



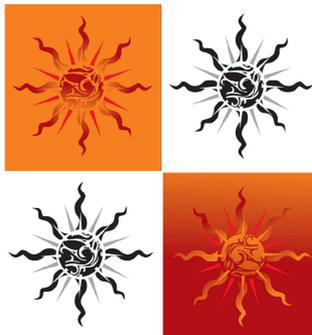
The Methodist Church / The United Reformed Church



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WIDER HORIZONS



July 2009

Dear Friends,

July sees us well and truly into the holiday season. My family are looking forward to camping in the summer near the beaches of south west Wales. Many of you will be able to take the chance for holidays before the summer gets too hot or expensive, many will juggle a family holiday around the hectic summer schedules of children and teenagers. We all like, and we need a time to get away, rest, relax, and attend to our re-creation.

As with all things we do as Christians, we holiday as disciples – and I'm not suggesting we get hyper-religious on holiday. My family doesn't even always attend worship while we're away; but we do need to continue to make those lifestyle choices that reflect the lives we live as Christians. Often choices that reflect our care for the environment and sustainable approach to how we use the planet.

Christian Aid week was another gentle reminder that it's our carbon footprint that is responsible for Global Warming. When the poorest people suffer the effects of drought, extreme storms and flooding, we can say with a strong scientific backing now that our dependence on flying and high carbon output activity is responsible.

A friend of mine is so acutely environmentally aware that even on a canal boat for a week she brings home all her vegetable peelings for composting and all her bottles and cans for re-cycling, she buys all her clothes (even for a family wedding!) in charity shops, and will not fly anywhere. But she knows that in her past the family lived and worked in the States and used airlines a lot. Environmental awareness isn't about guilt and shame, but about choices that lead to a sustainable habitation of the planet, and a care for God's world.

I am becoming more and more convinced that the primary facet of the Christian faith is Mission – it means many things, but on looking up recently the 5 marks of mission agreed by the Lambeth conference in 1988, and endorsed by Churches Together in England in 1997, I found that one of them is "To safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth". In other words it is Christian Mission to TREASURE the earth as God's creation.

If you will be privileged enough to travel, to visit new and interesting places, to enjoy a holiday that's an adventure, or to enjoy wild and unspoilt places on holiday, try and remember to treasure the world God has given – it's the only one we've got!

As we pitch our tent in a field this summer, I shall try and remember the campers motto – Take only photographs and leave only memories.

Happy Holidays!

Your Minister and Friend,

Rob

PS: We tried to book into a green campsite this year, with water heated by solar panels and gas provided from the cow manure on the farm; a site with a reduced price for campers who arrive on foot – but it was fully booked. Alleluia for that!

**If There Were Only 100 People in The World
There would be:**

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from North and South America

8 Africans

52 Would be female

48 Would be male

70 Would be non-white

30 Would be white

59% of the entire wealth in the world would belong to only 6 people all of whom would be United States citizens.

80 Would live in sub-standard housing.

70 Would be unable to read.

50 Would be suffering from malnutrition.

1 Would be near death.

1 Would be near birth.

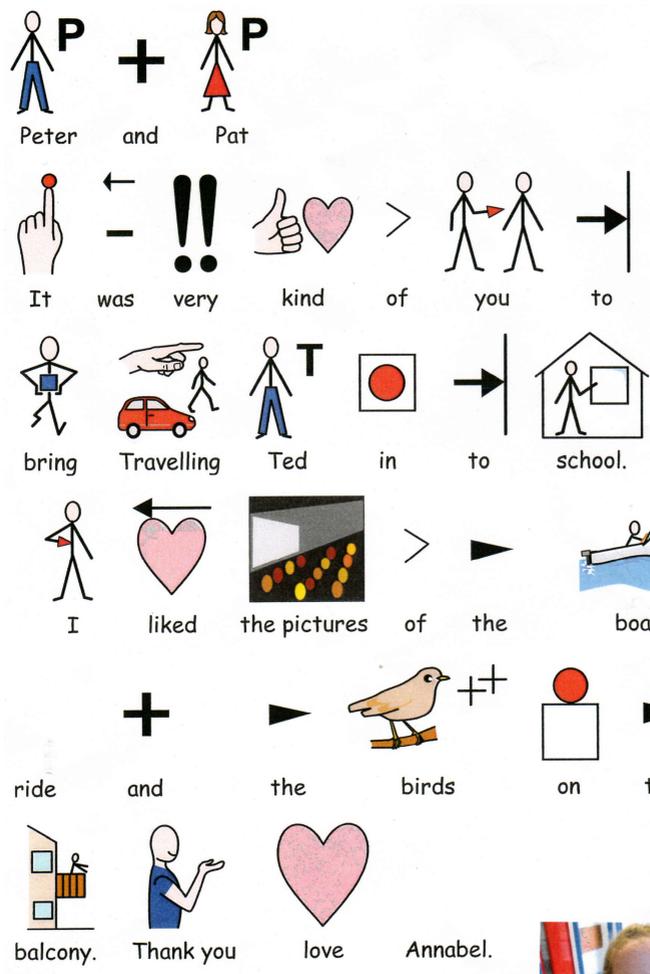
Only one would have a reasonable education.

Only one of them would see this message because the rest would not have a computer.

**The deadline for the August 2009 edition
of Wider Horizons is 1st July.** Items (maximum words: 300)
preferably by email as a Word attachment
to both Steve Amos (steve.amos@blueyonder.co.uk)
and Christchurch Office (Office@christchurchilkley.org.uk)

Recently whilst on their Round the World trip Peter and Pat Stockdale sent postcards from “Travelling Ted” (a teddy bear they took with them) to Brooklands School, Skipton who, as most people are aware, join in our Shoppers’ Service on a Friday morning. On their return, the school asked if they would show the children some photographs of “Travelling Ted’s” adventures.

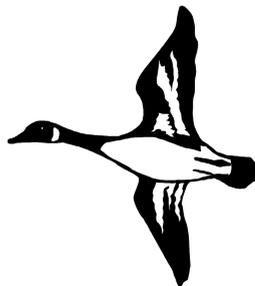
Said Peter & Pat, “We were very pleased to do so. The children enjoyed these and below is one of two delightful thank you letters we received from them.”



What does the Holy Spirit look like to you?

This question featured at the OnLine service for Pentecost Sunday. It produced much thought and comment.

The image I particularly liked was that of the Holy Spirit as a wild goose which comes from the Celtic tradition. We are all familiar with the dove image of peace and tranquillity which resonates with many. What the wild goose says to me is a combination of the free flying freedom of the bird which the Holy Spirit gives us to live our lives in Christ but also the nature of the chosen bird. This is not the gentle dove but the unruly, awkward goose, all flapping wings and noisy honking. After all, if you asked Pontius Pilate or the Pharisees which of these two images they would associate with Jesus I suspect they would go for the wild goose.



Jesus as the glorious, awkward, challenging, inspiring and liberating trouble-maker— now that's an image I can relate to!

David Gouldsbrough

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.

Summer Meetings
July 15th—Rita Armitage
August 5th—Leeds Donkey Sanctuary

The Guild re-opens on 2nd September

My grateful thanks to all at Christchurch who, through their prayers good wishes and acts of kindness, helped sustain and encourage me through a very difficult few months of family illnesses.

I am most pleased to tell you that Kirstie, my daughter, and David, my friend, are both now on the road to recovery. God willing, this will continue to be so.

Thank you all for the love and concern that have been shown to me.

Blessings to all.

Win Porritt

The Green Spot



'By the time a plastic water bottle gets thrown in the recycling bin it has already generated an environmental footprint well beyond its weight.' Crude oil, transport and refrigeration are all costly in energy terms and many bottles still end up in landfill.

Re-using plastic bottles for drinking purposes is not good for you. Phthalates and Bisphenol-A can leech into the water from the plastic. Bottles are tested to be safe for only one use! Look out for water bottles that cyclists and walkers use, which are safe for re-use time after time.

(Taken from the ECOLOGIST magazine, April 2009.)

"Singing songs
about
beauty, mercy,
struggle, joy,
laughter
and wonder..."



We will be privileged to welcome to Christchurch on **Saturday 15th August**
singer / songwriter **GARTH HEWITT** .

He has been writing and recording songs for over 35 years
and released over 30 albums.

Tickets (£5) are available from the church office,
Coffee Centre or Malcolm Atkinson.

Garth is Director of the Amos Trust, an organisation supporting those oppressed and living in forgotten situations—street children in S Africa; “untouchables” in India; reconciliation in Palestine / Israel; and supporting local income communities in Nicaragua.

Guild Vicar of All Hallows-on-the-Wall in the city of London, a centre for organisations involved in issues of justice and arts, Garth is also honorary Canon of St George’s Cathedral, Jerusalem. In 1988 he received the International Art Award from the Gospel Music Association in Nashville.

His personal commitment to highlighting these issues, is expressed through his music. His storytelling songs are influenced by country, folk and blues.

A WIZARD TIME

The Wizards have been asked to include an occasional short article to inform everyone about our activities on Wednesday mornings. Given we haven't done this before, we have included some major items completed during 2008 and some items done during this year so far, though a number of small "running repairs" are not included.



Major items during 2008:

- completely refurbished caretakers' office
- installed a computer controlled heating control system for Sanctuary, coffee centre and lower hall
- bespoke shelving in various rooms including store room for coffee centre

Items during 2009:

- repaired paintwork after rain damage in sanctuary
- repaired ceiling and repainted Middleton room after rain damage
- replaced drainpipes on walls of cottage yard
- installed all new notice boards in foyer and coffee centre
- erected and removed Christmas trees and Easter Cross
- constructed barbed wire "Crown of Thorns" for Easter
- repaired some chairs for coffee centre and Sanctuary
- installed parking post for Minister
- installed new worktop, sink bowl and taps in Gents' toilets in foyer
- repaired and redecorated office and toilets above Riddings Hall entrance
- installing new window sills in coffee centre

Merlin

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken." (James Dent)

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

The Evening Service

The Worship Consultation meeting held in April (see last month's Wider Horizons) provided a welcome opportunity for members to share their ideas for improving the worship life of our church. One agenda item that I would like to have heard discussed but didn't as we ran out of time, was the subject of the evening service.

If there is any truth in the old adage that 'people vote with their feet', then the decline in attendance at 6.30pm services must say something about its diminishing appeal. I exclude, of course, the Taize service and 'Prayer and Praise', but I would like to have heard people's views on the 'traditional' evening service.

To get you thinking, I could have asked:

Why are we doing this?

What is it accomplishing?

Can it be done better?

Should we be doing something else?

I am tired of hearing that 'some people will only come to this type of service', that 'we mustn't upset those that attend', and similar arguments for the *status quo*. I would like the church to address this decline and look afresh at these services - even, dare we hope, find something that will attract new worshippers.

Could we consider less formal, but worshipful, services - possibly café-style worship in the Coffee Centre? How about making the service more participatory? This could be achieved through music, through 'open' prayer, through testimony, through discussions and a two-way dialogue, rather than hearing just one voice (and one opinion) from the front. An accessible and inclusive service that is 'of today' is likely to have a broader appeal to contemporary Christians. Perhaps we could adopt a radical approach to leadership? One that would ensure wide participation - we could invite House Groups to take the services! This would endorse the 'ministry of all believers' and could (as with On-Line leadership) reveal new talent and give expression to fresh ideas in worship. What do you think?

Mike Dixon

Kids' Slot

The next Uprising event for secondary school age children is Sunday September 20th :

THE BIG EVENT at 7.15pm at Riddings Hall in Christchurch.

For 7-11 year olds, Daniel and Emma, and Ned and Esther, recently visited X:Site at the Shared Church in Keighley town centre. This takes place every two months at 6pm on a Saturday evening. There is gunge (!), music, singing, dancing, drama, games, craft, bible study, prayer and challenging stuff. It is run by Scripture Union. If you'd like to try it out contact Ruth Jones via the Church Office.

The next X:site is on Saturday 4th July at 6pm. Cost is £2

BEACH PARTY PRAISE

4pm Sunday 12th July



Calling all children and families! Get your shorts out, put on your flip flops, pick up your bucket and spade, and come on down with your beach towels and sunglasses to praise and worship God together.

Meet Jesus on the beach, build a Sandcastle.

Beach picnic of fish or veggie burgers and ice cream provided.



Vacancy in the mission field.

There is a vacancy for one or more people to serve Jesus by blessing our local community through the work of Mums and Toddlers. We need another volunteer created by God to combine the muscles to lift equipment and the care and concern to talk to mums, dads, grans, granddads, childminders and children!

Pray to God to see if he is considering sending you into this mission field then speak to Ruth Jones or Christine Henney. The hours are from 9am til 12noon, followed by lunch if you want it, on Monday mornings, term time. You could do it weekly or fortnightly. Contact Ruth or Christine via the Church Office.



MEDITATION

It has been good at Christchurch recently to concentrate our thoughts on Prayer. We have discussed our church's role in Ilkley and emphasised that Christ must be central in all we undertake. As part of the 'Body of Christ' we are very conscious of the needs of the world. Mission must be prominent. We live in a fast moving and changing society, where speed is of the utmost importance. Trains need to shorten their journey times. We want instant results. Popular recipes tell us how to get meals on the table in next to no time.

It is not difficult to feel that the church should be seen to be active in many ways. We have been told for years that things must change.

But how? Is it possible to be still and silent for 20 minutes? Dare we "waste time for God"?

Aelred Graham (ex Ampleforth) suggested that the only effective foundation for Christian renewal is to "strive to attain the Christ consciousness".

To achieve the mind of Christ may well demand a rethink of Christianity's prayer life. How often do we tell God (reverentially) what we would like Him to do and indirectly tell the congregation how they ought to behave! What we need is to share the Divine Nature. This is not withdrawing from the world but becoming closer and more understanding of it.

It is proposed to start a small group (or more than one) to practise Meditation - in silence to seek God, in whom as St. Paul said "We live and move and have our being".

There will be an inaugural meeting on Monday July 6th at 9.00 am for half an hour (the church is usually quiet then) when arrangements for further meetings can be discussed.

Please let me know if you are interested but unable to come then.

Lynda East



CHRISTCHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

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

5th JULY Action for Children Sunday : Action for Children (formerly NCH) – working to support families and children; SOS Villages – providing accommodation, care and support for orphaned children.

12th JULY : The work of the World Mission and Service Committee; sensitive missionary work throughout the world, especially Methodist & United Reformed projects.

19th JULY: The ministers and local preachers who lead our worship week by week; all those involved in sports and recreation in Ilkley.

26th JULY: The Brownies and the Rainbows and those who lead them; Mission Aviation Fellowship – providing spiritual and physical assistance in remote areas.

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH
July 2009**

	5th	12th	19th	26th
9am	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9	On-Line@9
10.30am	Rev R Armitage HC	Lynda Duttine	Brian Scott	Margaret Cook
6.30pm	Roland Henney	Rev Rob Hilton PPP	3rd Sunday @ Baptist Church	Taize

SHOPPERS' SERVICE EACH FRIDAY at 10.30am

3rd Canon Philip Gray; 10th Rev Rob Hilton; 17th Michael Noble;
24th Rev Rob Hilton; 31st Rev Arnold Clay

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Friday evening 31st July

WALK FOR YOUR SUPPER!

Catch the train to Menston and walk back over the moors to White Wells for Supper. See weekly notices for more information.

Saturday 19th September FAMILY EVENING for HARVEST

Food—fun—dancing to a Celidh Band Tickets: £3 (adult) / £1.50 (children)

Saturday 21st November An evening with the **WHITE ROSETTES**

(European Barbershop Champions 2009 & Eisteddfod Choir of the World Finalists 2008)

Tickets £5

Thanks to Jean Yeomans & Pat Fisher

House Groups

After 14 years Jean has decided to relinquish being organiser and leader of the House Groups. In that time she has been instrumental in helping to select the study material, has led a group and organised helpful preparation notes for the leaders. Many have benefited from the deeper understanding they have gained through the group discussions. She has been well supported by Pat and John who have made the arrangements for, days of meetings, venues, hosts and lists of group members, a task that has now been taken on by Margaret Whitton.

FAIRTRADE GOOD NEWS



You might have noticed our reports usually end with the phrase ... **BUYING FAIRTRADE REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO LIVES** ... but is this really the case?

Thanks to supporters like you, Fairtrade is making a massive difference to over 7.5 million people. Fairtrade sales in Britain rocketed by 70% in 2007 and again by 43% in 2008. As a result, farmers and their families who grow crops consumed daily in Britain can now send their children to school, get treated in hospitals and aspire to things that sound incredibly ordinary to us, like putting glass in the windows of their homes.

Here are some individual human stories behind all those figures:

Guido and Sonia Guenupan are members of the Apicoop cooperative in Chile which supplies Fairtrade honey for Geobars. "I used to be a seasonal worker in the woods but in the end I didn't earn anything", said Guido. "With the beekeeping we have enough money to give our children education".

Echamma and Chanurjay Pugari grow coffee in the remote Araku Valley in India. Echamma says "I am happy with the coffee money. I am able to see that my children are studying. We have bought one new cow and we are building a good house". More than 5000 tribal farmers living in the Araku Valley will benefit from clean water, healthcare and schools as a result of receiving the Fairtrade premium.

The number of farmers to benefit is also set to increase dramatically with the announcement that Cadbury's Dairy Milk Chocolate Bar is going Fairtrade by the end of the summer. This is a massive coup for the Fairtrade movement as Cadbury's sell 300 million of their Cadbury Dairy Milk chocolate bars each year in Britain alone.

So keep looking for the swirly black and blue logo of the Fairtrade Mark when you're shopping and keep visiting your Fairtrade Stall at Church. Our move to the Coffee Centre has proved very popular and has increased sales slightly. We look forward to seeing customers old and new on the first Sunday of each month (except August) because ... **BUYING FAIRTRADE REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO LIVES.**

John and Judith Bray