nesting season. This is a great experience, even for those who just love the sea and a walk along the clifftops, so if any of you would like to join us, do get in touch.

The date is Saturday June 11th, so plenty of time to get it in your diaries! All ages welcome. We're a friendly bunch, we share lifts and even our binoculars and telescopes! Bempton is not far from Flamborough and Bridlington with sea, sand and fish and chips on offer for those who want to vary their day.



For more information about this or any of our other trips, contact me by telephone, email or the church pigeon holes. Or you could have a look at our pages on the Christchurch website, click on the Wider Activities section and follow the links from there.

Juliet Amos.

The Grove Pancake Race

We'd like to thank Mrs 'Joneses' for cajoling us into taking part in the inaugural Ilkley pancake race. Billed as "Able Athletes" we turned out in Mardi Gras colours and masks (and slightly risqué shorts, Rob!) and would have been very well supported, had the race not started 15 minutes early, almost before we arrived. With no time to warm up and survey the opposition, we jostled for room on the starting line.



The Town Cryer rang his bell and we were off at breath taking speed, pancakes were tossed, some lost (it was a problem with the mixture) and we both crossed the line comfortably, behind the leader.

When asked by the gazette whether the event was about the win or the team, we were quick to support the latter. thank you to the rotary club organizers for a great community event. We're up for it next year, this time billed as the most able athletes available at lunchtime on a Tuesday!

Lincoln Jowett



the gRAnDchildren's View

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"





The Green Spot

Spring is in the air. I was interested to read an article in the newspaper this weekend about natural cleaning products. The article compared the 'old-fashioned' cleaning products with *Eco* products available in the supermarket and *Conventional* products. The results were very interesting – for example

Kitchen Surface Stain Remover

Traditional – Paste made from lemon juice, salt and bicarbonate of soda

Wine and tea stains disappear as if by magic after a vigorous rub. It needs rinsing but leaves a lovely lemony smell. The children liked the fizzing mixture so much that they offered to do the cleaning! **11/10**

Shop-bought Eco – Ecover multi-surface cleaner (£2.95)

Pleasant citrus smell; doesn't need rinsing, but not as effective as home-made cleaner. **8/10**

Conventional – Mr Muscle lemon fresh kitchen cleaner (£1.60)

Datasheet gives a clean bill of health but advice on the label says only to use in well-ventilated areas and avoid inhaling the spray. Horrid fake lemon smell; not as effective as home-made cleaner. **2/10**

This gives an idea of the findings for Bath Scrub, Wood Polish and Clothes Scents. Making your own cleaners will certainly take longer and you may feel that you have not got the time. However, the Eco-friendly cleaners came out of the survey very well and are better for your health and the environment. Try for yourself.....

Elisabeth Halsall



Christian Aid News!

Christian Aid—Super Soup Lunch

You are invited to support the lunch at Addingham Methodist Church on Friday 25th March.

Details and tickets from Jill Varley.

Christian Aid Quiz Night –

Friday 15th April at the Oasis café.

I know there are some keen quizzers in our church and this is a great evening, with teams from each of the churches in Ilkley pitting their wits against each other. If you are interested in joining Ruth Hilton to represent Christchurch, please ring me or speak to me at church.

15th-21st May Christian Aid week

This year, as every year, the churches in Ilkley will be organising a door-to-door collection to raise funds for the work of Christian Aid. Please make a note of the date as I will be asking for volunteers to spare a couple of hours that week to help. If you are interested in looking at the work of Christian Aid, have a look at their website

www.christianaid.org.uk or speak to me and I can let you have their latest magazine.

Ruth Hilton

Blenheim boxes will be received and counted on Friday 13th May between 10am and 12 noon. Many thanks, in anticipation, to all contributors and collectors.

Pat Scott



Holy Week at Christchurch

Monday 18th 7:00pm showing of the film Mel Gibson's The Passion. This is an 18 certificate film, and doesn't make easy viewing at times, however it is made by a professing Christian as an exploration of his faith, deeply thought provoking.

Maundy Thursday 21st April 7:00pm Come and Sing Crucifixion - Stainer's choral work is a well known classic, come and enjoy the singing or the listening. Rehearsals will take place on Thursdays at 8:00pm. Final rehearsal April 14th.

Good Friday Service 11:00am 22nd April

This Service will finish in time to join the CTI Walk of Witness beginning at All Saints at noon.

Easter Morning:

Son-rise Service at the Cow and Calf Rocks 5.30am
Our own Sunday services as usual - On-line@9, 10.30 service to include communion (and so no communion on May 1st)

Easter Sunday Evening - An Iona Style celebration of Easter at 6.30pm





	3rd	10th	17th	24th
09:00am	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am	Rev Rob Hilton HC	Rev Chris Sharp	Rev Rob Hilton	Rev Rob Hilton HC
06:30pm	Rev Arnold Clay HC	Rev Rob Hilton	Rev Arnold Clay 3rd Sunday	Rev Rob Hilton (Iona)

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

A 20 minute time of reflection

1st Phillip Grey, 8th Rev Rob Hilton, 15th Rev Arnold Clay,
22nd Rev Rob Hilton , 29th Dr John Morgan-Wynne

Evening Services during April

3rd Holy Communion with Rev Arnold Clay

10th Inside the Easter Story with Rev Rob Hilton

17th 3rd Sunday - All Saints and Ilkley Baptist congregations
join us. Service led by Rev Arnold Clay

24th Iona Community Style celebration of Easter with Rev Rob
Hilton.

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

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

April 6th Rev John Hartley — "Hymns for Passiontide"

April 13th Sandes Centres, Christian outreach to soldiers and
airmen with Jim & Mary Jane McCracken

April 20th Holy Week

April 27th No meeting

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