

WIDER HORIZONS

In This Issue

Rob's Blog

Time to spend looking at the comma

24/7 Prayer Initiative

Round the clock prayers for the Wharfe Valley

News from mysmallhelp

The Sacred Valley Bus

Book Review

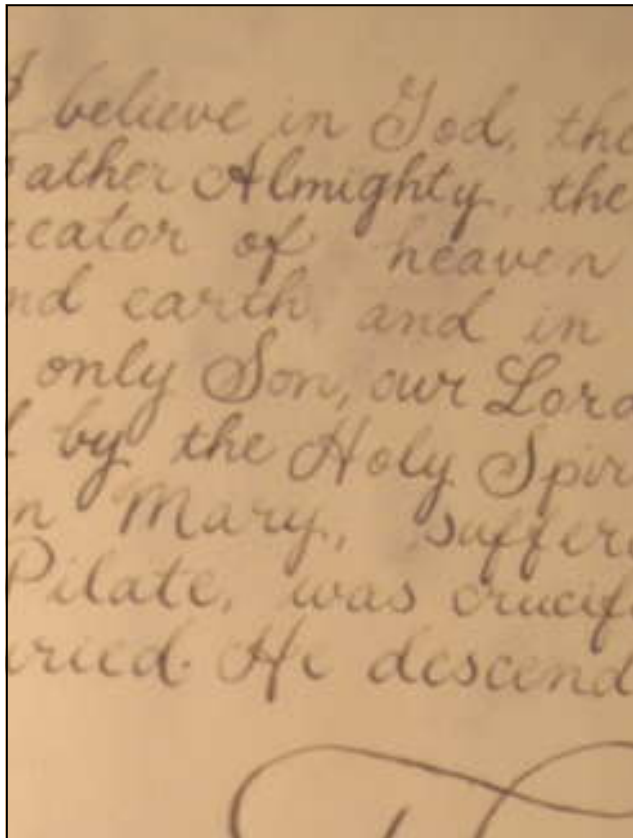
Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism

"Delighted and Humbled"

Matugga Supporter
Honoured

Housewife Musings

Little Mirrors



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



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February 2012



ROB'S BLOG

Dear Friends,

Either Lent and Easter should be later in the year, or Christmas should be sooner in the year! That way the gap between the two could be explored much more fully!

It's that space between the birth and death of Jesus that's so important. It's Jesus' life and teaching that matter! Without them his birth wouldn't be heralded as such a significant arrival, his death wouldn't be so meaningful, nor his resurrection such a victory!

I write this article so soon after Christmas, I'm still enjoying the sense of success, if it's right to call it that, of Christchurch's Christmas celebrations. They were so beautiful, so joyful, and so well attended! As I write, we are already making plans for Lent and Easter celebrations, that, though very different in tone, I hope will be similarly meaningful, and well attended.

But still everything within me feels cheated of space to hear, listen, ponder, and enact the teaching of Jesus. What does 'Turn the other cheek' mean? Who is my neighbour and how shall I love them? What is forgiveness really deeply within me that grace is my whole demeanour? What is the Kingdom of God and where shall I see it?

One of the historic statements of Christian belief says
"I believe in Jesus Christ
conceived of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,"

Many of us don't hold much store by these old creeds, but they make the same mistake, to such an extent that someone once said 'the only bit of the creed I believe is in the comma'. That comma after Virgin Mary actually contains the most important part of Christian faith – the life and teaching of Jesus, the bits we actually need to hear and respond to and build our lives as disciples on.

So as the Christian year marches on so quickly, I hope that you and I will find a bit of time and space to hear the teaching of Jesus and shape our lives accordingly. Then times of celebration, self-denial, and joy, will mean so much more to us.

God bless,

Rob



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



**PRAYER
CALENDAR**

February 2012

5th

- ✚ Those who visit Christchurch and find peace in the sanctuary and ask for prayer.
- ✚ The Blenheim Project in Bradford – offering support and temporary accommodation to homeless women and their children

12th

- ✚ The work of the Christchurch Resources Committee, who handle our finances and care for our property.
- ✚ Facing the future without government funding, Caring for Life, Cookridge, a project we currently support, working to share the love of Jesus in a practical way with broken, hurting and deeply vulnerable people.

19th Education Sunday

- ✚ All those working with children, young people and their families.
- ✚ All who work in education here and abroad that they may retain their vision and enthusiasm and for all pupils that they may respond to their opportunities.

26th (28th February - 13th March Fairtrade Fortnight)

- ✚ Fairtrade between countries and our regular Traidcraft stall.
- ✚ Those who lead our worship week by week.





JONATHAN'S
JOTTINGS

This year the young people of Scope will be exploring the book of Colossians. The theme of the letter to the Colossians is "You have been made complete in him (Christ)", *Colossians 2:10*.

So with this overview theme, we will be dipping in and out of Colossians and exploring the letter that Paul wrote in various ways and through various mediums including bible study, creative arts and

worship.

We will be supporting our young people in their everyday walk with Christ and teaching the importance of living for Him, and to be rooted in Him.
Colossians 2: 6-7.



In March the young people will be going for a weekend away together. This will be a great chance for them to form stronger relationships within the group and for us as leaders to get to know our young people even more.

The focus of the weekend will be to have fun and to get to get closer to God, and to experience more of his great love.

This year Rob will also be talking to our young people about the stewardship campaign and how they fit into the bigger picture.

This year you will see many of our young people get more involved in the life of church, as I will be encouraging them to step out and soar with their gifts, skills and talents.

Young people face a lot of peer pressure and to stand up against the flow is not always easy. Please continue to pray for our young people that they continue to have a passion for Christ and that they continue to love coming to Church.

Jonathan Logan



Christchurch Comings and Goings.

We are sad to announce the death of Mrs. Joan Baldwin in Glen Rosa. Our love and prayers go to her family.

Our good wishes go to Doris Ellis as she settles into her new home.

Also on the move is Aileen Thomas, now making good progress after her stroke.

Welcome back to Miss. Delda Horsnail.

Welcome to the following newcomers as they join us at Christchurch.

Claudien, Cecil, Karla and Heidi Everson.

Mrs. Linda Hall.

Mrs. Maureen Morrell.

Victoria and Grace Widdup.

Congratulations to Caroline and John Mutton on the birth of their son Joseph, a brother for Evie.

Please continue to keep your directory up to date by noting down the comings and goings. Contact details available via the Office

Thank you.



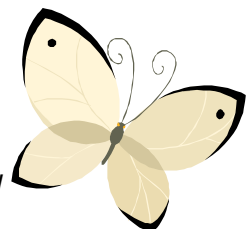
**COMINGS &
GOINGS**

Unseasonal Beauty

The choir are grateful for the compliments that we receive about our anthems. We love singing them and it is always good to hear that they are appreciated.

The Worship Area was packed for our Carol Service last year and our music was out as we prepared to sing "Joy to the World", a great favourite of Margaret Kitching and sung in her memory. Just then, a beautiful butterfly appeared and landed on my copy where it rested for several minutes before flying off as we stood to sing.

Val Worrall



Carol Singers

Voices were raised and hearts warmed as a band of carol singers travelled around Ilkley to visit several families linked to us through our children's work. Many thanks to those who helped, and to those who welcomed us into their gardens.

Margaret Whitton

24/7 Prayer Initiative

From 18 September until 18 December 2011 a group of people from churches across Ilkley pledged to pray once or more a week for the Wharfe valley area. The initiative was supported by Churches Together in Ilkley and organised by Liz and Jill from The Sanctuary, a prayer organisation, based in Ilkley. Over 80 people prayed in hourly slots across the week throughout the day, and it was good to see the regular long standing prayer groups from all the churches represented on the schedule.

I found it very exciting to be part of this movement. It was the first time I'd ever tried to pray for so long – one hour! – on my own and I was worried that I would drift off. There were some great resources and ideas to help focus prayers, but what suited me best was praying over a map of Ilkley. Each week as I 'walked' the streets, God gave me people or situations to pray for. Often I didn't know why I had to lift that person to God but I felt it was right to pray for blessing and love in their lives. My slot was a Tuesday, and it helped me to focus on praying for Christchurch's Alpha course on the Wednesday. I also found space to listen and just be with God, asking for guidance in my day.

In terms of results – who knows? We were able to share amongst ourselves prayer requests from members of the community and answers to prayer. This praying thing is not an exact science.

The initiative is extended now but I am not part of it. On the down side, the 5am start had a knock on effect, leaving me with less grace and light by Wednesday evening than I would have expected from my hour of praying! It starts again at 8pm on the 18th January, and continues through until 8pm on Maundy Thursday (5th April). For more information contact The Sanctuary [info@thesanctuarycentre.org].

Ruth Jones

Wesley Playhouse

Caroline Holt came to Christchurch to talk about the work of Wesley Playhouse based in Howden Clough Methodist Church. Here is an extract from an article in Magnet, the magazine for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

'We want to show Jesus' love to people. When they ask us why we are doing this we will say because Jesus loves you. We want to build a new congregation which will grow from those coming to play in the week,' says Caroline about the vibrant lively play centre. Six years ago the church was facing closure, but Caroline came up with an amazing vision that took less than 18 months to come to life. The main church space has become a huge climbing area and ball pool with seating for adults and children to enjoy homemade food.

Congregation member, Vera Walker, 91, says, 'I felt that this was a vision given to Caroline in answer to prayer.' Altogether there is a band of over 20 volunteers from local churches who work alongside the four employees.

An average of 40 to 80 people attend each day. The playhouse has seen eight children baptised as local families now see the place as their church. One local resident says 'This is a church doing something for us.' Playhouse Praise now takes place on the second Sunday in the month at 4pm for families to come together and enjoy crafts, songs, Bible stories and fellowship.

Caroline says; 'As Noah did in his day, we offer a place of hope, a place where people come to be cared for, listened to and have time given to them.'

Ruth Jones



A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service,

'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?'

One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A wife invited some people to dinner.

At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,

'Would you like to say the blessing?'

'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.

'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

Matugga Update

Dear all,

I am delighted and humbled by being awarded an MBE in the 2012 New Year Honours list, for charitable services. I receive it on behalf of the wonderful supporters here in the UK and in particular on behalf of Pastor Ivan and others in Matugga who have committed their lives to loving and supporting their community and giving some of the poorest children in the world a hope for the future.

It is a real privilege to work with these inspiring people and through them have the opportunity to make our lives a blessing to others. I have just returned from a successful and moving trip to Matugga where everything was reviewed and clear plans made for 2012. Having visited many of the children in their extended family homes in remote bush areas and in city slums, the critical value of the love, education and skills the children receive at Ivan's Revival Centre is really put into perspective.

Some urgent needs include: repairing classrooms, building a new EcoSan toilet block to replace a worn out pit latrine, clearing 12 acres of land we have been given the use of to grow crops on a larger scale to feed the school in the face of very high food prices in East Africa and getting sponsors for 26 of the most needy children at the Centre.

I wish all our supporters a wonderful and successful New Year.

Phil Chappell

I am sure that everyone at Christchurch would like to join in congratulating Phil on the news of his award





Pauline Greenfield the retiring Coffee Centre Chairman (right) and Val Appleton the new Chairman of the Coffee Centre

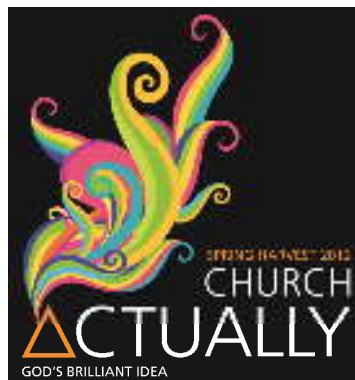
Spring Harvest

Christchurch's trip to Spring Harvest this year is from 10th to 15th April to Skegness. We car share and meal share and it is always a great time to be together as church friends as well as benefit from wonderful worship, fantastic teaching, fun fairs and sliding down the flumes! The Big Top worship leader this year is Geraldine Latty (Geraldine gives vocal coaching, heads up her church music teams, runs a community gospel choir and leads worship at national conferences) and the Bible Teacher in the main top is Ness Wilson (Ness leads Open Heaven Church in Loughborough - a church she started with some friends 17 years ago. She has spoken at various events including Spring Harvest and Soul Survivor and is passionate about discipleship, leadership development and great communication.) There is still room for another couple or a single person. The cost is approximately £250 per head. There is also availability if another group of people want to book an extra chalet.

Each day we will look at a 'brilliant idea' involved in God's founding of the church:

Day 2 - God's brilliant idea - 'Shine through them!'

Ruth Jones



Fairtrade News

A Big Thank You to all those who ordered from the Christmas catalogue. The total value of orders placed reached almost £1000 - Fantastic!

Please continue to support our stall in the Coffee Centre on the first Sunday of each month. We are always set up by 9.50 am and would be pleased to see you either between the morning services or after the 10.30 service.

Fairtrade fortnight in 2012 runs from 27 February to 11 March. To raise awareness, our stall will be set up in the foyer on two Saturday mornings, 3 and 10 March. This year the national theme is "Take a Step for Fairtrade" encouraging people to increase the range of fair-trade goods they buy with the emphasis on cotton and tea.

Ilkley Fairtrade Group will be organising a number of special events. For instance, on 8 March there will be a Fairtrade Fashion Show and information evening at Ilkley Grammar School. Look out for more information on all events in the Ilkley Gazette and on posters nearer the time.

Taking a literal step for fair-trade, a local Fair Trade Way is being devised. This will be a scenic, circular walking route linking all the Bradford Fairtrade Zone Fairtrade towns and villages. Eventually there will be walk sheets which will highlight the locations where Fairtrade products are available. There will be a series of walks to launch the Fair Trade Way and both walkers and helpers are needed to support this. The Ilkley to Haworth walk will set off from Christchurch on Saturday 21 April. Volunteers are needed to

- a) join the walk to show their support for Fairtrade - either as far as Keighley to return by bus or on foot, or on to Haworth by train.
- b) help register the walkers and give them a good send off. This will probably be about 8.30 - 9am.

Keen walkers and volunteers should contact Karen Palframan (chair of Ilkley Fairtrade Group) as soon as possible.

We look forward to your support for these events because *buying fairtrade really does make a difference to lives.*

John and Judith Bray



A Pushbike to India

I attend your toddler group on a Monday morning and I have been asked to write something for your church magazine about my recent trip.

On the 11th November 2011 a team of 16 cyclists set off to explore the rural villages of India from Pushkar to Fatephur Sikri to the Taj Mahal around 350 miles we raised over £70,000 for the Marie Curie Hospice in Bradford. It was an amazing yet challenging experience. The Taj Mahal was breath taking and the busy roads of India were just unbelievable. The colours, the sounds, the smells and the amazing people just made India an unforgettable place.



My Mum with the support of the Marie Curie lived with cancer for fifteen years and sadly died in the Bradford hospice in August. Please accept my heartfelt thanks to Christchurch's Monday morning toddler group for their support, encouragement and generous donations and for allowing me to sell my buns! Your support means so much to me.

Claire Macina

On Saturday 3rd March at 7:30pm in the Riddings Hall the Friends of the Beamsley Project are having an evening of entertainment to raise Project funds.

David and Margaret Pratt are presenting their newest slide show "The Cradle of Civilisation – Memories of Syria, Jordon and Israel" There will also be musical entertainment.

Tickets cost £6 and will include light refreshments. Tickets can be obtained from the 'Friends', Christchurch Coffee Centre or the Beamsley Project office.

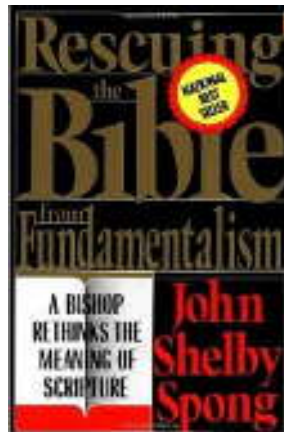


Book Review: Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism – A Bishop rethinks the meaning of Scripture

John Shelby Spong

1991 :: Harper San Francisco :: £5.99

ISBN 0-06-067518-7 :: 267 pages



"I hold the Bible before my readers seeking boldly to free it from the clutches of a mindless literalism and, at the same time, presenting it as a dramatic and exciting document whose relevance for our day is both mighty and real." So says the then Episcopal Bishop of Newark, New York.

A quote from the cover: "Spong combines current biblical scholarship, modern science, and, most of all, his deep love and respect for Scripture, to lift the Bible out of the prejudices and cultural biases of bygone eras. Eloquent, forthright, and compassionate, Spong liberates the Bible's message of hope for *all* people."

I came across this book as a reference in Adrian Smith's 'Tomorrow's Christian'. In an easy and conversational style, Spong develops his case against literalism. He starts with pre-scientific assumptions, and in particular the three tier understanding of 'the world' – heaven above, water below - and then examines the Bible in chronological order, showing how it developed and what different authors brought to the growing (amended and edited) picture of God and then Jesus; how the Hebrew bible came to be created from multiple sources; and the reasons behind the different OT literatures.

With more detail he moves to the NT, giving a scholarly account of its sources, audiences, purpose and language. Firstly Paul, the earliest NT writer, then Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, finishing with a particular analysis of the Christmas and Easter stories which he refers to as "ultimate truth and literal nonsense". He leaves us with the personal challenge: Who is the Christ for us?

Although clearly aimed at a more fundamentalist American audience, this is a book that challenges that naïve, pre-reformation view of the Bible. Crossan and Borg (both reviewed in WH) have clearly benefited from the trail Spong trod twenty years ago.

Steve Amos

Housewife musings

There has been much laughter in our household over the recent holidays. Three generations together – and how alike each other we are! We have seen how like our parents we are; and our children have shown uncanny similarities to ourselves.

Sophia's latest catchphrase is, accompanied by a scrunched up nose, "Oh no!" whilst pointing at the latest error, paint over the line, something dropped on the floor, a torn page in a book. And then I find who she's learnt it from as I exclaim, "Oh no!" at something else. Hopefully I don't have the scrunched up nose too.

Children are like little mirrors, repeating what we do before our very eyes.

This has made me ponder how warmly God laughs as he watches us his children attempting to copy what he does. Like any parent he must feel delighted that we are trying to do what he does, yet I guess he also giggles as he sees our attempts. Rather like we smile at Sophia's earnest efforts to do what we do. Her shoes may be on the wrong feet, but she did it herself to be like the rest of us.

So I smile to myself as I feebly attempt to be a Christian, as I feel a new aspect of God's love for me. He cherishes me, his child, for trying, for reflecting him to the world, and just for being me.

And for those same reasons I love my children too.

Margaret Whitton

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)

POSTPONED

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

Tickets £5 adults inc. refreshments
under 16's free

Available from Pat or Peter Stockdale or
The Coffee Centre



News from the latest letter from My Small Help in Peru: (A charity Christchurch is currently supporting)



WORLD &
SOCIETY NEWS

One of MySmallHelp's main projects in the Sacred Valley Peru is a bus, which provides school transport for a group of 11 special needs children. These children, who are from Ollantaytambo and its surrounding areas, attend the amazing Arco Iris School in Urubamba. For these children, Arco Iris is their only educational option. The school not only provides the children with lifeskills training and encourages them to realize how much they are capable of, but also gives them access to a social worker, psychologist, and a warm lunch every day. It has been amazing to see the difference the school has made in each child.

The children live up to a 40-minute drive away from the school, so it is often impossible for their parents to take them every day (if they are lucky enough to have parents who value their education). Some are in wheelchairs and our youngest is an adorable 3 year old with Downs syndrome, who needs to be held by someone to and from school. Transport is therefore a large challenge, but MSH believes that if overcoming this one obstacle can make such a difference in their lives, it's well worth it. Our bus therefore picks up each child at or near their house, and drops them off at the end of the day.

In September, MSH Peru had the pleasure of hosting a visiting group of ophthalmologists who, in just 2 days, were able to give eye examinations and provide glasses to many who needed them! In Patacancha the vast majority of people spoke only Quechua and are illiterate, so using English to Spanish then Spanish to Quechua translation, and symbols and pictures instead of letters, they were able to give eye tests to over 30 people, the majority of them women who make their money doing intricate weaving that requires good vision. The team brought over a hundred pairs of donated glasses with them, but some people needed specialised prescriptions. Through their connections in London, they were able to find someone to provide 3 free pairs of specialty glasses, which just recently arrived in Peru. I delivered one pair to Ricardo, a young man with a serious problem in one eye, last week. He was huddled around a small TV with his brothers, sisters and cousins, watching a bootleg copy of "Clash of the



mysmallhelp
... helping hands

Titans". When I gave him the glasses, he made me sit for 20 minutes while he excitedly described all of the various mythical monsters that he could now see with such clarity. Thank you so much to everyone who made this possible!

For more information got to www.mysmallhelp.org

Do pray for the work of this charity and its work with the people in Peru.

World and Society group

Green Spot

At our Housegroup meeting before Christmas we had a good discussion about recycling and the other ways we could help the environment. Most of us were keen recyclers already but are always on the look-out for new things we can do.



THE GREEN
SPOT

Avril Benson has contacted me to suggest new articles we might recycle. Avril does a very good job with stamps and

postcards. However we could now recycle pairs of glasses we no longer use, hearing aids and unused tablets. We know we can recycle unwanted garden tools but what about sewing items?

Avril and I would like to organise a collection of these goods one Saturday morning at the beginning of March. This should give you all time to look out suitable articles. Please watch out for more information in the weekly notice sheets in February.

Elisabeth Halsall



WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
February 2012

	5th	12th	19th	26th
09:00am	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9	On-line@9
10:30am	Rev Rob Hilton <i>Inc Holy Communion</i>	Rev Rob Hilton	Mrs Diane Coleman	Rev Rob Hilton
Evening	5:30pm At Abbeyfields	6:00pm At Burley	6:30pm 3rd Sunday Rev Arnold Clay <i>Inc Holy Communion</i>	6:30pm Rev Fiona Spandler
<p>SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10:30am A 20 minute time of reflection 3rd Msgr Kieran Heskin, 10th Rev Arnold Clay 17th Dr John Morgan-Wynne, 24th Father Phillip Gray</p>				

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

February 1st

Tommi Townsend—"Wildlife In Our Gardens"

February 8th

Janet Lockwood & Chris Lynes—"Travel Diary"

February 22nd

Liz Huddleston—"Confessions of a Copy Editor"

February 29th

Rev John Hartley- "Writing Hymns For Passiontide Part 2"

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

Items (maximum 300 words please) preferably by email, please, as a Word attachment to [both:](mailto:office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)

Mike Fawcett (office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)

and Steve Amos (steve.amos@blueyonder.co.uk).

Our copy paper is from



FSC

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