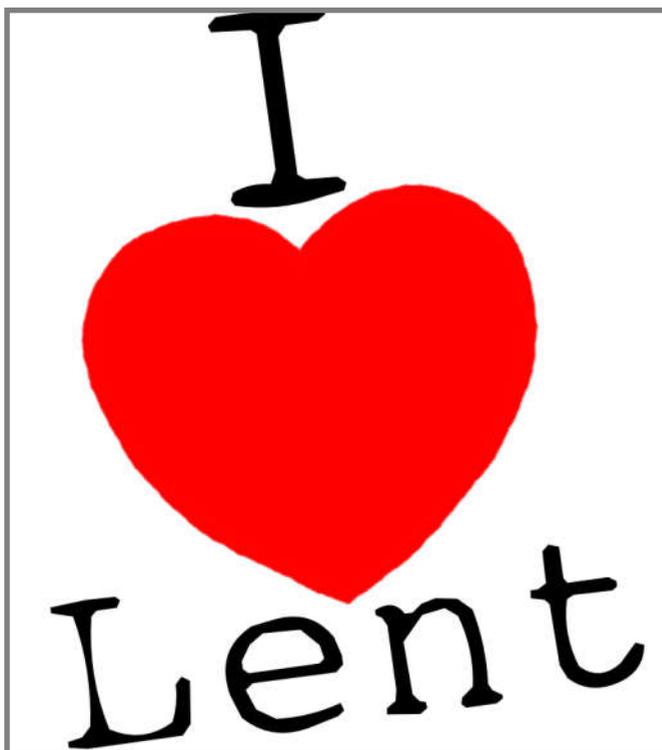


WIDER HORIZONS



In This Issue

Roberta's Writings
Being positive for Lent

Fairtrade Fortnight
Come on in and close
the door on exploitation

**Why do you go to
Church?**
Martyn Atkins writes

Café Update
Business of the Year?

Melting Pot
Jesus is late!



March
2018

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ROBERTA'S
WRITINGS

Dear friends, Lent started, as it always does, on Ash Wednesday which this year was also Valentine's Day. This is the day when we think about love, traditionally of the romantic kind. As Christians we might like to extend that to be a prompt to think about *agape* love, which is concerned for the flourishing of our neighbours and fellow church members. Can this accident of the calendar combining events give us a fresh take on Lent?

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter and also a time when in our wider society people may give something up.

By the time you read this you may have already given up something for the season, or, as many Christians are now doing, you may have taken something up.

On Radio 4's "The Archers", the soap opera that features an imaginary community of farmers around the village of Ambridge, the vicar has suggested that everyone give up **complaining** for Lent. I think this is a great idea. Not so much that we give up complaining but that we take up saying something positive instead, which would replace the complaining. So I suppose the discipline would be that every time we find ourselves about to say something negative about someone or something, we stop ourselves and try to find something positive to say instead.

There's an amusing story I once heard, and that you may know, about a young monk who joined a silent monastery where the monks were only allowed to say two words to the Abbot each year. After his first year the young monk went in to see the Abbot who said: "What do you want to say?" The monk replied "bed's hard". The next year when he came in for his visit, the young monk used his two words to say: "Food's cold". And the third year when the Abbot said: "What do you want to say?" the young monk replied "I quit!" The abbot replied "I'm not surprised, all you have done is moan, moan, moan!"

I guess that most of us moan a great deal more than that and restricting ourselves to two negative words a year would be an amazing achievement.

I suppose the Scriptural precedents for this are there when Jesus says: "*Do not judge or you too will be judged*" (Matthew 7:1) and Paul in his great poem about true Christian love says:

⁴ *Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; ⁵ love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; ⁶ love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. ⁷ Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.*

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Good News Translation)



In this way, Lent and love, seem to go very much hand in hand. We could spread the love further in a practical way if for every time this Lent we slip into negative complaining we put a coin in a jar (or designated lantern receptacle) and give what we collect towards the work of Action for Children (this is our chosen charity at the moment at Christchurch). Action for Children is of course working hard to turn around lives that have known lots of negatives and can with the help of God and good people become tremendously positive.

I'd be interested to know if you find the season of Lent meaningful and what you think going forward we can do as Christians to make it a helpful time for us and our communities. I'd also be interested to hear from any Archer's fans out there!

Wishing you an inspiring season

Roberta

Minister at Christchurch

Comings and Goings

We are sad to record the following deaths from our congregation: John Briggs and Nancy Stead.

We have also heard of the deaths of Joan Knight, a former member of our choir, who died in Barnard Castle, and Ruth, mother of Kate Mitchell, who has died in Coventry.

We send our love and sympathies to all the family and friends of John, Nancy, Joan and Ruth as they grieve. We remember them all in our prayers with thanksgiving for their lives.

Maureen Adams has moved to Abbeydale, Grove Road. 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.



COMINGS &
GOINGS

Thanks

I am so grateful for all the lifts and offers of lifts to Burley in recent months and for all the cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy received since John died. My family join me in thanking Roberta for preparing and leading the Thanksgiving Service so thoughtfully and all who came to share it with us.

Dorothy Briggs

Welcome to Rebecca Anderson

We are pleased to welcome Rebecca Anderson to Christchurch! Rebecca formally starts work in her role as Children, Young People & Families Lay Employee on Monday 19 February.

Rebecca has previously been working as Youth Pastor at Sheldon Road Methodist Church in Chippenham.

We look forward to hearing from Rebecca herself in next month's edition of Wider Horizons

Juliet Amos (Management Team)



Can YOU Help?

Churches Together in Ilkley - Need a Christchurch representative on the CTI Executive group. We are looking for someone who has a heart for all things ecumenical in the town. There are several meetings each year with the other churches, which support the regular and one-off events that CTI organise such as the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, talks, election hustings, etc.



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
IN ILKLEY

Environment and Green champion - Christchurch needs someone to promote Green issues in our Church community, to inspire us to act, to provide information and challenge us on current issues, such as how we can reduce our plastic usage collectively and individually? what do we recycle? How do we choose where to buy from? There is also a noticeboard in the Café so we can be kept updated on these issues.

If you would like more information about both these roles please contact Helen Singleton.

Baby Loss Remembrance Service 4th March 2:00pm, Christchurch

A service of remembrance for babies lost in pregnancy, at birth or in infancy.

An opportunity to acknowledge and remember a lost baby in a safe and supportive environment. Open to anyone of any faith or none.

For more information please contact:

Christine Henney at Dan's Den at Christchurch 01943 603903; christinehdansden@outlook.com



Why Do You Go To Church?

The current copy of "Connexion" (the magazine of inspiring stories from the life of the Methodist Church available from the foyer) makes some interesting observations which have a bearing on the current Christchurch consideration of its worship:



- We go to church to worship God.
- We enjoy being with God.
- We want to celebrate all that Jesus offers.
- We offer praise to God for who God is and for all that God means to us.
- We offer thanks for the many wonderful ways in which God has blessed us.

The Rev Dr Martyn Atkins, former Secretary of the Methodist Conference, writes that worship is the central activity of the Church. "Without worship there would be no Church. You can take away Bible studies and prayer meetings; you can lose a Sunday school or youth group; you can ignore social evenings and home groups.... but if you have worship, you are still a church: a poor church but still a church."

He observes that there is a prevailing view that Methodist (and United Reformed?) worship "neither reaches the heights nor plumbs the depth". He asks, "How might we change?"

He believes we get the worship we deserve. "If we go to worship with the wrong frame of mind, without preparing ourselves (including praying for those who will lead worship); if we go with our minds made up as to what it is going to be like and what we will get out of it; questioning the length of sermon or choice of hymns, we generate a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Other typically "tripping" hazards he suggests are:

- Announcing who is leading next week's act of worship, instead of simply stating when the next service will be and inviting people to attend. We need to move the focus away from the leader of worship to the God whom we worship.
- Busy office holders arriving with lots to sort out and lists of people they need to talk to, rather than concentrating on the One for whom we seek to be useful.

In summary, worship is when we come together to meet with God and any encounter with the living God will change us. People leaving worship should be different – changed – by the experience of meeting God.

Christchurch – Please Note?

Margo Atkinson

So why do you go to church? The above may reflect your thoughts; you may think the priorities could be re-ordered; or you might think the most important reason is missing! Have conversations and share your ideas (Ed)

A Christmas To Remember

I suspect that the circumstances surrounding my accident on the car park at Plymouth Railway Station have become pretty well known by now. In brief, my fall just three days from Christmas Day resulted in the need for hip replacement surgery and a week's stay in hospital. This was a different setting from the family gathering Jeannie and I had planned in a bungalow close to my daughter's South Devon village home.

For me, the hospital stay was perfectly tolerable. The treatment and care was excellent – the food, including Christmas Day lunch, was top-class and piping hot. The physiotherapists on their ward patrols strangely however, didn't fall for my sleeping repose. I was soon up and about.

Our real concerns were away from the hospital with the need for aids and adaptations, special chairs, toilet frames etc. to be delivered, not only to the bungalow where we were to stay for two nights before coming home, but also for our eventual return to Addingham (repatriation, as the hospital called it). Clearly, this latter journey could not be undertaken by train. All these points, and others, were to be covered just two days from Christmas Day.

Needless to say, many prayers were being offered by this time. These included those by our many Christchurch friends, having been made aware of what had occurred. Almost immediately came a response from one such couple (they know who they are) who were unhesitating in their offer to transport us back home on the day of our choice!

The Anglican Church in the village where my daughter lives is a vibrant community where Jeannie and I have worshipped on a number of occasions. By the morning service on Christmas Eve day, a number of the congregation were aware of our circumstances and Jeannie was prayed for prior to and after the service. She asked for God's help to get us home safely. This support was enhanced by my receiving a visit that afternoon from a newly ordained curate from the same church. Some years earlier, this man had been my daughter's Line Manager in the HR office of a local air-conditioning factory. More prayer time – what a blessing.

Over the next few days, God's provision came to fruition. Thanks to his Spirit working through our family, friends and fellow Christians our holiday bungalow became suitably equipped for the 'walking wounded', as did our home in Addingham. The nine hour car journey back from Devon took place on a fine day (following a snowy one) and in very reasonable traffic conditions, thanks to our family and Christchurch friends responding to a prayer direction from the Lord.

On reflection, Jeannie and I would like to offer our sincere thanks for the many cards, texts, visits and practical support given during these past few weeks.

Often our plans are overtaken by an event in life which throws us into a state of confusion and apprehension. Praise God, at such times, when called

upon, our Lord does provide that 'footprints in the sand' experience to assure us all will be well.

Trevor (& Jeannie) Buckroyd

Suffering with a Winter Cold?

John Wesley was a health fanatic who came up with his own cures for the common cold:

- Drink a pint of cold water or a spoonful of treacle in half a pint of water while lying down in bed.
- Take one spoonful of oatmeal, one spoonful of honey and some nutmeg in hot water: drink while lying down in bed.
- Peel the rind of an orange, roll it up and put one roll in each nostril.

Margo Atkinson

- Please note, these remedies are not endorsed by wider Horizons or Christchurch; you might find a couple of paracetamol more effective! Ed.

Worship Soundings

Thank you to everyone who filled in the surveys, answered questions, gave their ideas and offered help during the last few weeks. There was an excellent response - 45 answering on the 9:00am forms and 65 on the 10:45 forms. This is a very good return according to those who run surveys!

The results are being collated as I write this and the Worship Steering Group will be meeting shortly to consider them. We will be passing on the findings to you all. You will also be approached if you have offered to help in any way - don't worry!!

On skimming through them it became clear most people seem to be happier with two differing services. Your ideas and thoughts are much appreciated as we move forward together.

Watch for the complete survey results becoming available! Thank you again

Margaret Cook (LT Worship)

Postnatal Course at Dan's Den

To help support new parents, we are offering a free, six-week Postnatal Course, starting on the 7th March. 10:00am to 11:30am.

The course will cover a range of topics including:

Getting to Know Your Baby & Bonding - Baby Sleep -
Crying, Colic & Calming - Women's Health & Exercise -
First Aid - Weaning

To book your place, email dansdenparty@gmail.com, or call on 01943 603903 spaces will be limited, so booking is essential.



**Postnatal
Course**

Fairtrade Fortnight - Come On In

Fairtrade fortnight this year takes place from 26 February to 11 March. As a church we will be celebrating the fact that the Café and Dan's Den serve Fairtrade coffee and tea. There will also be an extra stall on Friday 02 March. The theme this year is 'Fairtrade opens doors, come on in, and close the door on exploitation'. Our own church door is going to be suitably decorated with fair trade slogans.

Traidcraft, the charity and fair-trade company from whom the stall mainly buys, was set up in 1979 by committed Christians who thought trade ought to work for the poor and thereby put an end to exploitation. Next year it will celebrate its 50th anniversary of lobbying for changing trading rules, challenging injustice and encouraging changes in public and political attitudes. All

laudable objectives we, as members of Christchurch, can support, by making our own

small changes and buying Fairtrade products. Since taking on the stall I have learnt such a lot and am grateful for the way that running the stall has changed my own shopping practice.

When I first started buying Fairtrade coffee back in the 1980's, my mother, a keen coffee drinker, would come and stay with me, bringing her own coffee and a donation to Traidcraft, as she really didn't like it! Things have changed a great deal and the coffee is often remarked upon for its good taste and quality by the Café customers.

So, whether it's having a cup of coffee or tea at the Café or Dan's Den, buying something from the Fairtrade stall or looking out for the Fairtrade logo on a visit to the supermarket, please support Fairtrade fortnight.

Thank you.

Polly Hosking

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018
26 FEBRUARY - 11 MARCH



Stamps & Postcards

Your response for these items continues to be exceptional! Thank you.

Rev Michael Upton, the retired minister who prepares stamps and albums for auction, tells me over £400 was raised for Christian Aid at the latest event. This included stamps donated here at

Christchurch by members and visitors. The collection is ongoing so do please continue to donate.



Avril Benson

Café Update

We have had a great start to the New Year with the Café being shortlisted for "Food and Drink Business of the Year", by Ilkley Business Awards. The awards ceremony is on 16 March at The Kings Hall Ilkley and is a Black Tie event with a four course meal and champagne reception! Kathryn, Margaret Cook, Judy Dixon and myself, will be attending. We are all really excited!

The other great news is that financially, the Café is on a very strong footing. Turnover for the calendar year ending 2017 was £157,201 which is £10,042 up on the same dates the previous year. This is not a full reflection of the actual figures for the Café; we will have that information at the end of the tax year and look forward to passing it on to you.

There are many things that have contributed to the Café's success, some of which I have touched upon in previous updates, but it is great to see that Mondays and Saturdays takings are considerably higher than in previous years. I do not often work on a Saturday but when I do I am amazed by the hard work of our team of five students, Charlotte, Joanna, Matthew, Harry & Tim who are all under the age of 18 (apart from Tim) and quite often work under a lot of pressure.



The success of the Café is not just the great teamwork of all its paid employees, but of all our wonderful volunteers who give up their time to support us. Last year we gained sixteen new volunteers giving a total of forty five volunteers. This is fantastic. However we still struggle on occasions (especially on Fridays and Saturdays) so if you would like to come and help, or know of anyone who would like to help on those days, please contact myself or Kathryn on 01943 600326 or email us at our new email address which is:- **christchurchilkleycafe@gmail.com**

Finally, as part of our new look Café, we have started displaying art made by members of the church. If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact Joan Loach.

Liz Frankland

Winter Sunday Lunch

Over the winter months, ninety two people from Christchurch have enjoyed sitting down together for Sunday lunch at different local restaurants.

Sharing a meal with others has always been an important part of Christian fellowship. When we started planning this project, we hoped to provide opportunities for members of the Christchurch family to sit down together to eat a meal and enjoy one another's company.

It was not intended for any particular group of people, but for anyone who wanted to come. We hoped people might dip in and out of it as it suited them.

Judging from the chatter and laughter at Wells Café at the last lunch, and the many positive comments, it seems to have been a success.

The lunches will start up again on Sunday 4th November 2018, so if you are interested, please make a note in your diary.

This will be well publicised in church notices before the event, and you will be able to sign up in October.

Lynnda Smith and Diana Feather

Sunday Lunch Club

I would like to thank Lynnda and Diane for organizing the Christchurch Sunday lunches. They are a great way of getting people together and making new friends. Everyone is welcome. Thankyou.

Chris Grimshaw

Melting Pot - Jesus is Late!

In January we had a session entitled: Jesus is Late – the 'Second Coming'. We explored the Old Testament idea of 'the Day of the Lord' when it was thought God will finally visit his people in history to judge the wicked, redeem the righteous, and purge the earth of evil.

**into the
Melting Pot**

Apocalyptic literature (a revelation through dreams or visions) was a common and popular form of writing, from about 200BCE to 100CE, filling the vacuum after the last post-exilic prophets, with no-one speaking in God's name. They were heavy on symbolism and were often written as if documents from earlier times by historical figures and so were pseudo-predictive in that past events were included as 'prophesy'. There are lots of examples (1 Enoch, Jubilees, Assumption of Moses, 4 Ezra, 2 Esdras, Apocalypse of Baruch; some others were found among the Qumran texts) but only Daniel and Revelation made it into the canon, eventually, after some debate.

Early followers of 'the Way' were effectively a sect within Judaism, and

steeped in Jewish culture and tradition; they interpreted Jesus' first coming as the fulfilment of prophesy (the 'Messiah', anointed one, or 'Christ' in Greek). His second coming would be the consummation of that prophesy. However – is a second coming of Jesus a violent one as 'told' in Revelation? If so, does it not negate his first coming? Do we want a God who hands out retribution and punishment? What was Jesus' message about the 'Kingdom of God' if it wasn't one of distributive justice and divine love?

There are some (not well known) passages in the synoptic gospels which speak of the 'the end times': the text has Jesus warning the disciples to be on their guard against men claiming to be himself, refers to noise of battles, earthquakes and famine, persecution (beaten in the synagogues and brought before kings and rulers), and the sun growing dark and stars falling from heaven. Some interpret this as 'the Rapture' when "the Son of Man will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. He will send the angels out to the four corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people from one end of the world to the other" (Mark 13:26,27), tying in the ascension story with a second coming.

Early followers clearly anticipated Jesus' return as the 'Day of the Lord' as something imminent. Paul did as well (1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:12) but some years later with no Jesus (1 Corinthians 15) he now attempts to explain resurrection in a more spiritual way and as a fundamental of faith.

This material can be seen as a primitive understanding based on ancient Jewish ideas of good and evil and the 'end of the world', and prefer to consider Paul's later spiritual understanding about Jesus' life and teachings and how we live our lives of faith in community, with no expectation of any existence beyond death. Jesus is here now, in spirit, and we live our lives in God's kingdom love!

In February we had an open discussion about 'Life's One Certainty – Death', and on 11 March, we will repeat the session on 'How to read Bible Stories' with a look at one of the Easter gospel stories – bring a set of highlighters for an entertaining and enlightening evening led by Robin Hamon.

We meet monthly, currently on the second Sunday, from September to June, at 7:30pm in the Christchurch Café. All are welcome.

Steve Amos

The deadline for the April 2018 edition of Wider Horizons is the first Sunday in March.

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 - steve.amos.gb@gmail.com

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WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
March 2018

Sunday	04	11	18	25 Palm Sunday
Theme	'The Great Commandment'	Mothering Sunday, 'Costly Generosity',	Passion Sunday 'We want to see Jesus'	'The People's Passion' The story of Holy Week
Readings	Mark 12, 28-34	John 12, 1-11	John 12, 20-33	
9:00am Interactive Worship	Worship Team	Worship Team <i>Inc Holy Communion</i>	Worship Team	Worship Team
10:45 Preacher led Worship	Rev Tim Perkins	Rev Dr Roberta Topham <i>Inc Holy Communion</i>	Rev Rita Armitage	Mr Roland Henney
6:00pm Circuit Service	-	at Menston	-	-

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

**Communion available after the service*

March 2nd — Rev Peter Willox / **March 9th** — Rev Dick Watson

March 16th — Michael Noble / **March 23rd**—Fr Paul Wheelhouse

March 30th — Good Friday, no service

Wednesday Fellowship

Meeting most Wednesdays at 2:00pm

7th March:

Terry and June (BBC 1980)

Speaker: Sylvia Baldwin

14th March:

Reaching out in Dan's Den

Speaker: Christine Henney

21st March:

Anniversary

Speaker: Sue Langley (Berwick Grange- MHA Chaplin)

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

Val Worrall (01943 831779)

Text your prayer concerns to the Christchurch Prayer Team on:

07562 343622



Registered Charity Number: 1148214