

WIDER HORIZONS



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 office@christchurchilkley.org.uk

 www.christchurchilkley.org.uk

 01943 603209

The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church
The Grove, Ilkley, LS29 9LW



ROB'S BLOG

Dear Friends,

It's time to say goodbye! And I wrote a letter of encouragement as we enter into our new Sunday morning service. I wrote about the fears some people have of the new service, alongside my fears about moving to a new place where I don't know anyone and a new job that will be challenging to me. I wrote about the familiarity we'll all have for this new service and how we must face the new venture gently, holding on to what's familiar but willing to let it go so there's room in our hands to take hold of what's new. And then I posed the question 'Where is God in all these changes?' For me and my family's move, and for Christchurch embarking on a time of change and transition.

But then just as we were coming to terms with a terrorist attack in Manchester, we had news of another attack in London. If we're to believe the intelligence services (as well as our sense of reality) there may yet be more terrorist attacks to face as a nation.

I felt it was time to re-write:

It strikes me that faith is never more relevant than now. As I watched the 'One Love Manchester' concert, I was amazed at the message being celebrated - love, unity, and community. Young people gathering, often emotionally, to stand up for life in all its fullness in the face of great suffering and even death. They did it through music, and their music heroes such as Justin Bieber spoke of God's love and the need to stand together and love each other. I was taken back to my own youth and what I learnt through Methodism's Association of Youth Clubs' rallies. I hope and pray that these young people are forming a new generation committed to love and community rather than just self and wealth.

And I saw on the news silent Muslim women standing behind the newscaster, they were standing for Islam as a religion of love, a God of love, and a united front against terrorism. And they were doing so during Ramadan when they may not have eaten or drunk since very early that day. To blame Islam for these terrorist attacks is as useful as blaming Christianity for the IRA's terrorism of my youth. People of faith are among those bringing understanding, healing, reconciliation and peace; it doesn't really matter what name their faith has.

From where I sit observing the world, "This, this is the God we adore - our faithful unchangeable friend". I hope and pray we can see God and his Love in the world, demonstrate it in the church through this time of transition, and discover it in our lives even when fear, doubt, and cynicism are so easy.

Perhaps that's a good note on which to leave.

Thank you for your acceptance of me, it's been a privilege to serve with you, you have taught me more



than I can ever put into words. Christchurch will always have a very special place in my heart and life, I will always treasure your pioneering faith, your contemporary approach to worship, your willingness to read the Bible together, and your ecumenical spirit.

For those who may not yet have heard: I'm moving to Alsager in South Cheshire to be minister of a church with about 100 members; a small village chapel in Oakhanger that puts all its energies into being an outdoor pursuits centre for needy teenagers, and Superintendent of a Circuit with 34 churches - one of which is in Wales! If you're ever stuck on the M6 near Sandbach, call in for a cuppa!

God bless, Rob.

I would just like to thank Rob and everyone at Christchurch for all the support I have received following the death of my husband Donald. It means so much, thank you.

Christine Grimshaw

Rev Micah Hopley

Rev Micah Hopley was the Congregational / URC minister at The Grove from 1968 to 1974. Micah, his wife Linda, and his three sons Timothy, Roger and Matthew, were a diligent family and highly regarded here in Ilkley.

In 1969 The Grove Congregational Church celebrated its centenary with Jean Sutherland conducting the choir in 'Elijah'.

Micah led the church very thoughtfully and ably into the formation of the United Reformed Church, with the Presbyterians, in 1972.

Micah died on 15 May 2017 and many in Ilkley will remember his ministry with gratitude.

Avril Benson

THE PARISH SECRETARY HELPS OUT THE RECTOR



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Today(4th June) was the last On-Line@9 service before our new, "Together at Ten" starts on 11th June.

Several adult and baby shawls were blessed. Our shawl ministry is part of the Christchurch outreach that brings the love of God to many people within our communities, to family, friends and people needing to feel that they are loved and prayed for.

I would like to thank all our knitters for all the wonderful shawls they have produced. Several have been with us since the ministry started about 5 years ago. Some of our original knitters have now stopped their needle skills owing to medical reasons.

We welcome anybody who would like to be part of this group. You do not have to be an expert knitter or have a knowledge of patterns. Simple and plain knitting is fine as long as its done with love and prayers!!!

There is always someone to help or chat to. We knit at home and speed is not required. Leisurely pace is fine.

Part of this ministry are the "Twiddle Muffs" which are knitted for dementia patients and have been very successful in the Kitwood wing at Glen Rosa. Patterns are easy to follow and the trimmings are fun to attach to add to the overall feeling of the finished Muff.

Donations of wool are very welcome, so clear out your cupboards and see if you have any we could use. Wool can be left in the Fellowship Room.

If you think you would like to be part of our ministry please make yourself known to me and we can share ideas over a coffee or tea and possibly a scone!!

Valerie Appleton

St George's Crypt - We Need You!

We have lots of events happening throughout the year and we need a few extra bodies to help for a couple of hours or more.

There are many different ways for people to get involved: everything from running a tombola stall, or a game at a community gala; bag packing and food drives at a supermarket; serving internal refreshments at a concert, or one of our bigger events.



St George's Crypt

Your time is precious to us and helping us to fundraise is priceless!

For more information on any of the events, running your own event, or volunteering at one, please contact us by phone on 0113 245 9601 or email: fundraising1@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

Avril Benson

*"Hear the Pennies dropping, Listen as they fall,
Every one for Jesus, He shall have them all."*



Older members will remember these words from a children's hymn sung to a catchy tune when the collection was taken in Sunday School.

Today they might equally apply to the 2,558 1p coins posted into our members' "Action For Children" Lantern Savings Boxes during the year ending 31st March. The second and third most popular coins were 2,336 5p and 1,606 2p. As well as being a receptacle for these small "nuisance" coins, the boxes are also becoming for some holders, "Gratitude Lanterns", where members post other contributions to mark and appreciate a special event, a day out, an anniversary, a surprise visit etc.

Overall the total banked from our box holders was £938.05; plus £249.28 being 10% of the Jigsaw Festival; plus £457.11, special Christmas Services collections; plus £50.16 sundry donations, making a grand total for the year of £1,694.60 for Action for Children.

This very large charity – originally the National Children's Homes and Orphanages, concentrates on helping deprived UK young people and families and, last year assisted in 390,000. Our continued support recalls that the founder in 1869, Dr Thomas Bowman Stephenson, later became the minister at Ilkley Methodist Church in Wells Road.

Please contact me if you would like a box, or need any more information.

Geoff Halsall

Together at Ten

Christchurch's new Sunday Morning act of Worship 'Together at Ten', amalgamated from the 9:00am and 10:30am services, is being planned by several teams of people.



We begin worship all together as the name implies, but then there will be opportunities to worship in different ways before refreshments together, or sooner, at the end of the morning. The intention is that a lead worship leader will liaise with the preacher and other teams to prepare each Sunday's worship on a theme. This will continue to utilise the many gifts that people in Christchurch, particularly lay people, have been using to prepare and lead worship at Christchurch for many years.

These areas are as follows, with their named leaders.

- Children's Work - Kate Mitchell
- Word and Worship Leading - Michael Noble
- Musicians - Chris Mannall
- Hospitality - Margaret Cook
- Prayer - Jeannie Buckroyd
- Technicians -

If you feel you want to continue to serve God in one of these areas, please talk to one of the coordinators, or pick up information sheet from the foyer.

Your Church Needs YOU !!

The week after Easter I was relaxing in the sun in Spain on a family holiday. I decided to re-read a book I've read already on three holidays, 'The Monastery of the Heart' by Joan Chittister, subtitled 'An invitation to a Meaningful Life'. After 50 years in a monastery, Joan wanted to pass on something of worth for this day and age.

It is written for people, like us, who are in the midst of a world both secular and spiritual, which is overwhelmed by choices and looking for a way to build or rebuild our lives. The eternal search for God.

The book is based on the legacy of Benedict of Nursia - the practice of Benedictine Spirituality - simply living our daily life well. Sections in the book are, Our Search, Our Interior Life, Our Community, Our Service, Our Promise and Our Spiritual Growth. All are based on the Benedictine Rule of Living but focussing on life in the world - our Monastery of the Heart.

As I re-read this book I felt very close to Christchurch when I dwelt on the section on Community. As we fulfil our decision to worship at 10:00am [not at 9:00 or 10:30] I felt a strong message for us all to feel and be part of the community at Christchurch; for everyone to feel they belong and have a part to play. I felt God wanted me to appeal to you all to come and find your place with God in this community. Some of you are not able to physically come to the building, others have given up church because they didn't find their place, but let us hear afresh that there is a place for all.

We each have an equal part, we each have a voice, each needs to be listened to, to be part of a community which 'serves the world by being an oasis of peace and prayer and a beacon of truth and justice', to work together to explore each other's gifts, to respect each other's ideas and try to meet each other's needs by mutual support.

So my book-inspired dream was of a community of faith all pulling together to live a life reflecting Christ's teaching: a community where all are welcome, where each knows they have a place in the community. It was a dream where every single one of us participated in our own way in the community, and not just a few.

So if you want to be part of the outreach and service of this community of ChristchurchCome.

If you want to hear God's word for you.....Come.

If you like quiet prayer times or music.....Come.

Come at 10:00am. Come whenever you can. Support with your prayers; with your money; with your time and energy; your ideas; get to know someone new and help them feel part of Christchurch. It really is up to each of us to be in community together and to serve as Jesus taught us.

Love God and Love each other. God bless,

Judy Dixon.

Holiday Weekend Hijinks!

This event offers an opportunity for the Christchurch family to contribute to a fund-raising day on August Bank Holiday Saturday; our coffers are in need of a boost so please think carefully how you can help.

Initially I am looking for musicians who could offer approx. 15 minutes to play/sing to keep live music (of their own choice) rolling from 10am to 4pm.

Stewards will be needed to welcome visitors. It's the end of Ilkley Summer Festival so there are likely to be extra visitors to the town. Volunteers will be able to sign up to a sheet in the foyer.

The Jigfest team are planning a contribution and our talented flower arranging team will be enhancing the premises.

And, of course, the Christchurch Café will be open all day.

Christchurch has a rich history, as revealed by a recent discovery of fascinating archive material, including photograph albums and the original architect's plans for The Grove Congregational Church. The latter will be on view, prior to put into the safekeeping of the West Yorkshire Archive.

What else? A showing on screen of Ilkley photographs our members have contributed to the Christchurch calendars since 2013.

The charge for admission will be just £1. The old £1 coins going out of circulation in October will be particularly welcome!

Margo Atkinson

Manse News

As you know, Rob and Ruth Hilton will be moving to Cheshire in August. I am looking for help with the work which will be needed in the Manse to prepare for the arrival of Roberta and Jon Topham.

I need help with stripping wallpaper, tidying the garden and a final clean of the house. There are three lists in the foyer at Christchurch to sign up for these jobs.

Please see if you can spare some time to help as a lot needs to be done and we have only ten days, 8th–18th August 2017.

Many thanks in anticipation!

Elisabeth Halsall

Glen Rosa—Methodist Homes 70th Anniversary Garden Party

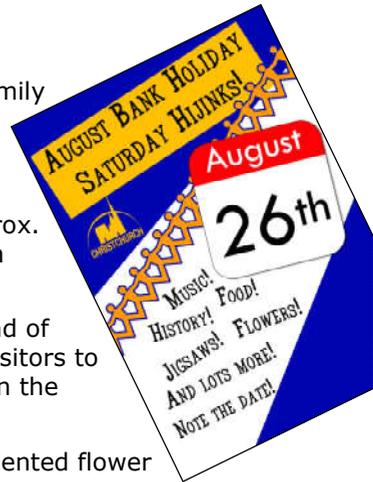
Saturday 29th July 2:00pm to 4:00pm at 24 Grove Road, Ilkley

With a variety of stalls, games and delicious teas.

Donations of cakes, unwanted gifts, books, items for the raffle and tombola would be most welcome.

The Heber's Ghyll bus passes the King's Road and Grove Road entrances.

Avril Benson



Thank you, Christchurch!

As our time in Ilkley comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on our 9 years and I have much to be grateful to you all for....

Fellowship – Christchurch, both with its house groups and the On-Line tradition of group discussions as part of worship has enabled a level of fellowship that I've not experienced before, and I will miss! The opportunity to share our positive experiences of faith as well as tussle with our doubts, has been a huge source of encouragement (although I confess it took me a while to appreciate this fully, so any of you who might be nervous about discussion groups which may well be used in the new worship style, stick with it!).

Freedom – Thank you all for taking the time to get to know me as 'Ruth' rather than the faceless role of 'minister's wife'. The freedom that has offered me is something I hope is the experience shared by all of you – not only to bring the individual gifts given to us by God, but also the space to explore those hidden gifts we didn't even know we had and offer them to the work of God in this place. I had no idea I could facilitate discussion groups in On Line, for example – thank you for your tolerance as I learnt! (And thank you, too, for your acceptance of the children for who they are and what they bring.)

Frustrations – Believe me, Rob and I don't always agree!! Our musical tastes are more often incompatible than compatible, our political views are similar but we sometimes express them quite differently, and our theology comes from very different places. And I see those frustrations and disagreements coming through in Christchurch, and I love it! If we can't thrash around in our church family, air our differences in safety knowing that we are loved and held, our church is inauthentic.

Thank you for the authenticity I have found here at Christchurch. Of course, it hasn't always made church life comfortable, but where did Jesus ever promise it would be?? 'I come to bring life, and life in all its fullness' to me means life with love at its heart and a creativity to express it, amidst disagreements and differences.

And finally, friendships – Gosh, it's quite tricky to express, without sounding corny or insincere, how each and every one of you have reflected back to me something of the love of God. As I've flown into church on a Sunday, usually late, or pleaded with you to collect for Christian Aid, or served in the Christchurch Café, or led a group on a really tricky bible reading, or struggled with parenthood, faith, prayer life, world events, the grace and love I have received has been extravagant in its generosity.

Thank you Christchurch.

Ruth Hilton

Dan's Den News

Well, June has been somewhat up and down with the sunshine keeping even our lovely regulars away! However we've done our bit to stay at the front of the community, raising over £100 for Barnardo's through the Big Toddle which saw us toddle from Dan's Den at Christchurch across the front of Christchurch to the bandstand, with a bubble stop, and back.

The toddlers enjoyed the sunshine and juice served by Liz from the Christchurch Cafe. We also had welcome support from our usual volunteers and a guest appearance from a former volunteer Caroline C.

Lynnda Smith received recognition from Tesco as part of their "Unsung Hero Awards" for her work in Dan's Den, the Christchurch Cafe and her contribution to The Shepherdess talk and Brighthouse and Raistrick Band concert. So that's two mentions in the Gazette for Dan's Den! And we have also been listed in Stray FM's top five recommendations for families.

Our second anniversary sees us say a fond farewell to one of our original team members, Michelle, who is moving on. The start of our third year sees lots of opportunities to grow and develop with fresh and experienced eyes.

Caroline Kelly



Pentecost

So, yet another Pentecost has come and gone with barely a whisper. We used to call it Whitsuntide and it was a moveable feast, six weeks after Easter, until Britain very sensibly created Spring Bank Holiday to deal with the holiday aspect. Since then the churches seem to have stopped celebrating Pentecost, yet it is as important as Easter, being the Birthday of the Christian Church when the disciples were conscious of the gift of the Spirit as never before.

Manchester used to be famous for their Whit Walks, everyone dressed in white. In Sheffield many Sunday Schools congregated in the local park for the annual 'Whit Sing'.

The Sunday School I attended used to walk proudly behind our banner, along with the Scouts' band, and the uniformed organisations, to an 18th century Methodist church about a mile away, out into the country. On the way we met up with 4 other Sunday Schools from the surrounding villages, each of which took turns to lead the procession.

I remember it was a large church with a balcony and its own graveyard, and beautifully looked after. Once we were all in we had a service and sang special Whitsuntide hymns which we had been practising for weeks. Then we walked back. Our reward was a sports afternoon in a local field, followed by a somewhat lurid tea.

It usually stayed fine, even hot, but more than once we had just got home before a thunderstorm broke.

I am not suggesting we go back to the old days, but surely we should make more of Pentecost than we do? And be more visible.

The symbols for Pentecost are tongues of fire and the sound of a rushing wind. Is there anywhere we could have a bonfire? It is too light at night for fireworks, but maybe a barbecue?

We could decorate the church with balloons. They are intended to be filled with air (wind?) but when you prick them and let the air out, they are useless.

What about a sports afternoon, something in which all ages can participate, culminating in a picnic? At the very least we could have a service at the bandstand. And if we have to explain to the general public what it is all in aid of – so much the better!



I have given you a few ideas. You must have some of your own? Maybe this is something for Churches Together to take on?

Liz Huddleston

Please pray:

- ✚ for the children's groups that take place across the church on Sundays, remembering both the children and the leaders
- ✚ that the children of our church would be confident in what they believe, and happy to invite their friends to church
- ✚ for the parents of young children, that they may feel all their family is welcome in church services and that each member of the family may have opportunity for Christian fellowship
- ✚ that Merge youth group would grow in faith
- ✚ for those suffering miscarriages or inability to conceive
- ✚ for those who have still births or lose a child very early in its life
- ✚ for the midwives, health care teams and pre-school organisations within Ilkley, that they may care for all children
- ✚ for anyone with special needs or circumstances that make it harder for them to access everyday facilities
- ✚ for parents to be wise in their use of time, juggling work, children and their own leisure
- ✚ for the countries of Africa
- ✚ for SENEthiopia - Mekele School for the Blind



PRAYER
CALENDAR

Text your prayer concerns to the Christchurch Prayer Team
on:

07562 343622



Please contact the **Prayer Chain** for urgent or special prayer
needs:

Val Worrall (01943 831779)

WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH

Sunday	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
10:00am	Rev Rob Hilton	Rev Rob Hilton <i>Inc Holy</i>	Rev Leslie Holmes	Mrs Lindsey Hurst	Deacon Liz Day / Local Arrangement
Evening 6:00pm	-	<i>Circuit Service at</i>	-	-	

Pause For Thought—A twenty minute time of reflection

7th July— Rev Rob Hilton / 14th May — Rev Jan Copsey
21st — Rev Dick Watson / 28th May— Rev Peter Willox

Circuit Farewell Service

The Circuit Farewell Service for Revs Rob Hilton, Rick Ormrod, Gillian Houghton and Andrew Atkins will be on July 9th at Otley at 6pm. The preacher will be Rev Dr Liz Smith.

There will also be an opportunity to say thank you to Rev Cayte Norman for her work with Guiseley, Yeadon and Hawksworth. Cayte will be staying with us in the Circuit after September.

Leeds Methodist District Celebration Service

From this September we will be part of a new Methodist District. The Leeds District (1932-2017) will be celebrated at Lidgett Park Methodist Church in Leeds on 1 July.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served from 4pm and the service will begin at 6pm.

It would be helpful, but not essential, to know if you plan to attend:
leedsmethodist@icloud.com

Need a Room?

If you would like to book one of our rooms please contact Val Worrall our booking secretary. Val is in the Office on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings (01943 831779) or contactable via email on office@christchurchilkley.org.uk

The deadline for the August 2017 edition of Wider Horizons is the first Sunday in July.

Items (maximum 350 words) preferably by email, please, as an MS Word attachment to [both](mailto:office@christchurchilkley.org.uk):

Mike Fawcett (office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)
and Steve Amos.

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