


WIDER HORIZONS



Please remember that Christchurch premises are currently closed - so there is no-one to answer the phone or respond to email.

We hope this, our second edition of Wider Horizons under lockdown, will keep you in touch with all that is still happening in the Christchurch community.

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



ROBERTA'S WRITINGS

Dear friends,

How are you doing? You might want to report on that in a whole range of ways. I guess the answer will differ between us all and maybe from day to day.

It can be hard to give a report of how we are doing and harder still to hear the report that another might give of us. In his letters St Paul often gave reports on how people in the early churches were doing.

Commentators have suggested that the apostle Paul regularly did this by way of a "prayer report". That is, Paul would tell his readers how he thought they were doing by explaining how he prayed for them.

Towards the end of May the Bible passage for Sunday came from the first chapter of Paul's letters to the followers of Jesus in Ephesus. In this, as in many of his letters Paul begins by telling his readers how he prays for them. In Ephesians chapter one and verses 15 and 16 he writes: *"For this reason, ever since I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks to God for you. I remember you in my prayers"*. (Good News Bible)

Reading this, moved me to try and copy St Paul and draft a prayer report for Christchurch in lockdown. I used this at our last Leadership Team meeting for our opening devotions.

"Dear God, there are so many reasons I am thankful for the people of faith at Christchurch.

I am thankful for those who turn up to the Zoom worship on a Sunday morning because they look so pleased to see each other and to see me. I love to see their faces and hear their voices. They remind me that we are brothers and sisters who belong to you and to each other. Thank you for all who help to make that worship possible and for David Goulesbrough and Michael Noble still working away at drawing out the themes set for us in the Word Content meetings. And Christine Henney helping to make the worship sheets accessible for Glen Rosa.

I am thankful for the work of Jenny, the Pastoral Team and the House Group leaders and so many in our church who keep lifting the phone to each other or sending emails and letters. For those in the Café and Dan's Den keeping in touch with all the volunteers with such love and dedication.

I am in awe of the generous nature you have given to so many. For those who keep giving to help our church stay afloat financially, and for Roland Henney who oversees all of our finances, on top of



a busy day-job. And I am so encouraged by Chris and Gary Knamiller and the work they have done for Christian Aid and the giving to help those in very much worse circumstances than our own.

Thank you, Lord that we have been able to keep sharing information and news with each other as a church. I am thankful for Margo Atkinson and Steve Amos, Mike Dixon, Michael Johnston and Christine Henney who enable us to keep communicating, especially in new digital ways.

Thank you also for the new relationships we are creating – our worship resources are now flying all around the world, to America and Russia. And so Lord I am glad that our outreach is continuing and growing in new ways. I thank you that Michael Johnston is able to help with unchurched young people here in Ilkley as well as connecting ecumenically and with our own young people. And for Juliet Amos working to support Michael in keeping his work going in these changed and restricted circumstances.

I thank you also for Janet Thompson keeping on top of our building which we will want to come back into as soon as we can do safely. And I am so grateful for Steve and Juliet Amos, and Chris Mannall and Helen Singleton, for inspecting the premises once a week. And behind it all, Wendy Ribbands and Diana Feather, overseeing the administration of our church and supporting our ongoing life in so many unseen ways. It lifts my heart.

Lord thank you for Christchurch, for the Leadership Team members who work so hard, and for the new appreciation we are having of each other across our church. Thank you that you are even still making us to be your people. May our service reflect something of your glory. Amen."

Perhaps you might like to write your own "prayer report" in the style of St Paul. I hope you too will find much for which to give thanks.

Praying peace, joy and hope for us all,

Roberta

Comings and Goings

We are sad to announce the death of Connie Dewdney. We send our love and prayers to Les and to family and friends.

Please continue to pray for people in these difficult times and let the Pastoral Team know of any new concerns.

Thank you from the Pastoral Team.



Michael's Memo

Hello everyone, Michael here again with another update on Children Youth and Family activities within Christchurch and beyond.

To start, I'll give you a joke . . . an English man, a Spaniard, a French man and a German go to a club. The guy on stage asks if they can see him. They said . . . "Yes. Oui. Si. Ja."

Jokes are something I love and enjoy, especially the awful ones. I have set up a 'Joke of the day' on Facebook to also share some positivity and some humour. As more and more people turn to social media, I recognised there was a lot of negativity and worry that was being spread. Therefore I thought by getting people to send in jokes, we can all be part of something that might just bring a tiny bit of joy to someone's day as they flick through the many articles and stories that they may read on social media. If you have any good or bad jokes, do get in touch and I will gladly share them on the Facebook page. Similarly on social media we are still challenging families each week with an activity for them to do together. The last few challenges have included 'keepy-uppies' with a household object and an A-Z scavenger hunt.

There has been a lot of success over the past month within Children Youth and Families work. In the last edition of Wider Horizons I mentioned about a link opening up with Bradford City Council assisting their Youth Worker and youth groups. This has been a real joy and privilege to connect with people from around the Ilkley and Silsden area. Every Monday I assist with their 'inclusion' group where families supporting children with additional needs come along and hang out on Zoom. We do things like 'show and tell' and I have even played Bingo for the first time ever with them. Of course, having never played Bingo before, when I was handed a bingo card with 5 games on it I was unaware you were only meant to choose one and I had been crossing numbers off all of them. I still didn't win either! It is a real joy to be a part of something that brings families together, who I'm sure are finding lockdown difficult, and give them an hour of something fun where they can still experience a sense of community, even if it is through a screen. On Wednesdays I also assist their group where young people from Silsden and Ilkley can come together and hang out and chat. Similarly we have played Bingo a few times and come up with some alternate Bingo calls, and have taken part in a few quizzes too.

As with my last report, Zoom is still being used lots and lots. I have



regular meetings with other URC Youth Workers, other Youth Workers from the wider Bradford area and other Methodist Kids, Youth and Family Workers too. Youth work can be a lonely job where many of us work by ourselves, of course supported by all our amazing volunteers, so it is great to catch up with other youth workers and share ideas and lift one another in prayer and sung worship. We are also still hosting our Sunday evening youth meetings which are well attended and still good fun. Similarly on Zoom we have hosted two Bitesize sessions. One for the younger families where we did a 'Show and Tell', made some VE Day bunting, and talked about things we can still be thankful for over this lockdown period. For the older Bitesize we did a quiz.

Things to look forward to: hopefully more of the same. It is a privilege to be in touch with so many different people and whilst I cannot see them in person, it is great to still be connected. I am excited and delighted to be able to tell you we are planning to bring Toddlers onto Zoom on Monday 01 June. This is new and very daunting but a hugely exciting opportunity we can offer the community and show that the church still goes on and we want to continue to be there for our community. Other ideas we are launching is 'text a prayer' with our youth group, and a youth band. Our online gaming idea (see last edition of Wider Horizons) is being carefully finalised with our safeguarding documents before we launch it.

Many thanks for all the continued support and prayers through this challenging time.

Michael Johnston

Thanks

It is now almost seven months since I last attended Christchurch, having broken my leg last November, and been in hospital, then a care home, and now in lockdown ever since.

I thought this email was an ideal opportunity to thank my friends at Christchurch for their unfailing support over such a long period with prayers, cards, visits, flowers, plants, Communion and recorded services.

Through their kindness and concern I have always felt a continuing connection to Christchurch, and indeed to God, during this long time of separation.

Thanks are due also to our Minister Roberta, the Leadership Team, the worship leaders and all involved in spending so much time in producing worship material, and giving opportunities to keep us all connected during the lockdown.

Jean Sutherland

On Coming Back

When my second child was 7 or 8 weeks old he started to be ill. He couldn't keep anything down. Every Sunday I would just get him ready to go to church and he would throw up all over everything, including me. Then I would spend the rest of the morning washing. The Health Visitor was so concerned about him that she popped in every day for a week. Her theory was that he may have picked up a germ at the same time as his smallpox vaccination – done at six weeks in those days – and the two were incompatible. She also said that she believed in the power of prayer, from personal experience, and was praying for him. I have a photo of him at five months; we said he looked like a Belsen baby! By then I had put him on a bottle and he started to thrive.

As time went on and he began to improve, I found other things that I could do on a Sunday morning while my husband and daughter were at church. I was not able to get to church for a couple of months, and by then it was quite hard to do. My routine had completely changed. Sunday mornings were full.

There are already more distractions to keep people away from church on Sunday mornings than there were 60 years ago. So I hope we do not lose worshippers from any of our services because we have got out of the habit.

When the lockdown is over I pray that we may all march triumphantly back into Christchurch singing together the hymn with which the annual Methodist Conference traditionally begins (StF 456)

*And are we yet alive,
And see each others' face?*

Praise to Jesus give

For his redeeming grace! (Charles Wesley 1707-88)

Liz Huddleston

Moments of Joy

In a book I read again recently, there was a sentence that has stayed with me. 'There are some moments which have too much stuff in them to be lived at the time they are experienced.'

I think this will be true for me and many others through the positive moments as well as the difficult ones during this lockdown period. A few have given me much to reflect on, memories stirred up, and joy something like the dappled sunlight in the woods.

On Good Friday morning I wandered up to 'Calvary' just above the monastery in Ilkley, taking with me the Christchurch service sheet and a hymn book. I timed it well, found a tree stump and sat in the 'garden' amongst the trees and the Stations of the Cross. The silence,

the woody smells, and the bird song helped make the worship come alive through the senses. I was alone, and yet, knowing that many others at Christchurch were sharing this moment of worship made the phrase 'apart yet together' very real. Praise God.

Another experience that I will long remember was the first face-time baking lesson I had with my 14 year old grandson. He was teaching me how to make the perfect Victoria sponge sandwich! Well one that wasn't always crispy around the edge. Step by step I followed his instructions. We used six eggs – no wonder it rose! The whole event was good fun; the result a success.



It took me back to a memory of my childhood. When I was about 10 or 11, I had ambitions of becoming a cookery demonstrator on the television. I would be beating up the cake mixtures, talking through the process, and popping them in the oven to advertise the latest designs of cookers! I didn't follow that ambition.

The moments of joy are helping us all through this dark time. For me they include the daily walks, the wonderful bird song, and virtual bedtimes stories in London and Scotland. But my greatest moment of joy and thankfulness has to be the safe arrival on 04 May of a new granddaughter, born in London to Steve and Lauren. She is beautiful, of course! Thank goodness for technology! And thank God for the little, yet life giving, moments which have so much stuff in them they will last a lifetime.

Lynda Duttine

Are you winding me up? - *not for a while!*

Following on from my Wednesday Wizards report to a Congregational Meeting earlier this year, here are a few extra thoughts on the Christchurch clock.

In normal times one of the jobs undertaken by the Wizards each week is to wind the clock and make adjustment, should that be required. For 'elf and safety, we always make sure that two people do the job (in case of a fall) and very frequently Adam, a helper in the Café, is one of the two, and he both enjoys and takes pride in this task. After climbing the clock tower steps, a loft ladder is pulled down and up we go. This takes one into a low-ceilinged area with another hatchway to be opened and then climb into the clock chamber itself. The steady "tick-tock" is somehow soothing and, as you would imagine, louder, up here right next to the workings.

It is a 7-day clock (8 at a stretch). There are two mechanisms to be wound with a handle: one for the clock and the other for the bell. The two weights to be raised have descended to near ground level in separate channels. Each mechanism requires approximately 160 turns; it sure gets the lungs and heart working! Prior to going up into the clock tower we check the accuracy of the clock against a digital clock. If adjustment is required, this is then done by putting old-style pennies on or taking them off the pendulum, depending if the clock is fast or slow. Notes are made in a little notebook. When all is done, we descend and feel satisfaction that *'t job's done* for another week.

Up until October 2010 this task was done 'religiously' for 31 years by Ilkley resident Mr David Glover. He had never been a member of the church, but volunteered to wind up the clock when major refurbishment work was going on at the church in the late 1970s. He also wound up the clock at All Saints' Parish Church in Ilkley, until an automatic winder system was installed there. But he had to give up the weekend job, at age 78, on doctor's orders, because of a heart condition, which meant that he was advised against climbing ladders.

The clock and mechanism were supplied by William Potts & Sons Ltd of Leeds and there is a notice to that effect as part of the cast iron work of the clock giving the date of 1891. A Mr TP Muff (of past Bradford department store 'Brown Muff's' fame) presented the clock to The Grove Congregational Church in commemoration of his 70th birthday on 26 March 1891.

It is said that many years ago, when people relied more on town clocks, our clock was kept permanently 3 minutes fast so that those persons walking along The Grove to catch a train would speed up a bit! During 2019 there was an occasion when two of our Wizards, who shall remain nameless, were trying to take the clock forward just a bit to adjust it and went too far. They then had to turn the hands forward umpteen times to correct it and the bell rang through 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock etc. all the way round to 12. Passers-by will have been "confused of Ilkley"! At present, St John's Church in Ben Rhydding is still showing time, albeit one hour behind. Theirs must be automatic, but no-one has been able to access the clock to adjust the Spring hour change back on 28 March.

Regrettably, ours has stopped due to coronavirus non-access to the building and shows the time of 5 minutes to 3. To paraphrase a couple of lines from Rupert



Brooke's poem The Old Vicarage, Grantchester:

"Stands the Church clock at 5 to 3?
And is there honey still for tea?"

Thanks to Rita Armitage for info on Mr Muff from her book "Roots and Branches" and Ilkley Gazette re Mr Glover.

Richard Rundle

There was a Zoom Leadership Team meeting on 19 May 2020; what follows are five reports from that meeting:

Worship at Christchurch, May 2020

Since the last Leadership Team meeting our worship has been challenged by the Covid-19 lock-down. It was clear from early on that all worship spaces would be closed, and Christchurch was no exception.

I think it is inspiring how our worship has been maintained in so many ways, by so many people, for our congregation as a whole, in the widest concept of worship in Christchurch, and beyond. For this I am personally grateful to many people and inspired by their efforts to continue the message of love in Christ. Although I know it may be invidious to single out individuals, I would wish to give particular thanks to Roberta for her tireless efforts to maintain our worshipping community, both through planning and leading worship and also through her commitment to getting the Zoom worship up and running - a steep learning curve indeed! It is abundantly clear that these services have been greatly appreciated by our lockdown community of worship.

Also, Michael Johnston, our Youth and Community worker, while in lock-down has been doing fantastic work to continue our support and development of our young people! He may have dodgy tastes in footie teams but, hey, forgiveness is part of our very being!

I would also like to take this opportunity to say huge congratulations to Michael Noble, who led us on 03 May on the 40th anniversary of his becoming a Local Preacher. As Michael said, not quite how he expected to be doing it, but truly inspirational nonetheless! I suspect you will join me in saying that it is difficult to say just how much we as a worshipping community have been served by Michael's commitment to Christ, both here in Christchurch and in the wider community.

We have followed the Methodist Local Lectionary theme in April and May of 'Living in Christ' and will continue to do so until Pentecost on 31 May. After Pentecost we will return to the final section of the

Methodist Local Lectionary for six weeks; the theme is 'New Life in Christ'. The readings we will be looking at will be focussing on the letters of Paul but also with readings from 1 Peter and Timothy.

After this we will be joining in Bible Month, which this year focusses on the book of Ruth in the Old Testament (I would recommend Rabbi Lord Sachs' *Thought for the Day* on Radio 4 on Friday 22 May if you want an instant guide to Ruth, inspirational! – available on BBC Sounds).

The momentous challenge that Covid19 has given us as a society has been mirrored in the response from our worshipping community here at Christchurch.

To all who have embraced the new way of worship, my thanks.

To all who have prepared worship material for the new way of worship, my thanks.

To all who have supported and co-ordinated the new way of worship, my thanks (Roberta, Jon, Mike D, John S, Tony, Steve, and many others take a bow!).

To all who have signed in and waved at Zoom services, my thanks.

To all who have worked tirelessly to look after our church buildings until we can meet in them again, my thanks.

We are in or approaching a "new normal". At present we do not know what that will be in detail, socially or spiritually. It is likely that we will be in lockdown from the church until at least July, perhaps longer. What is clear to me, however, is that the vibrant worshipping community that is Christchurch will embrace that "new normal", whatever it is, in the Spirit and inspiration of living in the 'New Life in Christ'. God bless,

David Gouldesbrough - LT Worship

The Church Building

Those of you passing Christchurch in the next week or so may notice workmen around. I am pleased to say that permission has been obtained from the URC to go ahead with a few of the outstanding jobs which were due to take place just as we were required to close the building.

The contractors involved will adhere to the social distancing protocol and only two workers will be on site at any time.

This is good news and will be less disruptive for us all at Christchurch when we are eventually able to open the building again. I am sure we are all looking forward to that time.

Janet Thompson - LT Property

Christian Aid Week - May 2020

We have been completely overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Christchurch over the last two weeks. We introduced the Christian Aid Appeal in the May Wider Horizons and in the Sunday Zoom service on 10 May and from then on the cheques and money just kept arriving through our letterbox.



We organised three virtual Coffee Mornings via Zoom during Christian Aid Week with a total of 32 Christchurch members joining in. It was great to see so many friendly faces at the Coffee Mornings. As well as having a social chat we also talked about some of the positive things that we thought had come out of the lockdown and what changes we would like to see in our world after the Coronavirus crisis is a thing of the past.

However we have been so very pleased by everyone's generosity. It has been truly amazing. Despite all the hardship people have been going through over the past two months everyone has really pulled all the stops out.

Some people have told us that they have donated directly to Christian Aid, which is fine. Most of you posted cheques or money through our letterbox and the total of that money came to £1,945 which is an amazing amount. Out of that, £805 has been Gift Aided so that will add an extra £201. This will bring the total amount to £2,146. So the grand total from Christchurch this year is a really staggering amount and actually exceeds what we have made in the past when the house to house collections were included.

We know this contribution will be very much appreciated and Christian Aid will use it well to help those less fortunate than us. We would like to thank each and everyone of you for your incredible generosity.

Chris (& Gary) Knamiller - LT Community

Children, Youth and Families Lay Employee during Lockdown

You will be able to read news from Michael Johnston, our Children's Youth and Families Employee elsewhere in Wider Horizons but I thought I would update you on his role, continuing to work for us at Christchurch, despite the difficulties of the current situation.

I help to co-ordinate the Support and Direction Group which oversees the work of this post and we have continued to 'meet' with Michael, via Zoom, every three weeks since lockdown began. He also has weekly Zoom meetings with Roberta and many others who he works alongside, in order to maintain and progress his continuing work.

Working remotely poses some difficulties and frustrations but I am pleased to tell you that Michael is working hard and doing a really good job, keeping in touch with the people and groups he normally works with, as well as developing new ways of working and keeping connected with individuals, families and groups via Zoom and various social media platforms. These groups include Release, Bitesize, LS29, Smiles and Toddlers. Michael has also developed links with Bradford Council Youth Workers and has regular meetings with other church Youth Leaders in the wider local area.

Michael keeps in close touch with many of the broader Christchurch family, including Dan's Den and Christchurch Café volunteers, the Mission and Outreach Team, takes part in Zoom Sunday Worship, and has produced activities and Zoom worship for Bitesize and Smiles.

Alongside others responsible for Communications at Christchurch, Michael is currently taking a lead in working to streamline the Christchurch Facebook and Instagram presence and is working on the development of a safeguarding policy for online activities.

On behalf of the Support and Development Team, I would like to thank and commend Michael on the way in which he continues to maintain and develop the important role to which he was very successfully appointed just five months ago. Thank you, Michael.

Juliet Amos - LT Nurture

Giving at Christchurch

The Giving focus for Christchurch has been going well this year, despite the challenges. So far we have supported CAP, including a wonderful talk by Mike Dixon, had our Lent focus with the Butoke project, and had a very successful effort to raise money for Christian Aid with virtual coffee mornings run by Chris and Gary Knamiller.

The focus is now due to shift to supporting Mattuga, which was planned to happen to coincide with Bishop Ivan's annual visit to Ilkley, and then to raise money and support our very own Fiona Kendall with her work with Mediterranean Hope. Sadly the Coronavirus continues to affect our plans whilst also making the work of those we wish to support that bit more challenging.

If anyone has spare time on their hands and would like to co-ordinate some way of raising money and support for either of these I would be most grateful to hear from you. It could be something virtual - the online coffee mornings were great fun and quizzes are always a winner - or a contribution to our acts of worship on a Sunday, or a sponsoring opportunity. The possibilities are out there! If you have any ideas please get in touch with me on 01943 600275.

Christine Henney - LT Mission

How well do you know Ilkley?

Where are these? (Answers on inside back cover)

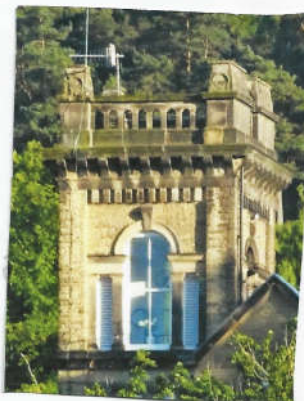
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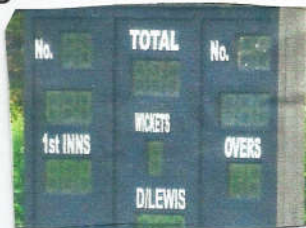
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*Photographs and quiz by David Feather
(taken on his lockdown exercise walks).*

Café Update

It's been 10 weeks since the Café was open to the public and it has to be said that we are missing it.

However, keeping in touch with

everyone has definitely helped. So

far eight newsletters have been sent out, many dozens of emails have been sent and received, along with texts. We have sent and received a number of letters through the post from volunteers and one from one of our eldest customers (isn't it lovely getting something in the post that's not a bill or a sales flyer!). We have also spoken to volunteers on the phone and have had three Zoom get togethers (in one session there were 20 people).



It has been lovely hearing how everybody is getting on. Many people have been spending time in their gardens, walking, doing DIY jobs and baking. Some of our volunteers who are volunteering in the community doing various things including: helping at Ilkley Foodbank; helping at Rawdon Foodbank; sewing PPE and masks as part of The Ilkley Sewing Group; making wash bags for nurses as part of Burley Sewing Group; and one volunteer is doing a fundraiser for The Samaritans.

The staff are all well and keeping busy by learning a new language, making a wildlife garden, fundraising for Manorlands, by doing Street Bingo, and painting fence panels. Kathryn has been busy in her allotment and making bunting for the Café when it re-opens. She has also been exercising on her exercise bike and has a target of doing 215 miles (which is the distance from her house to her sister's in Scotland, and so far she has done 174 miles!). The students are all well: many are studying for college and school; one has taken up photography; one has taken up choreography; and one is helping care for her siblings while her mother works.

We have received lots of photos from VE Day. Lots of people had street parties, two people went to an allotment party and I sang for residents (outside in the grounds) at Straven House Care Home in Ilkley!

We recently sent some food from the Café stores to Ilkley Food Bank (it was going out of date in the next few weeks) - they were delighted to receive it.

Finally, we have been celebrating lots of birthdays including that of Barbara who was 60 on Friday (see photo).

Liz Frankland



Dans Den Update

We might be closed but we are working hard to stay connected.

May 17 - 24 was Mental Health Awareness week (#kindness), which is kind of fitting. Dan's Dens objective though out lockdown has been connection. Trustee Mike Dixon has become our Zoom communication champion.



Our volunteers continue to rise to the challenges Dan's Den throws at them and have grasped the technology to stay in touch.

We may not be open but we are making use of social media to stay connected to our families. We had a lovely message from Rory's and Nathan's Mum, thanking us for staying in touch. Which proves our content is relevant and needed.

Caroline has started to re-vamp our #Instagram offering. If you want to follow us, you need to look for 'Dan's Den at Christchurch' and NOT Dan's Den Ilkley as this one will disappear shortly. Our hashtag is #dansden. The #dansden is used to tag the venue. I think we need more than 1000 #dansden to be a recognized tag. We currently have 102!!!!

We have used social media to connect and promote mental health awareness week. If you're a social media user you probably saw the content as it was shared to the Christchurch pages: sharing's caring. We have also promoted social distancing with a positive slant.

The most enjoyable part of lockdown has been sharing long distance birthdays. Happy 21st to Martha and Ellie; happy not 21st to Lynnda, Philip and Anwen.

Social media usually gets a bad rap. As always Dan's Den is promoting the positive - #dansden, #staysafe.

Caroline Kelly



God's Words? - Translations 1

Back in February, the Melting Pot session was the second in the series 'God's Words?' Over the next five months, I will give an edited version of the material

telling the story of Bible translation. I've used material from books by Geza Vermes and JD Crossan, the Bible Society website and Wikepedia.



Original text - Hebrew Bible

The Hebrew Bible was mainly written in Biblical Hebrew, with some portions (notably in Daniel and Ezra) in Biblical Aramaic. From the 6th century to the 10th century CE, Jewish scholars, today known as Masoretes, compared the text of all known biblical manuscripts in an effort to create a unified, standardized text. A series of highly similar texts eventually emerged, and any of these texts are known as Masoretic Texts.

The Masoretes also added vowel points (called niqqud) to the text, since the original text contained only consonants. This sometimes required the selection of an interpretation; since some words differ only in their vowels their meaning can vary in accordance with the vowels chosen.

Textual criticism of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) centres on the comparison of the manuscript versions of the Masoretic text to early witnesses such as the Septuagint, the Vulgate, the Samaritan Pentateuch, various Syriac texts, and the biblical texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls (more on this at Melting Pot 48).

Original text - New Testament

The New Testament was written in Koine (common) Greek. The Greek manuscripts written by the original authors, have not survived. Scholars surmise the original Greek text from the manuscripts that do survive. The three main textual traditions of the Greek New Testament are sometimes called the Alexandrian, the Byzantine, and the Western.

Most variants among the manuscripts are minor, such as alternative spelling, alternative word order, the presence or absence of an optional definite article (the), and so on. Occasionally, a major variant happens when a portion of a text was missing or for other reasons. Examples of major variants are the different additional endings in versions of Mark, and the 'woman caught in adultery' only in some versions of John and in differing locations (John 8:1-11, or after John 7:36 or John 25:25).

The discovery of older manuscripts which belong to the Alexandrian type, including the 4th-century Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, led scholars to revise their view about the original Greek text.

Early manuscripts of the Pauline epistles and other New Testament writings show no punctuation whatsoever. The punctuation was added later by other editors, according to their own understanding of the text.

The New Testament has been preserved in more manuscripts than any other ancient work, creating a challenge in handling so many different texts when performing these comparisons. The King James (Authorised) Version was based on the Textus Receptus, an eclectic Greek text prepared by Erasmus based primarily on Byzantine text Greek manuscripts, which make up the majority of existing copies of the New Testament.

However, the majority of New Testament textual critics now favour a text that is Alexandrian in complexion.

Ancient translations - Aramaic Targums

Some of the first translations of the Torah began during the Babylonian exile, when Aramaic became the common language of the Jews. With most people speaking only Aramaic and not understanding Hebrew, the Targums were created to allow the common person to understand the Torah as it was read in ancient synagogues.

Ancient translations - Greek Septuagint

During the 3rd to 2nd centuries BCE in Alexandria, Egypt, translators compiled a Koine Greek version of the Hebrew scriptures completing the task by 132 BCE. The Septuagint (LXX - traditionally written by 70 scribes), later became the accepted text of the Old Testament in the Christian church and the basis of its canon. It differs somewhat from the later standardized Hebrew Masoretic Text.

Versions of the Septuagint contain several passages and whole books not included in the Masoretic texts of the Tanakh.

The 'classic' translation error in the Septuagint is found in Isaiah 7:14 and quoted in Matthew 1:23 from the Septuagint "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, . . ." (NRSV).

The Hebrew *almah* translates as *young woman*; the Greek for *young woman* is *parthenos*, but the translators used *betulah* meaning *virgin*.

Ancient translations - Middle Ages

When ancient scribes copied earlier books, they wrote notes on the margins of the page (*marginal glosses*) to correct their text, especially if a scribe accidentally omitted a word or line, and to comment about the text. When later scribes were copying the copy, they were sometimes uncertain if a note was intended to be included as part of the text. Over time, different regions evolved different versions, each with its own assemblage of omissions, additions, and variants.

The earliest surviving complete manuscript of the entire Bible in Latin is the Codex Amiatinus, a Latin Vulgate edition produced in 8th-century England at the monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow.

One likely transcription error can be found in Mark 10:25, Matthew 19:24 and Luke 18:25. For many years it has been common teaching

that there is a gate in Jerusalem, used after dark, called 'the Eye of the Needle' through which a camel could not pass unless it stooped and first had all its baggage removed. A lovely story and an excellent parable for preaching but unfortunately unfounded as there is no archaeological or written evidence for such a gate! The Greek *kamilos* ('camel') should perhaps really be *kamêlos*, meaning 'cable, rope'. Hence it is easier to thread a needle with a rope (rather than a strand of cotton) than for a rich man to enter the kingdom!

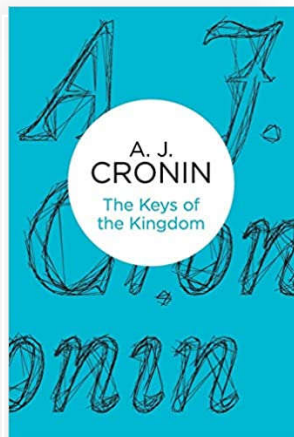
Part 2 continues next month with more Middle Ages development including Chapters and Verses.

Steve Amos

Book Review: The Keys of the Kingdom

AJ Cronin :: Paperback £16.99 but many cheap second-hand copies available

My lockdown reading diet had been largely 'who-done-it' in nature, but I wanted something different. My Kindle menu referenced AJ Cronin - remembered as the writer of 'Dr Finlay's Casebook'. I launched into 'Hatter's Castle' and 'The Citadel'. They were certainly different: very 1930s and very socially conscious. What next?



'The Keys of the Kingdom' has really touched me. It is the unforgettable story of the Rev Frank (Father) Chisholm, following him from Scotland to China over six decades as he tries to find the true path for himself and the church. He is an ordinary man guided by humility, strength, courage and kindness as he overcomes famine, plague and war.

"There can be no greater happiness than to work with his hands, a little with his head but mostly with his heart – and to live simply, close to the earth which, to him, never seemed far from heaven."

It is very 1930s in writing style – but that is refreshing in itself. It has prompted me many times to check my dictionary for words fallen largely out of use (eg *peroration*) but then I have always encouraged my children and grandchildren to check unfamiliar words in the dictionary!

PS Peroration: the concluding part of a speech, typically intended to inspire enthusiasm in an audience.

Margo Atkinson

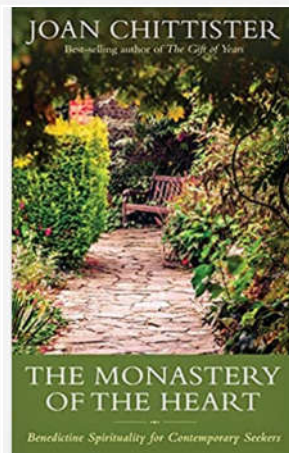
Book Review: The Monastery of the Heart - an invitation to a meaningful life.

Joan Chittister :: SPCK publishing :: 2011
Hardcover £14.95

This is one of the books that I am reading at the moment. I bought it in a Cathedral bookshop soon after it was published and have enjoyed it so much that I often take it with me on holiday to re-read.

Did you ever think what it would be like to live in a monastery? Or wish that some of that quiet reflective way of living could be part of your daily life? The author, Joan Chittister, lived for over 50 years in a monastery and through this experience decided to attempt to pass on something of the rhythm of monastic spirituality to those living in a more worldly situation.

The spirituality she describes is based on the Rule of Benedict, which is over 1500 years old, and is practised at every Benedictine monastery worldwide. In the book the author encourages a pattern for living by this ancient Rule within the midst of today's world rather than withdrawing from it. Although written in prose, the book is set out in a poetic style with short chapters that lead to a gentle, meditative read. It encourages the reader to seek to create within themselves a Monastery of the Heart and thus to find there the God who is forever seeking them.



Judy Dixon

Lockdown humour

With thanks to Solihull Methodist Church 'Prattle'

Until further notice the days of the week are now called this day, that day, other day, someday, yesterday, today and next day.

They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the corner shop.
They lied - everybody else had clothes on.

My cat just asked me if I want the radio on when she goes out.

Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended.
Not so much to prevent Covid19 but to stop eating!

For the first time in history we can save the human race by lazing in front of the TV and doing nothing! Let's not screw this up!

Overhead at the Waitrose help desk this week:
Lady with some precious toilet rolls - "Do you have these in cream? I need to match them to my bathroom".

Rita Armitage

Update on the Debt Centre

During these very strange times the support that our Debt Centre provides is essential to our clients. It took a few weeks for CAP Head Office to work out how we could still offer the service without meeting each other face to face. During this time, I maintained contact with the clients we have and reassured them, offered to pray with them, and have continued to send out encouraging emails and texts alongside phone calls.



All our clients are in a position where they are already getting support from family or food parcels or are managing themselves. I have checked on this regularly and advised them to get in touch if they need anything. The families with children are still able to send them to school so that we know that vulnerable children during this time are being seen in some capacity. Head Office staff are all working from home so that clients can call them with queries or worries and we are able to phone in to discuss clients' cases in the same way as we do already.

In terms of how the service works, we operate under a three-visit model. In reality, there are likely to be more visits than this and ongoing support if it's needed. At present we can offer 'over the phone' visits covering the second and third visits to our existing clients. This is where we gather information about their income and talk them through the budget that has been put together by Head Office. We have needed to complete new training on doing this over the phone so that we are complying with Financial Conduct Authority regulations at all times.

By the middle of May, Head Office should have produced training for us so that we can offer first visits over the phone as well, and then we will see new clients coming to us.

This is a very uncertain time for everybody, so I think just knowing that you are not alone is of great comfort to everyone. God Bless

Sam Price

Samarathon

I, accompanied by Philip and Lucy the dog, am trying to make a difference and support Samaritans - a cause we really care about and we feel will be much need in the days ahead.



Our goal is to raise at least £1,000 to help them continue their important work, and I'd really appreciate it if you could help by sponsoring us through our Supporter page.

We are taking on the challenge of a "Samarathon". This involves us walking 26.2 miles during the month of July. That may not seem much for very active people but for me, a usually unenthusiastic walker with a dicky knee, the discipline of doing this and keeping it up is a challenge. I am at the moment, however, managing one to two miles a day, so you never know, we may make a double Samarathon!

To give, or to read more about what we are doing and why we're doing it, please visit my page - <https://samarathon2020.everydayhero.com/uk/christine>.

Thank you

Christine Gibson

Insights into the social impact of Covid19: understanding poverty and who is most at risk (May 2020)

We are all sharing the experience of the storm caused by Covid19 and the lockdown, but it is increasingly clear we are not all in the same boat. Some are being buffeted but remain fundamentally secure, yet it is clear that some groups are at risk of being financially overwhelmed.

The Joint Public Issues Team and Church Action on Poverty have started an ongoing programme of research with churches and local charities: *Gleanings: Listening and learning about poverty under lockdown*.



What churches have seen:

- # The families who entered the crisis with very low incomes and receiving benefits have been protected from loss of income. They are, however, experiencing a rise in costs for essentials. This is a particular problem for families with children.
- # An enormous rise in demand for foodbanks. Trussell Trust (a national Foodbank network) figures show an 81% increase overall

and a 122% increase in children supported. This rise is patchy throughout the country with some areas reporting little or no effect, and others overwhelmed.

- # In England the voucher system introduced to replace Free School Meals and support low income families with children is poorly designed and is failing many schools and families.
- # Around 1.5 million families have applied for Universal Credit. The application process has been made much easier, sanctions and debt repayments have essentially ceased and the payment has been increased to £94 per week. Churches are however reporting that those with IT difficulties or needing assistance are facing waits of several weeks for assistance from the usual charities who provide help.
- # Debt workers are reporting an increasing number of approaches around managing unsustainable debt.
- # Huge income shocks are appearing for middle income families, some of whom are struggling to cope. There are reports of people needing assistance who would not ever have viewed themselves as benefit claimants or foodbank guests.

The groups we are most concerned about:

- # *families with no recourse to public funds.* These are non-UK citizens who can no longer earn money due to the crisis but do not qualify for most benefits.
- # *low paid self-employed or gig workers who face an income shock with limited state support.*
- # *families who need help with Universal Credit* – most commonly due to IT or language difficulties.
- # *for all of these groups, families struggling with children face additional costs and risks.*

Official data on the wellbeing of the UK paints a troubling picture of a generally more insecure and anxious population. Many have faced an income shock or worry that their family will be next. Alongside this there is deepening concern about the *unavoidable household debts building up*, often in the form of unpaid rent or utility bills.

Specific groups highlighted by churches as lockdown began

- # Reports from several sources were that some people who had been attending Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholic Anonymous or other Anonymous groups were at risk.
- # Those who support sex-workers noted that many sex workers had no option but to continue working. For on-street workers this was frequently due to addiction. Many sex-workers are not British

nationals and therefore do not qualify for benefits. Financial pressures must be piling up, and no policy or charity measures have been put in place of which we are aware.

Looking to the end of the lockdown household debt will be a major issue. Some families will need to borrow for day-to-day expenditure, but most debt will be racked up by not paying overheads. Non-payment of rent or utility bills does not currently lead to eviction or disconnection (people on card meters are also able to get credit to avoid disconnection). The Department of Work and Pensions has stopped most debt repayment deductions from benefits, council tax arrears are not being chased and mortgage repayments can be deferred. A number of other credit facilities are being put on hold. Yet these debts are merely being deferred and will need to be repaid at a later date.



We know that 1 in 3 households, mostly in the bottom half of the income distribution, have no savings. If income does not meet expenditure they must borrow. Many are already in net debt and it is by no means clear that people will be able to reasonably repay these lockdown induced debts.

Now is the time to encourage government and wider society to think carefully about how such Covid19 related debts are managed. The normal processes of extending loans and enforcing recovery may be particularly cruel, pointless and unjust in these circumstances. As we think about how those who need it most may be given much needed security in the coming months and years, the biblical ideas of Jubilee – of freedom from the chains of debt – may offer some inspiration and challenge to churches, government and wider society. It may be a useful starting point for thinking on crisis-related household debt as we emerge from the Covid19 lockdown.

What is your personal response? Might you write to your MP to express your concern for those in poverty?

Steve Amos (Editor)

Walking on Ilkley Moor

I was taking my exercise up on Ilkley Moor and once again bumped into God, who said "I need a new TV - mine's clearly broken".

"What's happened?" I asked.

"Well since this lockdown started, all I seem to get is repeats".

Steve Amos

The Faraday Lectures

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion will be hosting a **free, online summer course:**

Telling a better story - why Faith and Science belong together - Faraday Institute Summer Course June 2020.



Faith and science are often seen as uncomfortable bed-fellows. However, this has not always been so. In this series of webinars we examine the ways in which Faith and Science speak to each other in contemporary society and explore the theological and ethical issues which this dialogue raises. We aim to show that there is a better story to be told about faith and science than the prevalent one of conflict and mutual distrust.

Each day, from Monday 29 June to Friday 03 July we shall be hosting two or three webinars each day given by an array of international speakers highly qualified in their individual fields. There will also be some opportunity for online discussion.

It is completely free to attend and open to anyone, anywhere, who is interested. You are free to join us for as much or as little of our programme as you wish. For more information, see faraday.institute/TellingABetterStory

Roberta Topham (from Dr Zoe Binns - Faraday Institute)

How well do you know Ilkley? Photo Quiz Answers

19	Mortons	1	Medical Centre
20	Old Water Works building opposite	2	Christchurch
21	Wells House (now a residence)	3	Queens Road
22	Wells House	4	Hebers Ghyll Road
23	Rugby building	5	Grammar School
24	Lishmans	6	St Margaret's Church
25	Playhouse	7	Memorial Gardens
26	Denton Road corner	8	Station
27	Hebers Ghyll	9	Darwin Gardens
28	New Bridge in Bridge Street	10	Town Hall
29	Olicana scoreboard	11	Deaconess Court
30	Golden Butts Recycling Centre	12	All Saints' Church
31	Cow Rock	13	Library
32	The roof at Booths	14	Corner of Bolton Road & Regent Road
33	M&S roof	15	Winter Gardens
34	Craiglands	16	Ring stone opposite St Margaret's
35	Dalesway seat near Old Bridge	17	St John's Church
36	Old Bridge	18	Above Dacres
	Heathcote		

David Feather

Worship at CHRISTCHURCH June 2020

These services will be supported by worship material distributed by email or by post. They can also be found on the Christchurch website (with a link from the homepage).

There may also be a weekly Pastoral Letter, a YouTube presentation, and a Zoom service at 10:00am.

Sunday	Theme	Reading	9:00am Interactive	10:45am Preacher
07 June	Our Resurrection	1 Corinthians 15:12-28	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Roberta Topham
14 June	The Resurrection Body	1 Corinthians 15:35-58	Michael Noble	Rev Lesley Taylor
21 June	Living by Faith	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Roberta Topham
28 June	A Living Hope	1 Peter 1:3-9 & 13-21	David Goulesbrough	Rev Alistair Newton



14 and 28 June



21 June

Church Office email Addresses

Please note that, due to changes to our website hosting, the three email addresses associated with the Church Office (office, notices and widerhorizons @christchurchilkley.org.uk) have all now ceased to function. **Please delete them from your Contacts.** *New email addresses will be set up when we re-open.*

Steve Amos - Website

Thank you to all those who have contributed items for this our Christchurch Wider Horizons.

I plan to produce an edition for July in the same way - so please send items to me at **steve.amos.gb@gmail.com** by **Sunday 21 June** at the latest. If you don't have email, give me a call on 01943 600111.

Thanks to our proofing team (24 hour turnaround!), and a big 'thank you' to Mike Dixon, our database curator and electronic postman.

Steve Amos - Editor

