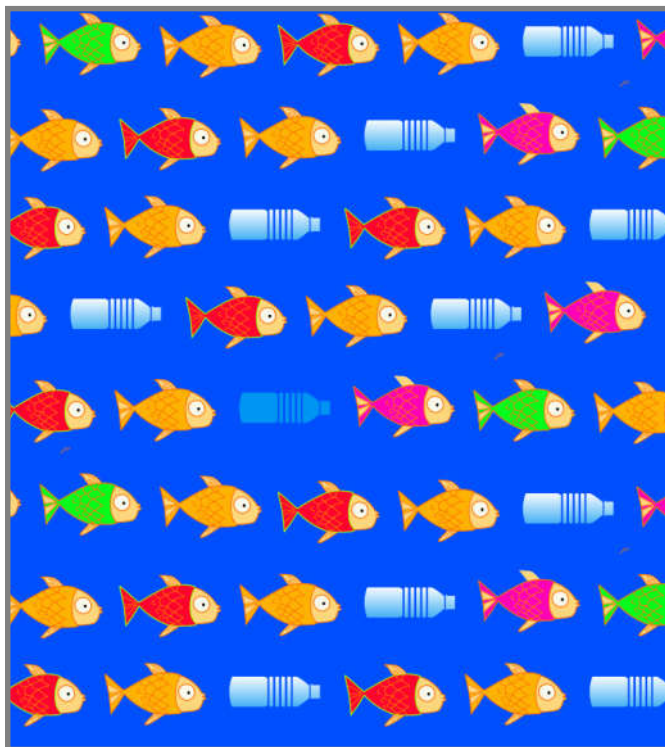



WIDER HORIZONS



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Let's do what we can
where we are placed

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Action For Children

Do what's right.
Do what's needed.
Do what works.



January
2018



ROBERTA'S
WRITINGS

Dear friends,

One of the new aspects of living in Ilkley that we really like is that we can recycle our plastic here as well as paper, bottles and cans. This is good news.

The recent series of Blue Planet 2 on the BBC has shown

something of the vastness of unsightly plastics in the sea and also the damage it causes to fish and animals. Turtles and birds get entangled and microplastics get absorbed by the fish and end up in the food chain. At the other end of the scale, the camera crew for the series came across a humpback whale which was trailing a one-kilometre long line of ropes from fishing pots and struggling to swim. It took nine hours to release the whale from the entanglement.



Travelling in the Middle-East I have seen how bits of plastic bags and other pollutants are carried by the wind out into the lands and fields around cities where they catch on the thorns and bushes and are a hazard for animals and children as well as spoiling the otherwise beautiful and uplifting vistas. I've been told it's the same in parts of Africa where drinking water often comes in small plastic bags that are then thrown away. It's vital that people have clean water but how sad that in the solving of one problem another is immediately created.

We can't sort out the problems everywhere but we have opportunities to do what we can where we are placed. I know many at Christchurch are actively concerned about the use of throwaway plastic cups and involved in recycling our paper. At the moment there is a petition started by the campaigning group 38 Degrees to encourage the government to proceed with the recent proposal to introduce a small tax on throw-away plastics. This policy has been very effective when applied to plastic bags as since the 5p charge for a bag was introduced use of bags has decreased by over 80% in Supermarkets. Increasing taxes is rarely a vote-winner so perhaps we can all encourage the government to introduce this tax so that we can better look after our lovely planet and ourselves?

You can read more and sign the petition here:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/introduce-a-tax-on-throw-away-plastic>.

In all of this I am inspired by the ancient Hebrew prophets who wrote of how God wanted and expected ethical behaviour from the people. In fact God wanted that more than all the time-honoured rituals that the people engaged in when they came to worship. The prophet Hosea puts it like this: -

The Lord says: For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

As we start this new year I hope we will all have more time to engage with acts of mercy as we care for our planet and for the many millions of people who daily live with great injustices. Hopefully also our worship will inspire us to work together to continue tackling some of these big problems. As we focus on God we can perhaps leave our own immediate concerns in God's hands and look out to the wider world God created and sent Jesus to save.

Wishing you joy & blessing in 2018 - *Roberta Minister at Christchurch LEP*

Comings and Goings

Win Porritt has moved to 4, Sefton Drive, Ilkley. We wish her much happiness as she settles into her new home.

Please continue to pray for people in special circumstances and let the Pastoral Team know of any new concerns.

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

Thank you from the Pastoral Team.



COMINGS &
GOINGS

Congratulations.

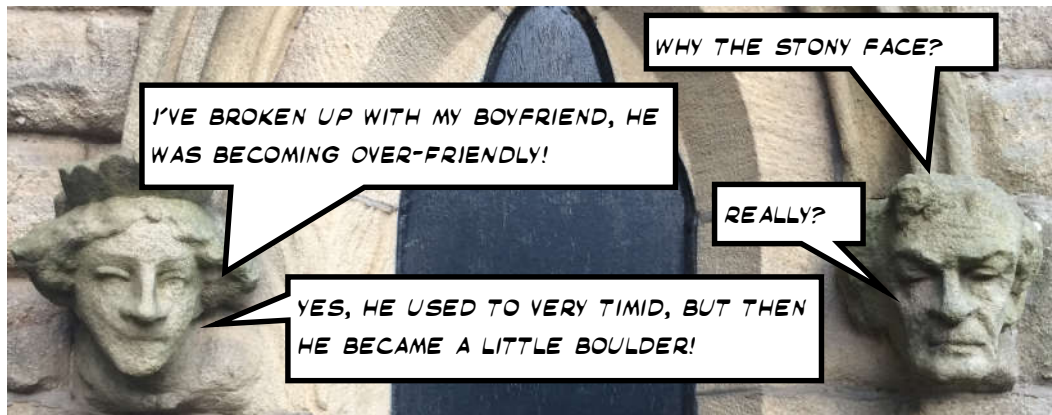
We have two of our members who celebrated their 100th Birthdays in December.

Eileen Barraclough on 9th in Glen Rosa.

Dorothy Thompson on 30th at her home.

We send them both our Love and Best Wishes from their friends at Christchurch. God bless you both.

THE TALKING HEADS OF CHRISTCHURCH



News from Congregational Meeting

Pastoral items – We remembered the deaths since the last meeting of Alan Lowe, Jean Clark, Betty Crossley giving thanks and remembering families. We look forward to celebrating the 100th birthdays of two of our members - Eileen Barraclough and Dorothy Thompson.

Devotions - Roberta led the opening devotions remembering that God is with us through his Spirit. Based on Matthew 13: 44-46 Roberta asked what it is that we treasure. The parable is about people who give their all to find the single most important item of their desire. She asked what the treasure and the pearl represent and suggested that it is all that Jesus stands for.

Worship – Most of the previous meeting was about worship so one or two written and spoken contributions were heard.

Several people spoke of being saddened by the decision to revert to two services having failed to come together as a worshipping congregation. However, two services also mirrors the diversity that exists in the world, and other churches in Ilkley offer different services which recognise different preferences in worship styles. We seek to enable most people to worship in a way appropriate to them most of the time while honouring the unity we share. What is important is that we express our solidarity with what Christchurch represents which is what holds us together. We worship in different ways at different times and on different days. We should think about how we come together in different ways through occasional joint services or social events. Any further comments or ideas can be passed to Michael Noble, Roberta or Margaret Cook.

Children, Young People and Families Lay Employee – The deadline in the latest job advertisement has passed and four candidates have applied and interviews will be held soon. Thanks were expressed to those keeping things going.

Receipt of Accounts 2016-2017 – The accounts have been approved by the Trustees and show a £32k surplus, £27.5k of which is purely an accounting anomaly giving an overall surplus of £4k. Thanks were expressed to all those who ensured we avoided a deficit.

The finances for the current year look reasonably positive. Overall Giving is £300 up on budget. Small savings have been made where possible. The Café performance has been much improved with an increase in surplus. The overall surplus for 6 months is £9k (for all church funds including the Café). Roland asked that when invoices are passed to him for payment they are signed to confirm that the expense has been actually expended and that an expense form is used. Legacies amounting to £200k are available to invest in growth (rather than being used for maintenance) and will be spent wisely.

Jigsaw Festival – John Sayers told the meeting that it had been one of the most successful yet with more jigsaws sold than previously and £2000 raised. There will be another one in 2018. A 48,000 piece jigsaw is to be hosted and a jigsaw making event is to take place with a corporate fund

raising event. Jigsaws are being made and we have been offered to make jigsaws for £10.

Dan's Den – We heard that it really does seem to be achieving what was hoped when it was set up. Footfall is up 5% in the last year. There are many new initiatives including a slot for families who are new to the town, Touchpoint for single parents or those facing relationship breakdown, a ministry for baby-loss and a bereavement group for those who lost pregnancies. Dan's Den is still slightly short on volunteers. Thanks were expressed to the Dan's Den staff.

Towards a Growing Church – This is our evangelism strategy which is looking to grow our membership numerically and to help us all grow in faith. We thought about how others see us and the reasons why they may be put off coming to church. These might include that it never occurred to them, they have never been before, nobody invited them or they may completely disagree with religion and think it is harmful.

We then discussed practical ways that we might overcome those barriers. Ideas included personal invitation, drawing alongside the users of our building and above all offering the love found in Christianity through Jesus. We should invite people to join us on a spiritual journey with us and make Christchurch a place of belonging where people can encounter God in Christ.

Our Evangelism Strategy envisages a series of stepping stones to lead people into membership with short steps between each stone. Parents coming to Toddlers then starting coming to church is a huge gap for anyone who hasn't been to church. By working together we can provide people with stepping stones. Our Evangelism Strategy contains 5 areas:

Welcoming all in Christ's name (we have a high footfall and provide a welcome)

Being an active witness to God's love (we have a foodbank and Noah previously working in schools)

Meeting the spiritual needs of the community and showing hope to the world (baby loss service),

Inviting people to have a personal relationship with God through following Jesus (Alpha Courses occasionally but there is room for more activities)

Encouraging people to engage in a journey of faith and helping people to find inner peace and renewal (related to our formal worship services and housegroups).

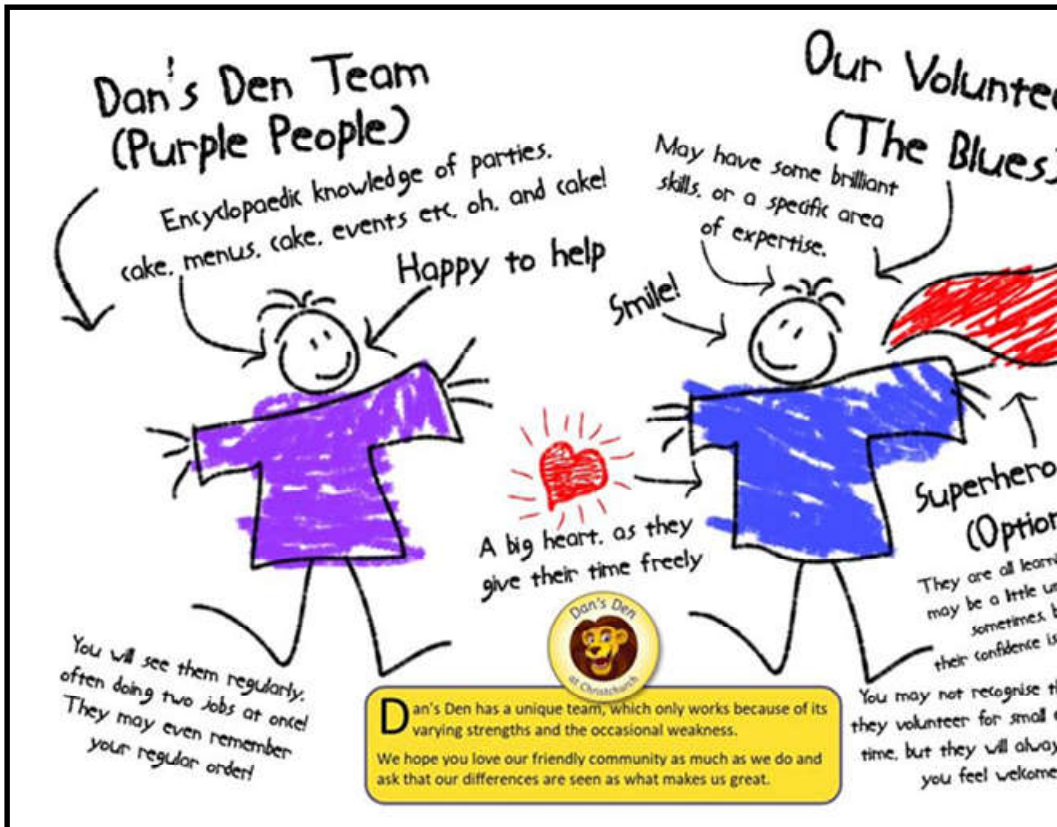
It was agreed that we need to look at all we do intentionally with a mission focus. How can we help people to move on the stepping stones? Please pray for our upcoming activities which include the development of Connect and BiteSize on Sunday afternoons, the baby loss service, a seekers' course in the New Year and initiatives evolving through Dan's Den (e.g. money management with CAP). If you can help, please talk to Christine Henney.

United Reformed Church – A Crisis and an Opportunity – There is a continuous shortage of ordained ministers in the URC across Yorkshire and across the country. The Yorkshire Synod is encouraging each church to consider how we can determine what our mission is and suggest what we might need to draw on, and the Evangelism Strategy is the means by which we will do that.

Minister's Matters – Roberta spoke about what kind of Minister she is. Her aim as a Minister is to enable individuals and communities of faith to flourish and to offer what we have with the bigger communities we belong to and the world for which Christ died. Roberta believes in the ministry of the whole people of God. In Christchurch the challenge for us may be to decide which of our many ideas to develop. Roberta offers resources of faith, experience, knowledge and know-how from the eleven churches she has worked with in the last 28 years of ministry including through Districts, national structures and through research, so she is a resource.

Environment and Green Champion – Gary Knamiller is stepping down with our thanks so we need a new person to serve in this way. Please speak to Helen Singleton, Michael Noble or Roberta for more details.

Date of Next Meeting – Sunday 22 April 2018 at 4.00pm



Dan's Den Update

People - I introduced Jo, Martha and Kate last month all of whom are continuing the Dan's Den tradition of being completely awesome. Kate has made a fabulous start as party host and Jo is passing on her cake decorating finesse to both Martha and our littlies via a Christmas cake decorating workshop, which we intend to follow up with a valentine theme workshop during the February half term.

New to the voluntary team: Grace, Thomas, Beatrice, Jacob and Helen. New people equals new look here in Dan's Den. You'll see us all rocking the new colour combo according to "employment" status.

Outreach and Inclusion - By the time this goes to print we will have our Tiny Toes Treasury (the name may change but the premise will stay the same) up and running. It is an absolute pleasure to welcome new born babies to Dan's Den, usually accompanied by an older sibling who doesn't really get the whole new baby excitement! We wanted to record our delight and joy at their arrival.

To this end we thought it would be nice to have an official record of their arrival in Dan's Den. This will be in the form of a gorgeous record book holding their name, handprint and most importantly a picture drawn by their big brother or sister.

The 5th December sees Lauren, Christine and Roberta team up to host the first of our Stars support groups. A reflective, informal supportive time to allow those affected by the loss of a baby at any stage of pregnancy or infancy. We hope this will be a time of remembering, sharing and giving thanks.

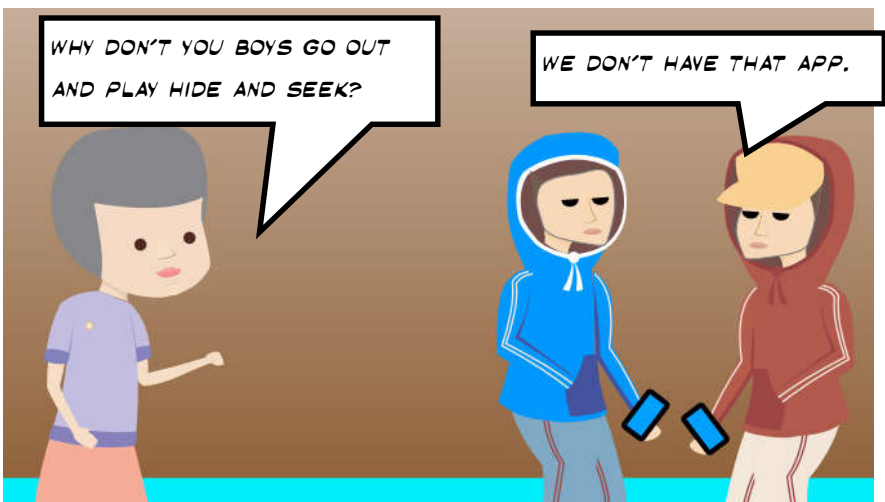
Caroline Kelley



DAN'S DEN

WHY DON'T YOU BOYS GO OUT
AND PLAY HIDE AND SEEK?

WE DON'T HAVE THAT APP.



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What about the Women? - Some thoughts from November's Melting Pot

Last year we used a set of readings chosen by the Circuit from the Old Testament, only 8 out of the 44 featured stories included women - Eve, Moses and his midwives sister + mother; Rehab and the spies; Deborah; Ruth and Naomi; Jezebel; Elisha and the 'unnamed' widow; Esther. I also checked two books of children's Bible stories - the Beginners Bible has 10/46 stories featuring women; another has 13/49 - this includes both OT and NT!

In the New Testament there are more women featured - 22 women in the Gospels had a contact with Jesus, not all are named, but he clearly valued the women in his life. Significantly after the resurrection, Jesus appeared first to the women in the garden and they were entrusted to share the message to the rest of the disciples. In Paul's letter to the Romans Ch 16, he names a list of 8 women who were part of the early church - Phoebe, Prisca, Aquila, Mary, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, mother of Rufus, Julia, Neriус' sister. Not sure what happened after those days?

Liz Adekunle, Church of England Archdeacon, was a speaker at Greenbelt festival. She said that "Women continue to be marginalised in every sphere of the world, this includes Church life in the broadest sense. Because of the patriarchy, women's stories are not featured - only 1% of women in the Bible speak - women are not seen as important. We should think about the way we use and interpret the Bible. In the Lectionary - biblical texts featuring women tend to be omitted or made optional, central characters are men, stories are told from a male perspective, it is a male centred bible. Where women are featured the emphasis is often on marriage and children, traditional views of women, this is only one aspect of women's lives." However, she said that "the Bible has given, and continues to give women voice and hope, stories of women's resistance and courage can be told and how we interpret the stories can shape the way we think. Some people criticise and say we should not interpret the Bible differently, but this enhances the literature, is creative and empowers women". She said "Faith is richer when everyone has a value and are not marginalised"

Another speaker on the subject is John Bell of the Iona Community - he spent last year reading the bible only where the story of women was included, he tells of how through this he met a range of people and spiritual witness. He also believes that the lectionary, created by men, reduces the number of stories of women in the Bible that we hear by not including them. Moreover the women we hear about

into the
Melting Pot

seem only to be of two types: either virtuous virgins or those of low repute, often prostitutes; however this does give them value in God's story. There are actually four women included in the genealogy of Jesus, Rehab, Tamar, Ruth and Bathsheba. Marginalised women are validated in the Bible as their stories are told, even they may not be named such as the woman at the well.

Many of the men whose stories are told often have flaws, they may be named but do not come out of the stories well -such as David in the Old Testament and Peter in the Gospels. John Bell said that God often calls women to stand up to injustice and against the abuse of power – and that maybe this is why they are not included in the Lectionary today?"

A challenge – look up the stories of the women you may not have met yet in the Bible and I will continue to ask "What about the women?"

Helen Singleton

Be Inspired in 2018 !

Inspire is a monthly magazine designed 'to lift your Spirits'.

It is produced by Christian Publishing & Outreach (CPO) and copies are now available in the Café and foyer.

CPO is well known for its range of Christian outreach resources and within these, Inspire Magazine is a literary gem of which many people are unaware.

The magazine is an excellent resource particularly for gently reaching those who are uncertain of the Christian faith.

The magazine will be free at Christchurch; it contains interesting and varied articles with a heart for mission.

Please pick up a copy and hopefully, after reading it, you will feel able to pass it on to someone else.



Philip Gibson

Resolution: To read more books.

2014: I will read at least 10 books a year.

2015: I will read 5 books a year.

2016: I will read some articles in the newspaper this year.

2017: I will try to read some articles in the newspaper this year.

2018: I will try and finish the comics section this year.

Jigsaw Festival – the next piece in the puzzle

Did you know that, according to the 2017 Guinness Book of Records, "The largest commercially available jigsaw puzzle is "Memorable Disney Moments" by German puzzle makers Ravensburger, first made available in September 2016. It has 40,320 pieces and measures 6.80m by 1.92m." Not any longer, it isn't!

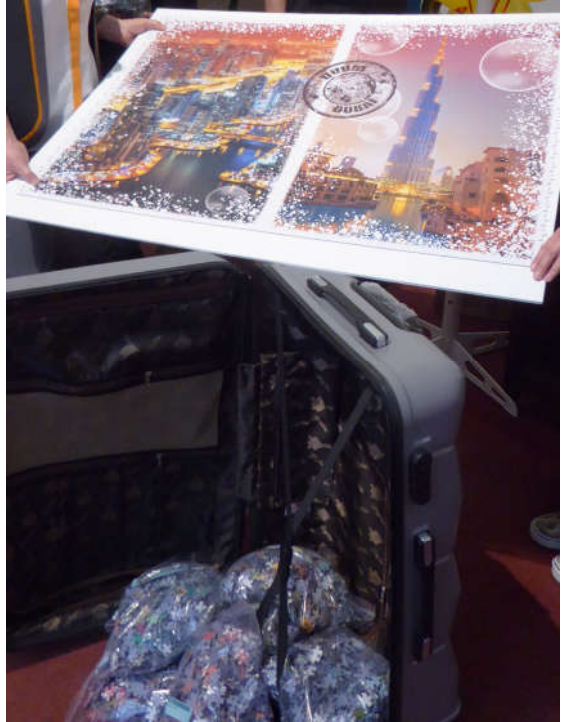
Christchurch has been donated a 48,000 piece jigsaw, made up of 24 separate but fully interlocking jigsaws on the theme 'Travel around the World'. Its 48,000 pieces form a tour around the world that includes every continent, and it comes with its own suitcase! When completed it will measure over 25 ft x 6½ ft (7.68m x 2.04m). It will be an impressive sight and (literally?) put Christchurch on the map!!

We are aiming to raise funds for Yorkshire Air Ambulance, Cancer Research UK and Christchurch by recruiting sponsors in three distinct ways: individuals sponsoring 10 pieces of a specific puzzle for £1; corporate sponsors sending team(s) to complete one or more jigsaw segments in a 24-hour marathon over three days, 10am to 6pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 27, 28

February and 1 March 2018; or again corporate sponsors for completion of the whole project. The completed jigsaw will be on display in the Lower Hall for the full week after Easter Sunday (2 – 7 April 2018).

We are grateful to the Ilkley based public relations company ApproachPR for generously donating their publicity services free of charge. But we need your help to make this project a success.

You can offer to make up one of this puzzles' 2,000 piece segments, or sponsor some of this project, or tell us of any person or company you know who may be interested about this project and encourage them to be part of completing the world's largest production jigsaw.



Brian Scott



Action For Children

You may recall that a recent issue of Wider Horizons invited suggestions for a charity for Christchurch to support in the current year. 'Action For Children', already well known to many of you, has been chosen.

It was established in the 1800s when a young Methodist Minister, Thomas Bowman Stephenson, saw two boys, Fred and George, abandoned and living rough in the arches of Waterloo Station. He found shelter for them in a renovated stable, more boys joined them, and with the backing of the Methodist Church the "National Children's Homes and Orphanages" was formed under his leadership and became a huge national charity caring for the homeless.

Over the years needs changed and this resulted in a new name 'Action For Children', reflecting a new policy of offering young people care and support in their own environment - over 75,000 were helped in 2016.

Later, Dr Stephenson moved to Ilkley and worshiped in Wells Road Methodist Church (a foundation stone bears his name). For me, as an old greybeard member of the church and an unashamed traditionalist, I enjoy our continuing link with this great man and his charity.

We no longer donate lump sums from our general funds, instead, the contents of nearly 40 Lantern Savings boxes together with collections from our Christmas services and special events like the Jigsaw Festival and other donations, we were able to donate over £1700 to Action for Children last year.

Recently we have made contact with a cluster of five Children's Centres in East Bradford which were abandoned by the local authority in 2016 and taken over by Action for Children. They cater for parents, carers, etc during pregnancy and early parenting, and with children up to 5 years old. The toys we collected in December were delivered there.

In the hope that you may want to add your support for 'Action For Children' please consider having a Lantern Savings Box. It is a handy receptacle to house the copper and other small coins which we now use less and less.

Also it is being widely used for "Gratitude Gifts" to mark and acknowledge special experiences and pleasures. But, please don't just see this as just another cash appeal. As you post each coin, please "pause for thought" and recognise the importance of 'Action For Children' in these days when so many and different dangers threaten our nation's children.

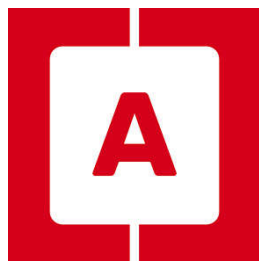
Geoff Halsall

HOW

**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**

WORKS

**Do what's right for children.
Do what's needed.**



WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
January 2018

Sunday	07	14	21	28
Theme	Christ for the world	I am the bread of life	I am the light for the world	I am the gate for the sheep
Readings	Is 61:1-6 Mat 2:1-12 Eph 3:1-12	John 6:25-58	John 9:1-41	John 10:1-10
9:00am Interactive All-age, All-stage	Worship Team	Worship Team	Worship Team	Worship Team
10:45 Preacher led Time-honoured	Rev Dr Roberta Topham	Rev Rita Armitage & Mr David Goulesbrough <i>Includes Holy Communion</i>	Rev Dr Roberta Topham	Mr Matt Burland
6:00pm Circuit Service	-	at Ben Rhydding	-	-

Friday's Pause For Thought - a 20 minute time of reflection

5th — Fr Paul Wheelhouse / 12th Mr Michael Noble (Communion)

19th — Rev Jan Copey / 26th — Rev Dr John Morgan -Wynne

Wednesday Fellowship

Meeting most Wednesdays at 2:00pm
24th January

Sixty Years Of Gilbert & Sullivan

31st January

Who Do You Think I Am?

Speaker: Rev.Dr. Elizabeth Smith

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

Text your prayer concerns to the Christchurch Prayer Team on:

07562 343622



The deadline for the February 2018 edition of Wider Horizons is the first Sunday in January.

Items (please try to keep to about 350 words which is about one page) *preferably by email, please, as a Word attachment to both*

Mike Fawcett - office@christchurchilkley.org.uk

Steve Amos