

WIDER HORIZONS



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Report from the Steering Group

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



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November **2011**

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

November is the month of remembrance.

Remembrance Day is our annual national day for remembering those who have died in conflict. It is a day that has seen a resurgence of national feeling over the last few years, especially with the increasing popularity of the Help For Heroes charity.

It is also the month of All Saints' and All Souls' days – when the church remembers those Christians who have lived a faithful life, and leave their example to inspire us in following Jesus Christ.



Similar reflections surround the evening service of thanksgiving and remembrance it's been my habit to hold for over 10 years now. Meeting again those families for whom I've led a funeral service is a special moment as we worship together in the midst of the grieving process.

As a Christian, I can't use the word remember, and speak of remembrance, without those familiar words of Jesus echoing around "take, eat, and remember me", and "this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, shed for you and for many". Those words capture the very essence of the power of remembrance – a power that takes us back to the transforming effect of what's being remembered. For Jesus, as a Jew, sharing the Passover meal was a special moment remembering the covenant relationship God had with His people. But when Jesus said his blood was shed 'for you and for many' he was making a very powerful addition – 'for you' meant the Jews, God's chosen people. 'For many' was the addition of gentiles, outsiders, the promise God had made to his people was now extended to all. The special relationship was broadened, the privilege and duty of a relationship with God were now open to everyone who would come and accept.

As we remember those who have died in war, let it see us make a fresh determination that the world that fights may be transformed into a world where swords are turned into ploughshares, where

peace replaces conflict, and farming and food production replaces weapons of warfare and killing.

And as we journey through grief with those who have said goodbye to a loved one, let us pray that their grief and sadness will gradually recede like the tide and leave joyful memories and a healthy and wholesome approach to life lived now.

And as we remember saints we've known, let us again follow their example and live a full and meaningful Christian life that transforms the world as Jesus did so that the poor are blessed, the outsiders welcomed in, the guilty set free, and the troubled led into peace.

Take some time to remember this month, and let the power of God's Spirit transform you into His likeness.

Have a peaceful November,
Your Minister and Friend,
Rob

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

Mary Elizabeth Frye



JonaThan's jOttings

As mentioned previously, this year's Christmas theme for Christchurch will be Dickens' Christmas Carol.

Christchurch will be decorated to celebrate a Victorian Christmas and a display will be built to help reflect on Charles Dickens' story.

Each display that will unfold the story will also have a plaque explaining the display and a reflection based on the liturgy themes.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the services from the list given.

27th November — the Camels' Christmas Celebration.

This service will be fun and interactive and open to all ages. So come and celebrate the launch of our Christmas services with the Spicy camels and feel a great welcome from some of our Dickensian actors. (With an appearance from Scrooge himself!).

10th December — Big Saturday Special

Join Bubba the Gorilla and the Big Saturday team for lots of Christmas fun for primary aged children.

The day will be themed around Luke's gospel and the Christmas story that Bubba will explore.

24th December — 4:00pm Christingle

Come join the birthday party and find out what mum forgot on her son's very important day.

Please enjoy all of the above and tell your friends and families as it would be good to see the place packed out.

Jonathan Logan



CHRISTMAS AT CHRISTCHURCH

A DICKENS'

Christmas Carol

www.christchurchilkley.org.uk



Christmas Events

27th November family service Camels
Christmas Celebration 9:00am and
10:30am

10th December Big Saturday Christmas
Special. Christmas fun with Bubba
the gorilla and the Big Saturday
team. 10:00am-12:00noon £2.50
per child

17th December showing of Muppets
Christmas Carol in the Riddings Hall.
Movies free £1.50 for supper. 6pm
start

18th December 6:30pm Carol Service

24th December Christingle. This year's
theme is the 'Birthday Party' 4:00pm

24th December midnight communion

25th December Christmas day service

CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER

6

- Those who plan and lead worship at Online@9
- Prisoners and those who work in the prison service.

13 Remembrance Sunday

- Those who have lost loved ones during the year and members of the armed forces.
- Those involved in peace-building activities and reconciliation.

20

- SCOPE, our young people who meet on Sunday evenings, and those who lead them both in play and worship.
- Our representatives and those employed by Ilkley Parish Council and Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

27 Advent Sunday

- For Advent and the special Christmas services that all may find the meaning of Christ's birth.
- Those who support people through the healing ministry.



"HE NEVER WAS ONE FOR MAKING RISKY PREDICTIONS."

Christchurch Comings and Goings.

We are sad to record the deaths of Mrs. Marjorie Fox and Mrs. Freda Lott. Our love and prayers go to their families.

For those who have recently moved, we send our best wishes to them.

Muriel Marsland.

We welcome Mrs. Nancy Stead.

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

Thank you.



Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for those who have died.

Rob will lead this service on the evening of remembrance Sunday, 13th November at 6.30pm.

All those for whom a funeral service has been taken in the last two years will be invited, and the names of those remembered will be read quietly within the service.

If you would like a deceased friend or relative remembered please let Rob know their names for inclusion. If you'd like a neighbour or friend invited, please let Rob know or just invite them yourself.

Our love and congratulations to a newly married couple:

Christopher Duff, younger son of Sandra, married Rebecca Cocker at St. Mary's Church, Burley-in-Wharfedale on 27th August.

Christmas Greetings

Next month, we will be sending out the Christchurch Christmas card with Wider Horizons. If you would like your greeting to be included, please send it in to Mike in the Office (with a copy to me) by

1st November at the latest. Thanks

Steve Amos

Tree Pruning

If you are pruning any trees this winter, would you cast a thought in my direction? I have recently officially become 'an old man' as I've taken up woodturning as a hobby, and would be pleased to have some timber to turn to wood shavings!

Any hardwood branches above 25mm (one inch) thick will be fine, especially yew, laburnum, apple, pear, ash, sycamore, . . .

Also, I would be happy to lend a hand with the pruning, but must emphasise that I'm not a tree surgeon of any description and have yet to graduate to a chain-saw, so I can't help with tree-felling. Thanks.

Steve Amos

off the mark .com by Mark Parisi

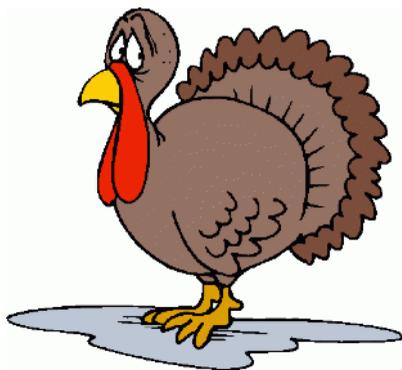


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Christmas Day Lunch

Preparations for our Christmas Day Lunch are now in hand and as in previous years we welcome any members of the church family and friends to share this happy occasion. We shall gather in the Coffee Centre after the Christmas Day Family Celebration and have lunch around midday.

If you would like to join us please let the Stanleys or the Stockdales know through the foyer pigeon holes. We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible and particularly if you should require transport to or from Christchurch.



Alan East

Pray without ceasing... (Ephesians 6:18-20)

We are in the middle of a three-month period of united, continuous (known as 24:7) prayer from Sunday 18th September to Sunday 18th December for Ilkley and the Wharfe Valley. This was set up by Churches Together in Ilkley along with The Sanctuary (www.thesanctuary.org) which is a centre for prayer in Ilkley. The event was launched at the Baptist Church where we laid hands on the OS map of the area and prayed for the pray-ers and God's blessing on the valley.

There is a weekly rota made up of 168 hour slots and filled by over 80 people and lots of prayer groups (including some people in San Diego in our early morning slots). You can pray where you like and in whatever way you like, and there is also a prayer room set up in St John's Church, Ben Rhydding so you can drop in and pray from 9am to 7pm each day.

There is a special 24:7 prayer section of the CTI website:

<http://churches-together-ilkley.net/247-prayer/>

Also, someone has cleverly created a prayer feedback and request form:

<http://churches-together-ilkley.net/247-prayer/prayer-requests/> - for any member of the public to send their comments or prayer requests.

You can tweet hashtag:

#247prayerilkley or **#247prayerwharfedale** and follow **@CTIlkley** for the latest updates too.

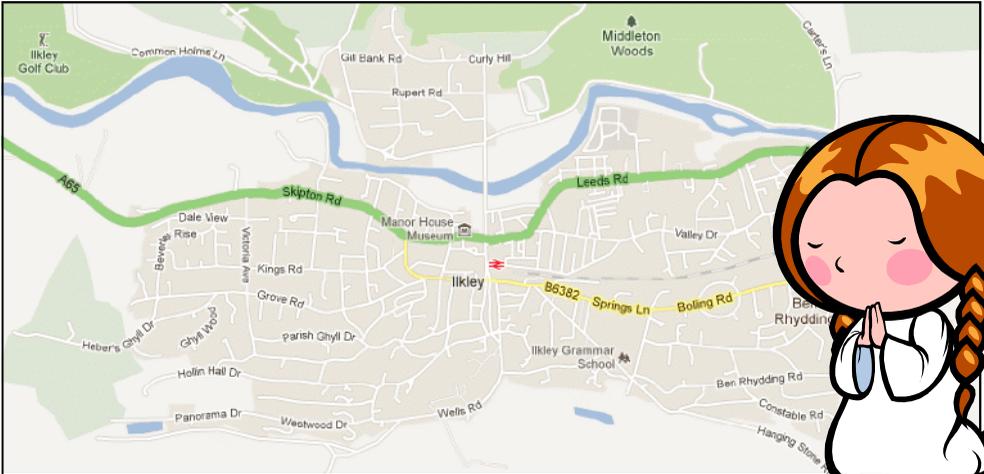
For more information contact Liz Baddaley and Jill Andrews (info@thesanctuarycentre.org or 01943 603 595).

Finally, I'd like to share some of my experiences in the last few weeks of praying for Ilkley. One scripture came to mind: **2 Chronicles 7:14** 'if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.' It made me think that the churches should humbly seek God's forgiveness for not welcoming people, for not preaching the word in truth and ask Him to help us be open and welcoming communities.

When praying the Lord's Prayer over Ikley I particularly focussed on 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us' which gave me the picture of neighbours smiling and greeting one another across garden fences and driveways rather than holding grudges and suspicion against each other.

This is a very exciting project to be involved in and it's not too late to join in! Watch out for great results!

Ruth Jones



Out of the Mouths of Babes!

A teacher presented her 7 & 8 year olds with the 1st half of a well-known proverb or saying and asked them to come up with the remainder...

Strike while the..... **bug is close.**

Laugh and the whole world
laughs with you, cry and **you have to blow your nose.**

A bird in the hand..... **is going to poop on you.**

A penny saved is **not much.**

A miss is as good as a..... **Mr.**

The pen is mightier than the **pigs.**

It's always darkest before..... **Daylight Saving Time.**

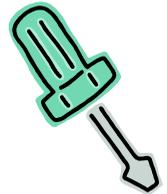
Two's company, three's..... **the Musketeers.**

Tools for Self-Reliance

Many thanks to those who donated tools of various descriptions to the Harvest Festival Appeal. These have now been taken to a workshop/store in the Langbar area where they will be re-furbished and, where necessary, sharpened by volunteers working for the above Christian organisation. Eventually, they will be transported to a central depot for transmission by container to Africa.



In addition to offering their thanks for the donation Tools for Self-Reliance have asked me to make a continued appeal for two things. Firstly, the store at Langbar has been found to be too small and the group would like an area or room about the size of a standard domestic garage to use for storage purposes. If anyone has this type of available space I can supply details of the coordinator for the Ilkley area. Secondly, there is an ongoing need for old tools and, in particular, sewing machines. The former can be handed in at any time to Mortens Hardware in Ilkley who have an arrangement with Tools for Self-Reliance.



I would be happy to answer any queries that people may have concerning these issues.

Trevor Buckroyd

Blenheim Collectors

Pat Scott will be in the foyer at Christchurch on Friday 18th November between 10:00am and 12:00 noon to receive your boxes.

Many thanks for your continuing support for the Blenheim Project in Bradford, which gives support to women and children who are the victims of domestic violence.

Thank you.

Pat Scott



Coffee Centre Thanks

A huge thank you to those who have come forward and offered us help for 2 hours on a regular basis. It is very much appreciated and needed if we are to continue our valuable outreach and provide valuable income for the church.

However, we still have room for many more helpers. Particular times to be filled are

Monday 10 to 12, Monday 2 to 4 (alternate) Wednesday 12 to 2

Thursday 12 to 2

If you would just like to fill in occasionally we would love to have you on our list – just consult the rota in the coffee centre or ask one of the staff.

Further information from Pauline Greenfield or Hilary Williams

Playing With Words

1. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
2. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
3. Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.
4. I wondered why the cricket ball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
5. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
6. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
7. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
8. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused anaesthetic during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.
9. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of maths disruption.
10. There was the person who published ten puns in the church magazine in the hope that at least one of the puns would make people laugh. No pun in ten did.

Book Review: LOVE WINS – Rob Bell

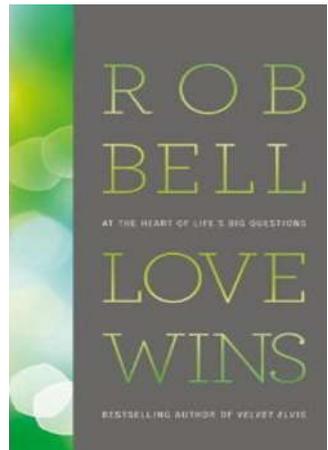
At The Heart of Life's Big Questions

2011 :: published by Collins :: £14.99 (HC)
ISBN 978-0-00-742073-5 :: 198 pages

Rob Bell is founding Pastor of Mars Hill Church, Michigan, and is perhaps more well known for his series of short films called NOOMA.

To quote from the sleeve: God Loves us.
Here's how the traditional story goes . . .

God offers us everlasting life by Grace, freely, through no merit on our part. Unless you do not respond in the right way. Then God tortures you forever. In Hell. What ??



Bell's style is direct, modern, with sentences often broken over many new lines to emphasise phrases, thoughts, ideas in a sort of 'stream of consciousness' way, and paragraphs well separated. He tackles the ideas of a Loving God, Heaven and Hell in a refreshing and radical way, and seeks to expose what the Bible says about these things, rather than rely on the picture painted by church tradition over the centuries, stripping away the layers of misunderstanding that obscures the truth.

This book has stirred some controversy because he challenges the status quo (that goes a long way for me), because it needs challenging! Too many Christians are either blinkered with the contradictions that the traditional view brings, or have no clear ideas of what they really believe about God's love.

What do you think? Does your loving God condemn the majority of souls to eternal torment, or is everyone forgiven in the end?

Read the book to examine your own ideas – as this strikes at the heart of our faith, and we should be clear. Do we have Good News to bring to this world, or is it really, really Bad News for 'unbelievers'?

Steve Amos.

Garrison Keillor, American author, storyteller, humorist (and Methodist?), has some interesting things to say about Methodists – but maybe they apply to members of the URC too!

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offence. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of “Michael row the boat ashore” they will look daggers at you. But if you do this among Methodists, they’d smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach!

Many are taught from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto, tenor or bass. They are too modest to be soloists; too worldly to sing in unison. By joining in harmony, they somehow promise they will not forsake each other.

I believe:

- They are the sort of people you can call up when you’re in deep distress
- They’ll talk to you if you’re lonely
- They believe in prayer and miracles
- They believe it is OK to poke fun at themselves

You will know you are a Methodist when

- It’s 100 degrees and you still have coffee after the service
- You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, “May the Force be with you”, you respond with “and also with you”.
- It takes 10 minutes to say goodbye



"You've got the wrong man, I tell you! — I'm John the *Methodist!*"



Report from On-Line Steering Group

Some of the things we have done:

- We have put a new clock in the Foyer so we can see how close to 9:00am it is when we arrive. It's been positively received by Coffee Centre users
- Decided that there will NOT be an On-Line service on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Some things we are working on:

- Getting some bus and train timetables for display near the new clock.
- Fixing up a video camera link so we can show what's happening at the front of church up on the screens (eg a child dedication).
- Asking for Local Preacher involvement within On-Line teams to be recognised as part of a Local Preacher's commitment
- Involvement (albeit possibly short term) with an On-Line team should be considered as part of Local Preacher training.
- Improving the storage capabilities of the storerooms in the Worship Area and the Leeds Room.
- Sourcing some new songs specifically aimed at children.
- Getting a microphone specifically to support the hard of hearing within discussion groups
- Finding a way to involve children actively in giving (Stewardship).

Some issues to resolve:

- The continuing requirement for folk to join our On-Line worship teams
- Whether there might be both a both a contemporary as well as a traditional Carol Service this Christmas.

Reminder: On-Line Review on 21 November 2011. Everyone is invited - team members and congregation. Fish & Chips at 6:30pm; meeting starts at 7:00pm. Details in the weekly noticeboard nearer the time.

Steve Amos

Green Spot

I had an interesting conversation with a Church member about whether to turn the central heating on twice a day or have it running all the time. This is difficult to judge, but my guess would be that if you are heating the whole house just to keep one or two rooms warm during the day, bills would be large. Perhaps a short experiment is in order.



Our solution is to have the heating on twice a day to warm the whole house and to have a fire in the sitting/ dining room which can be switched on when needed. Our plumber used to say that switching off radiators in unused bedrooms was also important to save money. We also have valves on all the central heating radiators which allow us to choose how hot each room becomes.

As we go into the winter it is good to check on insulation levels and draught-proofing. Some people put up heavier curtains at their windows in the winter. Remember to draw the curtains at dusk.

Elisabeth Halsall



Kate Taylor



**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
November 2011**



	6th	13th	20th	27th
09:00am	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am	Rev Rob Hilton Inc. HC	Rev Leslie Holmes	Rev Neil Dixon	Rev Rob Hilton
06:30pm	Rev Arnold Clay Inc. HC	Rev Rob Hilton Remembrance & Thanksgiving	3rd Sunday @ IBC	Taize

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am

A 20 minute time of reflection

4th Msgr Kieran Heskin. **11th** Rev Dick Watson.

18th Father Phillip Gray. **25th** Rev Arnold Clay

**The deadline for the December 2011 edition of
Wider Horizons is 1st November.**

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

Mike Fawcett (office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)
and Steve Amos (steve.amos@blueyonder.co.uk).



**Christchurch Guild News
Programme for November**

2nd

Michael Booth

"The Rotary Club in Today's
World"

9th

President's Charity Afternoon

16th

Rev Rob Hilton

22nd

Neil Willis

"Jewels of Jordan"

30th

Josie Whitehead and Friends
"Christmas Poems"