

# H WIDER HORIZONS

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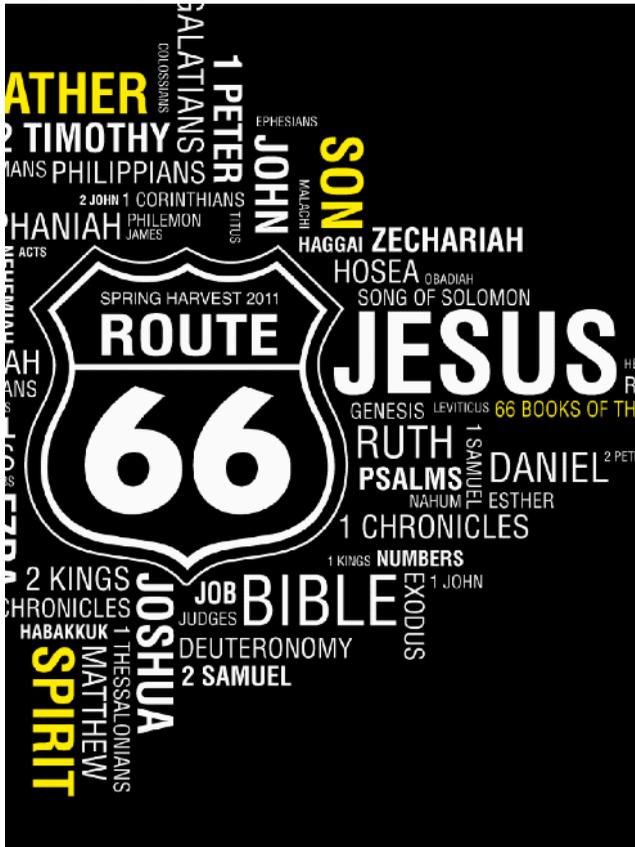
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THE GROVE, ILKLEY



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## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

It can't have escaped your notice that 2011 is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the King James' Bible. This anniversary has been celebrated in all sorts of ways – I know those who went to Spring Harvest this year were inspired by their use of the Bible, and our Housegroups will be grappling with how to read and use the Bible in the autumn.

Can I take this opportunity to commend two more events to you under the heading of ***Biblefresh***?

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June the Bradford Circuits of the Methodist Church are holding a day of celebration. In the morning WORDshops in various locations running at 10:00am to 11:00am, and then repeated 11.30-12.30, so you can experience two, explore a whole variety of Bible reading initiatives for children and adults: through art, chaplaincy reflection, creative writing, story telling, and Godly Play. In the afternoon an Open Air storytelling walk is to be held through Bradford, and then in the evening a Celebration with Adrian and Bridget Plass will be held in the Great Hall of Bradford University. This begins at 7:00pm with a Coffee bar in the university welcoming you for refreshment from 5:00pm.

More details of the day, and booking forms are available at **[www.westyorkshiremethodist.org.uk/festival](http://www.westyorkshiremethodist.org.uk/festival)**, or from your housegroup leader.

The other event to celebrate in Ilkley is that we're hoping later in June to host the Methodist 'Handwrite the Bible' initiative – look out for details and opportunities in the coffee centre or the foyer to copy some of the scriptures in your own hand to be bound into a travelling Bible for the future.

We live in changing times, one of the unchangeable resources to sustain us through such times is the Bible. Our attitudes to it might change and we'll read it differently to generations that went before us. It may mean very different things to us, and it needs to, but it remains our resource – the Bible. Let's celebrate it, read it, and declare its message.

Your minister and friend,  
Rev Rob Hilton.



**Continued**

P.S. Another gentle reminder to all of us – if church members want to use a room for any purpose at any time of day – please book it with Val Worrall. Whether a small informal, or larger formal meeting, a room might look empty, but have been booked by an outside organisation. If they come to a room they've booked and you're in it, it reflects very badly on the service we offer to the community who pay for that service. Many Thanks!

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### **Nicky Bennett**

His many friends have been saddened to learn that Nicky Bennett died at his parent's home in April after a short illness. For many years Nicky was a volunteer helper in the Coffee Centre manning the dishwasher on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 to 12 noon. His cheery presence and wicked sense of humour enlivened our mornings. Topics for discussion were his favourite TV Soaps, and what each of the volunteers and staff had for dinner the previous evening. He liked to tease any man on duty by marrying them to one of the ladies behind the counter. After some outlandish comment he always added his favourite phrase – "only joking, only joking!" Probably only known to few he is greatly missed as a much loved member of the Christchurch family.

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### **Christchurch Comings and Goings**

New addresses for the following may be obtained by contacting Christchurch Office:

Enid Johnson

Bob Lantaff

Brian and Joan Mould

We wish them all well at this time of change.

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

Thank you.



# JonaThan's jOttings

A few months ago myself, Rob and Jeannie Buckroyd went to The Lighthouse Group based in Bradford to hear about the work they are doing in many cities across the country.

After I listened to all the great things that they are doing and after walking round their fantastic facilities I felt moved.

God really challenged me about some of the work we are doing in our local primary schools and what was the next step in strengthening the continued trust and relationship.

Currently TLG work with young people aged 12-16 yrs who are at crisis in their education. They operate centres in partnership with a local church. All their centres are registered schools and are subject to regular inspections by Ofsted.

TLG have now started a fairly new initiative in primary schools called early intervention.

Early intervention is primarily a mentoring scheme that is there to help children who are having difficulties at school.

These difficulties maybe due to things like a death in the family, or maybe their parents have broken up or through bullying.

TLG will train 2-10 volunteers who attend church, with some experience working with children either at home, church or work to train as Behaviour Coaches. These coaches will then work one to one with the child at school.

I have already had talks with one of the primary schools in our community and they are really excited about this idea and would like to adopt it for their school.

Once we have the project up and running I am pretty certain that other schools will become interested and I know it will give help and support to many families that are in need within Ilkley.

Who can get involved?

Anybody who has a heart for young people is good at listening, kind, compassionate, that's able to give an hour of their time once a week, and wants to make a difference.

What's the next step?

If you are interested then please come and have a chat and find out how you could make that difference.

You must be available 25<sup>th</sup> June for training for the scheme to start in school from September.

*Jonathan Logan*

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## **CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR**

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

### **JUNE 2011**

#### **5th**

- Those who take Communion to the housebound
- Beauty4Ashes (now renamed Starfish Riverside), a project currently supported by Christchurch – a Christian project in China offering friendship and employment to women caught up in prostitution.

#### **12th Pentecost & Methodist Homes Sunday**

- The gift of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.
- The residents and carers at Glen Rosa and Kitwood.

#### **19th Trinity Sunday (20 – 26 Refugee Week)**

- For a greater experience of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- BEACON, a project we are currently supporting – the Bradford project working with refugees and asylum seekers.

#### **26th**

- The teams which prepare our church publicity and develop the web site; Commitment for Life programme, a project we are currently supporting, working in Palestinian occupied territories.
- Methodist conference meeting in Southport from 30 June to 7 July.

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#### **Appointments – Church Stewards**

We welcome Margaret Scott, Val Winterburn and John Stanley as Stewards as from 1<sup>st</sup> May and thank Liz Stanley & Elisabeth Halsall for their service, who completed their 3 years as Stewards at the end of April.

## Spring Harvest 2011

15 Christchurch people went to Spring Harvest at Skegness this year. The theme was Route 66 – the bible (66 books, geddit?). I'm sure you'll hear lots from all of us about how God spoke to us and energised us during our 6 days' immersion in bible reading, worshipping, chatting, meeting new people and having fun. I'd like to share a nugget of wisdom from the Theme Guide, which unpacked the bible by approaching it in four ways. Scripture is a Sonnet – all Scripture is breathed out by God; Scripture is a Symphony – oh how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge; Scripture is a Screenplay – we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses; and Scripture is a Streetmap – your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Here is one of the many useful and practical applications.

What would Daniel do?

Take the 'What would Jesus do' question and apply it to whichever character from the Bible you are currently reading about. Choose just one character per day or per week, and wherever you go ask yourself 'What would they do'?

What would Noah do faced with the threat of redundancy in your office?

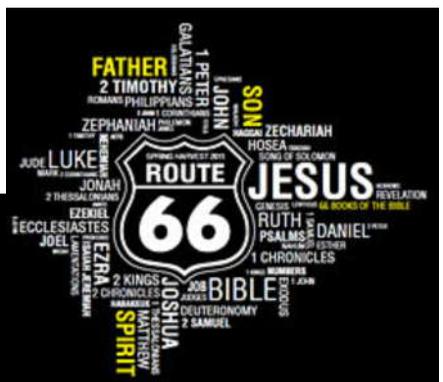
What would Abraham do stuck in a traffic jam?

What would Ezekiel do waiting for a dentist appointment?

What would David do? What would Deborah do?

Your aim is not to emulate their behaviour, but to better understand their character. Knowing how they might respond to challenges you face will help you to grasp who they are and how they responded to their own time and context. If you find that you don't know the answer, challenge yourself to find out. Try to understand the characters of the Bible as real people with real feelings facing real decisions.

*Ruth Jones*



## Spring Harvest 2011. Route 66

Theology is the truth about the truth about the truth

Bible is the truth about the truth

God is the truth



## **News from Catherine and Dave in China**

The Beauty4 Ashes project has a new name – it is now Starfish Riverside!

Exciting news as the project has now started a jewellery making business providing alternative employment for migrant street girls. They have a local business manager and Shelter mother and have been to the Starfish Project in Beijing for training.

They now have six girls working and living at the project producing the jewellery. Have a look at [www.starfish-project.com](http://www.starfish-project.com) to see their catalogue.

(Why 'Starfish'? - an elderly man saw a small boy on a beach surrounded by thousands of starfish which he was throwing back into the ocean. The boy explained he was trying to save the starfish. The old man chuckled and asked what difference could he make. The boy replied as he gently tossed another starfish into the sea that it would make a difference to that one!)

Please pray for the team as they work together to support these vulnerable girls.

*Merle Collins*



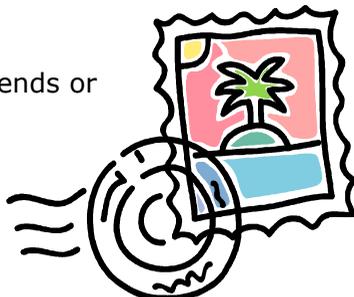
## **Postcards and Used Postage Stamps**

Christian Aid and Oxfam have benefitted greatly from your excellent support of the appeal for used postage stamps.

The Area Organiser for the Church in Sudan Appeal tells me that the postcards sent from this area produced at auction:  
£12,350 in the year 2009-2010  
£60,000 over the last five years

Can you gather a few more from family, friends or the office? I challenge you to do so!

Many thanks  
*Avril Benson*



## **Africa Mission Alliance**

In November 2010 Africa Mission Alliance sent their new choir, the Asante Choir, to America for a ten week tour. They sang mainly in churches and concentrated on obtaining sponsors for 400 new children that needed a sponsor to be able to attend school because their families were too poor/ill with Aids to afford the school fees.

By the end of the ten weeks of touring they had covered all their costs for the tour and returned to Rwanda with 471 new sponsor families. This means that they now have 1071 children in their sponsorship programme. The big difference between this sponsorship and others is that each child sponsored gets health insurance for themselves and up to seven members of their family in addition to their school fees being paid, and getting free school uniform, books and other benefits. This means that 1071 families now have this health cover. The two new schools that were built for them to run in 2007 will now be totally self-funding.

Four years ago they had 100 children sponsored and Amon Munyaneza, who was the President at that time, told his friends Pat and Peter Stockdale that he aimed to get 1000 sponsors. Pat and Peter were very sceptical about this ever becoming a reality, but God had his own plans and now Amon's ambition is realised.

The new President of Africa Mission Alliance is William Ngabo and we hope he will come to England this year to tell us about the work being done in Rwanda by Africa Mission Alliance. In the meantime you can go to [www.africamissionalliance.org](http://www.africamissionalliance.org) to learn more about this small charity and the people who work for it.

*Pat Stockdale, UK Representative and Trustee, charity No. 1137283.*



**AFRICA**  
MISSION ALLIANCE



**The Progressive Christianity Network Britain Conference**  
Supporting and promoting open Christian understanding

**John Dominic Crossan**  
***What the Gospels really teach***  
***about the birth and death of Jesus***  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
at St Andrew's URC, Roundhay, LEEDS

***John Dominic Crossan** was born in Ireland and received a Doctorate of Divinity from Maynooth College in 1959. He was a member of the Servites from 1950 to 1969 and an ordained Roman Catholic priest from 1957 to 1969. He joined DePaul University, Chicago, in 1969 and is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies. He was Co-chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996. In the last forty years he has written 25 books on the historical Jesus, earliest Christianity and the historical Paul. He has lectured to lay and scholarly audiences world-wide. He is one of the foremost biblical scholars in the world today and has been elected President of the Society of Biblical Literature for 2011-2012.*

**Friday 16 September 7:30 pm** - Dominic Crossan will introduce his audience to the ways in which he approaches Biblical texts, looking in particular at the birth narratives.

**Saturday 17 September 10:00 am – 4:00 pm** - In his first lecture, Dominic Crossan will explore the Christmas stories of Matthew and Luke. In the second lecture he examines the execution of Jesus as recorded by Mark and in the third lecture the resurrection of Jesus in Mark's gospel will be explored.

**Sunday 18 September 10:30am** An act of worship when Dominic Crossan will preach on the Lord's Prayer, followed by an opportunity to talk informally with him.

You are encouraged to be present for the whole weekend but if you can only come on the Saturday, the content of Saturday's lectures is not dependent on the Friday night lecture and notes will be available. Preparatory reading of *The First Christmas* and *The Last Week*, both written jointly by Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg is recommended but not essential.

### **BOOKING INFORMATION**

**FEES:** Friday 16 September: £8 or £7 (PCN member)  
Saturday 17 September: £22 or £18 (PCN member)  
Sunday 18 September: no charge & no booking necessary

The fees include all drinks and biscuits; please bring your own packed lunch on Saturday (there are sandwich shops within 10 minutes walk of the church).

Bookings can be made through the PCNBritain website: [www.pcnbritain.org.uk](http://www.pcnbritain.org.uk) or by completing the leaflet in the Foyer or from Steve Amos.



## **Refugee Week – 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Refugee Week is an annual UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees and encourage better understanding between communities.

Bradford has a proud tradition of welcoming people from around the world, particularly those who have fled to escape persecution.

One famous refugee, who fled from Idi Amin's brutal regime in Uganda, is the Archbishop of York, Rev John Sentamu. Recently, in reflecting on the often negative stories and distortion of facts which surround issues of immigration and asylum, he commented 'Today, I want to live in a society that holds out the same hope for fugitives'. The following extracts are from a statement he made on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

"The events of the first Easter were told against a social backdrop of violence, injustice, migration, and the desperate search for safety. Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover that week, a festival that recalled their forebears' desperate flight from Egypt as refugees.

Today, no country should have to act alone, and those states affected by recent political upheaval are assisted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. International arrangements are in place to ensure that victims of violence and torture, and any in need of international protection, are given a chance both of surviving immediate crises and of finding security for the future. The persistence of violence and injustice anywhere is regrettable but the international agreements to protect refugees are a mark of human progress, and indeed arise from a virtue common to many religions – the virtue of hospitality to the stranger and the alien.

I hope that, as a nation, we are as committed as ever to those values which have made Britain great, among them a firm conviction that it is our duty to come to the aid of the oppressed, and to offer protection where it is needed. Applications for asylum in industrialised countries are more than 40 per cent lower than they were 10 years ago and many have raised concerns that this is partly due to tighter immigration controls which are stopping refugees from seeking protection in these countries. The fact is that globally there are no fewer refugees than before: it is just that most refugees continue to be assisted in poor countries. In 2010, the UK received its lowest number of asylum applications since 1989.

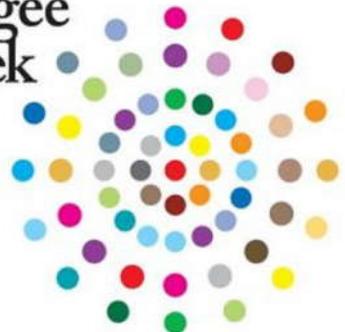
Given that the number of asylum-seekers and refugees who end up in the European Union is now relatively small, it is particularly important that we respond to individuals who do seek sanctuary in our countries in a principled and compassionate way. When the public-spending cuts bite, it should not be the most vulnerable of all who suffer. It usually falls to local refugee groups, and often to churches, like many I visit in the north of England, to support those who are struggling to live on the meagre levels of support offered to asylum-seekers. How "Big" is our "Big Society" in relation to these people? There will always be those who need our protection and our support – are we big-hearted enough to accept this? It would be tragic if, because of misplaced fears over immigration numbers, we shut our doors to those seeking sanctuary from persecution.

In 1973, I myself was a refugee who had to escape Idi Amin's brutal regime in Uganda. I was received in Britain with great compassion and care – it was almost a home from home. Yes, one room in a communal house sufficed for me, my wife and daughter. However, I recall the struggles of surviving on the very limited financial support available at the time, and I also recall the generosity of those who went out of their way to make us welcome. I would like to think that those genuinely needing protection today find that Britain is no less committed to help than its partners in the international community.

Easter for Christians is a time of rebirth, resurrection and good news. I would like to see that message transformed into something very practical, human and down-to-earth. I want to belong to a society that treats its vulnerable people with respect, and which holds out the hope of a new life for those who have been battered, bruised and abused... Let Easter be a time of hope for everyone – but especially the broken, the homeless, the fugitive and the destitute."

Through our support for BEACON we are playing our part in helping to realise the vision of an inclusive, compassionate society. Please contact Rita Armitage if you would like further information.

Refugee  
Week



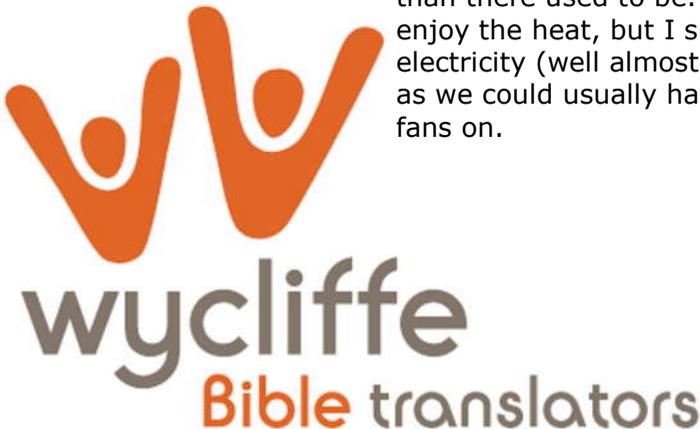
## **Wycliffe Bible Translators.**

The Jesus Film Workshop in Juba went very well. All the teams made good progress on the translation of the script. There were teams from six Sudanese languages (Mundu, Avokaya, Jur Modo, Jur Beli, Bongo and Mundari). The Mundu Team (Dominic and Seme) completed a first draft of about half the script. Now the teams are all returning to their home areas to encourage their communities to get more involved in the whole enterprise, e.g. test and review the translation of the script etc. There will be another workshop in October/November when we hope the translation of the script can be completed. Please continue to pray for this on-going process.

It was quite an intensive workshop. I was impressed by the commitment of all the teams. When it came time to stop for lunch, or in the evening, Seme and Dominic often said, "Oh, let's just finish this little bit, it won't take long." And they were always there on time for the first session. It was very hot and humid (average temp about 30 Centigrade, at least once getting up to 40. Humidity usually 60-70%). I always felt hot and tired and had little energy, but I stayed healthy and apart from a few minor problems so did everyone else.

It was good reconnecting with old friends and making some new ones. I enjoyed the challenge of working on the script of the Jesus Film; very different to anything I've done before. There was quite a lot of encouraging news from Mundu-land. I enjoyed the delicious tropical fruit. There is much more of everything available in Juba than there used to be. I did NOT enjoy the heat, but I survived. 24/7 electricity (well almost) helped a lot, as we could usually have the ceiling fans on.

*Dorothea Jeffrey*



## Book Review: The Mayor Of Rheinhagen

Michael E Fawcett - published by Vanguard Press  
ISBN 978 184386 697 8 at £5.99.

Like many good books, there's a chunk at the start where the scene is set . . . and then the main body of the story, suspense, action, drama unfolds. *The Mayor Of Rheinhagen* does this well and once the story gets to you, you just have to read on.

Mike has an easy, descriptive style that paints a detailed picture of people, places and events, allowing your imagination to put you right there as an observer – you can almost smell the story!

Something tells us that the author has some inside information about teenage boys and the amazing ability of a loving wife and mother to be the organiser of the family!

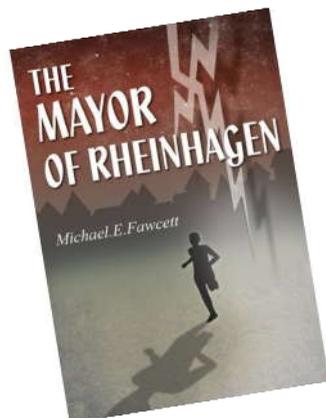
We enjoyed reading this both as a good story and for the thoughts it provided about human and family relationships, our views of past events and the natural human desire for justice. The action is well paced, there are some nice twists and turns to keep you on your toes, and even a bit of romance!

Although aimed at the teenage reader, believe us, you don't have to be a young person to read and enjoy this, but a little understanding of both young and old would help.

Here's the cover blurb: Don't get him wrong, Jake likes his Granddad. He enjoys watching cricket with him and listening to his war stories from when he was working alongside the French resistance in World War Two.

However, when Jake's holiday abroad is cancelled, he and his Granddad are doomed to spend the summer together. It all seems so unfair until a chance discovery uncovers a long-concealed secret and sweeps them both off on an adventure across Europe to find out who the Mayor of Rheinhagen really is.

*Juliet & Steve Amos.*





# HOUSEGROUPS

## **Housegroup Weeks 2011 - 2012**

If you are thinking of fixing meetings into the next academic year, then the weeks that Housegroups will take place are in the week following the Sundays given in the table below. These are easily calculated by taking the weeks each side of a (Bradford) school half term holiday and working backwards and forwards.

### **Autumn**

Sunday 18 September (Housegroup Launch)  
Sunday 02 October  
Sunday 16 October  
Sunday 30 October  
Sunday 13 November  
Sunday 27 November  
Sunday 11 December

### **Spring**

Sunday 08 January  
Sunday 22 January  
Sunday 05 February  
Sunday 19 February  
Sunday 04 March  
Sunday 18 March

### **Summer**

Sunday 15 April  
Sunday 29 April  
Sunday 13 May  
Sunday 27 May  
Sunday 10 June  
Sunday 24 June  
Sunday 08 July

*Steve Amos*

## Dates for Diaries

If you are 'in charge' of any activity that meets regularly through the year, please don't forget to let me know when you are meeting so that your activity can be included in the Church Calendar (and thus the weekly notices). Thanks.



*Steve Amos*

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**When** everybody on earth was dead and waiting to enter Paradise, God appeared and said, "I want the men to make two lines. One line for the men who were true heads of their household, and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women. I want all the women to report to St. Peter."

Soon, the women were gone, and there were two lines of men.

The line of the men who were dominated by their wives was 100 miles long, and in the line of men who truly were heads of their household, there was only one man.

God said to the long line, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves, I created you to be the head of your household! You have been disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose! Of all of you, only one obeyed. Learn from him."

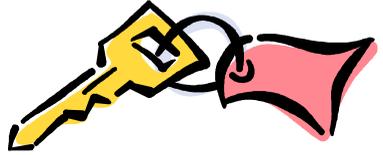
God turned to the one man, "How did you manage to be the only one in this line?"

The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here".



## Keys and Security

Over the recent past, we have been attempting to establish a register of key holders. Some keys have been issued and signed for, but we know there is still a large number of keys in circulation, which have not been declared. We would request that anyone in possession of any keys, particularly outer door, caretakers office and office keys please contact either the undersigned or any church steward. This information is vital, not only for our records, but also as a requirement of our insurance company. This is particularly important due to our recent security problems.



Your assistance in this matter would be appreciated. Thank you.

*John Stanley*

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Many thanks for all the thoughts, prayers, flowers and cards received during my recent indisposition., They were all very gratefully received.

*Blanche Woolin*

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## I Am...

I am the bright morning star that proclaims a new day,  
I am the white dove of peace that seeks a weary heart to pray  
I am the billowing white clouds that span a sky of blue,  
I am the stranger at the door, calling on you.  
I am the ear that listens to your plea,  
I am the Son that went to Calvary.  
I am the good shepherd, who looked for the lost sheep  
I am the seed for the sower, then the harvest to reap.

Mine is the babbling brook that flows on,  
Mine is the spring that all hope comes from.  
Mine is the voice that will still your heart  
Mine is the word; the truth I impart.  
Mine is the hand held out in love,  
Mine is the Father in heaven above.  
Mine are the footsteps, come follow me,  
Mine are the words, the spring of life, for eternity.  
I give you, then, all these words,  
Know that "I am" is Almighty God.

*B.F., Porchester*

## **Holiday at Home**

Planning for our "Holiday at Home" (5, 6 & 7 July) is forging ahead with details of catering, entertainment and activities coming together nicely.

If you received an invitation, hopefully you have accepted it by now and made a big note in your diary..... if not, that's your task for today because places are available on a "first-come" basis!



In due course there will be plenty of opportunity for others to offer assistance with stewarding, catering, setting up and tidying, etc.

*Margo Atkinson*

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## **Late Ripeness**

Not soon, as late as the approach of my ninetieth year,  
I felt a door opening in me and I entered  
the clarity of early morning.

One after another my former lives were departing,  
like ships, together with their sorrow.  
And the countries, cities, gardens, the bays of seas  
assigned to my brush came closer,  
ready now to be described better than they were before.  
I was not separated from people,  
grief and pity joined us.

We forget - I kept saying - that we are all children of the King.  
For where we come from there is no division  
into Yes and No, into is, was, and will be.

We were miserable, we used no more than a hundredth part  
of the gift we received for our long journey.

Moments from yesterday and from centuries ago -  
a sword blow, the painting of eyelashes before a mirror  
of polished metal, a lethal musket shot, a caravel  
staving its hull against a reef - they dwell in us,  
waiting for a fulfillment.

I knew, always, that I would be a worker in the vineyard,  
as are all men and women living at the same time,  
whether they are aware of it or not.

*Czeslaw Milosz*

## Questions in the Dark – John 3:1-17

At an On-Line in March, we were looking at the story of Nicodemus who visited Jesus at night, in the dark, to ask him some questions and to try and find some light in his own life. We asked everyone to write down a question that they might ask Jesus, and we then tried to answer some of them within our group discussion time. Here are the questions, which I've clustered together around themes:

- If there is just one God, why so many wars about religion?
- Why does a loving God allow natural disasters and suffering?
- Is it not reasonable to believe that if we treat the world with disregard that we will be collectively punished with disaster?
- Why is the natural tendency of the world towards decay and suffering?
- Why has God made us so self-interested?
- Why was the Holocaust needed in God's wider plan?
- What do I lack (the question asked by the rich young ruler)
- I try to follow your teaching, but am I committed enough?
- I try to do good in the world – what difference would it make if I became a Christian?
- Why did Jesus entrust his work to the Church which has made such a mess of things?
- Why doesn't the Church act and respond truly as Community?
- How has the Church constrained you over the centuries?
- What does it mean to have God's Spirit within me?
- How would I know if I was 'born again of the Spirit' if I haven't had a sudden realisation but just jog along our daily path doing our best?
- If I am born again, but keep repeating the same sins, will grace be withdrawn?
- How will we know when we are born again?
- How can I explain to someone else about being 'born of the Spirit'?
- Why did you use such a difficult concept as 'being born again' to mean 'becoming a Christian'?
- How do I know that Jesus is divine?
- Why did Jesus do the miracles that he did?
- Why don't you come again now – the world is such a sad place?
- In heaven, will we remember the good things of life bad forget the bad?

- In heaven, will we miss those who are not there?
- How can good non-Christians be saved if they refuse to believe in you?
- What happens to those who are not 'born again'?
- What can I do to gain more light in the dark moments and challenges of everyday life?
- Why is God sometimes so illusive?
- Should I be able to 'see glimpses' of God every day?
- In the light of the teaching about being 'born again', what is infant baptism all about?
- What does it mean to 'believe'?
- Is it enough to believe in our heads?
- How is our belief evidenced?

Following on from the On-Line service on 01 May, when we were looking for the 'missing pieces', and talking to others about the new thinking sometimes called 'Progressive Christianity', other questions spring to mind:

- What is the authority of the Bible?
- Why are there such tough texts in the Bible concerning genocide, sexuality, gender, . . . ?
- How can those with a rational, scientific view of the world interpret scripture (creation, virgin birth, miracles, resurrection, the book of Revelation) and still be a follower of Jesus?
- What is eternal life, and does it matter?
- Does God intervene in this world?
- Does God have a 'plan' for each of us and the world?
- If there is one God, why so many religions?
- Is Jesus the only way to God?
- Does God have a personality, or are we creating God in our image?

We know that it's not 'wrong' to have doubts, and I hope that by airing these questions (and others) we can find ways of addressing some of our concerns – perhaps through Housegroups, within Sunday services, by a series of special meetings, or just conversations of fellow travellers on or seeking 'The Way'.

*Steve Amos.*

## **Christchurch, a Very Sad Place**

News of the disaster situation in Christchurch (New Zealand version) seems to have sunk in the wake of the Japanese Earthquake. I received the following this week from a friend who lives on the outskirts of the city and thought is worth sharing -  
Margo Atkinson

*Christchurch is, I am afraid, a very sad place. We went as close to town as we could get 2 weeks back and we were stunned by the damage. Seeing it on the news and in the paper did nothing to prepare us for it. We had seen the suburbs, ruined roads etc around us, but seeing the city deserted and in ruins was very upsetting. We peered down roads of rubble through mesh fencing and it was hard to remember what parts looked like before the quake. The bulldozers and trucks are working their way in slowly. They reckon it will be around November before the centre is opened up...and then it will not be the city we knew but the remains of the city. We also went to the seaside suburb of Sumner and found it sad again. Normally a vibrant wee town, it was quiet and had a sad forgotten feel to it. We intended to go and have lunch and support local business but nothing was open. We ambled around looking at piles of rocks, cracks in roads feeling like we did not belong there, and were intruding on the folk that live there. It all feels a bit like looking at a set of a disaster movie. Coffee cups can still be seen on tables outside the ruins of a café, and it is so quiet. That once thriving bustling city is just a collection of mute stunned people like us looking in at it. Very very odd indeed.*

*We keep getting rattled by aftershocks. Thankfully the frequency is reducing, but some are quite big and get us scared all over again. We have discussed leaving Christchurch as it is not a good place to be at the moment in some respects. But we came here because we love the place, and have decided we want to be part of the rebuild and be here to enjoy whatever Christchurch becomes in the future. Saying that...if another big one hit, I am not sure how stoic we could be.*

*We have changed what we do in terms of entertainment, and have to travel further to do certain things, but we are just so grateful we got off so very lightly where we live. We have good friends, a flushing toilet, a garden that while showing signs of Autumn is still producing tomatoes and other delights, water that is safe to drink...damned lucky really...and we know it*

## The Green Spot

I read a very encouraging article in the newspaper last week about renewable energy. The headline 'Riding the Waves of Success' indicated the topic – using the energy of the tides off the west coast of Scotland to generate electricity.



Tidal energy is reliable, unlike wind power which cannot be used to generate electricity when winds are light or very strong. According to the article it is estimated that by 2060, 50% of our electrical energy will be generated using the energy of the sea. What are needed is a body of enthusiastic young people to train as engineers to enable the technology to be developed.

*Elisabeth Halsall*



## Environmental Group

The Eco group has been having a rest this last year. We would like to start it up again. If you are interested in the environment, in helping to save energy and to live in a more environmentally friendly way, why not join us? If you would like more information, please contact Elisabeth Halsall via the pigeonholes. Many thanks.

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## Riddings Ramblers walk to Heaven! Well, nearly!

The walk on Saturday 16 June is "the best this side of heaven" according to that well-travelled American anglophile, Bill Bryson. At 7.5 miles, along well made paths, climbing approx. 250m. the walk should take 4 hours. Strong possibility of seeing nesting peregrine falcons.

Meet in church foyer at 9.30 for drive to Malham.

*Brian Armitage*





	<b>5th</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>26th</b>
<b>09:00am</b>	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
<b>10:30am</b>	Rev R Armitage HC	Noble	Eagle/ Buckroyd	Rev Rob Hilton
<b>06:30pm</b>	Rev Arnold Clay HC	Rev Rob Hilton	3rd Sunday @ AS	Rev Rob Hilton HS

**SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am**

A 20 minute time of reflection  
3rd Margaret Cook; 10th Rev Arnold Clay;  
17th Rev Peter Willox; 24th Rev Rob Hilton

**The deadline for the July 2011 edition of Wider Horizons is 1st June.**

Items (maximum 300 words please) preferably by email, please, as a Word attachment to both:

George McArthur ([mcarthur59@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mcarthur59@blueyonder.co.uk))

**and** Christchurch Office



**Christchurch Guild**

**1st June**

'When We Were Very Young.'

**8th June**

Rev Rob Hilton

**15th June**

Lucinda Smith

"You Can't Keep God in a Box"

**22nd June**

Dale Keaton.

Cliffe Castle Curator

"Boot on the Other Foot"

**29th June**

AGM Strawberry Tea

