

WIDER HORIZONS

Happy
New Year
2012

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Stewardship 2012 –

A Roof over our Heads

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



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01943 603209



January **2012**

Stop Press!

Urgent Repairs to the Roof



As you may be aware, following a recent survey of our premises, it was found that the whole church roof needs extensive repairs in the near future, at an estimated cost of £120,000.

Since this survey we have had a detailed inspection of the work involved and areas requiring immediate attention have been highlighted. The cost of this immediate repair would be approximately £18,000. This repair would then not be part of the complete roof replacement later on.

Whilst we require this work to be carried out as soon as possible, we are unable to pay this amount without leaving ourselves with an even bigger deficit than the deficit that we are already expecting during the current year.

It was decided at Church Council that we should establish a roof repair fund immediately and invite Christchurch folks to make interest free loans to the Roof Fund to cover this immediate £18,000 need. These loans will be repayable within 5 years. Figures of loans between £500 and £1000 were suggested, thereby requiring between 18 and 36 contributors. It is not pleasant asking for money and it is untidy to preface the forthcoming stewardship campaign, but Church Council cannot see any way of proceeding with the work without it.

If you feel able to help in this matter (or indeed to give a non-repayable gift) please get in touch with either John Stanley or Tom Collins who would really appreciate your contact before the end of January. Absolute confidentiality will be assured.

Thank you

*Rob Hilton – Chair Church Council
Pat Fisher – Secretary Church Council*



ROB'S BLOG

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year - And what a year 2012 is going to be in the life of Christchurch.



This is going to be a year of much change.

Some of it a challenge we have to rise to – we must spend money on the Christchurch roof which needs immediate remedial work, and then a completely new roof within 5 years.

Some of it because we have chosen to change – our stewardship renewal will be about focussing on our priorities as a church and then giving to them of our very best – we shall be studying the Biblical prophet Malachi to inspire us. And, in my mind at least, is the new constitution to Christchurch and the opportunity it offers to slim down and initiate a new committee structure to the church.

And some change is part of the ongoing life of a church and circuit. We will say goodbye to Arnold Clay as a minister locally, and with him the concept of another presbyteral minister in Ikley besides the Christchurch minister. I shall probably take on being minister of Ben Rhydding Methodist Church as well as Christchurch. Then we shall welcome a diaconal minister into Ikley as part time chaplain to Methodist Homes and part time missionary chaplain to the elderly of Ikley and Ben Rhydding.

Change, and lots of it!

To the challenge of change the scientist speaks of evolution, the psychologist speaks of development and growth, and the left-winger speaks of revolution; all are valid and useful words; the Christian speaks of renewal, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. The pessimist may say 'change and decay in all around I see', while the optimist, in faith, may say 'Jesus, you are changing me, you are making me brand new'.

I often remember the saying of the Victorian Church leader Cardinal John Henry Newman "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often".

2012 may well see much change, but let us again put our faith in the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he is faithful, he will never leave us, and through all our changes, he will form his people and build his church, that we may serve his purposes and praise his name always (even if sometimes it hurts a bit!)

Happy New Year, may God bless you, and may God bless us all in 2012.

Rob Hilton

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



PRAYER
CALENDAR

January 2012

1st

- ✠ Our minister, Rev Rob Hilton, his wife Ruth and their children Sam, Ned and Esther.
- ✠ Pastor Ivan and staff at the Revival Christian Life Centre in Matugga and all those in Ilkley who support their work.

8th Covenant Sunday

- ✠ Those who worship at Christchurch as we re-dedicate ourselves for the year ahead.
- ✠ the Touchstone project, looking to move premises and develop its work in inner city Bradford and for the greater understanding of other faiths.

15th (Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18-25 January)

- ✠ The members and those in ordained ministry within Churches Together in Ilkley.
- ✠ the World Development Movement, especially in its work to change the structures of economic power to favour poor countries.

22nd

- ✠ The church Stewards who lead the church and seek to support the minister and serve the church family.
- ✠ Phakamisa, a project we currently support - serving and uplifting impoverished communities in the Durban area of South Africa.

29th Homelessness Sunday

- ✠ The staff and helpers in the Coffee Centre and those who appreciate the welcome there.
- ✠ The work of St George's Crypt in Leeds, a project we currently support - providing opportunities for change to homeless, rootless and disadvantaged people.



JONATHAN'S
JOTTINGS

It was great to see so many families come to our various Christmas celebrations.

The Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' theme was a great success and many people had chance to look at the displays and read the reflections based on the liturgy.

I would like to thank all those who put in so much hard work into creating the displays and donating various items to help create them.

Many hours of hard work and creativity were put in by the flower display ladies, to whom I am very grateful.

So as in the story of Scrooge Christmas past has faded away and we look on towards a new year full of excitement and opportunity.

God's plan for his church is to flourish and to expand, and my prayer for this New Year is just that.

Already we are starting to see new families join the church and lives have been changed, and I believe this is just a start of much more to come.

Scope in the evening has an attendance of 16 and I would love to see this double, as our young people grow in enthusiasm and love for Jesus.

Please pray for Scope and also for our work into Ilkley Grammar School and for the restart of the Christian Union in the school.

There are so many issues and pressures that face young people on a daily basis, and the need to reach out to them at their level is ever growing.

Please pray for more people to get involved and to have a passion to reach teenagers in our community.

This will also be an exciting year for our work with parents and toddlers, as we look at ways to expand what we do, enabling us to have a greater witness within our community.

So with great joy and anticipation I would like to wish you a happy new year.

I will look forward to reporting back of all the great things that God has done over the next few months.

Blessings

Jonathan Logan

We are sad to record the deaths of Mr. Neville Knight and of Mrs. Margaret Oates. Our love and prayers go to their families.



COMINGS &
GOINGS

To those who have recently moved, we send our best wishes:

Enid Johnson.

Joan Slough.

Aileen Thomas.

New Arrivals:

Avril and David Benson welcome their grand-daughter, Sophie Emma, sister for Elly and Alex Benson.

Hilary and Gary Williams welcome their first grand-daughter Bethan Olivia Williams.

We share in their happiness.

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

Thank you.

Keeping in touch...Christchurch members.

Before Christmas we sent over 40 cards with greetings from the Christchurch family. The cards went to all our Church friends in the different Homes and to some who are not out as often as they used to be but still living at home. Many of these cannot get to our services or meetings. Here are some of the people and you might like to remember them in your prayers and perhaps pay them a visit as we begin a New Year. Let the Pastoral Team know of anyone who is not as fit as they were and would appreciate a visit or Home Communion.

Joan Baldwin : Allan Bell : Margaret Brayshaw : Winifred Clark : Jean and Len Clark : Renee Clegg : Connie Dewdney : Kathy Douthwaite : Doreen Ferrand : Barbara Gilbank : Helen Gilyead : Enid Johnson : Mary Mawer : Frank McBurney : Ralph Morten : Keith Parsons : May Pickles : Joyce Rae : Ettie Rigg : Alice Robinson : Joan Slough : Sheila Smith : David Wilcockson : Phyllis Wilkinson : Muriel Young .

Dates for your Diary.

Saturday, January 21st, 10:00am -12:00pm in the Lower Hall.



CALENDAR

Will you help us to give a positive welcome to all who come onto our premises? Please come and brush up your welcoming and listening skills. Rob will lead a training session based on some new U.R.C. material called 'Everyone Welcome'. It will be helpful for us all but especially for those on the Welcome Team, the Shopper's Service welcomers, members of the Listening Ear teams, the On-Line welcomers and the Worship Stewards .

It will also be a good starting point for people wishing to join any of these teams.

Any queries to the Pastoral Team.

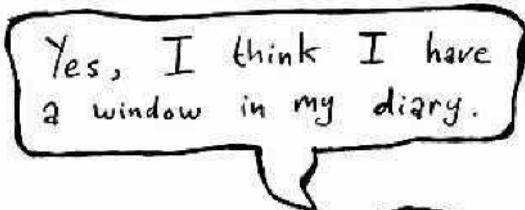
21st February 2012—Women's World Day of Prayer

Quiet day at the Briery Ilkley. The cost of the day will be £12 (includes lunch).

Would any ladies wishing to go, please let Irene Burns or Mary Robinson have the money before January 18th.

Sunday 11th March - 6:00pm

Circuit evening service at Guiseley Methodist Church led by The Wesley Singers and accompanied by the West Gallery Band in the singing of West Gallery hymns. Help us to fill the Church and raise the roof with singing as we bring our Silver Jubilee Year to a close.



4th February

The Famous Annual Circuit Quiz at Ben Rhydding—Details to follow

Alwarden

Congratulations to the Rev Dr Liz Smith, Chair of the Leeds District of the Methodist Church, on being installed as an Ecumenical Canon of Wakefield Cathedral on 11th December.

AFRICA MISSION ALLIANCE

Invite you to an evening of entertainment

CHRISTCHURCH'S GOT TALENT
Showcasing our own home-grown talent
(This is NOT a talent contest)



SATURDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 2012 at 7:00p.m.

Tickets £5 adults, under 16's free

Available from P & P Stockdale or The Coffee Centre

Interval refreshments are free

The Green Spot

January is the time when the bills come in. If you are really 'green', you will also be interested in saving water as well as money.

A recent article in the newspaper highlighted the difference between having a bath or a shower. Many of you will be relieved to know that having a bath is not the most wasteful way to get clean!



THE GREEN SPOT

Research has shown that a short ie. 5 minute, shower, is indeed the least wasteful. The next best thing is a bath. Just be sure not to have the bath too full. Most expensive in water and energy is a Power Shower.



To end on a lighter note – the people having the longest showers were found to be teenage boys old enough to want to be really clean. They showered for 9 minutes!

Elisabeth Halsall

Dorothea Jeffrey, Wycliffe Bible Translators

On 13th October I set off for the new country of South Sudan. We had a number of concerns about this the second Workshop. A few days before I left we heard that there had been no electricity in Juba for several days due to a fuel crisis and that the generator at the SIL centre where we were to work was not working. Without electricity, how can one run a workshop which requires watching the Jesus Film multiple times and printing out multiple copies of the script? Fortunately the generator was fixed the day we arrived and the power was back a few days later; at least for part of the time.

During the first Jesus Film workshop, in March/April, Seme and Dominic drafted the first part of the script which we checked through together. In the intervening months, they had been revising and testing it and drafting the second part. During the October workshop we checked the revision of the first part of the script and the draft of the second part. So now the Mündüs (and the other 5 languages – Avokaya, Bongo, Jur Beli, Jur Modo and Mundari) are well on the way to having the Jesus Film. We hope a team can go out to record the sound track in these languages some time in 2012; maybe as soon as April.

In the next few months Seme and Dominic will need to test and revise the second part of the script and have the whole thing checked by the Mündü Committee. They also need to help the Committee choose voice actors and start them practicing their parts and get all denominations of the church involved in preparing for the showing of the film. In addition structures have to be in place to disciple those who will come to faith as the result of watching the film.

If you are wondering what has happened about the recording of the Mündü New Testament made last year, we hear that it is now ready and in fact the Presbyterian Bishop of Yei has managed to get an advance copy and is having it played on local FM radio. Plans are being made to start a pilot “listening group” to study the recording.

Adele McArthur

Music Movers Raise the Roof!

Hetley & Margaret wish to thank the Music Movers for their generous giving towards our roof fund. A total of £178.37 was raised.

Margaret Whitton



The PCN Britain Conference

Until very recently, I had never heard of the Progressive Christian Network, but John Dominic Crossan, a leading First Century Biblical Scholar and theologian was leading this year's conference, and it was on our doorstep at Roundhay in Leeds.



Friday evening's talk was an exposition on the parabolic overtures of the Gospels, the writers setting out, in parable, what their Good News was centred on: Mark – Jesus as the new John the Baptist; Matthew – Jesus as the new Moses, bringing the new law; Luke – Jesus as the new Elijah; John – Jesus as the new wisdom or word of God. To re-new Christianity, he argued, you need to re-oldden it, that is to go back and understand the matrix of the times, the culture, daily life, the power systems, and in particular the theologies of Rome and the Caesars.

Saturday brought three talks focussed on:

Matthew's birth story based on the Midras (Jewish exposition of the Torah) stories of Moses, in the context of the commercialisation of fishing on the Sea of Galilee (just re-named Lake Tiberius).

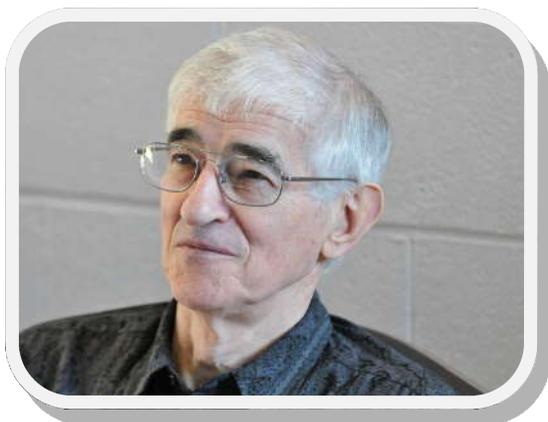
The damage done by Anselm in the 12th Century introducing the creed of substitutionary sacrificial atonement (with the resulting contradiction of a God of Love sending the majority of his creation into eternal punishment) compared to Paul's radical vision of participatory sacrifice.

First Century understanding of resurrection and what this means to our understanding of the Easter stories.

Sunday's service included an address by Crossan on the Lord's Prayer (the subject of his latest book - recently reviewed in WH), although he got no further than the first line – 'Our Father'!

I have a set of audio CDs from the weekend and if you would like to hear Crossan yourself, please let me know.

Steve Amos



Proposal for new Christchurch Structures

I was asked by the Church Meeting to outline the proposal for the new structures for Christchurch. I hope the following makes sense.

The Charity Commissioners together with the national church bodies are requesting that all Local Ecumenical Partnerships register as independent Charities with a new model constitution. In working out the details of this for Christchurch we are taking the opportunity to think afresh about the structures of how we run the church. A small group (comprising Rob Hilton, Chris Mannall, Merle Collins, Tom Collins, Hetley Burnham, and Michael Noble, and with wider consultation and advice) has worked through what this means and suggest that the following proposal be considered:

- **The Church Meeting be re-named the Congregational Meeting** and continue with the overall responsibility for the life of Christchurch. This meeting needs at least 30 (or 10% of the members) to attend to be valid in meeting its responsibilities. Needs to meet annually, and then perhaps 3 more times in a year.
- **The Church Council be discontinued and replaced with a body of 21-24 trustees** to ensure the legal aspects of the Charity are carried out – matters regarding the preparation of the accounts and managing of the finances and property. We suggest this body needs only to meet twice a year, and for a short period of time as most of its responsibilities will be delegated.
- **The main functions of the Church's life of worship, mission and witness be co-ordinated by a Leadership Team of 11 people.** This is the exciting development that should liberate people to lead streamline Committee Structures, and permit the vision to be enacted. This leadership team remains accountable to the trustees and responsible for enacting the strategy and policy set by the Congregational Meeting.

We suggest the leadership comprise the following necessary office holders:

1. A Chairperson – the same person who chairs the Trustees and Congregational Meetings. (This allows the Minister to work to their own gifts and graces too) This person to be one of Christchurch's reps on the Circuit meeting.
2. The Minister – Rev Rob Hilton
3. The Church Secretary – Chris Mannall

4. The Treasurer – Tom Collins

And then a further 7 Convenors, or portfolio holders with responsibility for all the areas of Church life that the constitution requires us to meet:

5. Worship
6. Teaching
7. Mission and Evangelism
8. Community Liaison
9. Pastoral care
10. Communication and Publicity
11. Resources

These 11 people should all be trustees, and need to be Church members, as do all trustees. It is hoped that they will be enthusiasts and gifted in their areas, and will have the freedom to be able to form committees, teams, and working groups and suggest officers to cover the strategy of the church in those areas. The leadership team will assume from the Stewards the roles of covering all the committees and supporting the Minister, and thus reduce the daunting task of Steward but affirm the important role of Stewards in making Sunday gatherings efficiently administered.

The leadership team will all be members of the Trustee body, *but a minority of it* and therefore always accountable to it and not overpowering it. The 7 convenors may oversee current committees, or suggest developments and new initiatives. They will be encouraged to be creative and Spirit led.

Some people have been suggested and approached to consider these roles, but suggestions are welcome, please speak to Rob or any of the above team working on these proposals. Any further questions you may have can also be address to Rob, Merle, Chris, Tom or Michael.

It is hoped to discuss and implement these proposals in the first half of this year. Your patience, and permission to ask any question you like is requested during the transition period!

Rob

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in Canada, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value. When the nurses were packing away his few possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital and has since been published in mental health publications.

Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking when you're looking at me?
A crabby old man..... not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice .. 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to notice the things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not..... lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding The long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking?... Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse, ... you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of Ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another.

A young boy of Sixteen..... with wings on his feet.
Dreaming that soon now..... a lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twenty my heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows that I promised to keep.

At Twenty-Five, now I have young of my own.
Who need me to guide And a secure happy home.
A man of Thirty My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other..... With ties that should last.

At Forty, my young sons..... have grown and are gone,
But my woman's beside me..... to see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more, babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me my wife is now dead.
I look at the future..... shudder with dread.

For my young are all rearingyoung of their own.
And I think of the years.....and the love that I've known.

I'm now an old manand nature is cruel.
'Tis jest to make old agelook like a fool.
The body, it crumblesgrace and vigour, depart.
There is now a stone.....where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass.....a young guy still dwells,
And now and againmy battered heart swells.
I remember the joysI remember the pain.
And I'm loving and livinglife over again.

I think of the years,all too few gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact.....that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people.....open and see.
Not a crabby old man.....Look closer see ME!!

Liz Huddleston

Housewife musings.

"Mam! Mam! Oobladoobladoo!" she cries, gesticulating across the table.

"Would you like some bread, Sophia?" I ask.

"E," she answers, nodding.

Whilst I pass it, Callum pipes up with the latest song he's learnt at school. No point even trying to ask if he wants any bread as he won't stop singing until the end of the final verse.

Meanwhile Martin looks a little stressed as he's running rather late to catch the bus. A rather hasty goodbye is uttered and off he goes.

So many demands on my life! And it made me wonder how on earth Jesus coped with twelve of them (I refer to his disciples) hankering after *his* attention. Some desperately wanting something, but not able to articulate what very well. Some eager to perform and delighting in being with him. Some rather rushed and hurried, and sorry they aren't able to spend more time with him.

And how did Jesus cope? How did he remain calm? Amongst other things, he took time out. He went off to be by himself.

And so as a housewife, my challenge to myself, and to you, is to do just that. Take time to be quiet.

Margaret Whitton

Stewardship 2012 – A Roof over our Heads

Church Meeting on 9 November heard about the forthcoming Stewardship Review which is to be launched in January 2012 with House Groups studying the Book of Malachi – the last book of the Old Testament. This is a book that provides us with prophetic reflections on worship, justice and the faithfulness of God. Our stewardship theme – 'A Roof over our Heads' – reflects the immediate need that Christchurch is facing. Our church roof requires extensive repairs, money that is not currently available in the Church reserves and additionally, the current budget is currently projecting a deficit for the year to April 2012 of £16,000. In September 2011 Church Council agreed that a Development Fund should be set up to provide funds for roof repairs and for other possible development works.

Based on the scriptural principle of giving away a proportion of what we receive, this Development Fund will also be used to provide funding for a related external community need. We have chosen the charity 'Caring For Life' which provides a roof over the head of needy people.

We hope to use the period from January to May 2012 to start to discuss and discern the future focus for Christchurch, using our 8 Vision points, the feasibility study for developing the premises and Dan's Den. This will be done through the Housegroups, Sunday services, information in Wider Horizons and by consulting with groups within Christchurch community.

We will also invite a personal financial response to the appeal for the Development Fund via Stewardship information to be sent out to all in March 2012. However, any questions or ideas for other fund-raising activities can be directed to members of the Stewardship Group - Rob Hilton, Helen Singleton, Ruth Jones and John and Liz Stanley.

Helen Singleton, Stewardship Secretary

Thank You

As from the 1st January I shall be handing over the chair of the Coffee Centre to Val Appleton.

Thank you all for the support and encouragement I have received over the years, and especially to those who have responded to my pleas to help us in the Coffee Centre. The voice may change but the pleas will still be heard!!!

I am sure you will continue to support Val in her new role.

Pauline Greenfield

Westminster College Appeal

Westminster College, Cambridge, is one of four centres for learning within the URC (together with Northern College (Manchester), the Windermere Centre and the Scottish College).

Built in the 19th Century the appeal seeks to raise £7 million to make the college fit for purpose in the 21st Century. The college is home for 46 students who work ecumenically with 250 other theology students in Cambridge. As a resource centre the college is also used by the wider church for short courses, away days for churches, conferences and courses for lay preachers and ministers and is becoming a conference centre and retreat centre as well as a traditional theological college. The Yorkshire Synod recently agreed to contribute £15,000 from Synod funds and we are also encouraged to pray for the project and to consider giving as a church and as individuals. Church Meeting in November considered how Christchurch should support the appeal and it was agreed that information was to be given in Wider Horizons so that individuals can consider if they want to support this important appeal. You can visit the website www.westminster.cam.ac.uk make a donation online or ask Chris for further details, there is also a short DVD available.



Chris Mannall, Church Secretary

Appeal Prayer:

Loving God, whose love is given to us
with overwhelming grace,
inspire in us a true generosity.

May we, who have received your love,
be open-hearted to others.

May we, enriched by our past,
be those who give for future days.

May we, always from thankfulness,
be expansive in imagining,

joyful in giving,
and full of hope.

In the name of the one
who gave his life
that all may live,
Jesus Christ, Amen

(Susan Durber)



Our Giving at Christchurch

Did you know that each year at Christchurch we give around 14% of our offerings to local, national and international projects and charities? Some of this is to our own denominational charities – both Methodist and United Reformed Church – but the remainder is mainly to projects and people with a personal connection to Christchurch. You will have read about many of them in articles in Wider Horizons and prayed for them in the weekly prayer calendar. Some of the recipients have visited Christchurch to tell us more of their work and send us regular updates. Details of the amounts we are giving this year can be found on our Christchurch website.

Our policy is to commit to giving a fixed sum of money for up to 3 years. Sometimes this has been extended to up to 6 years.

The World and Society Group would be happy to receive names of projects or people that Christchurch might support for the next financial year. It is our responsibility to consider proposals, then forward recommendations to Church Council for approval.

If you have a suggestion please contact Rita Armitage, who chairs our group, as soon as possible. It is helpful if brief written information is provided to help us to understand the work as we consider new suggestions, and so that we can pass this to members of Church Council.

World and Society Group

In connection with the church's 'World and Society' group, interest has been shown in resurrecting Christchurch's Amnesty International letter-writing group, which was previously held one morning at Christchurch, monthly.

I belong to the Wharfedale Amnesty Group, which plays its part in trying to stop human rights abuses and for many years group members have met in the Coffee Centre on the evening of the 2nd Thursday, monthly, with part of the evening being devoted to writing letters to prisoners of conscience.

The simple act of writing a letter can have such an impact on the lives of these individuals. Some Christchurch members have indicated they would be unable to attend daytime meetings due to work commitments but would be willing to write letters at home. If you are interested in this endeavour and have opinions on whether a new

church members-based group is feasible or have general ideas on the running of such a group, please contact Sandra Duff email: pimiento@btinternet.com Alternatively, Rita Armitage would also like to hear from you email: rev.rita@talktalk.net

It was dark and cold outside. Doris (9th grade) was preoccupied when she came over to our apartment. Coming out of school yesterday afternoon she saw a group of 10 high schoolers surrounding one boy in the middle of the street kicking, and punching him. She described graphically the damaged being done to the one in the center; the police came by and chased off the ten while the one was taken to hospital. It was gang related, the one boy from a local gang was being beaten by kids from a rival gang, both of whom attend her school. She needed someone to listen to her...I like to listen but my heart was breaking along with hers, similar questions and longings swirling in our minds. "How long O Lord?" I put on a hip-hop song, Cry No More by Cross Movement, which lead our prayer:



*One day I won't cry no more
Can't wait for the day when people won't die no more
Daddy's won't say, bye no more; lie no more
In the streets bullets won't fly no more
Won't feel no pain no more
Won't have to push, pull, won't have to strain no more
Won't have to walk lame no more
Won't have to play the game no more...
...One day when this life is over
we will live forever together with our King.*

I had no answers for Doris, she wasn't looking for any, I simply reassured her that she would always find love, peace and hope in our warm apartment "...and you are always welcome here."

This morning was warm and sunny. It is a public holiday, the kids have no school. I took Zoe and Peter with their friends Angie and Gerardo to the park. We played "Monster," a colorful version of tag, I was always the monster. When I caught one of them I'd tickle them and pretend to eat them before I let them go. Very quickly the game grew with 10 other young children joining in, peels of helpless laughter as I chased them. Some children attempted to fend me off with kicks and punches, it made no difference, I caught and tickled them. Others had the idea of warding me off with flowers they had

picked, I duly retreated and fled when those with flowers approached me.

As I was playing the Lord revealed to me the metaphor I was participating in. Violence cannot fend off the monster, only prayer and Love can do that.

We've been planting a vision among our neighbors of an intentional worshipping community, working for peace. We'll officially begin gathering on Sunday afternoon to worship and pray.

Yesterday a community bound together by fear encircled and wounded one in their center, on Sunday a community bound together by Love will encircle The Wounded One in our center.

Pray for us.

In Him,

Alastair Rundle

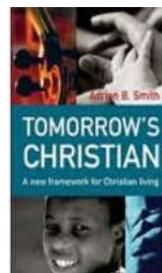
Book Reviews

Tomorrow's Christian – a new framework for Christian living.

Adrian B Smith

2005 :: published by O Books :: £9.99

ISBN 1-903816-97-1 :: 164 pages



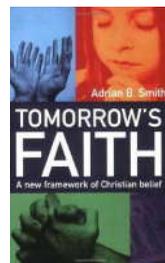
Thirty six short chapters sum up the characteristics of tomorrow's Christian: questioning, ecologically aware, global, evolving, . . ., looking forwards and not stuck in the past. Some chapters were tackled in Housegroups in the 2010/11 season – but there is such a wealth of easy to read material, with each chapter followed by a few questions to get you thinking. This is the sort of book you can dip into, and certainly worth more than one reading. Overall it challenges us to the spiritual opportunities in every aspect of our daily lives.

Tomorrow's Faith – a new framework for Christian faith.

Adrian B Smith

2005 :: published by O Books :: £9.99

ISBN 1-905047-17-7 :: 105 pages



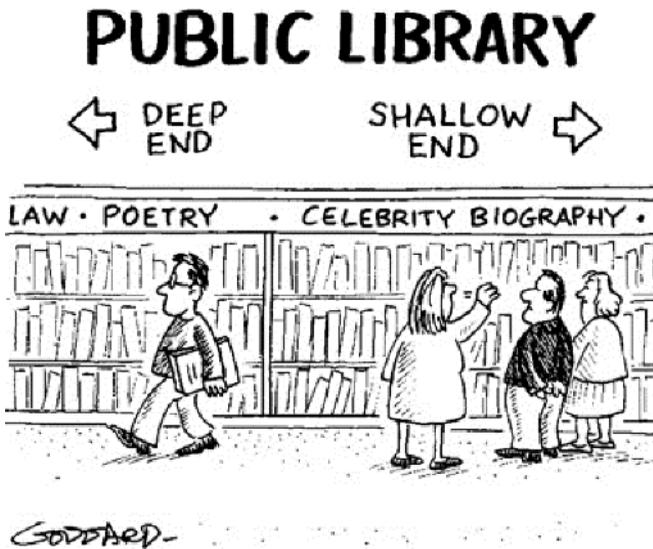
The gap between the formulation of ancient creeds and the way we understand religious truth today is explained in thirty short chapters which tackle the themes - the Bible, God, Jesus the Christ, Human kind, and Church, presenting a comprehensive contemporary alternative to traditional expressions of belief.

Too often our Christian faith is expressed as a list of 'beliefs' – things we hold to be 'true' – whereas many now consider our faith is about a way of living, driven by our understanding of God's purpose for us expressed in the life of Jesus.

Each chapter starts with an idea written both in a familiar traditional understanding and a contemporary one. This allows the ideas to be explored in a refreshing and exciting way that chimes with post modern thinking.

Adrian Smith, who died earlier this year, was an RC priest, a missionary worker in Africa for many years, and latterly a consultant to the Vatican secretariat for Christian Unity. An interesting background for a progressive Christian thinker!

Steve Amos



A letter arrived last week which I would like to share:

From Deborah Lovett (Lancaster) to Christchurch:

Sadly my father died on 31st May 2011. My mum and dad both regularly attended your bi-monthly Taize services (along with friends) and both found them a great joy and aid to their Christian understanding. After my mother died in 2008 my father continued to attend, occasionally with me in tow. He organised and led a similar service at his own chapel in Kippax in 2010. My sister and I would like to thank you for the welcome you gave both our parents and for the Christian witness you give to visitors.

Margo Atkinson

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
January 2012**

| | 1st | 8th | 15th | 22nd | 29th |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 09:00am | - | On-line@9 | On-line@9 | On-line@9 | On-line@9 |
| 10:30am | Mrs Pauline Tate | Rev Rob Hilton <i>Covenant Service</i> | Rev Rita Armitage & Fiona Kendall | Rev Rob Hilton | Mr Alan Sheath |
| 06:30pm | - | 6:00pm At Yeadon | 3rd Sunday at Ilkley Baptist Church | Rev Rob Hilton <i>Inc Holy Communion</i> | Worship in the style of Taizé |
| <p>SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am A 20 minute time of reflection 6th Rev Stuart Jenkins, 13th Mrs Margaret Cook 20th Rev Dick Watson, 27th Rev Rob Hilton</p> | | | | | |

**Christchurch Guild News Programme for January
Meeting every Wednesday at 2:30pm**

The Guild Re-Opens on the 4th January when we are joined by Rev Rob Hilton.

If there is snow or ice on the ground in Ilkley the Guild may not meet. Please ring Maureen Adams or Adèle McArthur to confirm.

See the Guild noticeboard in the Lower Hall for further details

The deadline for the February 2012 edition of Wider Horizons is 1st January .

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).

