

WIDER HORIZONS



Alpha

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paddling furiously
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...and it's in Holland!

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

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July **2011**

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

There's a famous image of the swan gliding smoothly along the surface of the water, such a serene and peaceful image of gentle movement. But of course the other side of the image is the feet of the swan paddling furiously and busily under the water enabling the movement.



I'm sure I'm not the only person to feel like the feet of the swan! The specific reason this year is the gliding together of the Ilkley and Otley & Aireborough Circuits. From September this year we will together form a new circuit – the Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit. We will be in the Leeds District of the Methodist Church, and no longer the West Yorkshire District.

Like the swan, above the surface, in many ways little will change for Christchurch. But this year the feet have been involved in many, many meetings about the mission, strategy, staffing, and administration of the new circuit. Methodism has been involved in a process for the past few years of turning round from maintenance to Mission, and the forming of new circuits to be mission focussed is part of that work. The URC has done similar work slimming down bureaucracy, and focussing on prayer, Bible study, and evangelism.

A previous superintendent of mine used to say: "It's not that the Church has a mission from God, but that the God of Mission has got a church". A simple thought but when really taken to heart, it challenges so many of our habits within the church and inspires us.

The focus of the resources in the new circuit will be spent on Mission, each church will be encouraged and supported in Mission; we have already been encouraged to see not just the

churches, but our local communities as the important factors. To look outside the church for what God is doing, and then join in, is a very different approach to looking inside the church because 'we keep God in our box'.

Which all sounds fine, this is the energy and vision that's driving the swan forward. As the new circuit forms, and some changes are made, I ask your prayers and continued commitment as we face the future renewed in mission.

With every good wish,
God bless,
Rob.

Christchurch Comings and Goings

We record the deaths of : Miss. Olive Burnell and Julia, dear daughter of Norman Davis.

We give thanks for their lives and remember their families and friends at this sad time.

We welcome back Enid Johnson

There are always new faces at Christchurch and you are very welcome.

If you would like to become part of our pastoral system, be in the new directory, receive a copy of Wider Horizons and a visit from a pastoral visitor, then please speak to a 'Welcomer' on Sunday morning and give us your details. Then we can welcome you via these 'Comings and Goings'.

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

Thank you.



JonaThan's jOttings

I would like to say a massive thank you to the overwhelming support and interest with the new project in partnership with the Lighthouse Group.

By the time you have read this, ten volunteers would have attended the training at TLG and all plans would have been put into place for the launch in September.

I am very excited about all the possibilities that God has placed before us in working with local children and their families within our community. I know though the early intervention scheme and all that we do as a church many lives will be turned around.

So please continue to pray and bring before the Lord our schools and the teaching staff and all the families that use those schools.

I believe that I have had success in the community because of faithful prayer and support from the family of Christchurch.

Years of ongoing work, prayer and seeds that have been sown and faithful diligence in God's work, is now providing a harvest in many ways.

From September I will also be running Lunchtime clubs within Ben Rhydding School and I see this as another way to build relationship with children along with regular assemblies, mentoring through TLG, Big Saturday and regular visitation of families that attend Big Saturday.

When thinking and praying about all of this I was reading my bible and this verse really stood out.

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. Proverbs 11v30 (NIV)

Putting in methods and means that through building relationship (winning souls), help people to put their trust in Christ and in us the Church.

And then I looked at Christchurch's vision statement, and I was excited about some of the boxes that were ticked and that God is leading us on a very exciting journey in reaching our community.

Offer Christ More effectively

Provide space for conversation and for listening

Develop new opportunities for service and witness

Meet emerging community needs, with a focus on families, children and young people.

Jonathan Logan

CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

JULY

3rd

- Those who provide a valuable Listening Ear for anxious or lonely visitors to the Coffee Centre.
- For more trained pastors to enable continuing witness and growth in the Church in China.

10th—Action for Children Sunday

- Action for Children (formerly NCH) - working to support families and children in difficult and stressful situations.

17th

- The worship and communion stewards.
- Ilkley Talking Newspaper – its volunteers who read and distribute CDs so local people can hear the news.

24th

- Families and individuals visiting Wharfedale on holiday and those involved in tourism.
- Those promoting reconciliation in troubled areas of the world.

31st

- The team which plans and leads worship in the style of Taizé at Christchurch.
- The volunteers who work in Ilkley's charity shops.

ALPHA COURSE AT CHRISTCHURCH

Every Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm beginning on the 14th September for 10 weeks. And one Saturday - 15th October.

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for everyone; no question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. We don't assume any background knowledge of or belief in Christianity and everyone is welcome.

What is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun and friendly environment. The Alpha course consists of a series of talks, looking at topics including 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why and how do I pray?' We meet for supper and each talk is followed by discussion in small groups.

Maybe you would like to come along yourself, maybe you could invite someone to come along, someone you know who is on the edge of church or someone who has never been to church but is open and willing, or asking questions. It would be helpful to have details of those interested by the middle of August, to either the church office or Jeannie Buckroyd.

Jenny Freeman has agreed to co-ordinate the evening meals and would welcome volunteers to help her. If you would be willing to be involved in either helping to cook a main course or make a pudding, or to help in any other way with the catering please contact Jenny.

Leaders will also be needed to help run the small discussion groups. If this is something that would interest you please let Jeannie Buckroyd know.

Please pray for this course.

I'm sure you will enjoy Alpha, but it's always more stimulating with non-church people there!

Rob Hilton



Alpha

Appointments – Church Stewards

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



Wayside
Wit!

Housegroup Update



Our new Housegroup Season will begin in the third week of September. As in previous

years, there will be Housegroups meetings on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and one which will be at Christchurch on Tuesday afternoons. A new venue is being arranged in Burley-in-Wharfedale, details of where and when to follow, but if any of you would be interested in joining a Burley group, please let me know.

New Housegroup members are always welcome and I do hope that this year will see lots of extra people joining. Meetings are held fortnightly, avoiding school holidays, and in fact the dates for the whole year were published in last month's Wider Horizons. If enough people wish to join, we shall need to find new leaders and additional homes to host extra groups. If you would like to consider either of these roles, please contact me or Rob Hilton.

Steve and I found it much easier to host a group in our own house when our family were young so maybe that might be helpful for you to consider too.

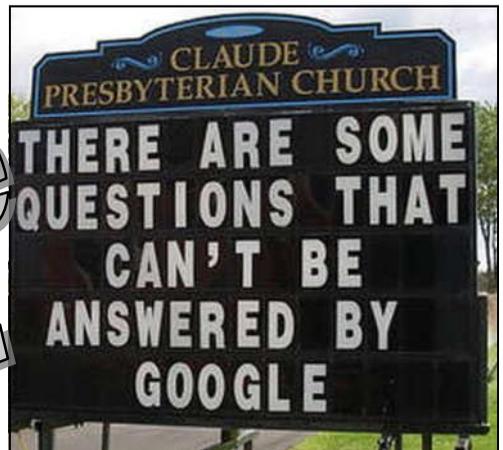
The important dates for September are:

- Housegroup Launch at 9am and 10.30am services on Sunday 18th September
- Housegroups meetings begin from Monday 19th September.

I am happy to be contacted at anytime via the church pigeon holes.

Juliet Amos

Wayside
Wit!





Fairtrade News

Our fairtrade network is extending all the time. As well as our regular monthly stalls and supplying our own Coffee Centre, we are now ordering supplies for the Ilkley Moor Medical Practice and providing some support to Ilkley Grammar School.

It's amazing how the small profit we make on our sales mounts up and we have recently been able to make a donation of £500 to St George's Crypt. Thank you to those whose support has made this possible.

This means that **BUYING FAIRTRADE AT CHRISTCHURCH MAKES A DOUBLE DIFFERENCE TO LIVES** – enhancing the lives of producers and their families and supporting other charities with a similar ethos.

So we hope to see more and more of you at our monthly stall in the Coffee Centre. We are always set up by 9.45am and welcome customers both between the morning services and after the 10.30 service. Our product range is very broad – from pasta to kitchen rolls, from mango chutney to gardening gloves plus the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, chocolate and our best-selling line ever, yoghurt coated raisins. Something for everyone.

NB Change of date for stall next month to 10th July
No stall in August
September onwards: back to the first Sunday of the month

Judith and John Bray



Spring Harvest 2011/2012

At a recent post-Spring Harvest get together, the adults were challenged by the young people about the integrity of worship. Tom, Lucy and Daniel were asking us as worship leaders at Online@9 and other services if we were really giving our best to God in our preparation. Do we rush what we offer to God and fit it in around our busy lives? Or do we give our best and put him first? In the book of Hosea God is really disgusted with the priests' offerings because they are sacrificing second grade animals to him. He says he'll smear the offal of the sacrifices in their faces – yuk!

We all also felt we had been challenged that our whole lives should be an act of worship to God. Don't just talk the talk – you should walk the walk. For young people and adults alike it is a challenge to be what God would want you to be in your everyday life not just on a Sunday morning.

Church Actually - God's brilliant idea

At Spring Harvest 2012 we'll be looking at the Church. We'll explore what it is in theology, in history and in reality. We're focusing on 'Church Actually' because we love the Church and because we believe it's God's hope for the world.

We'll answer some of the big questions that get asked about the Church by exploring four of the pictures used in the New Testament to describe it – the People of God, the Community of the Spirit, the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ. We'll look at the mission of the Church in our culture and our calling as God's people.

So if you want to come with us, then put the date in your diary Tuesday 10 - Sunday 15 April 2012 and contact Ruth Jones via the pigeon holes in the foyer. Approx. costs are £200 per person based on sharing a 3 bedroom/6 person self catering apartment. Check out www.springharvest.org for more details

Ruth Jones

Methodist Prayer Manual 2012

If you would like to order the Prayer Manual for next year please let Lynda or Alan East know via the pigeon holes in the foyer.

Although Easter is now passed I felt the following article by my 11 year old grandson Timothy Frankland for his school homework was worthy of being read by a wider audience.

Peter Stockdale

What is Easter? - Easter is the most important Christian festival, the celebration of the death and coming to life again of Jesus. For Christians the dawn of Easter Sunday with its message of new life is the high point of the Christian year. The story of Easter is about Jesus' last days and his death.

Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ long before the word "Easter" was used, and the word they used for the celebration was pascha, which is linked to the Jewish festival of Passover.

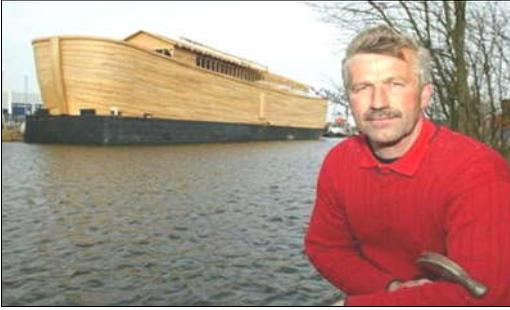
When is Easter? - Easter usually comes in the month of April. However Easter can fall as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th. Easter is a moveable feast because the date of Easter changes every year. Easter Sunday can fall on any date from 22nd March to 25th April. The reason for this variation in the date of Easter is based on the lunar calendar.

The last supper - The last supper is called the last supper because it was Jesus' last meal before he died. The meal was a Passover meal which is a Jewish festival, the Passover meal is called Seder. At Seder they eat unleavened bread and lamb. The last supper was when Jesus was arrested. Judas betrayed him and showed the Romans which one he was.

Good Friday - Good Friday was the day when Jesus was crucified on a cross. Jesus was forced to carry his own cross outside the city to Skull Hill. He was so weak after the beating from the Romans that a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was pulled from the crowd and forced to carry Jesus' cross the rest of the way. Jesus was nailed to the cross. Two criminals were crucified with him, their crosses were on either side of him. At 3pm Jesus died (according to the bible).

The name came from God's Friday. It is good because everyone is forgiven for their sins by God. Some Christians go without food on Good Friday. This helps them remember the sacrifice Jesus made for them on the day of the crucifixion.

Easter Sunday - Easter Sunday is the day Jesus came back to life.



Replica of Noah's Ark Opens its Doors

A half-sized replica of the biblical Noah's Ark has been built by a Dutch man, complete with model animals.

Dutch creationist Johan Huibers built the ark as testament to his literal belief in the Bible.

The ark, in the town of Schagen, is 150 cubits long - half the length of Noah's - and three storeys high. A cubit was about 45cm (18in) long.

The ark opened its doors on Saturday, after almost two years' construction, most of it by Mr Huiber himself. Life-size models of giraffes, elephants, lions, crocodiles, zebras and bison are included in the ark's interior.

The Bible's Book of Genesis says Noah kept seven pairs of most tamed animals and one breeding pair of all other creatures in the boat, which survived a catastrophic flood sent down by God to punish man.



He began building in May 2005, after he dreamed of the Netherlands being flooded.



"In February 1992, I had a dream that Holland will become flooded. The next day, I found a book about Noah's Ark in the local bookshop, and since then, my dream has been to build the ark," he said.

Source BBC.CO.UK

CTI 2000 – Blessing our community

At Spring Harvest there was a week of events for people with learning difficulties. I was challenged by the notion that the bible tells us we are all made in the image of God but we all have bits of ourselves that are not 'perfect'. As we get older, our physical and mental capacities slow down, and yet we are still 'made in the image of God'. Many of us are born with parts which are not 'perfect' or things we can't do very well, but we are all still 'made in the image of God'. Maybe my definition of the image of God is too narrow and maybe it has more to do with our spiritual life than our physical or mental life.

The faith of Christians who have learning difficulties is often much purer and deeper than that of us who claim to have the capacity to understand our faith better.

I recently heard Stuart Jenkins (the Baptist Minister) talk about CTI 2000 and how this organisation is blessing and empowering adults with learning difficulties in Ilkley. It was founded by Churches Together in Ilkley and aims to give people the chance to live life to their full potential. Some activities CTI 2000 run are:

Lunch Club at the Baptist Church. on Thursdays from 12.30pm

Summer outings – an annual highlight for many folk

Buzz Club on Saturdays

Oasis Café, Skipton Rd – 10am til 3pm on Fridays

Allotments at St John's Church – plant and vegetable growing at the allotment in the summer.

Summer activities at St John's

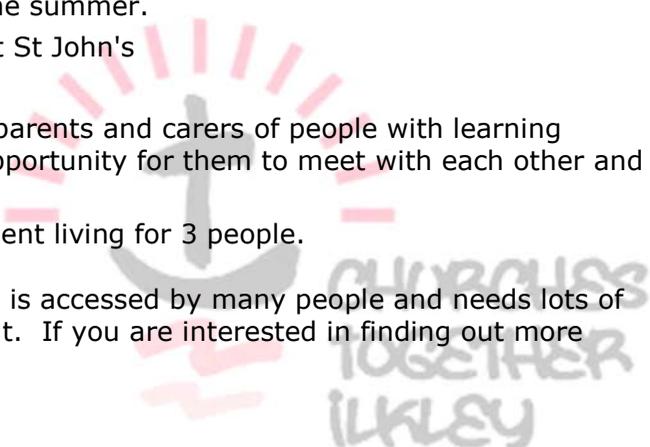
Dance group

Wellbeing Clinic for parents and carers of people with learning disabilities – an opportunity for them to meet with each other and professionals.

Nile Road – independent living for 3 people.

This fantastic initiative is accessed by many people and needs lots of volunteers to support it. If you are interested in finding out more please contact me.

Ruth Jones

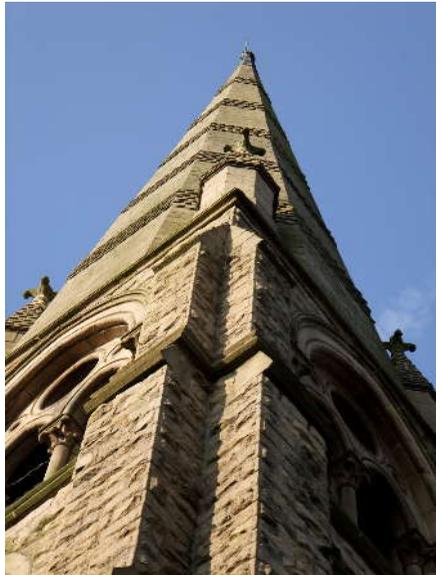


Living Stones

At Online@9 in May we have been looking at the building up of the church community through the book of Peter. There's been a lot of imagery about stones and buildings at a time when Christchurch considers our physical building and how we can make it work better for our community. We had a demonstration of building a wall from Brian and Jonathan and the children of Eagles group got to look at the foundations of our building when Margaret Scott showed them the hole in the vestry floor.

During a discussion with the Eagles group (8-11s) about this imagery, Juliet and Alicia Cumberland shared some news about their school. They go to Westville House on Carter's Lane, which is celebrating 50 years of being a school community. They explained that the building they are in now hasn't always been a school but used to house nurses who worked at the nearby Middleton Hospital. Before, the school was on Westville Road in the founder's house. We discussed how a building can change its use and wondered how many different events and groups had used our Christchurch building over the years. The Riddings Hall of course was used as an auction house before reverting back to being a church hall. We also thought that wherever a community was housed it was their aims which made them who they were not the building they were in. So Westville House celebrates being a school community for 50 years, although it has only been in its present venue since the 1980s. At Christchurch, it is the people who make up the community and whether we meet in 'our' building, in our homes or in the pub, we are bound together by our love of Jesus.

Ruth Jones



We wish to thank all our friends at Christchurch for the many cards and good wishes we have received during our house move. Many, many thanks to you all.

Joan and Brian Mould

A puppet with good communication skills

We are continuing to garden, both on our own and with neighbors. (We ate our own tender green beans--all 12 of them--last week.) But we are also finding ways to nurture life and hope in other venues, too. Ways to help focus our community on creation rather than consumption, on abundance rather than scarcity. One of those: Alastair and I led our first ever storytelling workshop in Peter's preschool class last week. We taught them a song about imagination and then interactively brought a paper puppet to life and used it as the main character in a story the children helped tell. It was delightful, and we have already had requests to visit other classrooms, too.

With the older children in our neighbourhood we notice a limited ability to express themselves, due both to vocabulary deficiency as well as inherited communication habits of blame and shame. Right now we are piloting a program in Zoe's second grade classroom to address these two issues in a fun way--with puppets! The kids have been invited into the land of P.U.A., Puppets United Around Adjectives, and they have just finished imagining and creating their own citizen sock puppet. In the coming weeks their puppets will take on the challenging assignment of acclimating the infamous Blah Blah Blah (played by a surly Alastair) to P.U.A., a place where he is expected to put in the work to express himself. If all goes well this, too, could be a self-contained unit to take throughout the neighborhood.

Of course we continue to relish our opportunities to use storytelling and creativity in openly Christian venues--like at our church and in our neighborhood community group. Alastair is gaining confidence in the guitar as we keep asking him to lead our singing times!

Although there has been an increase in gang activity these past months, our hope is set firmly on the one who puts a new song (or story!) in our mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. I close this note the way a fellow InnerCHANGE missionary always closes his...

Pressing on for JOY!

Catherine (for the Rundles)

"Sincere thanks for the prayers cards and warm wishes during my recent illness. They were all received with gratitude, God bless"

Geoff Swann

cti Churches Together in Ilkley

Forthcoming events

Saturday 9th July - CTI 2000 Summer Fayre: To be held in the grounds of All Saints 10 am – 4 pm. The Manor House Museum will be celebrating their 50th anniversary that day and All Saints' Mothers' Union will be serving cream teas.

Monday 8th August until Friday 12th August – Seaside Rock Holiday Club

Sunday 14th August – Songs of Praise on the Bandstand

Wednesday 17th August – 24 hour readathon of the King James Version Bible in Christchurch to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of this Bible.

Ongoing events

Lunch Club, run by CTI 2000 - Thursdays at 12.30pm at the Baptist Church

CTI prayers – Saturdays, 10-10.30am in the Fellowship Room at Christchurch. This group has been running for over 30 years and is a really powerful way of blessing Ilkley.

Oasis Café, Skipton Road – Fridays, 10am – 3pm run by people who are supported by CTI 2000. Open to the public. Volunteers required.

CTI Representatives are Margaret Cook and Ruth Jones



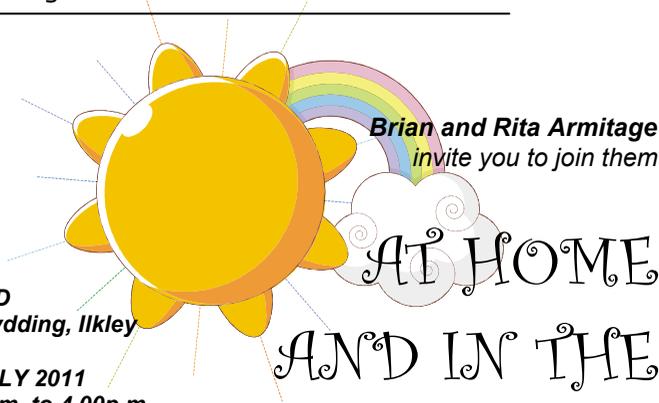
at:

RAINBOWS END

3 Undercliffe Rise, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

On SATURDAY 2nd JULY 2011

10.00a.m. to 12noon – 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.



Brian and Rita Armitage
invite you to join them

**AT HOME
AND IN THE
GARDEN**

Bring and
buy.... Cake...
books etc.



**Donations in support of
the work of BEACON
will be appreciated**

NOT a church walk and picnic

The challenge is to get up Beamsley Beacon, by whatever means possible, by 1pm on Sunday 17th July and then have a picnic together (either on the top or down by the road in the sheltered grassy bit if it's too windy up top).

Some of us at Christchurch have recently become obsessed with running and we might decide to run from the church all the way to the top of Beamsley (I recently walked it and am wondering if I could actually run up that last bit, it's quite steep); others of us might want to cycle up; others might start nearer – at Addingham or Beamsley chapel, or the bottom of the hill on Langbar Road where you can park the car; others of us might be pushed up or carried up. Whatever means you can think of, if you can, we think it might be fun to try to all get up Beamsley Beacon in time for a spot of lunch.

Ruth Jones

Holiday at Home

We regret that due to a disappointing response to this event, it will now run for one day only—Wednesday 6th July

Rita Armitage



From Thomas Cook Holidays - listing some guests' complaints

"The beach was too sandy."

"We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels."

"No-one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled."

"There was no egg slicer in the apartment..."

"It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England it only took the Americans three hours to get home."

"I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."



GARDEN PARTY

to be held at
Glen Rosa and Kitwood House

24 Grove Road Ikley
on Saturday, 9 July 2011
2.00 – 4.00 pm

Variety of Stalls: Cakes, Books, Bric-a-brac, plants, etc.

Donations for stalls would be appreciated

Please support your local Methodist Home

Margaret McClay

Sub Editor

We require a second editor to work with the Publicity Team. She/he would replace George McArthur who has helped for many years and feels that it is now time to let someone else take over. It is something that can be done from home as we all communicate with each other by phone, email and attachments.

If interested Steve Amos and/or George would be pleased to explain what is involved.

Worship Consultation – 13th July

Something for everybody – Book the date now!

It's time to review our 10:30am worship. Do you have any ideas, thoughts, concerns or comments you would like to share? Anything that will make our 10:30am service even more engaging.

Specific agenda items can be submitted (in writing please) to Margo or Rob by 6th July.

On behalf of Mrs Joyce Jackson I would like to thank the Prayer Shawl team for the gift of a shawl to wear. This has been a great comfort to her as she has been housebound for some time.

Julia Collington

The Green Spot

It seems likely that one of the limiting factors for human survival will be the availability of water. Even in our country, we are feeling the effects of the driest spring for many, many years which will mean crops will fail or have diminished yields.



In Africa, where there is plenty of sunshine, solar powered pumps may be an answer. Solar energy is converted to electrical energy which is used to power a water pump. The pump brings water from below the ground and delivers it to taps from which water can be drawn. This is one way of providing water – of which more later.....

It is good that the Government is increasing its aid to poorer countries in times of hardship for us. We have so much more than the third world and it is time to give something back. We should be encouraging the third world to use solar energy rather than polluting coal, oil and gas. Solar technology may be more expensive but much more environmentally friendly. The electricity can be made where it is used and we should be helping them to utilise it .

Elisabeth Halsall





	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
09:00am	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am	Rev Rob Hilton Inc. HC	Rev Rob Hilton / Rev Rita Armitage	Rev Rob Hilton	Brian Armitage	Rev Rob Hilton
06:30pm	Michael Noble	Rev Rob Hilton Inc. HC	Rev Rob Hilton Healing Service	Rev Rob Hilton	Taizé

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

A 20 minute time of reflection

8th Rev Peter Willox, 15th Rev Rob Hilton,
22nd Rev Arnold Clay, 29th Rev Rob Hilton

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

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

Summer Meetings

July 13th

"The Fascination of The Bible."

August 3rd

Michelle Horton

"All Buttoned Up"

Guild re-opens September 7th.