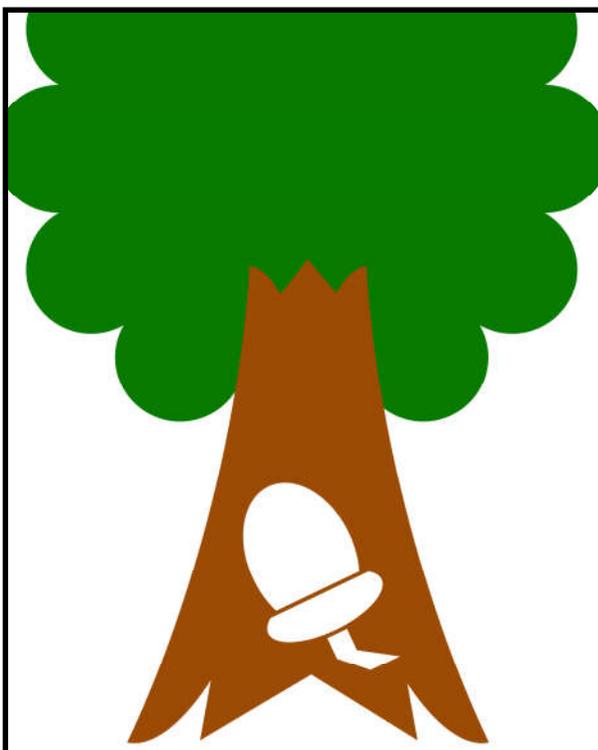


# WIDER HORIZONS



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To Michael & Becky



**CHRISTCHURCH**  
**February 2020**

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



## ROBERTA'S WRITINGS

Dear friends,

How do we become who we are?  
Or better still how do we become  
who we can be?

Michelle Obama, explores this in  
her book "Becoming" which I was  
given a copy of for Christmas. Like  
most autobiographies this book  
details the author's origins and

journey through childhood. Then, in Michelle  
Obama's case, she takes us through the  
communities she belonged to, her training and  
work in law, her marriage to future US President  
Barack Obama and her time in and after the  
White House. On route we are given details of the family members,  
friends and communities who have helped Michelle Obama become who  
she is or aims to be.



All of us are influenced and shaped by the people around us. This  
shaping comes through repeated aspects and habits of everyday life and  
through key moments.

A Methodist minister once told that when he was about five and at  
church with his parents, in a dull moment in the service (imagine!), he  
suddenly stood up on the pew and started singing "Twinkle, twinkle little  
star". After he finished singing, he said there was an apprehensive pause  
as everyone held their breath to hear how the minister leading the  
service would respond to this interruption. What he did say was "Thank  
you very much, that was lovely". Looking back on his childhood self, the  
singing minister told me that he realised that this was a key moment in  
his life. The response from the front could have gone either way with a  
cold critical response putting him off faith and church for life, whereas  
the warm encouraging response helped him to know he was accepted  
and at home.

Personally, when I look back, I can see some key moments of  
"becoming" in my life. I was brought up in the Presbyterian Church in  
Northern Ireland. When I came to university in England I found no  
Presbyterian church since I didn't understand about the unification  
between Presbyterians and Congregationalists to be the URC (sorry  
about that), so I attended a Baptist Church. After a year or two, I started  
going out with Jonathan Topham, who invited me to visit a Methodist  
Church service. We did that one Sunday and received a wonderful  
welcome, especially from an elderly man who took a great interest in us  
and our areas of study. After a few weeks, when we returned to this  
church, he was able to greet us by name and ask about our specific  
studies. That was a moment of transformation for me. I was also really  
impressed by the ministry of the whole people of God in that church and  
felt I had come "home".

Since then I have worked and worshipped with people of good faith from different church allegiance and none. There have been many moments of "becoming" for me as I am sure there have been for you. Perhaps it helps to look back and give thanks for those people who have helped us. We might also think about who we have helped "become" who God wants them to be, and who else we might still help through encouragement or kindness.

The journey as followers of Jesus is one of transformation. As well as people helping us, there are habits and patterns of life which can help us to sustain that transformation and we shall be exploring those patterns this term in our house groups as we continue to study the "Holy Habits" book by Andrew Roberts. Its hard to sustain good habits alone and that's where being part of a caring community can really help.

With kindest regards and wishing you every blessing

*Roberta*

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**Our Grateful thanks to Judy Dixon for work as Pastoral Secretary**  
Judy Dixon has been core to the pastoral care carried out at Christchurch for numerous years. Judy has been the pastoral secretary to the pastoral team and carried a great deal of the responsibility for overseeing the pastoral work throughout the Christchurch community. Judy has recently decided to step back from the comprehensive nature of her pastoral work and the administrative side of this role, while carrying on as a pastoral visitor to those she currently visits.

I am sure that the whole church community will want to join me in thanking Judy for the wonderful work she has done that is far more than even the best of words can do justice to here. We can echo Scripture in saying "Well done, you good and faithful servant" and be grateful that Judy is still active in pastoral care with us. In the future pastoral information or requests should be passed to members of the pastoral team who include Jenny Freeman, Jane Brown, Joan Loach and Paul Ribbends or to Roberta Topham as the minister.

Judy – we salute you! Christchurch is indebted to you!

*Roberta Topham*, minister at Christchurch on behalf of the pastoral team and the whole Church.

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### **Congratulations**

Michael Johnston, our new Children Youth and Families Lay Employee, has just got engaged to Becky Dennis. We wish them both heartfelt congratulations and all good wishes.



## **Comings and Goings**

We are sad to announce the deaths of Michael Baldwin and Ted Mould. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.

It is good to welcome Joan Pheasant (25 Greendown Close, Ilkley) who is worshipping with us.

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

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## **Congregational Meeting 01 December 2019**

*(The following are edited from the minutes written by Diana Feather)*

**Good Box** – Brian Scott reported that he had ordered a contactless terminal at a cost of £600 and expected it to be ready for use in the next two weeks. It was agreed to set the default at £3. Emma Noble to design the logo for it. Brian to arrange for a notice or poster to advertise it in its position in the foyer.

**Sound System** – It was agreed to recommend to the Trustees that they support John's proposals to upgrade the system with a new mixer and microphones.

**Market Mission** – Pat Evans (see report in WH January 2020). December's stall was a success. For the future, only 2 or 3 free gazebos are available for charities. Wendy to try to attend Council meeting to lobby for the market to stay on the Grove but improve access for pedestrians to church.

**Solar Panels** – Gary Knamiller (see report in WH January 2020).

**Electronic Booking System** - Brian Scott and Val Worrall. Brian is currently building the database for the simple, online system. A flat screen monitor is needed for the foyer, which will display room allocations for the day. It will be impossible to double-book. Bookings made on line will be provisional so that proposed use can be checked and approved.

**Jigsaw Festival** – Brian Scott. This is becoming an established event in the calendar. Next year's festival is already booked for 29 - 31 October 2020. This year's takings were well up on last year's. Derek Pickles kindly stores and transports the finished jigsaws for us; he will retire in a few years' time and we will need to find someone else to do this for us. Brian thinks he has worked out a method of claiming gift aid for the people who complete the jigsaws before they are sold.

**Christingle Service** – Chris Mannall and Helen to oversee the making of the Christingles, with help from volunteers including Juliet.

**Building Project** - Iain Thake. Richard Walsh the architect will be working on up-to-date costings on various phases/parts of the project. Preliminary costs: cost of all works except for the Cafe extension would be about £782,400 with VAT, but about £891,940 if you include fees.

The Phase 1 work alone (foyer, toilets, ramp to lower hall is estimated at £316,000 with fees and all VAT. This is a very big commitment and we would have to raise funds and keep the building operating. The ramp outside the church is a matter for Bradford Council Highways authority.

**Minister's Reflections** - Roberta. Big picture issues – the congregation came up with responses including: social justice; inequality; society and politics; giving Ilkley a heart, home, spirit and hope; circuit and synods; giving a lead on climate change. Roberta talked about a faith community feeding into mission movement.

Holy Habits – feedback please.

We still need volunteers to become stewards. We can split the Sunday services so steward doesn't cover both. Communion stewards are also needed. Please volunteer if you can.

**Finance** – Roland Henney. Giving is our biggest source of income but it does not cover salaries, building maintenance etc.. The deficit of £55k, for essential property maintenance work was met out of our legacy fund, in which we still have £130 000 but we want to ring fence that for projects. The solution is growth, increased giving, and a faith response.

**Children, Young Peoples & Families Lay Worker appointment** - Juliet Amos. Michael Johnston was appointed. He has just finished a one year internship at St George's in Leeds and has worked at Caring for Life. He is moving into Ilkley before Christmas.

**Dan's Den** – See report in this WH.

**Leeds City Mission** – Michael Noble explained the thinking behind the Leeds City Mission – to go out and meet people where they are, whether in the market, shops, the courts etc.. There is a need for temporary loans from Churches until the new city centre hotel is operational.

**Deacon Liz Day** will be employed roughly half time in the circuit mainly to take over work from Tim Perkins who has been appointed Circuit Superintendent.

**Wednesday Wizards** – See report in this WH.

**Date of the next meeting:** Sunday 02 February 2020 at 2:30pm. *(This has now been moved to **16 February** as there is a clash with the Ilkley Food Market where we will have a presence - Ed)*

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### **Wednesday Wizards**

Currently, we are half a dozen men who are retired and aged between early 70's and early 90's. Our numbers were greater until earlier this year when two very long-standing Wizards took retirement from Wizarding, namely George McArthur and Geoff Halsall. We and the members of Christchurch are hugely grateful for their services over many years.

Both George and Geoff have referred to the start of the group (late 80's

or early 90's) as being in the early years of the formation of Christchurch, founded by church member Peter Roberts together with the then caretaker Gordon Hayes.

The Wizards meet each Wednesday (the clue is in the name!) from just before 9:00am until noonish, and do a wide variety of jobs around all of the church buildings including the main building plus Christchurch Café, Dan's Den and the rented offices off Riddings Road. No job is too small, but some jobs are too big!

The coordinator produces a list of jobs every week with far too many items on the list that could be achievable at each session but keeping them all in mind so that we may tackle them in due course. Each week the list is prioritised, and items knocked off when they're done. Also, each week, new jobs can crop up, are evaluated and, if suitable for us, added to the next list.

Wizards greatly enjoy our coffee break and fellowship in the Café at around 10:00am where we are favoured with fresh filter coffee and scones – thank you Kathryn and the team!

Every week we test the fire alarm from one of the eight alarm zones and record in a book; we check the accuracy of the church clock (by climbing up the clock tower to the mechanism and winding two weight approximately 165 turns on a handle for each one) and make adjustment to the pendulum to correct accuracy; we cut up and condense all the cardboard waste from all sections of the building ready for it being moved to recycling.

Here are some randomly chosen jobs we have done to give you an idea of what's involved:

- Complete decorating in the Corner Room.
- (Last Year) Fix up some bunting at the front of the church to celebrate the "Tour de Yorkshire" cycle race.
- Make and fix up two shelves in the Café to accommodate toys and books for children.
- White lining of step edges and ramp – ongoing job.
- Waterproof sealant around Café sink.
- Rub down and varnish the three benches that are in the Atrium.
- Weeding and sweeping around the property to keep it tidy.
- Jet wash fire escape steps and the Atrium flagstones.
- Check drains for leaves where fall-pipes come down.
- Wash umpteen plastic chairs ready for a street party.
- Water plants in Atrium in dry weather.
- Source and fit a letterbox to the Youth Worker's office door.
- Fix up a notice board in the KIVCA (community action) office.
- Fix a flashing fluorescent tube in the Worship Area (many times over the years!)
- Fit some coat hooks and a cabinet in Dan's Den.

- Re-fix a cross onto wall in the Café.
- Plaster and paint in gents' toilet where drip from leaking cistern caused damage.
- Make changes to the hymn board to prevent numbers from sliding out when putting it in place.
- Fix up some coat hooks for customers' coats in Café.
- Put protective covers on the benches in the Atrium for winter.
- Find and erect assorted Christmas trees.
- Source and put up cash box for users of the foyer toilets.
- Attend to various toilet seats that are prone to wobbling!
- Rub down and varnish the fire escape steps from the rear of the Café.

I hope that gives an idea of the variety of jobs undertaken by YOUR Wednesday Wizards.

*Richard Rundle*

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### **Action For Children**

Peter and Pat Stockdale took over the box collection for Action for Children from Geoff Halsall in early April. We have 45 people who regularly put money into their 'lanterns' to help children in need. We will inform you what these boxes brought in for the current year in April 2020. If anyone would like a box, please ring 01132 842841 or speak to either of us.

Traditionally Christchurch has given to Action for Children (formerly called National Children's Home) collections from one of the Christmas services. This year Christchurch decided to make our annual Gift Service for this charity. At our two morning services we collected the magnificent sum of £822.45. We also had a retiring collection at both Christingle services which added another £256.40 to bring the total to £1,078.85 which has been sent to this charity.

Additionally, many people filled in their Gift Aid envelopes which means that AFC can reclaim an additional £154.50 from the Government, which is a huge bonus for AFC, bringing the overall total to £1233.35. They are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported the wonderful work they do for children and families in this country. Thank you everyone.

*Pat Stockdale*



## Café Update

We are always looking at ways to reduce our impact on the environment and are now recycling all bread bags either by reusing them or sending unwanted ones to an address in Ilkley which recycles hard to recycle plastics using The Terracycle Scheme (we also recycle our crisp packets through this scheme). If you would like to know more about this scheme please contact Liz Frankland or put 'Terracycle' into your search engine.



We still have a fantastic team of volunteers who work really hard, and it has to be said that the retention levels of volunteers in the Café is quite amazing. However, we still require more new volunteers and continue to struggle on two specific days on the counter. If we are unable to get cover at any point we have to ask paid staff to work the shift. Obviously, this impacts on profits. If you know anyone who may be interested in volunteering, specifically on the counter, please contact either Kathryn or Liz.

It has been a long standing tradition in the community that Christchurch hosts the Ilkley Christmas Lights switch on. Accordingly the Café has also been open (Kathryn did an 11 hour shift this year). Whilst, this is a great way of raising the profile of the church within the community it was less beneficial for the Café as we only took £13 in the 3 hour period. Perhaps this needs to be reviewed in the future.

We are extremely proud to announce that by the end of 2019 we will have raised nearly £2,200 which we have donated to nine different charities (Beamsey Project will receive over £600 in January). The money has been raised via our book stall, tips from customers and the sale of many jars of homemade jam mainly from one particular lady called Mary Artise-Tuyn who is not a member of the church but is known to the Stockdale family and likes to make jam to raise money for different charities.

We mentioned in our last report that the changes in car parking have had an impact on the Café. I can advise that up until 27 July 2019 (when the old car parking scheme finished) the Café's takings were up on the previous years' figures by £7,699. As I write this it is seventeen weeks since the new car parking charges were effective and takings had reduced to being up on last years' figures by £3,732. We have been in contact with Ilkley BID who are reviewing the scheme for Bradford Council. They have also done an online survey for residents and business to complete. In total 1500 people completed the survey (including Christchurch Café) and initial headline responses were: half the businesses reporting a drop in turnover; nearly two thirds of visitors saying they come to Ilkley less often. Bradford Council are reviewing the scheme in early 2020.

Although our sales figures have reduced we are still very busy and staff and volunteers work extremely hard. In 2020 we will be looking at ways of raising our profile within the community and also look at ideas for bringing business into the Café. We must also not forget that whilst making a good profit is one of our objectives it is not our main objective.

Our main objective has always been Outreach to the community which we do on a daily basis in many ways and which is why so many of our customers have been coming to us on a regular basis for many years and why so many of our volunteers stay with us.

Liz Frankland

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## **Mediterranean Hope**

*Fiona Kendall is working in Italy with Mediterranean Hope on behalf of the Church of Scotland and Methodist Church in Britain. Here she shares a little about the situation of asylum seekers in Italy. December 2019.*



My primary focus over the last six months has been helping to develop the concept which has come to be known as 'European Humanitarian Corridors'. All of you who know the work of Mediterranean Hope are already familiar with humanitarian corridors, an idea which was pioneered by MH, working ecumenically with the Community of Sant' Egidio, in 2015. In the last four years, this mechanism has become a model of best practice, bringing vulnerable migrants safely and legally from Lebanon to Italy, where they are fully supported as they integrate into Italian society. Over that four year period, a handful of legacy corridors has sprung up. Participants now come from Ethiopia, Jordan and Niger as well as from Lebanon, and have been welcomed in France, Belgium and Andorra as well as in Italy. The model clearly works. Hold that thought for a moment . . .

None of us can be unaware of the dreadful conditions endured by many migrants in Libya and the surrounding region as they travel north in an attempt to find a better life for themselves. Many of us will have seen harrowing pictures and videos from within detention centres there, and have read of the exploitation and abuse endured by those attempting to scrape a living outside those centres. MH's simple idea is this: why not expand the humanitarian corridor model to bring 50,000 vulnerable migrants out of that troubled region into Europe?

Over the last six months, we've been testing the viability of that idea. Several meetings, calls, emails and drafts later, we now have an eight page concept paper, developed in close co-operation with UNHCR. At a conference in Rome in October, we garnered support for the concept from over twenty churches from across Europe. And, at an event hosted by Vice-President Fabio Massimo Castaldo at the European Parliament on 10 December, the proposal was launched on the European stage. Speakers from the Italian government, UNHCR, European institutions and churches all endorsed the idea.

We are delighted. However, although it's taken a huge amount of work to get to this stage, we know that this work has only just started. Without a coalition of willing European countries, this bold idea will never get off the ground. Italy is willing to spearhead the initiative but cannot do it on its own. So we must lobby hard. This week at the Global Refugee Forum in

Geneva, two of us from MH will be sharing conference space for three days with around 2,000 representatives from almost 200 countries. It's an opportunity we cannot miss to share this idea. It's interesting to find that the idea appeals to those from across the political spectrum. As the numbers involved are controlled, the criteria for participation tight, and the focus on preparation and integration likely to lead participants becoming autonomous, the concept offers solidarity and security, important words on both sides of the migrant narrative.

Influencing narrative could not be more important, particularly in such polarised times as these.

Interestingly, in Italy, a new movement is flourishing. Last month, a flash mob of "human sardines" quietly filled a square where the Far Right intended to host a rally. Waving fish-shaped placards bearing radical slogans



such as "respect" and "tolerance", the 'Sardine' (as they are known in Italian) have struck a chord with those despairing of the rhetoric of hate which has grown in strength over recent years. This simple, yet powerful, idea has caught hold, so much so that yesterday the Sardine filled squares across Italy. The good-natured rally which I attended in Piazza San Giovanni in Rome attracted an estimated 100,000 of all ages and backgrounds. Speaker after speaker denounced the politics of hate, calling for, amongst other things, the reversal of "Security Decree" ushered in under the last administration and affirming Italy as a welcoming society. This physical evidence of an alternative world view seems incredibly important at a time when social media appears to hold so much power. The numbers involved yesterday cannot be denied.

In the Autumn I spent two weeks in Jordan, Israel/Palestine, where I joined a World Mission Council study pilgrimage. I am still processing that profound experience which not only exposed me for the first time to the land where Jesus walked but also to the grim realities for many of the contemporary situation in that troubled region. Seeing first hand some of what I had heard refugees here describe about life there was truly shocking. Perhaps as a result of the work I am now engaged in, I seem to see things more vividly than I have at any stage in my life and, as a result, my sense of injustice has been sharpened. It is much harder for me now to be an observer in any context, whether I am "at work" or not.

Thanks, as always, to all of you, for the support and encouragement which you continue to offer, for your concern for the work of the Mediterranean Hope project. If you are willing, I'd be grateful if you'd consider praying for the following:

- ◆ Courage, for politicians considering whether or not to embrace European Humanitarian Corridors

- ◆ Energy, for those who mistakenly think they cannot make a difference through their actions
- ◆ Hope, for those who have no safe harbour and no prospect of returning home.

*Fiona Kendal*

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# Congregational Meeting

## Now moved to Sunday 16 February at 2:30pm

This is to avoid a clash with the Ikley Food Market where Christchurch will have a gazebo (and the Grove will be closed to vehicles).

Come and hear reports, voice your opinions, raise issues and help shape the future of Christchurch.

*Wendy Ribbands - Chair of Trustees*

<p>Please contact the <b>Prayer Chain</b> for urgent or special prayer needs: Val Worrall (01943 831779)</p>	<p>Text your prayer concerns to the Christchurch Prayer Team: <b>07562 343622</b></p>
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**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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**WIDER  
HORIZONS**

**WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH  
February 2020**

Sunday	02	09	16	23
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Life in Christ</b>	<b>Knowing Christ</b>	<b>The Greatest of These</b>	<b>The Transfiguration</b>
<b>Readings</b>	Galatians 5:1-26	Philippians 3:6b-16	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Matthew 17:1-9
<b>9:00am</b> Interactive Worship	Christine Gibson	Rev Roberta Topham <i>Communion</i>	Worship Team	Michael Noble
<b>10:45</b> Preacher led Worship	Philip Gibson	Rev Roberta Topham <i>Communion</i>	Rev Roberta Topham	Michael Noble

# PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

**A twenty minute time of reflection  
Fridays at 10:30am**  
07 - Michael Noble  
14 - Rev David Callander  
21 - Canon Phillip Gray  
28 - Mgr Keiran Heskin

## Bitesize Worship

**09 & 23 February**  
4:00pm in Dan's Den

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

**SMILES - 02 February - 4:00pm in Dan's Den**

Making Church accessible for families who have children with special needs.

A combination of play in Dan's Den and a time of learning and reflection. Refreshments provided.



## into the Melting Pot

Second Sunday evening  
**09 February** - Translations  
**08 March** - Language  
7:30pm in the Café

### Wednesday Fellowship February

Meeting most Wednesdays at 2:00pm – All welcome

**05** Rev Roberta Topham

**19** Cruising in the Caribbean with  
Joan Loach

**12** Head of Nell Bank, Dan Goodby

**26** Rev Alistair Newton