

# WIDER HORIZONS

**PRESENT  
IN THE  
DARK**



office@christchurchilkley.org.uk



www.christchurchilkley.org.uk



01943 603209

## **In This Issue**

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Immanuel—God with us

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Going out of doors to meet  
with people

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Now we're talking

### **Refugee Action Day**

"The children were so happy"



**CHRISTCHURCH**  
**December 2019**

Christchurch is a Methodist / URC Local Ecumenical Partnership  
The Grove, Ilkley, LS29 9LW



### **Dear friends,**

The Scriptures are full of accounts of men and women receiving messages from God. One special message is when the birth of a baby is foretold. There are several accounts of babies coming in exceptional circumstances. Think of Sarah and Abraham, the woman of Shunem and

Elisha, Hannah and her son, the prophet Samuel. All of these stories pave the way for the annunciation by the angel Gabriel that Mary is going to have a baby. The message that a child is coming is always momentous. In St Luke's account there is a deep profundity because the promise is that the child will be "Immanuel", that is "God with us".



Something of the importance of this message is caught in Sandro Botticelli's renaissance painting of the annunciation. I was fortunate enough to see this painting recently in all its colourful size (150cm by 156cm) in the Uffizi gallery in Florence. I was struck by the humility portrayed in the posture of the messenger and also the great energy there. The complex range of emotions experienced by the girl Mary on hearing the message are also well captured.



Sandro Botticelli (1445–1510), "Annunciazione di Cestello" 1489-90

Many of us in churches recognise that God still speaks today. There will be energy in that message. Is it possible the message may come to us at our feet rather than from over our heads? Like Mary we may get to decide how to respond. We might also sometimes be the messenger for others and might like to ponder from Luke's account and this painting what might be the better way to deliver a message.

The annunciation is part of the build-up to Christmas. This year our Advent theme is "Present in the dark". I think we can take this in at least three ways.

Jesus was God's gift to the world or "**present**" offering hope at a time of deep political and national turmoil.

God **is present** with us, in Jesus, no matter what times of darkness and vulnerability we experience

Christmas is a message we can still **present** to the world around us which often seems in dark shadow.

Botticelli's Annunciation seems to capture something of the third way of understanding this theme. The angel is presenting to Mary the news of Jesus' advent. Perhaps we might present the ongoing message with equal energy and humility.

I offer two further paintings as illustrations of the other two understandings of our theme.



The one on the left is "The nativity at night" by Geertgen tot Sint Jans (c1490) and captures the wonder of the new mother receiving her child and also the sense of Jesus coming as light to the world. The painter was inspired by accounts of the fourteenth century vision of St Bridget of Sweden in which Jesus had been born as physically emitting a great

source of light. This vision inspired many medieval painters to reduce the light in their paintings apart from in a few key places.

The painting on the right is "The adoration of the magi" by Peter Paul Rubens (1633-34). It hangs above the alter in King's College, Cambridge. It is a brighter painting than the Sint Jans', but Jesus is still shown bright against Joseph's dark garb and the wider world behind the visitors is rather dull and shady. This painting is often featured on the televised version of the service of nine lessons and carols shown on Christmas eve. It is a vision of God's presence that still goes out around the world today.

None of these paintings may be how you see God present in the darkness. But they may serve as a reminder of how the message of God with us has been portrayed through the centuries. It is my hope that we may all see and know God with us as light and hope in time of great turmoil.

Wishing you peace this Christmas,

*Roberta*

Minister at Christchurch LEP

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### **Comings and Goings**

We are sad to announce the death of Zitha Rose. Our thoughts and prayers are with her two daughters, Pam and Jane and their families.

Blanche Woollin has moved to The Beeches, Clifford Road, Ilkley, LS29 0AX. We wish her many Blessings 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**

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### **Christmas Greetings**

Chris and Marian send Christmas greetings of love, joy and peace to all our friends at Christchurch.

*Chris & Marion Sharp*

## **Congregational Meeting Report Summary**

Pastoral Matters update – Jenny Freeman gave a report. She asked members to let the pastoral team know of anyone who might like to receive a CD copy of the Sunday 10:45 services.

CAP Debt Centre update – Christine Henney will be setting up a group to fundraise for CAP, our focus on fundraising from November (see article).

Dan's Den update – Caroline Kelly, manager, gave a thoroughly informative and enthusiastic report. She talked about:

- The various training courses already undertaken by staff and volunteers, including first aid, Inclusion, Hidden Disability sunflower scheme, Allergens and Food Standards
- The new outreach worker has got off to a flying start.
- Initiatives at the moment include Joyful Jingles, Happy Hands, Play Exchange with Glen Rosa and Kitwood. Dan's Den support Bitesize, Smiles and Babyloss services.
- Six post natal courses to support new parents are to be run during the next 12 months.
- Planned Christmas activities: Elf Day, nativity dress up and Christmas workshop.

Building Plans update – Iain Thake reported that the Building group, consisting of himself, Emma Noble, Andrew Walbank and Stan Brown had invited Michael Noble to assist them. Disabled toilet access was raised as an issue and a reply will be given to the next Congregational Meeting.

Café update – the Café continues to provide a warm welcome and an opportunity for outreach to local people. New initiatives include gift certificates, book stall, and WiFi (although it is very weak). Money from the popular book stall goes to our Charity of the Month, as does the income from the 'tips jar' which has raised £1580 since September 2018.

Concerns have been expressed about the increased noise levels and so soundproofing is being explored.

The new car parking arrangements in Ilkley have had a detrimental effect on sales which have fallen by 9.5% over the 9 weeks compared with last year's takings for the same weeks.

Children, Young People and Families update – Juliet Amos reported that the CYPF worker vacancy had been advertised nationally, both digitally and in print. It was hoped to interview mid November.

King's Club - Christchurch provided the venue this summer for the King's Club. 'Bouncers' volunteered to keep the children safe by manning the doors. Roberta was heartened by five of our young people acting as leaders running the activities.

Good Box Contactless Terminal - Brian Scott explained that some churches found it increased public donations. The setting up cost would be about £500 but, for £100 Christchurch could trial the device for a month and return if necessary. It might give all those 2000+ people who use the premises each week a simple way of giving towards the upkeep.

Minister's Reflections - the minister's report was a pull-out section in November's Wider Horizons, so it could be discussed at the next Congregational Meeting.

Volunteers were sought to help with the running of the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. Roberta thanked those who work hard to keep Christchurch going.

Roberta announced that the new report with study guide, 'God in love unites us', on which she has been working, is now in print. It will be introduced at Burley Methodist Church on 19 November at 7:30pm.

Sound System - much of the equipment in the system is now over 15 years old and often unreliable. Although regularly serviced, a review was requested which included a full service analysis, replacement costings and positioning of the desk and the keyboards.

Market Mission - Pat Evans outlined a plan to have a stand in the market on the Grove outside Christchurch, on the first Sunday of the month (see article).

Solar Panels - In almost four years 40466 kw of green energy had been produced, the equivalent of supplying 2.5 homes. Gary Knamiller will report to the next Congregational meeting and January's Wider Horizons.

Electronic room booking - Brian Scott is proposing to order a new laptop or PC for Val so we will be able to see availability of rooms and access bookings online.

Jigsaw festival - There were 1200 completed jigsaws to sell. Hoping to match the £3,000 we raised last year. Are planning to hold a daily raffle with small prizes.

Roberta closed the meeting with the thought "*we are happier when we give people a bit of our heart, rather than a piece of our mind.*"

Minutes by *Diana Feather*, edited down by *Steve Amos*  
see full report on the Notice board in the Foyer.

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## **St George's Crypt Appeal**

Again this year there was a very generous response to the appeal items for St George's Crypt.

The sorting and packing team excelled.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

*Avril Benson*





## 2019 Jigsaw Festival

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Jigsaw Festival was a great success. Our net proceeds totalled £3877, an increase of nearly £900 over last years' total. It was a success both financially and socially as we welcomed many people from around the area who had not visited Christchurch before. Feedback from a lot of people makes us feel pleased at the friendly welcome they commented on. The winners of our three daily raffles came mostly from the Ilkley area but two prize winners were from Halifax and Cumbria!

An event like this doesn't just happen – it takes hours of planning and effort from a lot of people. We are very grateful to several jigsaw manufacturers and retailers for their generous sponsorships. We couldn't have done any of this without all those people who, throughout the year, have donated jigsaws and/or made them up, supported the event by setting up the worship area, stewarding over the three days, and returning it to normal in time for the Three Tenors concert. Thank you to you all.

*Brian Scott on behalf of the jigsaw team*

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## Three Tenors Christian Aid Concert - 02 November

A delighted audience was treated to a 'musical feast' to remember.

MC Prof Janet Cade introduced the three young tenors, Joseph Spratt, Christopher Littlewood and Alexander Grainger, and pianist Ewan Gilford, who had all trained together at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

What amazing talent and humour! They had the audience transported to faraway places and times with their renditions of many well known songs including 'Bring him Home' from Les Miserables, 'Love Changes Everything', an aria from Don Giovanni, songs from Handel's Messiah, Wagner and Weber, and ending with Puccini's well-loved 'Nessun Dorma'. Their light-hearted antics on stage had the audience laughing with them and, judging by the rapturous applause, standing ovation and encore, they more than met their objective, which was to appeal to a wide range of musical tastes.

After the interval, a short and very moving film was shown, outlining some of the work of Christian Aid. Gary Knamiller thanked the audience for supporting Christian Aid and expressed gratitude to the team of organisers, whose inspiration and hard work led to its success. £1835 was raised for Christian Aid.

*Diana Feather*



## **The Wharfedale and Aireborough CAP Debt Centre**

How does CAP work? The clients book an appointment by ringing CAP head office. The local Manager, Samantha Burnley, then visits the clients in their own home. There follow three formal visits:

- An introduction to the service
- An information gathering visit
- To communicate the debt advice prepared by head office.

The debt centre also offers ongoing support for the client. This has been needed by all local clients so far.

The other aspect of the debt centre is to tell the clients about God, inviting them to church events and to pray with them. Some clients do not want this but it makes no difference to the service they receive.

Most clients seen by Samantha have needed food parcels on more than one occasion and are struggling with day to day tasks. Some have had a mental health diagnosis which can cause them to find managing their finances difficult with an inability to cope with the debt on their own.

Samantha says, "We have found clients are engaging well with us and one client is going to be baptised, thanks to the support of her local church. Some have also attended a church event which is great to see and means we are building up good relationships with them. This is our way to reach those in need and not only offer them practical advice but also introduce them to the love of a church family and tell them what God has done for us.

"My plan for the next few months is to build on my volunteer group and promote the debt centre in specific locations so we can see more clients reached. For Ilkley I would like to recruit a volunteer who can promote the service. I hand-delivered information to the local doctors and to the food bank when we first opened our local Centre but it would be good if we could build on this contact. I have had a few clients from Ilkley so far and ideally I would love to be able to see more. I would also like a group of befrienders to come on the visits in Ilkley with me with a view to providing support to clients afterwards. The volunteers will need to have a DBS check to meet with the clients on their own but if they would like





to come on a visit first to see how it works I can send them some training to do before hand."

Contact details: samanthaburnley@capuk.org or 07935223663

*Samantha Burnley*

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## **Working In The Market**

At the Congregational Meeting in October it was heart warming to hear the response of the members to an idea to connect with all our friends and neighbours who walk past our open doors as they visit the very popular Real Food Ilkley market.

On the first Sunday of every month, as this event happens, our doors are indeed open but few would think of coming in through them. However, it is possible for us to go out of those doors to meet with people.



Our hope is to have a gazebo with a church presence under it where we can try to share with folk where they are – happy or sad - and offer them something different each month. The organisers of the market were enthusiastic about our participation.

To help us with this we have a tall white tree which can be used as a focus for our ideas. A group has been formed who have started the project but would love more volunteers. We need members with bright ideas, to put those ideas into practice and some who will go onto the street and stand by the tree. You will probably have seen the tree inside the building (*up on the landing outside the Worship Area, or in the foyer - Ed*).

in November we missed the deadline to be outside, so we transferred it inside. Folk were invited to write the name of a person or place they wished to remember on the back of a poppy and hang it on the tree. It led to some lovely stories.

The beginning of December is still 'thoughts in progress' – perhaps stars or angels, perhaps even carol singers. We want to give people something to take away to hang on their own tree at home. Watch the tree!!

If you feel you could help with this project **we need you**. Please have a word with Pat Evans or Wendy Ribbands. Thank you.

*Pat Evans*

## What a great day!

A big thank you to Christchurch and Dan's Den for hosting our most recent trip to Ilkley for asylum seeking and refugee families living in Bradford. 60 visitors joined us on Sunday 20 October at Dan's Den for a few fun hours of playing, running around and face painting for the children, and chat and relaxation for the parents.

We had so many wonderful volunteers helping us on the day including Christchurch members Jo Wales-Smith, June Blakelock and Jennifer Rundle, who managed the kitchen and served refreshments, as well as Wendy and Paul Ribband and Gary and Chris Knamiller who helped serve lunch and chat to our guests.

We all shared an amazing lunch, thanks to the kind generosity of everyone who baked and prepared food for us, including Anne Lampert, Judy Dixon and Margaret Cook. Thanks as well to the Dan's Den team for baking us 48 buns as part of their "Pay It Forward" scheme. The whole of the upstairs room was full of clothes donations which the families were able to take home with them as well as supplies kindly donated from the Food Bank.

Everyone had a lovely time, with the many comments made to Refugee Action after the event like this one: *"The children were so happy they have had fun and had played with other children too. We have enjoyed the food and get to go home with loads of clothes for the boys, thank you. We hope to be invited again to Dan's Den soon!"*

In addition, just to report that the total raised by Christchurch for the Secondary School Stationery Sets is £839.45 which is brilliant. During the summer holidays, Felicity volunteered for Refugee Action and was able to set up an account for them with a really cost effective supplier, rather than a big name shop, meaning they were able to buy a lot more stationery sets for the money.

We've also been chatting to Wendy and Chris about future activities between Refugee Action and Christchurch so please watch this space for all the details . . .

Thanks again to everyone at Christchurch who helped make the day so enjoyable.

*Sue Staton & Felicity Tomblin*

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## 25 Years of Fairtrade celebrated at Christchurch

Fairtrade is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday this October 2019. There have been a variety of activities across the UK with the public showing their ongoing support for 1.6 million farmers and workers behind the UK's most visible ethical label. One such event was a 'Fairtrade Yorkshire' conference at Christchurch on Saturday 26 October focusing on how to integrate Fairtrade into your faith community.



It was well attended by people from around Yorkshire and was led by the enthusiastic Mark Dawson from York University and Chair of the National Campaigner Committee of the Fairtrade Foundation. Mark was instrumental in getting Yorkshire being declared the First Fairtrade Region in the world in 2014!

The meeting started with small group discussions on activities we had used in the past to draw the public's attention to Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and what we might try in February 2020. This was followed by an impressive presentation by Tim Aldred, Head of Policy for Fairtrade, focusing on the Christian's responsibility of taking a deeper look at where our food, drink and other goods come from. He used several biblical texts to support his viewpoint from *'your houses are full of what you have taken from the poor. You have no right to crush my people and take advantage of the poor'* (Isaiah 3:14,15) to *'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'* (Matthew 22:39). He explained that as well as paying the producers a reasonable wage, Fairtrade also gives the community a Premium which they can decide how best to use to benefit the whole community eg improving health care and/or education.

Over the last 25 years the Fairtrade Premium paid out adds up to over *One Billion Pounds!* This has made, and continues to make, a real difference to the Fairtrade communities around the world.

We all then celebrated by eating the delicious Fairtrade buns that had been made by using mainly Fairtrade products. And we all enjoyed tasting the Fairness!

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- # The first Fairtrade label was launched in 1988, and in 1994 the first Fairtrade certified product was launched – Green and Black's Maya Gold chocolate, shortly followed by Café Direct coffee and Clipper Tea.
- # Ilkley became a Fairtrade town in 2006 and there are now more than 600 Fairtrade towns and cities, 4000 Fairtrade churches, 37 Fairtrade synagogues and 60 Fairtrade Universities across the UK, and they are growing all the time.
- # Yorkshire was declared the first Fairtrade Region in the world in 2014.

*Chris Knamiller*



## Café Update

As we are coming to the end of another successful year I thought it would be nice to remind you of some of our achievements.

Our main aim and priority is, and has always been, outreach to the community. We have many regular customers who we know on a first name basis. Staff, volunteers and The Listening Ear volunteers are always readily available to offer a friendly ear whenever needed. This outreach also extends to the youth in the community and we have had two students from Brooklands School doing six weeks work experience with us. We have also had a student from Ilkley Grammar School doing work experience.

Our success was once again vindicated this year when we were nominated for an award at Ilkley Business Awards. Kathryn, myself, Margaret and Judy had a lovely evening at The Awards ceremony.

Our volunteer base has now reached 50. However, we are still in need of volunteers both on an ad hoc basis and to cover two specific shifts (Wednesday & Friday 2:00 -3:30pm on the counter). We are always grateful to all our wonderful volunteers and our "Thank you Evening" was a lovely way to offer our thanks.

Staffing has changed this year. We have employed a new part time member of staff (Maggie Dillon) and we have also taken on six new students to replace ones that have left.

New initiatives we have set up include Gift Certificates and a book stall which have proved popular.

We continue to look at ways of reducing our impact on the environment and have implemented a number of initiatives in this respect.

We continue to offer out of hours opening for specific events including Ilkley Cycle Race and also providing a 'Welcome Tea' for 35 people for a District Welcome Service. We will also be open for the switching on of the Christmas Lights ( Saturday 23 November - Ed).



Our charitable donations have been £1580 to eight different charities. We will be collecting for The Beamsley Project until the end of the year (so far we have collected £280 for them).

We regularly receive positive comments from our customers and have recently got a 5 star Trip Advisor Review stating our scones are "The best in Ilkley"!

Thanks to you all for all your support. On behalf of Kathryn, myself and all the Christchurch Café Staff and volunteers we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz Frankland

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### **Communicating the gospel through more than words**

The team at Dan's Den secured some funding for a Makaton workshop recently. Makaton uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression. It is used widely with people with learning disabilities.



The course was attended by Dan's Den staff, Christchurch volunteers who work with LS29 (a charity for families who have children with additional needs) as well as a gentleman from CTI2000 who work with adults with learning difficulties. Dan's Den runs exclusive sessions for LS29 members and Christchurch runs the monthly SMILES service (Special Moments In Life Encounters) for them too.

It was a fun introduction to Makaton and gave us the knowledge to sign common words such as 'cake', 'biscuit', 'hello' and 'goodbye'.

At the SMILES service, Makaton is used with all our songs. The good news of Jesus is proclaimed amidst a full sensory experience and loving and accepting environment. In November we led a simplified Lord's Prayer with Makaton signs which parents and children joined in with. We also used a symbol exchange to encourage children to 'ask' for cake.



Here is our SMILES Lord's Prayer:

*Father God in Heaven, you are fantastic!  
Fill the world with your good things.  
Give us food today.  
We are sorry.  
Help us be good.  
You are fantastic!*

Ruth Jones

## Dans Den Update

We are launching Dan's Den Hidden Disabilities scheme during November. This will work in a similar way to the airport sunflower lanyard scheme. Families with a hidden disability will be able to request a sunflower sticker for the littlies and a table sunflower, highlighting the fact that they may need support. Hidden disabilities can be anything from hearing and sight limitation, Autism, Dementia, mental illness and respiratory disorders, to name but a few. Equality Together will be offering us some formal training on 12 November. We hope this will make Dan's Den more accessible to more families.

Dan's Den save the date:

- 04 December - Wednesday Fellowship Play X-change
- 06 December - Elf Day (to raise awareness for Alzheimer Society)
- 18 December - Dan's Den Interactive Nativity
- 21 December - Christmas Workshop
- 23 December - Dan's Den toddler friendly Christingle.

*Caroline Kelly*





## **Christchurch Family Weekend 23 - 25 October 2020**

Thornleigh Christian Hotel has been booked for a church family weekend in October next year.

Would you like to join us? We have just three single, one family and one twin room (all en-suite) available. The price (full board from Friday evening meal to Sunday lunch) is £150.

If you wish to stay Sunday night as well, then an additional £38 pays for high tea and B&B.



Thornleigh is situated on The Esplanade in Grange-over-Sands on the northern shores of Morecambe Bay.

Please get in touch with me on 01535 958375 as soon as possible.

*Lynnda Smith*

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### **Prayers for our church, building, people & communities**

The Rev Kevin Watson, Moderator the United Reformed Church, is always a welcome visitor to Christchurch. He led worship on 03 November. We were blessed by the following prayer:

*We come to re-dedicate our church in Ilkley and our lives.*

*In the worship of God in praise and prayer; in the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ; in the celebration of the holy sacraments of his grace.*

*In the giving of comfort to all who mourn; of strength to all who are tempted; of light to those who seek the way; in the hallowing of family life; in the teaching and guiding of the young; in the equipping of God's people for work in his service; and the building up of the body of Christ.*

*Fill your church with the radiance of your presence that it may be a sanctuary and a shrine for all people; a place of strength for the weak; of refuge for the troubled; a place where truth is taught and learned; where faith is fulfilled and the worship and service of your faithful people here are caught up in the worship and service of heaven.*

Copies of the full order of service are available from me.

*Margo Atkinson*

## **News from the URC Synod**

The Yorkshire Synod of the URC Synod met at Herringthorpe United Reformed Church in Rotherham on 12 October.

### **Synod Moderator**

Rev Kev Watson led our opening worship and shared 100 or so original or facsimile newspaper front pages from historic events over the last 200 years and asked us what the church's response would be. He then invited us to think about what the issues are today and what our response might be?

Rev Jamie Kissack who ministers in Sheffield will succeed Rev Kevin Watson in June 2020 when Kevin retires. Jamie's wife, Fran, is a chaplain in the NHS.

### **Joint Public Issues Team**

We heard from Simeon Mitchell, URC Secretary for Church and Society, who spoke about the work of the Joint Public Issues Team where the denominations work together to consider and inform the churches on social issues. He spoke about Hunger, Hostility and Hope. We should get stuck in, speak out and share hope with our communities.

JPIT is organising a conference in Derby on 07 March 2020 on 'Renewal & Rebellion - Faith, Economy and Climate.'

### **Stepwise**

The Stepwise programme will replace TLS (Training for Learning and Services) and is accessible to all. It offers a programme to encourage discipleship across the church. Courses include A Faith-filled life, Faith-filled Leadership, A Faith-filled Confidence, A Faith-filled Community and Faith-filled Worship. Details can be found on the URC website.

Volunteers are sought for a pilot scheme on Faith Filled Leadership. It is a year-long programme and would be provided free of charge to those willing to join the pilot.

### **Children and Youth**

Jon Steel has been appointed as Synod Children and Youth Worker alongside Megan Tillbrook.

We resolved to ensure we have two under-25's represent the Synod at Assembly and were invited to think about how we hear the voices of young people in our church.

Having held their own Youth Synod during the day, the young people led closing worship

### **General Assembly**

General Assembly is reverting to an annual event. Mission Council will, therefore, also be annual and will be known as Assembly Executive.

There will be a single Moderator of General Assembly serving for a year. They may be lay or ordained.



*Chris Mannall*

## Sunday Parking

You may be wondering what is happening regarding the new parking restrictions in Ilkley, particularly on a Sunday morning for services.

Paul and Wendy Ribbands have been managing this issue. They have some special Sunday parking permits should any member of the congregation need one, valid from 8:00am until 2:00pm in zone B only.

These permits are valid until January, when we have to re-apply for new permits. We are told these will be chargeable.

We are trying to get permits for some of our Christchurch volunteers (during the week) but been unsuccessful so far.

We are in contact with Paul Ratcliffe (from the Highways Department). He tells us there should be a review taking place regarding the parking situation as quite a few of the businesses (including the Christchurch Café) are suffering a reduction in footfall, which means less revenue for the town.

*Wendy Ribbands*



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## Mission Direct Cambodia

What a lovely morning we spent at Eastburn Methodist Church on Sunday 20 October. Although they only have nine members they gave us a donation of £97 for the work in Cambodia with Mission Direct. So we were delighted to go along and share our experiences in Phnom Penh.

Diana, Philip and Lynnda showed photos of

- our time spent each morning on the roof top of the hotel for devotions to begin each day
- the local children, with very little, but so happy
- the building work for a new classroom
- raising the floor on homes that have been flooded
- washing 40 children's hair
- sharing the story of the homeless women found begging, with a baby and two children, along with her husband - Mission Direct found them a home and work
- many other projects which we visited and where we hoped we made a little difference.

It was such a pleasure spending time with the Methodists at Eastburn who shared their love for people so far away.

*Lynnda Smith*



## Churches Statement on Syria

Church leaders from the URC, Methodist Church and Baptist Union have urged the UK Government to work for peace in Syria. Recent military attacks in the north-east of the country have left unarmed civilians caught between two fighting parties.



The pastors of three local churches have shared their concerns for the desperate situation facing families in the area, which includes disruption to the water supply, bombings, food prices soaring, people unable to attend their workplaces and some aged under 45 being forced to join the fighting. With the cold of winter fast approaching, people of north-eastern Syria are understandably deeply distressed and wish to live in peace and safety but they need help.

The statement reads:

Following reports from our Church partners in Syria, we are extremely concerned about the impact on civilians of the assault on north-eastern Syria by Turkey.

The diverse people of the region were just beginning to see some respite from the turmoil and destruction that has overtaken them during the past 8 years of war. The region urgently needs a political settlement that guarantees a place for every citizen. The people of north-eastern Syria, both Muslim and Christian, need and desperately long for freedom and stability in order to live side by side in peace.

We appeal to the UK Government to take urgent and decisive political action to ensure that a further escalation of conflict is averted. We appeal for all parties to work for a sustainable peace based on agreements that guarantee respect for human rights and a complete rejection of violence.

*Steve Amos - Editor*

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## Healthy Eating & Carbon Footprints

A talk at the Ilkley Literature Festival by Prof Mike Berners-Lee (yes, brother of the inventor of the internet) has me reading his book 'There Is No Planet B' - and it's a mind-blower.

I'll be dropping in factoids over the few months: so as we contemplate our Christmas festivities, the global 'average' person consumes 180 kcal a day in excess. Given that 800 million folk are undernourished, and a further 2 billion have nutritional deficiencies, where is all this excess going? Happy eating!



GREEN SPOT

*Steve Amos*

# Special Services at Christchurch this Christmas

## December 1

Gift Services for Action for Children

## December 15

6pm – Carols by Candlelight Service — Rev Rita Armitage

## December 22

9am — Contemporary Carols

## December 24 — Christmas Eve

4pm – Christingle – Rev Roberta Topham  
and Chris Mannall

**December 25 – Christmas Day** 10am –  
All Age Worship – Rev Roberta Topham

# PRESENT IN THE DARK

Please contact the **Prayer Chain**  
for urgent or special prayer  
needs:  
Val Worrall (01943 831779)

Text your prayer concerns to  
the Christchurch Prayer  
Team:  
**07562 343622**



**The deadline for each edition of Wider Horizons is the first Sunday in the preceding month.**

Try to keep to about 400 words (800 for a double page spread), which is about one page, and if you could be really helpful, please use Verdana 10 as your typeface!

Please send items email as a Microsoft Word attachment to **both:**

Mike Fawcett - **widerhorizons@christchurchilkley.org.uk**

and the Editor Steve Amos - **steve.amos.gb@gmail.com**

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## The Wider Horizons Team

- Editor, pre-proofing & layout - Steve Amos - 01943 600111 - [steve.amos.gb@gmail.com](mailto:steve.amos.gb@gmail.com)
- Design & Graphics - Mike Fawcett - 01943 603209 - [widerhorizons@christchurchilkley.org.uk](mailto:widerhorizons@christchurchilkley.org.uk)
- Final proofing - Steve Amos, Margo Atkinson, Margaret McClay
- Pastoral Database (for labels) - Mike Dixon
- Distribution - Steve Amos

# WIDER HORIZONS

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH**  
**December 2019**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>01</b> Advent Sunday	<b>08</b> Advent 2	<b>15</b> Advent 3	<b>22</b> Advent 4	<b>29</b>
<b>Theme</b>	<b>The Bigger Picture</b> Gift Service	<b>Repent</b>	<b>What do you see?</b>	<b>Taking a Risk</b>	<b>Joseph's Journey</b>
<b>Readings</b>	Matthew 24:36-44	Matthew 3:1-12	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 1:18-25	Matthew 21:13-23
<b>9:00am</b> Interactive Worship	Michael Noble	Worship Team	Rev Roberta Topham	Contemporary Carols Michael Noble	Jenny Freeman & Judy Dixon
<b>10:45</b> Preacher led Worship	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Rita Armitage	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Rita Armitage

**PAUSE  
FOR  
THOUGHT**

**A twenty minute time of reflection  
 Fridays at 10:30am.**

01 Nov **Rev Roberta Topham\***

08 Nov Canon Phillip Gray

15 Nov Michael Noble

22 Nov Margaret Cook

29 Nov Rev David Callander

*\*Includes Holy Communion after the service*

**Bitesize  
Worship**

**Sunday 08 December**

**Sunday 20 December**

4:00pm in Dan's Den

**a short, activity filled service for young families**

**into the  
Melting Pot**

08 December

12 January

09 February

08 March

7:30pm in the Café

**Wednesday Fellowship December**

Meeting most Wednesdays at 2:00pm – All welcome

4th December — Coming Together in Dan's Den

December 11th — Christmas Party