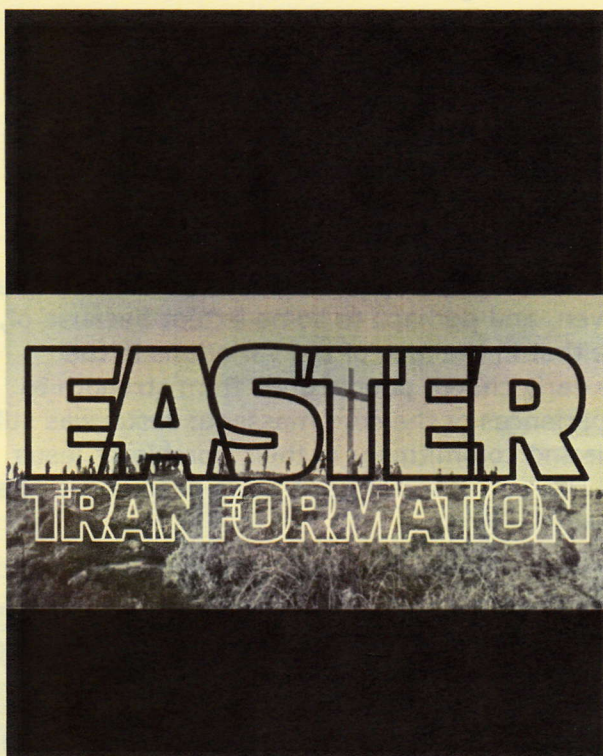


# WIDER HORIZONS



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**CHRISTCHURCH**  
**April 2020**

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





ROBERTA'S  
WRITINGS

Dear friends,

As I write I am looking to Easter for how we might live more positively through a very unsettling time. Just now the challenges are many, coronavirus is causing concern as the number of people suffering from this rises; fighting has again intensified in Syria with mass migrations from Idlib; flooding across the UK has caused severe difficulties for many; and the dire consequences of climate change are ever before us.

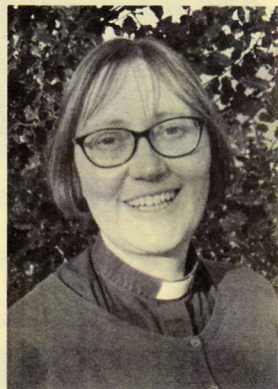
Can these situations be transformed? Can how you and I look at these matters be transformed? The message of Easter would lead us to answer "yes" to both of these questions.

Easter is an account of transformation. Jesus was somehow - mysteriously and incomprehensibly - transformed from a dead Jewish man into a living saviour for all; his friends were transformed from terrified and confused people into bold and courageous apostles; some who had followed a way of faith based on keeping rules were freed by their experience of God's "grace" (life-giving love) to a new assurance.

For me the accounts of the transformations as they are described in the Gospels are compelling - even, and perhaps to some extent because of, their variety. It delights me that in the face of the variations in the stories which emerged, the early church people grew from strength to strength based on their experiences of the core message: Jesus was still present to them. The vigour and commitment in their worship of Jesus and the way they lived and shared stories of good news despite the often deadly consequences is striking.

Ever since, that same resurrection power has been enabling women and men to step out of old ways of seeing things into new. The Easter message continues to be one of resurrection hope, joy and new possibilities. So no matter what we face in terms of our own human frailty or the challenges of our complex global environment we can do so with hope. That is not to deny the importance of working hard to solve human problems but an encouragement to be part of Easter-communities which can give us fresh resolve to do so with enlivened perspectives.

Something of these themes was expressed by the



poet Gerald Manley Hopkins in his poem 'The Wreck of the Deutschland', written in 1875 after the loss of 168 passengers travelling to England from Germany. Hopkins grapples with the tragedy and the suffering and prays of God at the end of the poem "Let him enter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cresseted east".

So in that vein, I hope God may "Easter in" each one of us and in our world and that together we may face what comes with strength and hope and know transformation.

Happy Easter

*Roberta*

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## **Comings And Goings**

We are sad to announce the death of Michael Sharman. We send our love and prayers to Margaret, Martin, Callum and Sofia.

Also, Sybil Somers, a regular at our 'Pause For Thought' Service, died on 12 February and we remember Sybil's family and friends in our prayers.

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

*Thank you from the Pastoral Team*

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## **Christchurch Gets Creative**

Book the date in your diary as there will be a major all-day event at Christchurch on 21 November 2020, when we can all show our artistic or craft talents.

Use your imagination to produce items for sale. All kinds of crafts will be welcome - the end result will be much-needed funds for Christchurch.

So start now with your needles, yarn, scissors, wooden spoons, dried flowers, paint brushes, paper, wood . . . the list is endless !

More details in due course but why not make a start now?

*Juliet Amos and Margo Atkinson*

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## **Easter Cards**

Once again, Christchurch can offer Easter Cards for sale, which depict Easter in many different designs and colours, but most of all each card carries a religious text.

On sale NOW in Christchurch Cafe at 70p per card.

*Philip Smith*



## **Congregational Meeting - Minutes 16 February 2020**

*The following is an edited version of the minutes giving a summary of the key points. The full minutes, prepared by Diana Feather, are available on the noticeboard in the Foyer.*

**Pastoral Care:** There will be a meeting on Tuesday 28 April in the evening for anyone interested in or already involved in pastoral care.

**URC TLS Course (Chris Mannall):** Chris reported on this one year course which will complete the three years of study he has undertaken, leading to accreditation as an URC lay preacher in the summer of 2020. He thanked those individuals who have supported him, and the church for meeting some of the cost of the fees.

**The toilet box:** This has generated £170 so far. Thanks to Richard Rundle and the team.

**Sound System (John Scott):** The new mixing desk had arrived and he was working on it. He will set it up initially in the Wizards' den and train volunteers, then these designated 4 or 5 people will be able to set it up before any event. It will be about four weeks before it is installed in the Worship Area.

**Market Mission (Pat Evans):** It had been held twice so far and each time our volunteers had engaged in conversations with about 600 people. One lady now attends church as a result of being given an angel. The next will be on 01 March. Volunteers are needed for an hour to prepare.

**Jigsaw Festival:** Brian Scott is standing down. Please see John Sayers if you are able to volunteer to replace him in this role. Geoff Halsall is stepping down from his finance role and Jenny Freeman will replace him on the bank mandate form. Many thanks to Brian and Geoff for all their service over the years.

**Disabled parking:** Wendy has talked to the Council and spaces will be made available for disabled parking when services are on.

**Fundraising:** Prof Mike Dixon's 'Disappearing Ilkley' talk raised £1302. Pat Stockdale reported that Action for Children raised £1078 from collections at the Gift Service and Christingle. Many thanks to both for all their hard work in raising such substantial sums.

**Building Project:** Michael Noble reported that the Building Group had met with the architects to explore whether the accessible toilets could be built before the larger foyer project was started.

**Café update (Margaret Cook):** Financially the Café had three good years followed by one in which takings were down (as a result of the car



parking charges in Ilkley). However it seems to be picking up again now. The charity jar on the counter raised £753.03, which was given to the Beamsley Project. They are now collecting for a domestic abuse charity called Behind Closed Doors, and for the Teenage Cancer Trust from which Ned Hilton has benefitted. Next they plan to support CAP and Action for Children. Margaret appealed for members of the congregation to use the Café more, to buy the greetings cards on sale there and to pray for more people to volunteer to be part of our ministry there.

**Dan's Den Outreach Worker (Ellie Rudge):** Ellie gave a very enthusiastic report of her experiences as outreach worker in Dan's Den. Since starting in post six months ago, she has set up Joyful Jingles, supported services including Bitesize and Smiles and is enjoying being with the children and parents/carers and generally nurturing a caring approach. She received a very enthusiastic round of applause.

**Children, Young People & Families (Michael Johnston):** Six weeks into the post, Michael reported that, at Bitesize, talking about why we read the Bible led to one family asking for a Bible and taking two home. Three of the families who attend Toddlers now come to Bitesize. Michael is also keen to support the uniformed groups (Beavers, Rainbows, etc) and has started joining the Youth Worker at All Saints on Sunday evenings and at Ilkley Grammar School. He made an appeal for volunteers to help with Toddlers and other groups. Michael also received a round of applause.

**Treasurer's Report (Roland Henney):** The predicted budget for 2019-20, based on the 9 months so far, is likely to show a deficit of £20,000. The Café is down £5000, suffering from lower takings and increased costs. Giving is down by £3,000 largely due to deaths. If nothing changes, it is likely that in 2020-2021 we will have a deficit of £38,000. He asked us whether we should change our approach by giving 10% of Café surplus and room hire income to good causes, and focus our fundraising efforts on the upkeep of Christchurch. We also need focused cost constraint, volunteers to help with completing applications for grants, and anyone who has the time and skills for strategic financial planning to offer to take over as treasurer. Suggestions made included: encouraging members to include legacies in their wills; members might look at increasing their giving now; following a course on 'Leading your church into growth'; encouraging those who are 'half members' (eg attending Bitesize etc) to join and give of their time and resources. Wendy thanked Roland for all his hard work as treasurer.

**Minister's Reflections:** Roberta was delighted with the impact already being made by our new outreach workers, Michael and Ellie, and asked

the congregation to encourage and support them. She also paid tribute to the Market Mission, which was another fantastic way of broadening our outreach. Roberta plans to set up a small team to run a Step Programme, an evening course for people who attend church but are not members. She and Christine Henney is looking for volunteers to help run the course after Easter. The Giving Group is planning a fund-raising concert in November.

**Worship (David Gouldesbrough):** Changes to the stewards' role will begin in June when duties will be split between the two morning services. The next two worship themes will be Images of God and Living in Christ.

**Methodist Circuit/ District and URC Synod:** Lesley Taylor would not be replaced. Tim Perkins was preparing a document 'Planning for Growth'. Chris Mannall was confirmed as our URC rep on the Synod.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 28 May 2020 at 7:30 pm.

*Steve Amos (Editor)*

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### **Leadership Team and Trustees News - Vacancies**

At the May Congregational meeting we will need to elect a new member of the Leadership Team, as Juliet Amos, Nurture portfolio, is standing down after six years. This portfolio holder has overall responsibility for the following areas of the church life, although this does not mean that the person has to get directly involved in everything included in the portfolio list!

- House Groups
- Thursday Prayer
- Children & Young People
- The Wednesday Fellowship
- Children & Young People's Lay Employment Management Group

We will also have one vacancy for a general Trustee who is not a member of the Leadership Team. Trustees play an important role in representing the wider church including providing appropriate accountability for the Leadership Team.

Please consider prayerfully if you are being called to fulfil one of these roles. To find out more, please don't hesitate to ask me. if you think you know a member who you think would be good in either role then either ask them to think about it or have a word with me in confidence.

*Wendy Ribbands - Chair*



## **My Story - Joan Loach**

When Roberta asked me if I would tell my story, my response was that I didn't really have one; that I had been born into the Methodist church and had had no Damascus Road experiences. She persuaded me to tell it anyway.

I was born in Sunderland into a Methodist family and along with my parents, grandparents and many other relatives, attended Roker Methodist Church which was around 500 yards from my home. I was christened there, grew up through the Sunday school, sang in the church choir, became a church member at the age of 14, became a Sunday school teacher and attended the church youth club and eventually married there. It all sounds pretty boring doesn't it, but it wasn't.



When I was three years old, my father went off to the war. I didn't see him again until I was seven as he was taken prisoner by the Japanese as soon as his ship docked in Singapore. One of my first memories of that time was of our Minister, Rev Pinder, visiting regularly, and of my mum, brother and I kneeling round the coffee table in the lounge as he prayed for my dad's safety and for us. I felt from those early years the comfort of prayer and the realisation that we were loved and cared for by God. My dad did return and there was great rejoicing, although he had been mentally scarred from his terrible experiences.

During my teenage years we had a minister called Ron Crawford. He made a great impression on me as he was an excellent preacher but most of all I remember his compassionate eyes. He looked on everyone with such love and I used to think that was how Jesus must have looked at people. It was he who welcomed me into church membership along with several of my friends.

I became a Sunday school teacher and joined the youth club. The leader of the club at that time was Stan Loach who was already a local preacher and who also lived on the same street as I did. He was eight years older than me and I had hardly noticed him previously. After some time I became treasurer of the club and we gradually got to know each other and formed a friendship. Our first outing together was to my bank dance and I invited him to come with me as he was the only young male I knew who had an evening suit. That was the start of it, love grew and eventually we were married by Rev Crawford.

We both worked for banks and within nine weeks of our marriage Stan was moved to Cambridge. I gave up my job and moved with him. We were there for 10 years, living in a village just outside Cambridge and, of course, we joined a small village Methodist church nearby. Once again we were surrounded by love and friendship and as each of our first three children was born, they were christened in our church. Stan continued his

local preaching in the circuit and we enjoyed friendships made with some of the students from Wesley College where they were training for the ministry.

Stan's next move was to Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire, in 1969 and early the following year our fourth child was born. Once again we had joined the local Methodist church where we stayed for the next 38 years, making such strong friendships and being very involved in church life.

Twelve and a half years ago we moved to Ilkley to be nearer to some of our family. It was a big wrench leaving our church and our friends behind but when we came to Christchurch we were given such a warm welcome that we very soon felt at home and quickly made new friends. Belonging to a house group helped us to get to know a smaller group more intimately.

Of course, like so many others life hasn't been all plain sailing. There have been difficult and stressful times, great sadness and times when I have had doubts about my faith, but thankfully God has stood by me even when I was drifting away from him.

As most of you know, two and a half years ago, Stan died at home of a heart attack, after having treatment for cancer. It was very traumatic and after his death I felt a terrible sense of emptiness. He had been my rock for 58 years. I decided I would like to take his ashes to the top of Beamsley Beacon, so on Boxing Day, two years ago when all my family were here, we all donned hiking boots and drove over to the other side of the valley. It was a lovely sunny day when we set off but as we got nearer there was a sudden shower. I began to feel disappointed, thinking it would spoil the occasion but then a rainbow appeared right over the Beacon. We parked the cars at the car park and gathered together as a group with the ashes and a trowel in a rucksack. My daughter had her camera and asked us to gather for a photo. The picture showed the rainbow coming straight down onto my head. We walked up the Beacon in a beautiful golden light and we chose a spot near the summit to bury the ashes. Two grandchildren dug the hole and another brought a large rock to place on top.

I had found a very old bible which Stan's mother had given to him when he was training for local preaching and my youngest granddaughter had just recently been baptised in a Baptist church in Edinburgh, having recently moved to university there, so I asked her if she would like to have it. She had carried it up with her and asked if she could read something from it. We stood in a circle as she opened it and read Psalm 128. It was very apt, and afterwards I asked her how she had come to choose that reading. She said I didn't choose it, I just opened the bible and it was there.

When I came off Beamsley Beacon that day I felt that I had been given a sign that all was well with Stan, he was with his Lord and that I could face the future with hope and the knowledge that God was with me and would never leave me.



I feel as though my life has been richly blessed, born into a loving Christian family, married for 58 years to a man who was loving, supportive, full of fun and who had a strong faith which he enjoyed sharing with others, having a lovely family of my own and making so many wonderful friends along the way.

Joan Loach

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## **Prayer Shawl Ministry Update**

The latest completed baby blankets were recently blessed during one of the Wednesday Fellowship Meetings by Roberta. It was thought that some of our members may not be aware of the Ministry and would like to be included in the blessing and prayers.

The blankets are now stored in Dans Den ready for new babies and families who attend Toddlers, Smiles and other church activities. As part of the outreach, Roberta suggested that we add an invitation for baptism and blessings. The new prayer tag attached to every blanket now has a message offering a dedication or 'Christening'.

*It reads: Should you wish to celebrate the life of your child with us at Christchurch we can offer baptism (christening) or a thanksgiving dedication in one of our regular services.*

*Please contact Roberta our minister (607870) or the person who gave you this shawl to find out more. We welcome everyone.*

The baby blankets are always given and received with love. If you would like to join our small team of knitters you will be very welcome. We are now few in number and the demand for baby blankets is increasing as the group numbers are growing larger.

Please pray for our Prayer Baby Blanket Ministry. It is a wonderful outreach for existing and new families showing the love of Christchurch.

Val Appleton



## Café News

We are pleased to announce that three new volunteers have joined us this month: Chris, Tom & Trudy. Chris & Tom have had previous experience in the Café in the past and Trudy never has. We hope they enjoy being part of the team. We have currently got two

volunteers off due to sickness and would like to wish Jean and Michelle all our best wishes and a speedy recovery. We still struggle on occasions to get shifts covered so if anyone is interested in helping out please contact me or Kathryn.

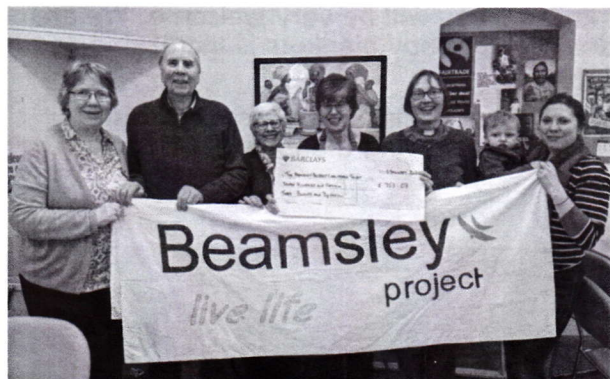
We are really pleased that the local press put an article in the local paper in February about the money we donated to The Beamsley Project. If you didn't get to see it, read on.

### **Church Café donates its tips to 9 different charities**

Christchurch Café, an award winning Café, situated on The Grove, Ilkley, has donated £2,333.00 to nine different charities in the past 15 months. The money has come from tips given by customers, along with money raised by selling homemade jam and second hand books. The most recent donation of £753.03 was to The Beamsley Project, a charity based at Bolton Abbey which supports local and nationwide groups and individuals to access the Yorkshire Dales. This donation will go towards a newly launched bursary scheme which will provide free places to The Beamsley

Project to children and young adults with additional needs whose families are experiencing financial difficulties.

Kathryn Emmott, Manager of Christchurch Café and pictured handing over a cheque to representatives of Beamsley Project said "We are delighted that our Café can offer assistance to so many worthwhile causes from the generosity of our customers".



Christchurch Café is an Outreach Café offering nutritious food at reasonable prices, open six days per week, Monday to Saturday from 10:00am until 3:30pm. It is part of Christchurch which recently also raised £5,700.00 through the JigFest & The Three Tenors Concert. The money raised from these events was also donated to various charities.

Finally, it was nice to hear one of our customers saying that they came to visit us for the first time after reading our TripAdvisor reviews!

*Liz Frankland*



## Dan's Den News

### Celebrations

We don't need much of an excuse to party or eat cake, in Dan's Den. February was very busy on this front with Caroline and Joyce both celebrating with cake. Hetley, one of our fabulous volunteer trustees, received an official Lordship (a gift from the staff) to celebrate his birthday with a zero. Dan's Den at Christchurch are proud to have an actual Lord on the Board.



DAN'S DEN

### Community Outreach

August 2019 saw Dan's Den successfully apply for funding, from Ikley Round Table, Bradford ABCD and Christchurch, to run a series of post-natal groups. These groups are beneficial to new parents in terms of baby skills. The unseen benefit of this is about facilitating the creations of bonds between peers that hopefully last a life time. By providing this service we also highlight Dan's Den as a lovely safe non-judgmental place to come. We have run three of the six groups we received funding for, and both January and March groups were oversubscribed! Caroline will shortly begin applying for 2020/21 funding. Funding can rarely be applied for more than six months in advance so there are no guarantees that this much-needed group will continue, although we are very hopeful.

### National Recognition

We were very proud to get a 'Hidden Disabilities' article in the Ikley Gazette. This was then recognized nationally by the Hidden Disabilities charity. This is the first time, that we are aware, that Dan's Den has received national praise!

### Summary

It's been a busy old quarter, business wise. The team have worked seamlessly through several 'full' days; this is when we are at capacity and cannot safely allow access to any more families. We accept this is disappointing to those not able to attend, but the customers seem to agree; first come, first served is the fairest system. Most of our team now have long service records and this is reflected in their output and care and support of each other to achieve.



*Caroline Kelly*

# 12 FACES OF HOPE



**An inspiring photo exhibition touring the UK,  
commissioned by the World Council of  
Churches, Geneva.**

**April 6th – April 20th at Christchurch, The Grove, Ilkley**

Upstairs in the worship area. Entrance free. All welcome.

**Opening times:**

Monday - Friday 09.00 to 16.00. Saturdays 09.00 to 13.00



**World Council  
of Churches**



**Launch Event: Joint Christchurch and Amnesty International**

**Tuesday 7th April at 7:30 pm in Christchurch Café.**

Speaker – Robert Cohen, trustee of the Amos Trust, a human rights organisation, committed to challenging injustice, building hope and creating positive change.

Enjoy food from the Middle East, view the photo exhibition and listen to Robert. Foods and crafts available to buy.

Free event. No tickets required. Donations welcome.



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

## **Manor House Embroidery Exhibition**

**By Deborah Mullins**

inspired by her time living in the Holy Land.

At the Manor House, Ilkley

Open 11.00 to 16.00 April 11th and 12th and

April 18th and 19th.

Free entrance into the Manor House





## **Christian Aid Week 10-16 May**

There are two ways you could help raise money for Christian Aid this year, as well, of course, donating in church.

1. House-to-house collection. Last year we decided not to do a house-to-house collection for Christian Aid but instead we organised the Three Tenor Concert to raise money. Some people expressed their disappointment that we had not done the house-to-house collection, so this year we are very happy to organise one if people are keen to do it. If you would like to be involved in a house-to-house collection for Christian Aid between 10 to 16 May, will you please let us know by 05 April.
2. Street Collection. This year St John's in Ben Rhydding is organising a street collection for Saturday 16 May. They would like Churches Together in Ilkley to all join in. If you feel you can help with this for an hour or so can you please let us know, again by 05 April.

You can contact either Chris or Gary Knamiller by phone on 01943 430634 or email Chris on [chrisknamiller@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisknamiller@hotmail.com)

As well as raising money during Christian Aid Week we have also booked, by critical acclaim and universal demand, our 'Three Tenors' to return to Christchurch on the 23 January 2021, so please put the date in your diary.

*Chris and Gary Knamiller*

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### **Interview with Paul Evans, Trustee of Butoke charity**

*The following is the transcript of an interview that Roberta conducted in the Sunday morning services on March 1st 2020 with Paul Evans, who is a Trustee of 'Butoke', a non-governmental aid agency working in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Butoke is the focus for our Lent learning and giving this year.*

#### **Roberta: Where is the Butoke charity based?**

Paul: Butoke is an NGO based in the Western Kasai province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Butoke means 'light'. The Friends of Butoke Charity is a UK registered and regulated charity. Its registered office is in Ilkley.

#### **What are conditions like for people living in that area? And why?**

The UN places the DRC as being towards the bottom of its human development index: 179 out of 189 countries. The DRC has vast natural resources and mineral wealth. However, corruption, war and political instability mean its gross national income per head was \$800 in 2019 (the figure for the UK was \$39,500).

The communities of the Western Kasai province in which Butoke works are very poor indeed. They survive by subsistence agriculture.

The state by and large fails to provide the basics of life, whether it be education, healthcare, clean water or infrastructure. Kananga, the closest city to Butoke's base in Tshikaji, is 1100 kms by road from Kinshasa (more or less completely unpaved). The journey is generally too dangerous to attempt by road and none of the airlines that fly the route are regarded as safe.

Over the period that I have been associated with Butoke (the last 13 years or so), the Western Kasai has generally been relatively peaceful, certainly when compared with the east of the country around Goma. However the Western Kasai suffered violence in 2017 and 2018 as the result of fighting between militias. The UNHCR estimated that as many as 5 million people were displaced in 4 provinces including Kasai.

The violence caused thousands of deaths, the most high profile being of two UN experts killed in Kasai province in April 2017 (a Swede and an American investigating human rights violations). Life became very difficult indeed for Butoke. It had to close its schools temporarily and other activities were disrupted as demand for its service sky-rocketed.

### **What is your connection to Butoke?**

I worked as an intern in the Church & Society unit of the WCC where I met Dr Cecile de Sweemer. At the time she was working on the WCC's response to the emerging AIDS crisis. My job was to language edit documents which she wrote in English.

Cecile had studied medicine at Ghent University in Belgium before going on to obtain a PhD in public health at John Hopkins University in the US where she also taught. She worked as a public health expert in Tibet and, for a number of years, was in charge of the Canadian government's international development operation in West Africa. I spent six weeks as an intern there in 1987. She then went on to work in Cambodia and Laos before going to work in the DRC for the Presbyterian Church of the USA as a medical missionary in 2002. In 2005 she set up Butoke.

It was around 2005 that a mutual friend put me back in touch with Cecile with whom I had had no contact for a number of years. She was looking for supporters for Butoke. Initially my wife and I engaged on a purely personal level but in due course we set up the Friends of Butoke Charity so that we and others could contribute to its work in a tax efficient way.

Cecile died at the end of 2018. However, she had established a partnership with Dr Jean Lumbala, a Congolese doctor who is also an agronomist. He was running Butoke as its executive director and Cecile quite clearly regarded him both as a surrogate son and the heir apparent.

### **What does Butoke do?**

Healthcare: Butoke runs a health centre in Kananga. Its quality has been recognised by being appointed the supervisory healthcare centre for the area but the local authorities do not contribute to its running costs. It is financially self-sufficient, charging small fees to those who can afford



them but not to those who cannot. In particular, it provides free services to rape victims and other victims of violence. By way of example in December last year it treated 80 patients including 21 with malaria, seven with typhoid, 11 with hernias and five who needed caesarean sections. It also delivered 21 babies. In addition, Butoke runs a small clinic in Tshikaji where its orphanage is located and it wishes to open a small maternity unit in Tshimbundu.

**Education:** for several years Butoke has run a secondary school and two primary schools near Tshikaji. Butoke is able to do this due to the generosity of a Canadian benefactor. The same benefactor has also paid for a new school to be built in Tshimbundu. Butoke decided to venture into education because no school places were available for many of the children it worked with and it took the view that the level of education on offer was in any event abysmal. When it opened its own schools it set tests for prospective teachers and most of them, although qualified as teachers, failed to demonstrate literacy and mathematical skills which they should have achieved by the time they had finished primary school.

**Orphanage and shelter for the elderly:** In December 2019 it had 68 young people: 28 girls and 40 boys. Some of the children are fed by Butoke but continue to live at home - their families simply cannot afford to feed them. In December Butoke took in 9 elderly people who had been sent back to the DRC from Angola. Butoke carries out these activities because there is no alternative for those to whom it provides food and shelter.

**Agriculture:** Butoke works with around 30 local agricultural associations. Its aim is to improve understanding of basic agricultural techniques and to improve crop selection. Many people became de-skilled during the period of conflict in the early 2000s when it was often too dangerous to venture into the fields.

Butoke insists that women are involved in the management committees of its association partners. Butoke has helped educate its association partners in agricultural techniques, for example helping to introduce cassava varieties which are resistant to common pests. However crops remain vulnerable to theft by people displaced during the fighting in 2018. Butoke introduced fish farming to a number of its association partners to increase the amount of protein available to villagers. The fish farms were damaged and looted during 2018 but have been re-established in the last year to some extent

Some specific projects have been funded by the Friends of Butoke Charity. First, before Butoke opened its own schools, we used to raise funds in order to ensure that the school leaving exams of girls were paid for. Butoke discovered that many parents regarded paying the exam fees of their daughters as an unnecessary luxury. Secondly, we obtained a grant for Butoke to cap a number of springs. This resulted in fresh clean drinking water being available to around 70,000 people and we made

straight clear paths which helps the (mainly) women to avoid snakes on their walk to the springs for water.

**Could you give us one or two stories about specific people who are being helped through Butoke and what differences it has made in their lives?**

Ngalula Hortance: mother of three children. Kicked out by her family because she became pregnant before marrying. Taken in by Butoke and sent to the tailoring school. Now she has her own sewing business and is able to support her children. The Friends of Butoke Charity paid for her sewing machine.

Widow Kwanku: she is over 70 and has lived in the old people shelter for a number of years. She would be completely destitute without the support of Butoke, having no family.

**How are the funds raised for Butoke overseen and regulated?**

Governance in the UK: the Friends of Butoke Charity is registered with the Charity Commission. It has four trustees: myself, my wife Marleen, the Rector of Bridlington Priory, and his wife, Adriane. The income of the charity is generally between £20,000 and £30,000 a year. All of its income is sent to Butoke in the DRC. The running costs of the charity are met by its trustees. In other words, people who make donations to the Friends of Butoke Charity can be sure that 100% of the money they give is being used in the DRC.

Governance in the DRC: we transfer donations to Butoke's bank account on a monthly basis. Periodically the banking system in the DRC stops working and we then have to effect transfers by Western Union. We require Butoke to provide information each month (supported by receipts) about how the previous month's contributions have been spent. We also require a monthly narrative report with general information about its activities. Given the small size of its organisation, there is inevitably a considerable amount of trust involved which depends on personal relationships established over time. However, North American supporters of Butoke with both general development expertise and experience of working and living in the DRC visit Butoke periodically

*Paul is going to provide Christchurch with envelopes which we can fill in so that gift aid can be claimed on any donations. Up to Easter we will collect gifts of money for this excellent work, with confidence knowing that it will be well spent to help some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. More details can be found on the website: <https://thefriendsofbutokecharity.wordpress.com> or you can email Paul at [paulevans@blueuoyonder.co.uk](mailto:paulevans@blueuoyonder.co.uk) for more information.*



Roberta Topham



## The Unpaid Economy

Adam Smith, well renowned philosopher and economist, is often considered one of the founding fathers of modern economic thought. But who was there cooking his dinner? His mum!



Kate Raworth in her book

'Doughnut Economics' uses Adam Smith's story as an example of the invisible work of women. Smith, never married and lived with his mother most of his life and while writing many of his best-known economic works. She brought him up and cared for him even during his adult life, maintaining their family home and cooking all his meals. Smith largely took this for granted. He never reflected on such a role within his publications, despite the fact that her unpaid labour sustained him and enabled him to do his work.

Such unpaid work is far too often invisible. This is not surprising given that today's economic theory and practice is dominated by the belief that the mark of a thriving economy is endless financial growth.

Society places far less value on unpaid labour in comparison to paid work, which directly contributes to a country's economic growth. Instead, unpaid labour tends to be treated as if it were a limitless natural resource and is seen as not adding any clear economic value.

However, you cannot separate unpaid labour from the wider economy. The care and domestic work that individuals engage in on a daily basis is central to upholding the well-being of individuals, families and societies. It ensures current and future generations are fed and nurtured so that they can participate in the workforce and it enables the vulnerable, differently abled and elderly to be cared for in a way that allows their continued involvement in their communities. In essence, the functioning of the economy depends on unpaid labour.

Attempts have been made to calculate the economic value of this labour to show how it contributes to the economy. In 2014 the ONS valued all the unpaid work done by those in the UK by estimating how much an individual would earn on average if they were to be paid for the unpaid tasks that they performed. This figure came to a whopping £1.01 trillion a year (the equivalent of 56% of the UK's GDP)!

Most of this labour is conducted by women. On average, women carry out 60% more unpaid work than men; dedicating around 26 hours of their week to it. When it comes to cooking, childcare and housework, women take on more than double than their male counterparts.

By the time women reach the age of 59 they have a 50% chance of providing care. Men do not reach this same likelihood until they are 75 years old. As a result, it is not surprising that women are *four times more likely* to give up paid employment due to unpaid caring responsibilities.

Why does this matter? Acknowledging and valuing the unpaid work that women do is an issue of justice and equality.

Feminist welfare state theory provides two distinct perspectives on unpaid care. The women's employment perspective sees strengthening women's access to work as the cornerstone of gender equality, as it is essential to reducing women's reliance on a male breadwinner. This involves ensuring women have access to employment opportunities and that the state provides adequate childcare and parental leave policies to help women maintain their ties to the labour market. The women's care perspective prioritises supporting women's caring role, ensuring it is valued equally to paid employment by offering them remuneration for their time spent caring.

As Christians, both of these perspectives are important for us to consider. Firstly, supporting women back into the labour market not only empowers women to have economic independence, but also gives women the freedom to pursue the other vocations and callings God has placed on their lives.

Secondly, the unpaid work of women contributes significantly to the functioning of the economy and the well-being of society as a whole and thus deserves to have greater value placed upon it. The Bible speaks about ensuring workers are rightly paid for the work that they do. As such, ensuring the unpaid work of women is rewarded is a matter of justice for 'the labourer deserves [her] wages' (1 Timothy 5:18).

Our social structures reflect where we as society place our value. Without including the unpaid work, which underpins our economy, in our measures of success, we dismiss the value of flourishing homes and communities and undermine the crucial role care work has in enabling love and worth to be shown to every individual.

This traditional economic thinking that focuses upon growth needs to be challenged so that we can acknowledge and rightly value the vital contributions women make to the economy and the well-being and flourishing of society as a whole.

So what do you think?

*Edited from the JPIT Newsletter and blog posted 30 January 2020*

*Steve Amos (Editor)*

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## **Christchurch Calendar 2020**

Thank you to those who contributed photographs to the 2020 Christchurch Calendar which raised £50 for Christchurch charities.

It seems a long time until 2021 but it's never too soon to start taking photographs: don't leave your camera at home until August - start looking around you now. Just remember to preference landscape presentation (rather than portrait) and that photographs need to be detailed enough to cope with being enlarged to A4. Sadly, some lovely photographs offered for 2020 did not meet those specifications.

NB There are still a few copies of the 2020 calendar available.

*Margo Atkinson*



# HOLY WEEK APRIL 2020

There are some events being planned for Holy Week, all at 7:30pm.

## **Tuesday 07 April** - a special evening event: **Hope for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land**

A joint event with Christchurch and Amnesty International with speaker Robert Cohen; trustee of the Amos Trust, a human rights organisation, committed to challenging injustice, building hope and creating positive change. He will share his experiences of the Holy Land.

Sample food from the Middle East and see the photo exhibition. Food and crafts available to buy.



## **Wednesday 08 April** - an evening meeting focusing on the Housegroup material: **Holy Habits**.

Reflections from Andrew Robert's book "Holy Habits" and linking these to the events of Holy Week.

## **Thursday 09 April - Maundy Thursday service:** A Passover-style communion

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**Good Friday 10:00am:** Service of reflection at the cross

**Good Friday 11:30am:** Churches Together in Ilkley Walk of Witness following the cross

**Easter Sunday Sunrise Service:** at the Cow and Calf rocks led by David Callandar (Baptist minister)

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

## **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](mailto:widerhorizons@christchurchilkley.org.uk)**

and the Editor Steve Amos - **[steve.amos.gb@gmail.com](mailto:steve.amos.gb@gmail.com)**



# WORSHIP AT CHRISTCHURCH

## April 2020

Sunday	5th April Palm Sunday	12th April Easter Sunday	19th April Living in Christ 1	26th April Living in Christ 2
Theme	"Turning Point"	"Delighting in God's Grace"	"A living sacrifice"	"The Ministry of Reconciliation"
Readings	Matt 21:1-11	Matt 28:1-10	Romans 12:1-21	2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13
9:00am Interactive Worship	David Gouldesbrough	Rev Roberta Topham	Worship Team	Christine Gibson
10:45 Preacher led Worship	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Rita Armitage	Philip Gibson
Other Services	SMILES 4:00pm			Bitesize 4:00pm

# PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

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

3rd— Michael Noble  
10th—Good Friday No Service  
17th—Margaret Cook / 24th Mgr Kieran Heskin

# Bitesize Worship

**26th April**  
4:00pm in Dan's Den

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

**SMILES - 5th April**  
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.



**Wednesday Fellowship April**

Meeting most Wednesdays at 2:00pm – All welcome

**01** Anniversary—Martin House  
Pam Ravenscroft

**22** Giving help in Cambodia.  
Speaker: Chris Knamiller

**29** Rev Roberta Topham