

The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church

CHRISTCHURCH, THE GROVE, ILKLEY

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# WIDER



# HORIZONS



*Have I got  
**GOOD**  
news for you !*

**April 2009**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter!

In these changing times we need more than ever to fathom out what our faith means in order to share it with a confused, increasingly ignorant, and post Christian world. Easter is the most important festival in the Christian religion (followed by Pentecost and then Christmas). As with most religion, it strikes me two questions have to be tackled - What happened, what history is it based on? And, secondly, what does it mean, how and why do Christians celebrate it today?

Each of us will have our own answers to both these questions, and indeed there may be a whole Housegroup evening's discussion on them!! Here are my answers:

Historically, the disciples felt that Jesus was alive and with them, and in a way that made God real to them in a deeper and profound way than his earthly life had done. This experience they called Christ. They had weird but very real experiences of his presence, a reality which continued after Pentecost and the church as a force to be reckoned with, was born. You may be surprised that this is my first answer. The second part of the answer is that the tomb was found to be empty. And this is the area that has aroused the controversy over the last few years that has been badly reported in the press. If some Christians are honest, they have to admit to, at best, being ambivalent about the empty tomb - as David Jenkins said many years ago now, the resurrection is not about a juggling trick with bones. The story is told at the end of the gospel stories that the tomb was empty - angels appeared, women were frightened, and disciples shocked, overjoyed and awestruck. But this story was written down decades after those first Christians had been living, ministering, working and on mission with the real and living presence of Christ with them. The story of what happened is dictated by their experience of what it meant.

For me personally, this is as much a fact as it is that I have fingers and toes. If someone came to me with proof that Jesus was not alive, I would believe them to be wrong. However each of us expresses this faith, it's what we celebrate at Easter - He is Alive. "He walks with me, he talks with me, along life's narrow way" as one old hymn puts it. This remains perhaps, the most revolutionary facet of Christianity, and it means many things. What God was doing in Jesus' life on earth 2000 years ago was not defeated - healing the sick forgiving the guilty, hope for the unloved, justice for the downtrodden are all still God's issues and He is still working on them; my/our sins are forgiven and I am/we are free, life is for living; the church is not ours, a human institution, it is His and our efforts must be to keep Him at its heart.

So, we go to the Cow and Calf rocks, a high and special place early on Easter Day to celebrate, mark, and remember what our faith goes back to. We sing ourselves hoarse, and with joy, awe, fear, and shock, we realise again just what God does, and who He is. And in quietness and deep reflection we share Holy Communion in obedience to our Lord's command that we remember him in our midst with bread and wine 'the real presence'

Your Minister and Friend,

*Rob*

### **WORSHIP CONSULTATION**

What do you think of our worship life as a Church?

Do you know what Online@9 means?

Why do so few people attend evening worship?

Why do we do special things in Lent and Advent?

What worship should we stop arranging?

What different styles of worship should we try?

Where is God leading us next in our worship life together?

The Worship Committee invite you to a Worship Consultation on Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm—chaired by Rev Rob Hilton. There will be very little in the way of agenda—other than what you think! Good ideas for discussion will be welcome before the meeting (to Rob, please).



## Church Meeting Highlights - Tuesday 3 February 2009

**Reform Magazine** – Any newcomers to Christchurch are entitled to receive three free trial copies of Reform. Details from Alan Lowe or Chris Mannall.

**Appointments** – Alan East (6yrs), David Feather (3yrs) and Wendy Mann are to step down as Church Meeting representatives to Church Council. Janice Noble, having indicated her willingness to serve for a further 3 year term, was re-appointed. Nominations for Church Meeting representative to Church Council have been received and accepted for Trevor Buckroyd and Bridget Pitcairn. and were accepted. An invitation will be issued for nominations of a further representative. Thanks were expressed to those stepping down for their service.

Hetley Burnham has accepted an invitation to be nominated as Church Steward and was duly accepted by Church Meeting. Further people are being approached and will be put to a special Church Meeting convened for the purpose.

**Community Lay Employee** – Church Meeting recommended that Church Council consider moving forward now to progress the appointment, possibly as a one-year post.

**Schools Work** - Revd Dan Price, as Moderator of CTI, is currently reviewing churches' involvement in work with schools so as to coordinate work more effectively. Rob Hilton attended the recent Ilkley Grammar School meeting on the future of the school and took the opportunity to seek to establish closer links with the school.

**Circuit Boundaries** – Discussions are underway to change boundaries to optimise the resources of the Church for mission whilst noting the need for a circuit to reflect the local community. It is not yet decided where the Ilkley Circuit is heading in terms of the boundary discussion. Mike Dixon (Circuit steward) initiated a discussion considering the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for Ilkley Circuit in the areas of Mission, Mutual encouragement and help, Deployment of resources and World Mission. This matter will be discussed further at Church Council and then Circuit Meeting. Rob Hilton would be pleased to speak to anyone who has thoughts on the matter.

**Ethical Banking** – Steve Amos noted that we have encouraged members to consider their personal banking, therefore might the church consider moving it's bank to an ethical bank such as the Co-operative Bank? Church Meeting expressed support and requested the Resources Committee to further investigate such a move.

**HOPE WFFK 2009**  
**AJCHRISTEVRH**

**Meditations: Have I got GOOD News for You !**  
**(Approaches to the Passion Story)**

Collect a leaflet from the foyer for fuller details

**Monday 6th April (2pm)** – “Have I got Good News for you - Today”  
*(Rev Stuart Jenkins)*

**Tuesday 7th April (2pm)** - “Have I got Good News for you - from Mark”  
*(Fr Philip Gray)*

**Wednesday 8th April (2pm)** - “Have I got Good News for you -  
from the Old Testament!”  
*(Msgr Keiran Heskin)*

**Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Quiet Communion

**Good Friday**

10am Reflective Worship

followed by Churches Together in Ilkley Procession of Witness

**Easter Sunday**

6am Sunrise Service at the Cow & Calf Rocks

9am Interactive all-age family worship

10.30am Joyful Easter Worship with Holy Communion

led by the Rev Rob Hilton

12 noon Dressing the cross at the top of Brook street with flowers

6.30pm Cafe-style Prayer, Praise & Preaching  
to celebrate Easter

## New Website Update



In January we signed a contract with ChurchEdit, a Christian company that will give us most of the functionality we were looking for, to host our new website. Since then we have been building the structure, and we are currently “testing” the site in order to finalise that structure.

We recognise that there will be five “types” of visitor to a website:

- those new to Ilkley looking for a church,
- those looking for spiritual support,
- those seeking information about baptisms, weddings or funerals - part of our service to people in our community,
- those seeking information about activities and events run by the church, or others using our premises, or perhaps wanting to hire a room, and finally us, the Christchurch family, who can find out what’s going on and use the website as a way of publishing information to members, making particular use of the Calendar page, weekly notices, and eventually committee agendas, minutes and discussion papers along with the church directory.

We will be launching the website in six phases:

- initially to have an informative website for all visitors,
- then to extend this to members by setting up the members’ area (more detail next month),
- launching the audio facility for recorded services and sermons once digital recording has been successfully implemented,
- extending the “Big Questions” pages - articles on issues of faith, sermon transcripts, and so on,
- launching the “Photo Gallery” with collections of high quality photographs of church life,
- introducing the “Catalogue” facility which enables us to list books, with summary details, held in the church library or with members prepared to loan.

Once launched, we hope you will visit our new website and find it so useful that it will quickly become a “favourite”.

Steve Amos (*on behalf of the ITCOMMS Sub-committee*)

## **BLenheim COLLECTORS**



Pat Scott will be in the church foyer on Friday 24th April (10am—12 noon) to receive your boxes.

Many thanks for your continuing support for the Blenheim Project in Bradford which gives support to women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

## **DOROTHEA'S PRAISE & PRAYER UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2009**

The checking of end of Kab Acts, Saze Deuteronomy and beginning of Zam Luke has gone well. I have been checking the beginning of Kab John during February. After that I was at the Wycliffe Eurasia Sign Language Conference for a couple of days.

I am planning to go to the Wycliffe West Eurasia Group Conference in Germany from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Bad news of LRA activity in Mundu-land continues to come in. At the beginning of the month (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> February) the LRA attacked and looted the hospital in Aba, DRC, where Alice and I used to live. The hospital chaplain, Rev Michel, was killed. There have been other, less detailed reports of attacks on Mundu villages in both DRC and Sudan. Please continue to pray that this group will be completely disarmed and disbanded.

The church leaders' seminar in Aba has been indefinitely postponed - most people are still in hiding. Enoka's Teachers' Refresher Course went well - but I don't know how well the village schools are able to function in the present circumstances.

No progress had yet been made on plans to record the Mundu New Testament, or on the translation of the Old Testament. Even the translation of the Trauma Healing book seems to be somehow "on hold". As far as I know the regular radio broadcasts continue. Please pray that many Mundus will hear the Gospel message and receive it with faith.

**Thank you CHRISTCHURCH from the bottom of our hearts.**

We returned from a very special visit to Los Angeles on 13 February - our outward journey on 2 February being the day of THE SNOWS. We reached Leeds Bradford Airport just after 4am to leave on the first flight out at 6am to Amsterdam. We took to the air at 12.30 lunch time and our buffer between arrival and connecting flight had gone. We had to stay overnight in Amsterdam and fly out 3 February. We were very grateful for the care of KLM and in the circumstances pleased we had made it as far as Amsterdam. The rest of the journey took its proper course and we got a wonderful welcome from our lovely family.

**We bring such good news.** On the Monday of our stay we attended a regular visit to the stem cell Oncologist with Alastair. The usual tests were taken and the blood counts found to be almost normal. This meant that it was now okay to visit public places and that a further appointment to this particular Oncologist was not needed for another 10 weeks. We were and are rejoicing at such positive news.

Beginning to resume 'normal' activities Alastair has begun running again, more of a trot to start off with! The resting is needed less frequently and for shorter periods. Work activity can now be integrated with perhaps one activity each day.

Alastair says: 'I flip flop between being glad to be improving so quickly and being frustrated at how slow I'm improving'!!

During the past few months we have felt so very grateful for the concern expressed and prayerful support given to us and our special family in LA.

*Jennifer and Richard Rundle .*

**PRAYER FESTIVAL**

24th—26th April .

Please make a note  
Details will be announced in due course.

The Junior Church leader asked, “Johnny - do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?”

“No,” replied Johnny. “How could he with just two worms?”

Saturday 9th May 2009

# afternoon teas

## In aid of Christian Aid

On Saturday 9 May afternoon teas will be served in Christchurch Coffee Centre to raise funds and to promote awareness of Christian Aid Week and the work and aims of the Christian Aid organisation.

Please come and support this event.

Further details to follow.

# Kids' Slot

What's the Story about Pentecost?

Can you piece the stories together?

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, St Peter's Church, Addingham, 2pm – 5pm

All age event including craft, dance, choir & drumming

Tickets £4 or £15 for a family of 5

*(before Easter), £5 or £20 for a family of 5 (after Easter)*

Organised by Otley Deanery Youth and Children's Network,

[wts@otleydeaneryac.org.uk](mailto:wts@otleydeaneryac.org.uk)



THANK YOU to the young people who filled a skip during half term with rubble from the cottage building. A dirty and enjoyable morning's work.

Thank you to Wednesday Wizards for supervising (and regaling us with gory tales of lost limbs and digits) and the Coffee Centre staff for the delicious 'scones'/'scons' (anyone know how to pronounce it?) and drinks.

Ruth Jones

## CORE Skills for Children's work

Half a dozen of the teachers of primary age children at Online@9 have been attending the CORE Skills course, run by Otley Deanery and written by the Methodist Church and Bible Reading Fellowship. We have been challenged as we explored children and spirituality, pastoral care of children, how they learn, how we work as teams and within church settings, planning the programme. We hope this will help us bring the Bible alive to our Online children during our teaching sessions and how we care for them as a church community.

Ruth Jones

## TEN REASONS WHY I NEVER WASH

1. I was made to wash as a child
2. People who wash are hypocrites - they reckon they are cleaner than other people
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never decide which one was right
4. I used to wash, but it got boring so I stopped
5. I still wash on special occasions like Christmas and Easter
6. None of my friends wash
7. I'm still young. When I'm older and have got a bit dirtier I might start washing
8. I really don't have time
9. The bathroom's never warm enough
10. People who make soap are only after your money

### **Interested in Fair Trade and Googling ?**

Why not pick up some interesting (inspiring?)  
information about Fairtrade.

Try Googling in  
independent fairtrade harriet lamb  
*also*  
fairtrade foundation.



### **Christian Aid Week** **10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Please make a note in your diaries if you haven't already done so! More envelope distributors and collectors are needed than last year if we are to set new records. Envelopes will need delivering a few days in the week before and (preferably) collected as soon as possible in the week itself. A list of streets to be covered, assigned to Christchurch, will be displayed in the church foyer early in April. It is hoped you will "sign up" with the minimum of delay so individual collecting "packs" can be prepared in good time.

## A Concert with Craig



Our former organist Craig Edwards has kindly agreed to pay a return visit to Christchurch to perform in a Charity Concert on Saturday 18 April (at 7.30).

Those of you who have attended Craig's previous concerts will know we are in for a musical feast. Craig will be supported by the Fairfax Singers who will add their considerable choral skills to the event, and I, as M.C., will chip in with the occasional attempt at humour (all jokes gratefully received!). The proceeds of the concert will be going directly to the Chaina Centre for Underprivileged Children and Women in Lusaka, Zambia. The Centre is doing wonderful work for AIDS orphans and their carers but is in constant need of funds.

In thanking me for our last donation, the Centre Coordinator, Dorothy Kayumba, said: 'The donations you made alleviated some of the problems we have been facing at the centre. Please keep the light burning for these underprivileged children in our society. May the almighty God bless you abundantly.' Please support us on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Mike Dixon*

Mike Dixon

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I love quotations because it is a joy to find thoughts one might have, beautifully expressed with much authority by someone recognized wiser than oneself."

*(Marlene Dietrich, German movie actress 1901-1992)*

If you would like to suggest a quote (*topical, classical, theological, literary, amusing .....*) please submit it to the Editors for their consideration.

Please supply a source or acknowledgement for the quote.



## C.T.I. Christian Aid Quiz Evening

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May.

(Venue to be announced later)

Each church is invited to send a team(s) of four people. If you are interested in joining a team, please give your name to Alan Lowe who will have further information.

## **The Northern Men's Convention**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at the Armitage Centre, Manchester.

Led by Richard Coekin & Daf Merion-Jones, the main sessions will focus on the book of Revelation (Chapters 1 to 3 and 6 to 7), a source of encouragement for Christians during difficult times throughout the history of the Church. Speak to Chris Mannall or Trevor Buckroyd for more details and to coordinate transport.

## THANKS

A big thank you to all our friends in Christchurch for your love and good wishes, cards, etc as we celebrated our Golden Wedding. You helped to make it a memorable day.

*George & Adele McArthur*

Many thanks to all my friends at Christchurch for kindnesses, cards, flowers and prayers following my hip operation. My love and blessings to you all.

*Jeanne Williams*

Susan Gray and family would like to thank all their friends at Christchurch for their kindness and loving friendship on the death of Walter, also for the cards and flowers received. It was all very much appreciated.

## Ilkley Treasure Hunt (in aid of Emily Cade Borneo project)

### Answers

Thank you to all those who supported me by buying this treasure hunt. If you've done the hunt and want to know the answers here they are but if you've not finished look away NOW!

1. Children
2. James Bloomer, Solicitor
3. On the seventh bench round in the band stand garden
4. Peter Jones
5. Betty's
6. Coutances
7. Schubert
8. Acorn Villas
9. Norman Mallard
10. Strathmore
11. 15 ¼ miles
12. Letter box outside Wigwam
13. Totus Tuus
14. 82 or 84 miles
15. 25m
16. 14
17. Roman Wall
18. Bells
19. Curry
20. Cheese
21. a griffin/dragon
22. Olicana Bridge club
23. Ilkley Toy Museum
24. 1903
25. 4
26. Rombald's Restaurant
27. 400 years
28. Darwin's
29. Almond
30. P / Pea
31. Sword
32. Grapes and Wheat

### CHRISTCHURCH GUILD

Meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall. There is always a warm welcome to both men and women.

Speakers in April are:

1st: Anniversary Afternoon—Fools for Christ (*Rob Hilton*)

8th: Holy Week Reflections (2pm)

15th: No meeting

22nd: Travels in Peru (*Dr J Fontana*)

29th: Rev Rob Hilton

**CLAY** – Christian learning opportunities (February to September 2009).  
Brochure available from the rack in the foyer.

### **WEDNESDAY GROUP**

All ladies are welcome at our fortnightly meetings.  
Details will be announced in weekly notices.

### **CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR**

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



**5th APRIL                  Palm Sunday**

Those who arrange, fund and distribute church flowers; our programme of prayers and meditations as we move through Holy Week.

**12th APRIL                Easter Sunday**

That people have a deeper understanding of the Easter message; the other churches of the Ilkley Methodist/URC Circuit (Addingham, Beamsley & Ben Rhydding).

**19th APRIL**

The pastoral team and Church visitors; Africa Mission Alliance, supporting mothers & children in Rwanda

**26th APRIL**

The caretakers and cleaners of Christchurch; Amnesty International, supporting prisoners of conscience throughout the world.

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH  
April 2009**

	<b>5th Palm Sunday</b>	<b>12th Easter Day</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>26th</b>
<b>9am</b>	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9
<b>10.30am</b>	Rev Rob Hilton	Rev Rob Hilton HC	Michael Noble	Rev Rob Hilton
<b>6.30pm</b>	Rev Rob Hilton HC	Brian Scott PPP	5.30pm 3rd Sunday @ Baptist Church	Rev Rob Hilton
<p><b>SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10.30am</b>            3rd April - Rev Arnold Clay; 10th - <u>10am</u> (Good Friday);            17th - Margaret Cook; 24th - Rev Arnold Clay</p>				

**The deadline for the May 2009 edition  
of Wider Horizons is 1st April**

Items (maximum words: 300 )  
preferably by email as a Word attachment  
to both George McArthur (mcarthur59@blueyonder.co.uk)  
and Christchurch Office (Office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)